

December 8, 2011

Bill Moeller reads Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Dinner"



'Tis the season to sit by the fire, enjoy some spiced apple cider and a cookie, and listen to a seasonal tale. Lewis County's Bill Moeller, known and loved for his Mark Twain performances, will present a reading of "A Christmas Dinner" by Charles Dickens at the [Chehalis Timberland Library](#) on Saturday, December 17 at 2 p.m.

The library's Oxford Literature reference database provides some background for Dickens' first Christmas story. Written in 1834, "A Christmas Dinner" was influential on Dickens' later work,

especially "A Christmas Carol." The earlier story describes a merry family Christmas party where, because of the season, old resentments are forgotten, old wounds healed, and present blessings enjoyed.

The opening line foreshadows the more well-known tale: "Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused—in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened—by the recurrence of Christmas." The story of that misanthrope would eventually be told in "A Christmas Carol."

Mr. Moeller writes a weekly column for the Chronicle. He is a former entertainer, radio personality, mayor, bookstore owner, city council member, paratrooper and pilot. He lives in Centralia.

The Chehalis Timberland Library is at 400 N Market Blvd. For more information, please call the library at (360) 748-3301 or go to www.TRL.org.