

Newspaper Article Submitted

HAPPY TALES TO YOU

"Once upon a time, and a very good time was too, when the streets were paved with penny loaves and houses were whitewashed with buttermilk..." (Irish) And another story begins. Television tells plenty of stories, but it leaves little to the imagination. Eager for stories that can be seen on the mental screen, people are returning to the word. More than 250 storytelling festivals were held last year. St. George's was among them.

Psychologists say that stories tap the brain's memory structures. In his book, "Tell Me a Story," Roger C. Schank explains: "Human memory is story based. Not every experience makes a good story, but, if it does, the experience will be easier to remember. Ours is a world of stories."

Print is 500 years old. Writing is 5,000 years old, but stories have been around forever. Good stories help us to make good decisions, they help us to fill our lives with meaning, purpose and understanding. Stories extend our kinship with the past. They bring the long gone back to life for the young, and make a dead person into someone you'd want to emulate. When we write down our own stories, from our own experience, and hand these on to our descendants, we are passing on something of real value.

Brian Fetzer, Associate Instructor of the Arts of Stories and Songs at the University of Utah states, "Arts that allow peoples imaginations freedom are precious. Storytelling, whether in written form or vocalized form is one of these fascinating arts that sets the imaginations of it's participants free. The minds of the listeners or readers of a story, to a great degree, are free to cavort around the images and happenings being woven into the tale." It is believed the best storytellers are the best listeners that take parts from this and that and weave their very own story.

There are many different types of stories. The three F's- fairytales, folktales and fables, delightful stories of olden days. Sentimental Journeys-real-life stories and music of yesteryear. Stories for holidays, Celtic stories of love,

adventure, and the little people. grown-up stories of wisdom, wit and tricksters.

A storyteller can tickle your funnuybone, bring a tear to your eye, raise goose bumps or warm your heart. Join us, there is nothing like a good story! Wednesday, January 19, 2000 in the St. George Tabernacle at 7:00 p.m. Two of Utah's finest professional storytellers will perform. KAREN ASHTON, founder of the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival and Frankie Colton, president-elect of the Utah Storytelling Guild.

They will be conducting workshops on storytelling Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the board room at the Washington School District Office, 189 West Tabernacle Street. The public is invited. All events are free. They are sponsored by the City of St. George Heritage Week and Washington District Accelerated Learning.