

I find it difficult to pick out a single Christmas I could call the most memorable. Christmas has always been a very special day for as long back as I can remember. Maybe this was due to my mother and her fervent spirit about the day.

There were very few decorated trees in the years of my growing up. We couldn't afford them. But never defeated, my mother would with ribbon & crepe paper decorate a table or create a card board fire place out of a packing box. And she always remembered whose <sup>BIRTH DAY</sup> ~~day~~ it was and made sure we knew the meaning of Christmas.

Since those times there <sup>MAHYWARM</sup> are memories of Christmas & our own children. I've always felt we should create a tradition that would set a pattern for them so that Christmas would be special and not just a holiday.

One Christmas ~~was~~ is remembered because of a <sup>PARTICULAR</sup> gift, a gift truly in keeping with the spirit of the day.

I must have presented something of a problem to my brother after we were grown up & in our middle years. A problem with regard to what might be a suitable gift.

He solved the problem <sup>with</sup> ~~and my gift was~~ a letter. In the letter he told me he had found a truly needy family with small children who wouldn't go to bed with dreams of Santa Claus in their heads. He changed that & became Santa himself, providing a Christmas from tree to Turkey plus toys & gifts for all. My present was his letter describing in detail the joy of the children and the grateful happiness of their mother.

That was a memorable Christmas and a gift that will never grow old.

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Eureka College  
Chartered 1855  
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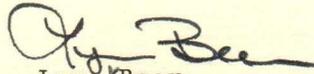
Ms. Dodie Livingston  
Director of Special Events  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Ms. Livingston:

We are preparing to print a brochure entitled, "Reagan at Eureka College" early this spring. I would appreciate your review of the enclosed copy of proposed text for that brochure. Please advise me of any changes that need to be made.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Lynn Beer  
Coordinator of Publications  
and Public Events

Writer sends in for review, a brochure entitled,  
"Reagan at Eureka College" written by students  
of the College

DRAFT TEXT FOR BROCHURE ON RONALD REAGAN AT EUREKA COLLEGE

RONALD REAGAN  
Class of 1932

In the Fall of 1928 a young man from Dixon, Illinois, enrolled as a freshman at Eureka College. He became an active participant in many phases of campus life, culminating in his role as President of the Student Senate as a senior. He was also destined to become a prominent motion picture star, the Governor of California, and the 40th President of the United States of America.....Ronald Wilson Reagan.

"Dutch", as he was known in his college days, was encouraged to apply to Eureka College by his minister, the Rev. Mr. Ben Cleaver of the First Christian Church in Dixon. During his four years at Eureka, he developed a deep affection for the college which has continued throughout his life. His enthusiasm led him to persuade his older brother, Neil, to follow him to Eureka in 1929.

Eureka College boasts that its historic commitment to small size gives every student an unusual opportunity to participate in campus activities, building initiative and leadership. Ronald Reagan's four years at Eureka are a testimony to those principles. His activities included:

**DRAMATICS** - He appeared in 14 plays, including Aria de Capo in 1931 in which he was cited for character portrayal in national competition.

**ATHLETICS** - He lettered in football, swimming and track. He was the college's leading swimmer, being named coach of the team in his last two years. He played guard on the football team, lettering as a junior and senior.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT** - He served two years on the Student Senate, becoming president his senior year.

**PUBLICATIONS** - He worked on the yearbook staff for two years.

OTHER - He was an active member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, President of the Boosters Club, a cheerleader for the basketball team, and held a campus job in the dining hall all through college.

Ronald Reagan graduated in 1932 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science and economics. He moved to Davenport, Iowa, to accept a position as a sports announcer for radio station WOC. His continuing career led him to Hollywood and then into state and national politics, but his continuing loyalty to Eureka College is evidenced by his return visits to the campus and his involvement in various important assignments:

- 1941 - He made his first trip to the campus after entering motion pictures.
- 1947 - He returned to lead the "Pumpkin Festival" Parade.
- 1955 - He was on campus for the 100th Anniversary of the College, during which he received a Centennial Citation.
- 1957 - He delivered the commencement address at the 25th Anniversary of his graduation, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by his alma mater.
- 1967 - As Governor of California, he returned to dedicate the new Melick Library.
- 1970 - He and his brother, Neil, attended the formal opening of Reagan Physical Education Center, named for them.
- 1977 - He kicked-off a capital campaign for the college.
- 1979 - He spoke at Honors Day convocation, and chaired the initial meeting of the college's National Advisory Council.
- 1980 - Near the end of his presidential campaign, he spoke at a pep rally on campus.

In addition to these visits, President Reagan has served three six-year terms on the college's Board of Trustees (1947-53; 1967-73; 1974-80).

RONALD REAGAN MEMORABILIA COLLECTION

Housed in Melick Library, the collection now numbers over 800 items from President Reagan's movie and television career, his eight years as Governor of California, his campaign for the presidency, and his current term of office. The first items in the collection came to the college in 1975 at the request of Mr. Reagan. Additions have been made regularly since that time. Items from the collection are on regular display in the library.

EUREKA COLLEGE

Eureka College, chartered in 1855, is a four-year, co-educational, college of arts and sciences. It was the first college in Illinois and the third in the nation to admit men and women on an equal basis. Although non-sectarian in enrollment and philosophy, the College maintains strong historic ties with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Eureka's campus is a wooded 112 acres, located at the southeast edge of the city of Eureka in central Illinois. It is 20 miles from Peoria, 140 miles from Chicago, and 190 miles from St. Louis and Indianapolis. The campus includes 23 buildings, an open air theatre, and outdoor recreational facilities. Two of the buildings, The Administration Building (1858) and The Chapel (1869) are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The College maintains a tradition of high academic expectation and achievement in an intensely personal environment. As a small college, stress is placed on the close relationship between student and professor. The student-faculty ratio is 13-1.

Opportunities for involvement in a variety of co-curricular activities are available to students, and serve as a laboratory for the development of personal and leadership skills.