



CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION



Mind's Eye decorated with lights for the Christmas season (Photo: Erin Bodden)

CHRISTMAS AT MISS LASSIE'S HOUSE

Gladwyn K. Bush
"Miss Lassie"



1914-2003

FACTS ABOUT MISS LASSIE

- She was the youngest child of her parents, Capt. Richard and Margaret Bush: Clarabell, Richard, Deward, Walder, Wilton, Myra, Alveston, Angus, Gertie, Nino, and Gladwyn 'Lassie'.
- Her brother, Floriston, gave her the nickname "Lassie" because she was the 'last' child.
- She lived all her life in the family home in South Sound.
- Her father taught her Reading and Writing at home.
- From the age of 7 until 11, she attended Standard 2-4 at the government school. Then she attended Mr. Goring's private school for the next 4 years.
- Her school day began with prayers and a Bible reading.
- She studied Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Science, Spanish, Latin, Typing, Book-keeping and Shorthand.
- Her father bought her a reed organ from Dr. Roy McTaggart.
- Mildred Rankin taught her guitar, fiddle and the reed organ.
- She had five visions, or dreams of Jesus appearing in front of the house in her youth, and she never forgot them.
- She had no formal art training.
- At 62, she began painting the windows, doors and passageway in her house using house paints.
- Her first painting was a flying bird on a front window.
- She said she only painted what came to her "mind's eye", which is what she called the pictures she saw in her mind.
- She called her paintings "my markings".
- She became known as a visionary intuitive artist and some of her paintings are in the collection of the American Visionary Arts Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.
- In 1997, she was awarded a national honour, Member of the British Empire, by Queen Elizabeth.
- In 2003, she died at home at the age of 89.
- Her paintings are in England, the United States, Jamaica, South Africa, Germany and here in the Cayman Islands.



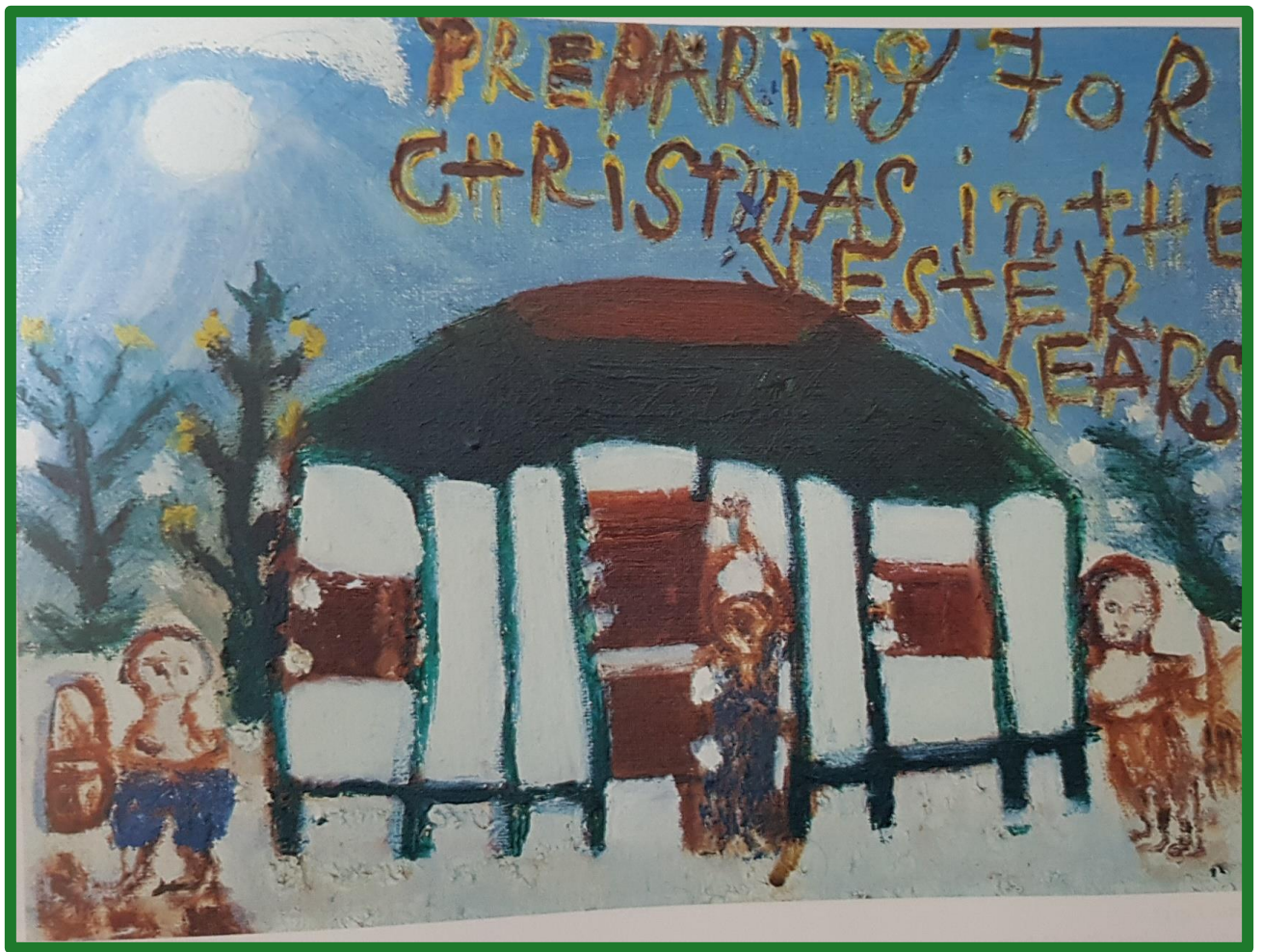
Miss Lassie standing at her front door (Photo: Jewel Levy)

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

1. Gladwyn K. Bush is also called _____.
2. She lived with her parents and _____ brothers and _____ sisters in South Sound.
3. She began painting at the age of _____.
4. She is known internationally as a _____ artist.
5. The expression 'in my mind's eye' means _____.
6. Miss Lassie called her paintings "_____".
7. Miss Lassie was awarded a national honour, Member of the British Empire (MBE) in _____.
8. Miss Lassie was _____ years old when she died in 2003.
9. Lassie's property is called _____.

My favorite painting by Miss Lassie's is called _____.

Answers: 1. Miss Lassie 2. 8 brothers and 2 sisters 3. 62 4. visionary intuitive 5. pictures she saw in her mind 6. my mind's eye 7. 1997 8. 89 9. Mind's Eye



Preparing for Christmas in the Yesteryears

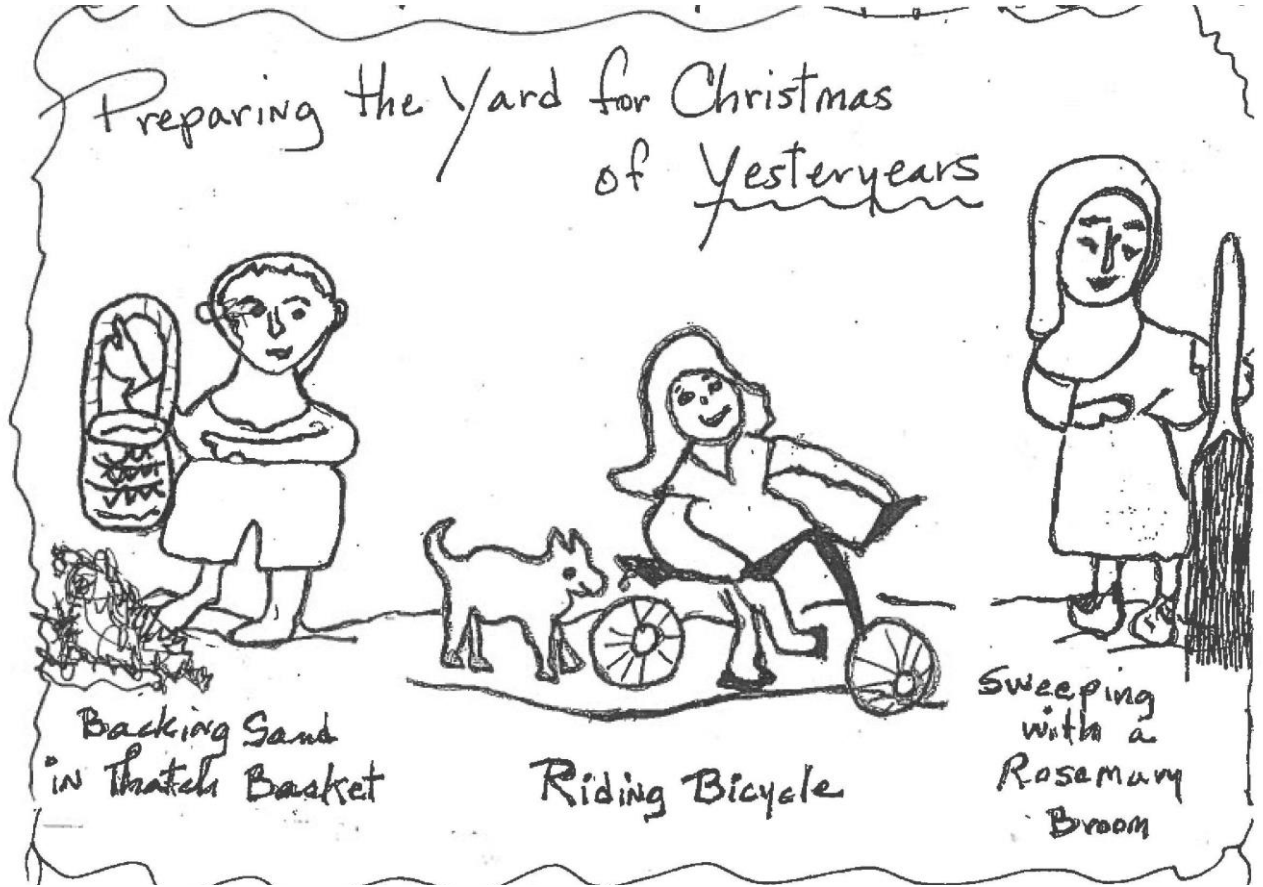
About the end of October my mother would begin sewing new clothes for us. She would go to Mr. McTaggart store or Mr. Lyons store where she had credit and she would buy dry goods like cloth and shoes. Us children had to back sand from our beach and spread it around the house to pretty-up the yard. The house would be painted or white washed.

Food was plentiful. Sometimes there would be three ovens going at the same time in this yard, and my father would have turtle meat and beef which he would buy from people in George Town.

On Christmas day we went to morning service and only after that would we play or go visiting. It was a very lovely time that is factful.

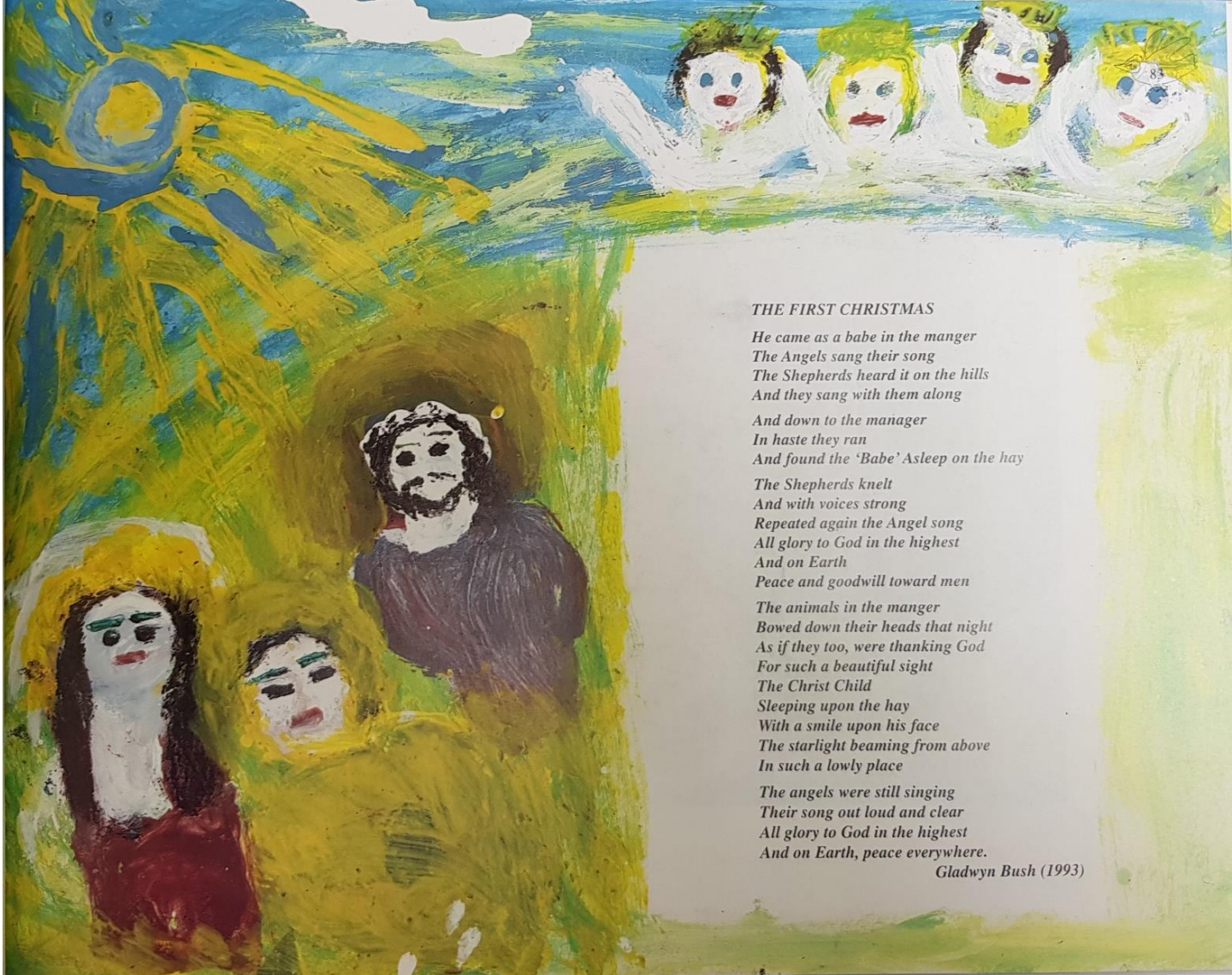
DIRECTIONS: Draw a picture of what you will do this year to make Christmas special at your house.

COLOUR THIS PAGE AND SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY



Preparing Your Yard for Christmas THIS YEAR

COLOUR THIS PAGE AND SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

*He came as a babe in the manger
The Angels sang their song
The Shepherds heard it on the hills
And they sang with them along
And down to the manger
In haste they ran
And found the 'Babe' Asleep on the hay*

*The Shepherds knelt
And with voices strong
Repeated again the Angel song
All glory to God in the highest
And on Earth
Peace and goodwill toward men
The animals in the manger
Bowed down their heads that night
As if they too, were thanking God
For such a beautiful sight
The Christ Child
Sleeping upon the hay
With a smile upon his face
The starlight beaming from above
In such a lowly place*

*The angels were still singing
Their song out loud and clear
All glory to God in the highest
And on Earth, peace everywhere.*

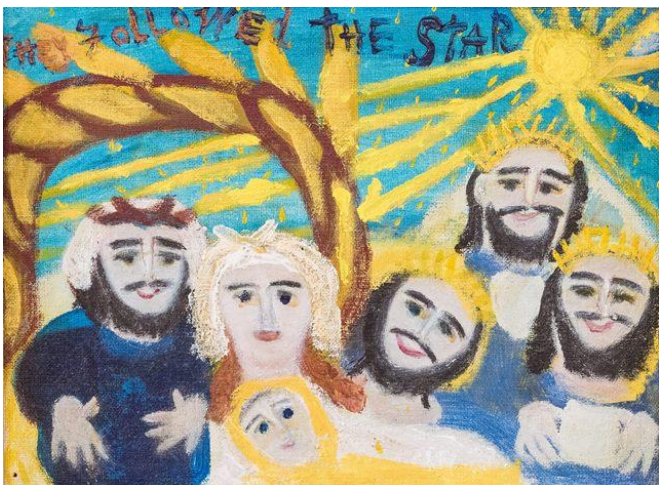
Gladwyn Bush (1993)

DIRECTIONS: Write about the first Christmas you can remember when you were a very young child.



The Manger

MISS LASSIE'S CHRISTMAS PAINTINGS

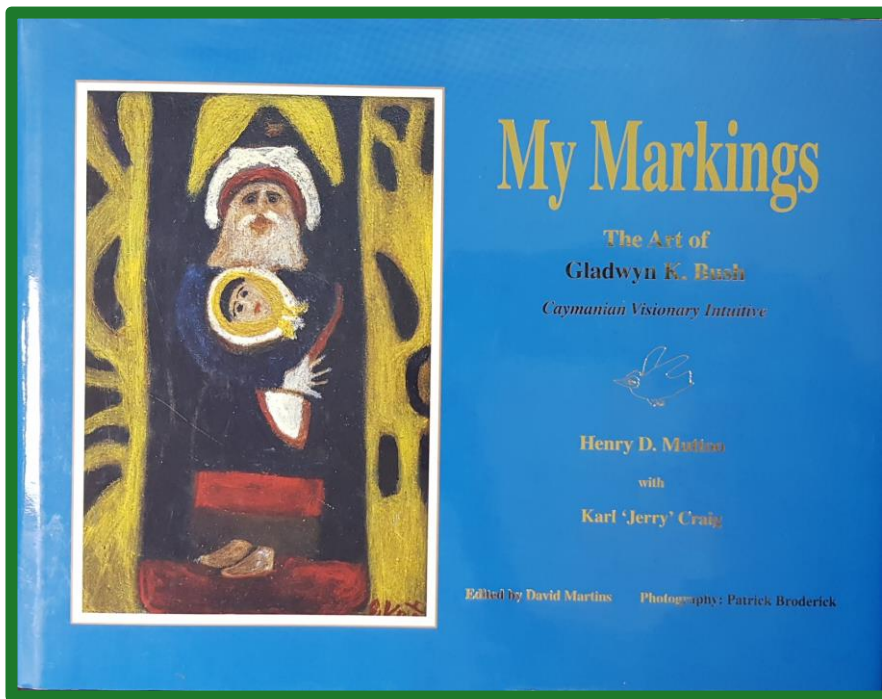


They Followed The Star

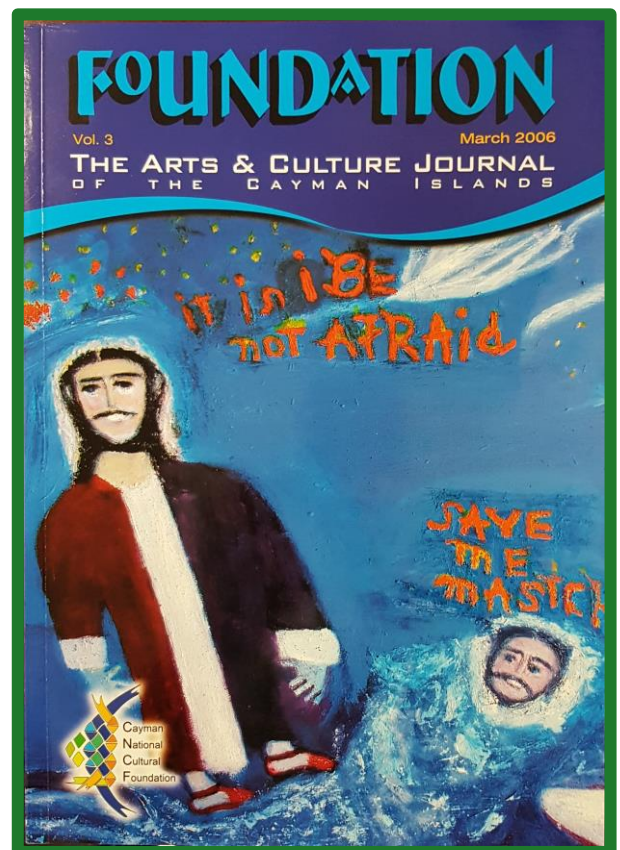


Mary and Jesus

CNCF PUBLICATIONS ABOUT MISS LASSIE



Out of print but available for viewing at the CNCF Research Library. Call 949-5477 to arrange a visit to the library.



For sale at CNCF Office for CI\$15. Call 949-5477 or walk in.



Nativity Painting on Back Bedroom Wall - Miss Lassie's House

DIRECTIONS: Print Miss Lassie's painting above. Then cut and glue on the front of a folded paper or card. Inside write:

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!
To My Family
Love from Me"

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF OF CNCF



Photo: Erin Bodden

"To all the youth and children of the Cayman Islands, a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with much joy, happiness, hope and love."

Henry Muttoo, MBE, DArts("h.c."), MA
Artistic Director, Cayman National Cultural Foundation