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For immediate release

Museum of Appalachia:

A Candlelight Christmas – Christmas in Old Appalachia Featured Event

NORRIS, Tenn.: Beginning on December 5th, the Museum will celebrate ***Christmas in Old Appalachia***, a festive winter celebration that captures the beauty and simplicity of an old-fashioned Christmas. Inside the cabins, simple cedar Christmas trees are draped with paper chains, popcorn strings, sweet gum, and sycamore balls. Tattered or well-worn quilts are laid under the trees; topped with carved wooden animals, tin horns, rag dolls, wagons, and spinning tops—all of which were presents found early on Christmas morning. The Little Tater Valley School House is adorned with hand-made ornaments made by local students.

On Saturday, December 12th the Museum will host *A Candlelight Christmas* from 5pm until 8pm. Stroll selected buildings in the Museum village, enjoy the Christmas story, sample holiday wassail, sing carols in the Irwin Chapel, visit with Museum animals, and more. Families will experience the beauty of an Appalachian Christmas during a simpler and more peaceful time. Guests are encouraged to bring flashlights or battery operated lanterns.

Continuing through December 24th, special holiday exhibits include the children's display in the Hall of Fame, with toys and furniture made by loving parents and grandparents, and Granny Irwin's traditional Christmas Crazy Quilt—brought out only on special or festive occasions.

Browse the *Shop at the Museum* where you'll find 'American made', hand-crafted items. Enjoy hot, southern country-style lunches, served daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Museum restaurant. Home-made cakes, pies, cookies, and other holiday treats are available all day, or can be made special to order for Christmas gatherings.

December hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily (9:00 a.m.-3pm on Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day). The Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate and a not-for-profit organization, is located 16 miles North of Knoxville, one mile East of I-75, Exit 122. For more information, call 865-494-7680, or visit the web site at www.museumofappalachia.org.

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