

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

The McGreedy Family

By

Toni A. Star

December 2011

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

All rights reserved to: Copyrighted 2011 to Toni Star

Note: All stories in this book are fictional and were written in the 1980's, while my husband and I were stationed in Germany.

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

### Acknowledgements:

My thanks and appreciation goes to my wonderful and supportive husband who has inspired, enlightened and brightened many a day for me. This book is dedicated to Roy Star, for his love, patience and help in writing it.

Many thanks, too, for the family in Germany who gave me the inspiration to write it. I will be forever in their debt.

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

Table of Contents

The McGreedy Family	5
Henry and Harriett's Easter	8
Hazel's Easter Surprise	10
The McGreedy's Go On Vacation	12
The McGreedy's Welcome New Neighbors	15
Hazel Gets a Surprise Visit	18
Elizabeth and Hazel: The Story Continues	21
Hazel Gets Even	23
Hazel and Jean Snooty	24
The McGreedy's Have a Real Christmas!	27

The McGreedy Family

In every city and town there are quirky, trendy and greedy people, people like the McGreedy's. They are a peculiar type of human. Once you've read this story, maybe you'll agree.

The McGreedy family consists of: Harold, the father, Hazel the mother, Henry their son and Harriett, their daughter. The McGreedy's live in a big, fancy home and have two beautiful cars, both brand new and methodically cleaned and waxed once a month. The new cars take them only to important places and important people. You see, this family loves and lives for just for themselves! They work and play only so others will notice them and say, "Wow, aren't they a rich, handsome and wonderful!"

The McGreedy family has many toys and trendy appliances in their huge ten bedroom home. They love to buy and own "things."

Harold, the father, has many television sets in his home. He's often fond of saying, "No son or daughter of mine will be without a television set."



Hazel, the mother, has many diamond rings and fur coats that she loves to show off, especially when the family goes visiting.

Harriett, the coy but beautiful daughter, has dozens of dresses and sweaters and Henry has five bicycles...blue, red, yellow, green and white. (Henry often mutters to himself, "You just never know when you might need an extra bike.")

This McGreedy family doesn't have many friends and they can't understand why. (Do you think there might be a reason why no one wants to be their friend?) They

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

dress beautifully in all the newest fashions. They're very smart, or so they think.

They often trek to their local library; although they rarely go there to read; they go there only to see and be seen.

Often at night, at the dinner table one of them will say, "I wonder why no one comes to visit us? We're a rich family and besides we have so many new things!"

The McGreedy's have only one family on their block that likes them. This family that likes them so much is the Shellfish Selfish Family. They like the McGreedy's because they have so much in common with them. The Shellfish Selfish Family comes to visit the McGreedy's about twice a month. Both families have great fun when they're together and talk about how sad it is that everyone isn't as wonderful, smart and rich as they are.

The McGreedy's and the Shellfish Selfish families, like other families you might know, live a blissfully happy life until life drops a problem into their lap. Whenever the Shellfish Selfish and McGreedy families get sick, get bad grades, have to fix an ailing car, or are told that they are being pests, they get angry, cry and often have terrible, loud temper tantrums. Often, they begin blaming all of their worries and problems on others. It doesn't take much to put them in a whirling tailspin. Why, they get angry even if someone on their block wears new clothes or buys a DVD or different brand of computer that they don't have.

As the McGreedy family gets older, they find themselves all alone. No one wants to be with them for they have let their greed and selfishness take over everything in their lives. As the family ages, they all just sit around and talk about their cars,

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

jewelry, coats and cash. They make fun of others and blame strangers for their problems.

You see, if a family stays greedy and selfish all their lives, they end up bitter, and all alone. Money, toys and such are nice. We all like them and want them but all these things will eventually rust, decay, get lost or be given away. What really lasts are friendship and family.

People like the McGreedy's come and go, just like the money that they spend. It is important; you might ponder, to put your love, trust and happiness in a higher power and people you love, instead of things. You will quickly find that people are far more loving and precious than gold or silver and cost you nothing more than time and caring. No one should end up alone and lonely, not even the McGreedy family. But, the McGreedy's will end up alone because they never learn. But, thank goodness, it's not too late for you and me. We still have time



Henry and Harriett's Easter



Easter dinner at the McGreedy's was always too much—too much food, too much talk and too much noise. This year would prove to be no exception. As always, Henry and Harriett ate the huge meal before them. Easter meal usually consisted of: several large glazed hams, yams, potatoes, dressing, several large cream and fruit pies, a large salad and several beverages. All of this, and more, were served on a spotless table with a lovely tablecloth, large ornate candles and a huge, flowery centerpiece. Not to be forgotten was the invited guest, Jean Snooty, local librarian and neighbor. After an hour of food and watching Jean Snooty stuff herself silly, Henry and Harriett were ready for a reprieve, outside.

After dinner, the children were given permission to leave, while Jean and Hazel talked. The children decided to do something they hadn't done for awhile, visit their Aunt Elizabeth, who lived just two blocks over from them. She had moved into the neighborhood four years ago and Hazel had never bothered to welcome her in any fashion. Elizabeth's husband, Randy and son Charles lived quiet and modest lives compared to Hazel and family.

The children sometimes went to visit Elizabeth when Hazel was busy. Today they arrived at her home and rang the doorbell. Elizabeth came to the door and smiled when she saw them. "Well, if it isn't my favorite niece and nephew! Come in."

Elizabeth and her family had just finished a small Easter dinner and were enjoying some of Elizabeth's homemade chocolate fudge. "Would you like some fudge?" she asked. "I made it this morning." Needless to say, they didn't have to be asked twice. Homemade fudge tasted so much better than catered fudge.

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

"Yes, we would," they replied. "Thank you so much." cried Harriett and Henry. Soon they were enjoying the relaxing and uncontrolled atmosphere of Elizabeth's small but cozy family. Her simplicity and kindness made them feel right at home--- only better.

Later, the children got involved in Monopoly and then later took a long walk. After the walk, all three children came back home and Elizabeth read to them from the Bible about Jesus and the cross, the real meaning and purpose of Easter.

The McGreedy children changed a little bit that day. For the first time in their young lives they were told a wonderful truth about Jesus and felt happy and a

Hazel's Easter Surprise



It is eight o'clock in the morning, March the second and Hazel McGreedy is busy planning Easter dinner. As she jogs down the sidewalk in her new red, white and blue spandex running outfit with matching jogging shoes, she listens to a tape recording she made the night before. The tape begins with Hazel singing, "I love me, myself and I! I am so groovy, groovy...groovy!" At the end of her song she listens gleefully to her recorded plans....

'Call the caterer. Make sure that he brings three large hams, plenty of mashed potatoes, a bunch of veggies and a large tin of homemade fudge. Have hubby buy some cheap gifts at Forever Discount Center. Remind him, oh illustrious one, to get these gifts late at night so he won't be seen by our "nibby and spying" neighbors. Invite friends from church and a few neighbors, especially Jean Snooty. Call Speedy Lawn care and get our yard cleaned up from the dirty, old winter."

Satisfied with her plans, Hazel smiled to herself and started to sing, "Oh I love to be cheap, and I love to be cheap! It's fun and really, really neat!"

Days passed and Hazel completed all of her plans, per schedule. She checked off each item in her Day Book Planner as it was completed. Hazel's family was in for an Easter surprise, for she hadn't told anyone about her plans for Easter. She loved giving her family surprises.

Well, Easter Sunday arrived and guess what happened?

No one on her list showed up but old Jean Snooty. The children had to be nice to her, even though she ate almost everything in sight, stuffing her mouth full and talking at the same time. The children thought to themselves, "How gross!"

Speedy Lawn care didn't show up, so the lawn didn't look so good and the caterers brought the wrong menu. There was no Easter hams, no mashed potatoes, no veggies and no homemade fudge. Instead, they had chicken and rice, a few veggies and a butterscotch pie, that was not well made. Everyone found the menu boring, except Jean Snooty. Jean Snooty would eat just about everything, and usually did. (Later in the day, Jean blabbed to all of Hazel's friends how cheap she was with the food.)

After dinner and visiting with Jean and family, Hazel went for a long walk. She was depressed and tired. She thought, "Why is it everything I do fails? I make such good plans and yet nothing turns out like I want it to." As she walked down the street she saw some lilies planted in front of a small house. Lilies reminded her of her youth, her family and the old church she and her family used to attend.

She thought out loud, "Have I lost sight of what's most important at Easter? I guess it's not about impressing others with a fancy dinner. I guess it's really about Jesus. Why do I always forget that?"

Hazel's fleeting moment of truth brought to her, if only for a while, true insight to what Easter is all about—Jesus and love.

The McGreedy's Go On Vacation



Summertime! Hazel McGreedy quickly and methodically but gently placed the last of the vacation clothes into the expensive, leather suitcases. Hazel whispered to herself, "Hawaii, how beautiful! Blue skies, palm trees, volcanoes and delectable food!" As she closed the suitcases, she heard Harold come into the house through the downstairs' door.

Where's my beautiful Hazel? She'd better be ready for me and Hawaii!" At the sound of his voice, she rushed to the hallway, nearly tripped and replied, "Hawaii, here we come! Ready or not..."

"Hazel did you pack up everything we'll need?" Harold giggled. "You didn't forget the video equipment, did you? What about the surfboards for the kid? Oh, and did you remember to call the Agreeables and tell them we'll be arriving a day earlier?" Harold was so excited he could barely stand still. He simply loved vacations—especially "sponging" off others and putting the rest of the money in the bank!

Hazel quickly responded, "Yes to all of your questions, dear! The Agreeables know we're coming and have everything ready for us. I just talked with them about an hour ago. Now relax! The children will be home soon and you know how excited they get when it's almost time to go. I told the neighbors exactly what we want done while we're away. Sheila and Bob will take care of our home. I made sure to speak firmly with Sheila. Remember what happened the last time we came home and found the lawn eaten up by weeds? Believe you me, she knows what I'll do if that happens

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

again." Hazel's eyes and mouth narrowed with hostile emotion. "Sheila will find that I'm not a woman to "fool with; not to worry about that!"

The children arrived home from school thinking only of Hawaii. Their little eyes were wild with anticipation because they knew that their father and mother would let them do anything they wanted to do on vacation.

On Friday, the McGreedy family landed in Hawaii. As they got off the plane, the McGreedy's were already plotting and planning. Henry McGreedy wanted to go for a long boat ride, Hazel and Harriett wanted to buy some expensive jewelry and Harold wanted to do just one thing---eat! Much to Harold's relief the family decided to go to dinner with the Agreeables. They ate everything in sight. The poor Agreeables ended up paying for everyone's meal because Hazel and Harold didn't feel that they should pay, since it was their vacation!

The following days were spent in constant shopping, eating, partying, touring and swimming—since the Agreeables were paying for everything. When the Agreeables finally had a few moments together alone, they decided that they would never invite the McGreedy's to visit again! Mr. Agreeable thought that the McGreedy's were just a bunch of heathens, only out for themselves.

Well, after two weeks the McGreedy's had worn out their welcome. They had consumed, partied and visited until they and their hosts were exhausted. It was now time to go home. The Agreeables were so tired of their visitors that they fell exhausted into their living rooms chairs the very morning the McGreedy's left. The Agreeables, I might add, were now a lot poorer.

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

Did the McGreedy's care? Absolutely not! They had a swell time, saw everything, drove the poor Agreeables nuts and took their money. The McGreedy's made out like bandits. You see, that's the way they like it. Everything for themselves and nothing for you or me...

The McGreedy's Welcome New Neighbors



The McGreedy's were enjoying life. Everything was going their way. They smiled continuously because their lovely cars shined brightly in the sun, their 45 inch television sets were beautiful and most importantly, their house was splendid inside and out. Their life was glorious and all was well with the world!

All was wonderful until a new family moved in across the street from them. As the movers unloaded the truck, Mrs. McGreedy eagerly and greedily watched through her big bay window. "Those people must be richer than us," she thought. They have more things—why, just look at all the televisions and computers they're lugging into their home! We have always been the richest family in the neighborhood. Now we have those people to contend with! But, maybe I can borrow some of their beautiful things. They certainly have some great looking cars! I must tell Harold about this the moment he gets home! This means a long talk at the kitchen table!" Hazel was disturbed but excited about the interesting possibilities with her new neighbors.

The new family, the Passives, had a lot of money and possessions. They enjoyed their wealth and high standards of living. The Passives were not greedy but they did enjoy spending money.

At first, everything went great for the McGreedy's and the Passives. Each family had two children, one son and one daughter and the families got along fine, besides the Passives were so easy to be around. They did almost anything and everything anyone wanted to do.

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

One sunny June day, the McGreedy's came knocking on the Passive's front door. Hazel and Harold McGreedy wanted to borrow the Passive's new, blue Cadillac for a weekend. They wanted the car, not only because it was beautiful but because Hazel and Harold were very cheap and that it would be nice to borrow from another.

"Anything for a new friend and neighbor," replied Sam Passive. "Just take care of our baby. She's like one of the family."

For years, the McGreedy's borrowed from their neighbors, politely forgetting to return the borrowed item. They simply kept the borrowed items for themselves, hoping their neighbors would forget. Their neighbors didn't forget and often showed up in a "huff" wanting their items back. Sometimes they got their borrowed stuff back, sometimes they didn't.

Well, the McGreedy's took the car, used it and brought it back, but not in one weekend like they said, but in four weeks! Not only were they late in returning the car, but they brought it back filthy and with a long wide gash the length of the driver's side. The beautiful Cadillac was no more.

When the Passives saw their car, they were shocked and angry. There was a terrible fight; the entire neighborhood heard everything.

Since the fight, the two families have not spoken. The friendship is gone. The Passives are not as trusting now. They are much more careful about lending to anyone.

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

In the meantime, the McGreedy's have discovered someone else to borrow from. Are the McGreedy's having fun? You bet! Just ask them....

Hazel Gets a Surprise Visit

Hazel was feeling unusually chipper one warm fall morning. She had on her new silver and gray jogging outfit and she was ready to take Mitzi, her white and gray poodle, for a run. As usual, she had all of her housework done by nine and was ready to jog. She left the remainder of the housework, which was a great deal--- laundry and cleaning of the kitchens and bathrooms for the maid to do. Betty, the Maid, often arrived after nine and was there until noon. Betty was seldom spoken to and was given cheap gifts at Easter and Christmas for her work.



Hazel had just finished grooming Mitzi for the run when the doorbell rang. She muttered to herself, "Now who could that be at nine o'clock in the morning?!" She guessed that it was probably one of those "church" persons who were always at her door trying to sell her their faith. As she opened the door, her heart stopped a beat. It was someone she never expected to see at her door, Sister Elizabeth.

"Well, if it isn't my long, lost sister, Lisabeth." She never, ever called her sister by her rightful name, Elizabeth. Jealousy and envy controlled Hazel, even when addressing her own sister. She continued, "Come on in, if you dare!"

Elizabeth smiled and said, "Hazel, it's been so long since I've seen you, I wanted to see you and see how you're doing. I don't see you much anymore."

Hazel smiled her Cheshire cat smile and let her in. They both walked into the spacious and highly decorated living room. Mitzi followed close behind, eyeing suspiciously the stranger interrupting their personal routine. Hazel asked, "Would

you like some coffee? I can make some instant real quick! Maid's not here yet, but I'll do my best."

"No, thank you, Hazel. I just wanted to talk with you a bit. I won't take up much of your time. I know that you're busy." (Elizabeth always felt when she visited Hazel that she had to hurry with her conversation.)

Hazel reluctantly sat down opposite Elizabeth in her luxurious and large recliner. She thought to herself, I wonder what she wants now; she's always on her computer. Must be important.



Elizabeth began, "You know Hazel, we're sisters and we never see each other. To be honest, I do get a bit lonely when Randy's on the road. Randy was her husband and he was a computer salesman. He seldom was home and that left the responsibility of home and errands to her. This made life for Elizabeth lonely and sometimes sad. Hazel knew all of this but never offered in any way to comfort or help her sister. Elizabeth continued, "I was wondering if we could go shopping together or maybe go to church sometime. It would be good to spend some time with you. I miss your friendship. Sometimes the four walls close in on me."

Hazel looked at her and smiled. She just knew that Elizabeth wanted something. Right again, she thought.

"Well now, Elizabeth. We don't want you all lonely now, do we? Tell you what we do, why don't we go shopping this coming Thursday? Modern Styles is having a sale on jogging outfits and evening dresses. Want to go?"

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

Elizabeth replied, "Why yes, that would be great! Let's do that!" They talked a bit more and then Hazel said she had to get going on her run. Elizabeth left, excited about Thursday and being with her sister. Know what happened?

Hazel did go to Modern Styles and many other stores that day---but not with Elizabeth. She went with old Jean Snooty, the town gossip and local librarian. She didn't even have the courtesy to call Elizabeth and tell her about the change of plans. Poor Elizabeth waited and waited. No phone call, no Hazel. Elizabeth was sad and hurt that day. It was another disappointment for Elizabeth who thought she could trust and rely on sister, Hazel.

Do you think that Elizabeth learned a lesson here? What lesson do you think she learned?

Elizabeth and Hazel—The Story Continues

Well, Hazel went to the mall with old Jean Snooty and had a wonderful time! She gave no thought to poor Elizabeth, who waited for over an hour for her sister. She sat close to the mall entrance and waited...and waited and waited. Finally, she got up, went to a few stores and then went home.

“She did it to me, again. Once again my mean sister lied to me and never said anything. How many times has she done this to me? Why do I keep thinking that the next time everything will be alright?” Elizabeth talked quietly to herself as she drove home. It was just another disappointing turn of events, with Sister Hazel at the helm.

She got home and went directly to her phone, hoping for a message of explanation from her sister. As usually, nothing. She then went to her computer, thinking that maybe Hazel sent her an email. Once again....not a thing.

It took Elizabeth quite some time to get over her anger. Hazel seldom did what she said she would do. Even when they were little, Hazel said she would do something for Elizabeth—like help her study or help her at school and then nothing would happen. “Good, old unreliable Hazel! Well, when she needs something, I won’t be there for her!”

Well, about three months later Hazel was having a terrible time with her children. They just wouldn’t mind anything! She was pulling her hair out! Then, she thought about Elizabeth. She could help; she always knew what to do and she was always there when she needed her.

Hazel called Elizabeth. She was so frustrated with the children. They wouldn't mind or do anything Hazel asked of them. She didn't want to do it but Elizabeth was so good with children. She would call her and see if she could help.



"Hello, Elizabeth? Could you come over and help me? The children are being so awful! They won't do anything I tell them to do! Could you come over right now?"

"Hazel, what happened to our 'mall meeting?" Why didn't you show up? I'd like to help you, but where were you when I needed you? I'd like to help you but since you didn't support or help me when I needed you, I'm afraid you're on your own! Have a nice day!"

Well Hazel had a terrible time with the children and blamed it all on Elizabeth. "If only she would have helped me, I wouldn't be going through all of this," she said out loud.

Once again, Hazel learned nothing. Once again, she's back to Ground Zero. She just doesn't get it, does she?

Hazel Gets Even!

Well, Hazel wasn't about to let Elizabeth get away with not helping her out with the children! She would get even, if it was the last thing she ever did! The thing is, she thought, how to get even?

"I know exactly what to do with sister, Lizabeth!" She practically shouted it out. 'I will tell mom and dad what she did. They always take my side. Yes, that' what I'll do! Tell mom and dad!

And so, Hazel told her mom and dad what happened; though she embellished the tale quite a bit by saying that 'Lizabeth called her names and was 'so cruel' with her on the phone.

You see, Hazel's parents are old and often they don't feel well. You see, they take several medications for their nerves. But, does Hazel care about hurting her parents? I think not! All she wants is revenge and getting even.



When Hazel told her folks—her version of the story, they tried to comfort her and said that they would call Elizabeth and find out why she did, what she did. They promised that they would get to the bottom of it.

Elizabeth received a phone call the following day and was scolded by her parents. Even though she tried to tell the truth of what happened, they chose to believe Hazel and demanded that Elizabeth apologize to her sister that very day!

Hazel and Jane Snooty

It was two o'clock in the afternoon on a cold November day when Hazel's phone rang. Hazel was trying to balance her checkbook but it wasn't going right today and she was frustrated. She always balanced her checkbook at the beginning of the week, on Monday. Somehow, the numbers were just not adding up. The phone was on its fourth ring when Hazel finally answered.

"Hello, Hazel McGreedy here."

"Hi, Hazel. It's me, Jean Snooty. What are you doing?"

"Just trying to balance my checkbook, Jean. What do you want?"

Hazel disliked Jean calling because she always called at the wrong time and the woman always put her on edge. The woman was just too darn competitive, she thought.

"Guess what, Hazel? I found out that from the church bazaar committee, mainly Louise, what qualities they are looking for in the church bazaar hostess. I can't believe Louise gave me the secret information. It was so easy." Being hostess of the church bazaar was a coveted role that Hazel, Jean and a few others competed for. Every year the rumors and competition began.

"Louise Needles told me that they want someone who can show off their needlepoint work as the people walk in. The hostess will be responsible for displaying and answering questions about the work. Good communication and sales are a must.

Isn't this wonderful news? I thought of you first because I know that your needlepoint work is so wonderful! Besides, you could sell snow to Eskimos, Hazel. You're a born saleswoman. The committee will make their decision in about two weeks. That gives you plenty of time to practice your sales pitch and get your needlepoint ready for display. Well, gotta run. Got a million things to do. Bye, Hazel.

Before you could say, "Hop to it, Hazel," Hazel threw down her checkbook and practically ran to her sewing room and hauled out all of her needlepoint treasures. Some looked a bit dated but she could fix that in no time flat! She would beat out old Jean Snooty and all of the others if it were the last thing she ever did! Jean was always getting the upper hand on her and that was going to stop! This time, Hazel would be the winner! It would be a grand way to show off her talents and beauty.

Two weeks later, Hazel was ready. She truly had herself together and was ready for anything. She went down to the church and waited in the reception area for her one o'clock appointment. When her turn came, she went in with her needlepoint crafts and was ready to show her stuff! Guess what? Old Jean Snooty told her wrong again! Instead of wanting someone to show off needlepoint work, the church committee wanted someone to demonstrate and show knitting products. Of course, Jean Snooty knew all about this and knew how to knit like a pro. She brought with her 10 items she had knitted over the course of a year.

When the committee asked to see Hazel's knitting products she turned red and said, "Knitting? Surely you're joking with me! I was told you were interested in seeing needlepoint. Well! I guess you won't be needing me! As she practically ran out the door, Hazel saw Jean walking toward her. Hazel made a point of saying nothing to

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

her but gave Jean the meanest, down-dirty look that she could give. Jean just smiled at her and said, "Too bad, Hazel. Have a nice day, now.!"

Sometimes, like today, Hazel gets back a little of what she dishes out.

The McGreedy's Have a Real Christmas!



Henry and Harriett knew that their Christmas dinner this year would be like all the others, catered! In fact, neither one of them could recall their mother, Hazel, ever cooking a real Christmas dinner. For years, all dinners had been brought in and it looked like nothing but catered, for the future. This year Harriett and Henry decided to go on a “catered food strike.” Yes, rebellion was in the air! They wanted a real home cooked meal and that was that!

The children spoke to their father, Harold about getting a real home cooked meal for Christmas. Harold shook his head, knowing his wife never cooked anything bigger than bacon and eggs or a quick mix pizza. Hazel hated cooking and made sure everyone knew it. Harold tried to explain this to the children but finally advised them to ask their mother. Maybe, just maybe, she would relent, he thought.

Henry and Harriett thought over their father’s advice. After thinking the situation through, the children decided that rather than face their mother’s wrath, they would endure another brought-in meal.

Christmas day arrived. At noon the caterers arrived. Their mother, Hazel, sat at the head of the dinner table ready to be served while the children and their father sat on either side of the table, attentive to her needs. The children nibbled some of the food laid out before them. A huge cooked turkey sat in the middle of the table. It was about 20 pounds, the children guessed. Dressing, cranberries and desert surrounded the huge turkey. Soon, the children lost all interest in the dinner and left to watch TV.

## The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

In the afternoon, Hazel wanted to go to the Mall to see if any stores might be open so she could exchange some gifts she received. She often didn't like what people got her for Christmas. Harold packed his family into their brand new station wagon and all were on their way. He used a short cut, going down some side streets. Henry and Harriett looked through the car windows and realized their father was driving through a bad part of town. They became frightened and nervous. What would happen to them if the car broke down?

"Hurry up, father! Drive faster!" they both cried.

"What are we doing in this part of town anyway?" Hazel asked. "You know that this is a dangerous area, don't you, Harold?"

"Yes, I do, he answered. 'I wanted all of you to see something before we go to the Mall."

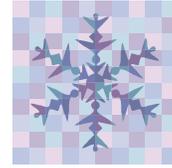
Slowly Harold pulled into a gravel driveway and stopped. In front of them was an old, one story brick building, all run down.

"I want the children to come with me," he said getting out of the car." Where are we going, father?" Harriett was a bit anxious. This was something the family had never done before.

"We are going to take the remains of our Christmas dinner to the people who live in this shelter. Every year your mother orders more than we can eat and every year I bring what's left here for these people to enjoy. This year I thought maybe you'd like to help me."

The McGreedy Family by Toni Star

Hazel sat in the car listening to her husband with an astonished look on her face. She thought out loud, "So that's where the leftovers go!"



"That's right, Hazel. OK kids, let's go!"

As the children followed their father into the shelter, they saw many people waiting for them. Never before had the children seen people who had so little to eat. The people looked tired, poor and hungry. All of their lives Harriett and Henry had everything they wanted. Today their father brought them face to face with an entirely different world. For the first time in their lives, they learned what Christmas and sharing was all about. For them, Christmas would never be the same. They would never forget the smiles and joy of the people in the shelter. Harriett and Henry finally had a wonderful Christmas and so did the people of the shelter!

All rights reserved to: Copyrighted 20011 to Toni Star