

Story Time

by *Delores Campbell*

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Remembering John Cole and Polly McRary, Two Outstanding Christians

I think I will start when John was in a Christmas play as a toy shop keeper. Marsha was teaching the Friendship class and her students were dolls in the play. Gary Paul was a boy doll and I dressed up as a grandma doll. Marilyn Kohnle hadn't planned to be in the play, but when she saw how much fun we were having rehearsing because John didn't know his lines yet and was making up his own way of saying them, she said, "I wonder if I couldn't be in this play?"

I said, "I don't see why not, as long as you can come dressed as a toy."

At the next rehearsal, she came dressed as an old-fashioned doll. Her old-timey dress was beautiful.

It seemed that Tracey McRary was the main one that knew his part well. I can hear him yet as he went up to John and asked, "Do you want to buy a duck?"

And this is the part that John answered him correctly. "No, I don't want to buy a duck."

John had a feather duster in his hand, and I was sitting in a rocking chair. Instead of him dusting the rocking chair, he was dusting my face with the feather duster. I had the feeling he was hoping it would make me sneeze, but it didn't.

Well, the night came to give the play, and John had his part down perfect. Those who never got to be in a play with John Cole missed out on a lot of fun. He always said it was just as important to celebrate Easter as it was to celebrate Christmas. He acted out a lot of Easter plays, as well as, Christmas plays. I think we should have more Easter plays in memory of John Cole.

I was really shocked to see John come to the last Christmas Eve play while Polly McRary was still alive. He had lost so much weight. Polly was sitting beside me and I said, "John has lost a lot of weight since I saw him last, hasn't he?"

She said, "Yes, John has been real sick."

I didn't know that it would be the last Christmas Eve Polly would be alive. I knew she had been sick, but not as bad as she really was.

John liked to tease her and tell her she had a cold heart. Everyone who really knew Polly and John couldn't help but love them. That year John was not in the Christmas Eve play, and it broke my heart to know that he would never be able to be in anymore plays.

I really enjoyed listening to John teaching the adult Bible School Class also. I remember one time when

all the kids went upstairs to their rooms, and all the ones in our class sat in the back of the church not moving. I finally said, "All right you Quakers, you can get up and move now." John got a bang out of that one. He also got a bang out of Bleaka saying, "I snook up behind him and touched the hem of his garment" when they were rehearsing an Easter play.

When I asked him how he was at the UMW Bazaar (2009), he smiled and said, "I'm Speedy." Billy Wayne thought a lot of John also. He liked to hear him preach. We will miss Speedy and Polly.