



## *The story of the Mueller Egg Nog*

*(Recipe at the bottom)*

*Family traditions seem to abound around the holiday season. Every family has their favorite decoration or favorite Christmas recipe which is only made during the "season to be jolly" and the Mueller family is certainly no exception. Wherever we move, no matter what the Christmas climate "The Mueller Egg Nog" soon becomes something new friends and neighbors ask about and seem to look forward to with lip smacking anticipation. How did it all start? How did it become a Mueller tradition. To the best of my recollections back into my childhood, this is the story of the Mueller Nog.*

*In 1951 The Mueller family moved into a lovely, but not quite finished, new home in North Caldwell, N.J. For those of you who aren't really familiar with New Jersey, let me say, New Jersey does not stink everywhere, is not really the garbage pit for New York and is not just the place you get rid of Mafia bodies. New Jersey has beautiful farm and forest lands and our new home sat on a high hilltop in the center of thirty acres overlooking a peaceful valley. All the homes around us were built on property once belonging to one large country estate and all those good folks became true friends. This place became known to all those who lived upon it, as "The Farm".*

*Each year the Muellers, Bill (my father), Jane (my mother), Billy (that's me) and Larry (younger brother) would welcome in the Christmas Season with a gala Christmas party for all The Farm. By 1954 we were involved in this Christmas thing to such an extent that each year we moved a huge fir tree, fifty feet tall, some sixty miles and set it up on our hilltop, decorated with twelve hundred lights. This project started each October and consumed our every weekend until The Party. "It's our Christmas present to the whole town.", my Dad would say. I could go on for pages about this whole Christmas thing with the Muellers, but that's for another time. On to the nog.*

*Part of this seasonal celebration was the making of egg nog. Where the recipe came from, no one remembers but, by the mid-fifties it was part of the emerging Christmas ritual around our house. The plan was always to make it just after Thanksgiving to allow "that certain mellowing needed to take off the sharp edge." This didn't always happen but, oh well, after the first cup who cared. The magical thing about the Mueller egg nog, first happened by accident: there was always egg nog left after The Party for consumption during the holidays. We had an extra refrigerator in the garage and a small container of nog was put out there. There it stayed...for a whole year, to be discovered sometime the next fall. The immediate reaction was to throw it out, quick! Don't open that jar! Uuuuggg! Dad couldn't resist. The jar was opened and the nog was as good as the day it was made...NO, BETTER! Smooth!!*

*Billy F. Mueller died Dec 20, 2004, Gordonsville, NV*

*That year, that little jar of egg nog was added to the new Christmas batch and the tradition began. Each year we saved just a little of the Christmas nog for the next year's batch. Wherever the Mueller family movith, so movith The Nog. When I moved to California in '77, Mom sent "starter" nog, just before Christmas.*

*This egg nog is still part of this ongoing Mueller tradition. Yes, there is really fifty year old egg nog in there! A few drops of Christmas Cheer from every Christmas since those wonderful days in North Caldwell...the days of my youth.*



**Here's the recipe for Mueller Egg Nog.**

**2-Lbs Sugar**

**1-Doz. Eggs (separated)**

**1-Pt. Cream**

**1-Qt.+ 1-Pt. Whole Milk**

**2-Qt. Bourbon**

**6-Oz. Myer's Rum**

**Beat the egg yolks, then mix the whole mess together in a big pot (save the egg whites for later). Make as soon after Thanksgiving as you can but, if you can't, a few days mellowing will do. Keep cool. It does not need to be refrigerated and it will NOT freeze.**

**To serve, beat the egg whites and fold them into the nog. Sprinkle nutmeg on top and enjoy. *Don't forget to keep some for next year!!***



***Merry Christmas to all.***

***Bill (II), Sally, Scott, Jay, Susan, Billy (III), Kim, Larry and Jane Mueller***

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