

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 4, 1949 -- FOUR O'CLOCK
THE LITTLE COUNTRY THEATRE

Merry Christmas
1949

The Story Of Santa Claus

Santa Claus is the patron saint of Christmas and the most beloved figure in the legend of childhood. The modern mythical Santa Claus developed from the real person Saint Nicholas, who was the youngest and kindest bishop in the history of the Roman Catholic church.

During the middle ages he gradually became the patron saint of schoolboys. European schoolboys celebrated his feast day on Dec. 6 by electing a boy bishop.

Dressed in magnificent robes, the boy bishop led a parade which wound through the narrow streets and sometimes entered the churches. There was much feasting, but on the whole, the occasion was solemn.

Later this custom died out, although Nicholas still remained the favorite saint of children. In Belgium and The Netherlands both young and old still celebrate his feast day. A person representing the saint and wearing the robes of a bishop rides through the streets on a white donkey.

Saint Nicholas is kind but he is also strict. If Hans and Katrina have been good children they find gifts in their wooden shoes. But bad children find only a bundles of switches, in their shoes.

Children loved Saint Nicholas so much and especially his habit of bringing gifts that the custom of celebrating his feast day did not die out. The Dutch Settlers in America brought the custom with them to New Amsterdam or New York City.

English settlers in America eagerly borrowed the legends and
 (Continued on next page)

Kucera To Conduct Tours Next Week

The Little Country Theater and the Lincoln Log Cabin will be in full Christmas regalia following the Christmas Festival Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday the Theater and the Cabin will be open to the students. Tours will be conducted by Mayo Kucera each day from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"Jingle Bells -- Jingle Bells"



Chorus Will Sing Carols

The 34th annual Christmas festival will be held this Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Little Country Theater.

The college chorus under the direction of Ernest VanVlissingen will open the program by singing Christmas songs and carols. Don Matson and Ken Ketchner will present several duet selections on the piano and organ. They will also provide background music for the entire program.

"The Night Before Christmas," will be given in pantomime by Mickey Jones and Margaret Einingner.

Everyone is invited with special emphasis placed on the children. Santa Claus, in the person of Claire Houghlum, will give presents to all the youngsters.

Old Main will be decorated in a coat of green for the event, Christmas trees will be featured in the theater, and colored lights will prevail everywhere.

After the festivities, refreshments will be served in the Lincoln Log Cabin.

Tree Custom Dates Back 1200 Years

It is generally believed that the first Christmas tree was of German origin dating from Boniface, an English missionary to Germany in the 8th century, who replaced the sacrifice to Odin's sacred oak by a fir tree ordained as a tribute to the Christ child.

Accounts persist that Martin Luther introduced the lighted tree with candles. It is also known that the German Prince Albert, soon after his marriage to Queen Victoria brought the Christmas tree to England.

German immigrants are credited with bringing the custom to America.

Santa Claus Will Arrive At Old Main Sunday





Christmas carols express better than anything else, probably, the true spirit of Christmas.

The word "carol" itself signifies joy and was originally used to accompany a dance. William Wallace Fyfe concludes that the term carol "signifies a song of joy or exultation." Another definition states: "A carol is a hymn of praise especially such as is sung at Christmas in the open air."

In England, which gave America most of its carols, they were sometimes gay and sometimes convivial until the time of the Puritans, who tried to suppress the Christmas spirit.

After the Restoration, the religious nature of the day was for a time almost forgotten in the reaction from Puritanism, and the carol was temporarily lost in the songs.

There are many quaint customs associated with the early carolers that might be used today to break the monotony of going from house to house singing Christmas hymns.

It was about the 16th century that caroling became a Christmas custom, and is supposed to have been brought to England from Italy by the traveling clergy. The first real Christmas carol is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi who made a model of the Bethlehem manger to help him tell his people the Christmas story.

The idea of caroling fitted admirably into the English conception of Christmas as a combination of religious celebration

and a great home day with neighborly feeling, so it grew and flourished in that country.

Little bands and groups of singers which sprang up in the towns and villages came to be known as "Waits." A natural explanation of the name seems to be that it refers to watching and waiting, for Christmas Eve is called the Vigil of Christmas.

As early as December 21, which is the day dedicated to St. Thomas, mummers and carolers would begin going from door to door, announcing the great feast at hand. It was natural for the householders to offer hospitality to these Christmas troubadours, and gradually in many places the custom of giving alms and presents of various kinds was established.

This benign custom threatened at one time in England to become a profession and to lose its original simple charm.

For a period beginning just when no one knows and ending in 1820, there were in London and Westminster companies of "Waits" whose leaders held office by public appointment and who obtained an exclusive right to solicit contributions from the public.

The carolers were often accompanied by entertainers who gave a spirit of revelry to the occasions. The mummers often interrupted the singing to give their interpretation of "St. George and the Dragon." Tumblers, dressed in bright red, would perform their arts of skill to entertain the onlookers.

Christmas Carols

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

I
O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

II
For Christ is born of Mary,
And fathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

III
How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts,
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
still,
The dear Christ enters in.

SILENT NIGHT

I
Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

II
Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

III
Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

I
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

II
Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!

III
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Ris'n with healing in His wings,
Light and life to all He brings,
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace.



Christmas Decorating Suggestions

An easy way to give your home a touch of Christmas is through table decorations. It must be remembered that harmony is the most important aspect of decoration. In a Christmas dinner table center piece, work in colors of some of the foods you plan to use. Pine needles, red berries, nuts, fruits and vegetables may be worked into beautiful arrangements.

For added interest and color experiment with metallic paper. Little figures may be cut out of plastic foam, decorated and used as place cards. Use your imagination to create unusual centers of interest. The hostess should also wear clothing that will harmonize with the color scheme.

Decorating your Christmas tree need not be expensive. Anyone can make ornaments out of colored construction paper and tinfoil. Fruits, cookies and popcorn give the tree a more homey effect. Whipped soap suds can be used as snow.

Your windows provide the opportunity to share your Christmas cheer with the passers by. Express this feeling in your decorating. Dried weeds brushed with paste and then dusted with silver or gold glitter, accented with multi-colored balls make beautiful decorations.

Little Christmas lights could be used to set it off. Evergreen boughs combined with lights, candles, and inexpensive ribbon form interesting sprays. Cardboard figures silhouetted in the window are brought to life by interior lighting. Final results depend upon your own exciting creations.

Druids First to Use "Magic" of Mistletoe

The greens which are used for Christmas decorations found their way into early festivities because of certain virtues attributed to them by the ancients, and many of them which adorned pagan seasonal rites were later taken over to grace the ceremonies and celebrations of Christmas Day.

In both England and America, the holly and the mistletoe are associated with Christmas as invariably as are the plum pudding and Christmas tree.

It was the Druids who first used the mistletoe. "Heal-all" was their name for it. The plant was supposed to have curative values, and gradually they assigned to it all manner of magic powers.

Their priests, each year around the time when we now celebrate Christmas, would have high platforms built around the sacred oak trees which, in a manner of speaking, were "hosts" to the mistletoe. Robed in ceremonial vestments of white, they ascended these platforms, and with golden sickles especially made for the solemn occasion they cut away the mistletoe.

The Saxons also prized it and it was they who gave to it the name of mistletoe.

Eventually the green came to be regarded as a symbol of peace. Opposing warriors who met near it would call a truce, and it was customary to hang it over the entrance doors so that they who entered might be assured of friendship.

END OF THE RAINBOW . . . The rainbow of at least one human desire had fulfillment at the end when Judy Sue Warschauer found herself face to face with the doll of her dreams—and it was the very one she wanted for Christmas.

Legend of the YULE LOG

In Virginia, the old Dominion, storied land of early American history, there is an old tradition of the origin of the Yule log that is retold every Christmas.

As the family sits around the Yule log and sips their Christmas eggnog on Christmas eve, the ancient legend is recounted again.

One very cold Christmas eve, when the frosty wind howled across a world of snow, an old man was sitting in his little cabin wishing that he had a fire to warm him.

Suddenly he heard the cry of a little child away out in the cold. The old man hobbled to the door and gazed out across the snow. The wind and the snow came rustling in and the old man shivered until his "onliest two teef" chattered with cold.

The plaintive cry of the child came again above the whistle of the wind. It went straight to the old man's heart and he wished with all his power of longing that he might have the strength to go out and find the unfortunate babe.

The cry came a third time — and then a wondrous thing happened. A miraculous power filled the old man's veins. His muscles became strong and tense, his crutch fell back into the cabin and he stepped from his threshold out into the snow.

Hurrying over the snow with a speed he had not owned since boyhood, by and by he came to a little child lying in a snow bank.

He bent down and touched the child and a great new strength flowed over him, a strength which seemed to give him wings as he sped back to his cabin.

Arriving there, he placed the child upon the bed, tenderly drew the ragged coverlet about it and then looked to see if there were a bit of furniture he could use to make a fire with which to warm the little one.

At that precise moment a great log rolled across the threshold and into the fireplace. The little child looked at the log with eyes like stars—stars which sent gleams of light that kindled the log with the most brilliant fire the old man ever had seen.

The dingy little room immediately was filled with radiance and warmth, and as the light enveloped the child he laughed and laughed with a melody like a song from the heart. The old man turned his eyes to where the fire burned and watched the flames leap in beautiful rainbow tints over the log, and as his old eyes watched, the colors seemed to form the shape of the Cross in the fire.

The flames of the Cross leaped higher and higher, blue, red, yellow and white, and as the old man watched this display, suddenly and magically there appeared a table in the center of the room, covered with a Christmas feast such as never before had been spread before his eyes. And never again was the old man hungry or cold, and never after that was there a Christmas in old Virginia without the Yule log and the Christmas Child to give light and warmth.

And that is the story of the Yule log as it is told in Virginia every Christmas eve.

The ideal Christmas tree is the fir, because of its tendency to hold its needles longer.

A final step in trimming the Christmas tree is frosting it with fluffy snow. A simple and popular form of snow is ordinary soap flakes.

Legend relates that the crown of thorns which was placed on the head of Jesus was made of holly and that before the crucifixion the berries were white, but turned crimson like drops of blood.

Christmas story . . . from page 1

festivities surrounding the kindly Saint Nicholas. English speaking children tried to pronounce the Dutch name for the saint, San Nicholass. But they said it quickly and excitedly. Soon the name was changed to Santy, or Santa Claus.

Only American children say Santa Claus and even in America during the first half of the 1800's, the saint was still known as Saint Nicholas or Saint Nick. In 1809 Washington Irving wrote of the saint as the guardian of New York City in his Knickerbocker's History of New York.

He described him as a jolly fellow with a broad brimmed hat, huge breeches, and smoking a long pipe. Irving's Saint Nicholas rode over the treetops in a wagon. He took presents from pockets and dropped them down the chimneys.

In 1822 Clement C. Moore wrote for his children the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which gives a more familiar picture of the saint as we know him today. But even in the poem, which begins with the familiar line "Twas the night before Christmas," the name of Santa Claus does not appear. But the saint has become a round and jolly figure with twinkling eyes, a red snub nose, and a white beard.

The long pipe has become a stump of a pipe, and his wagon has become a sleigh. His Dutch costume has changed to a suit trimmed with fur. At some point, also, the legend developed in America that his sleigh was pulled by reindeer. The reindeer appeared in Moore's poem. Probably Scandinavian settlers in America added the detail to the story.

Thomas Nast, the cartoonist, gave the 1st picture of Santa Claus, as he is imagined today in a cartoon in 1863. Later his famous drawing "Santa Claus and His Works" which appeared as a Christmas picture in Harper's Weekly in 1866, showed Santa Claus in his workshop with his records of the good and bad deeds of all children. The drawings also showed the sleigh with reindeer, the pack of toys, the stockings hung at the fire place, and the Christmas tree.

Although Santa Claus is known by other names in different lands, he stands for the same thing, the kindly spirit that the Christ Child brought into the world.

Readings For Christmas

Students in classes directed by A. G. Arvold, head of the NDAC Speech department, have suggested the following reading for supplementing the '49 Christmas spirit:

Twelve Suggested Readings for Christmas: Bob Cratchitt's Christmas Dinner, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Musical), Man Who Found Christmas, Merry Christmas (From Little Women), The Littlest Angel, A Child's Dream of a Star, The Little Match Girl, The Night Before Christmas, Christmas Carol, Angel and the Shepherds, Christ the Saviour is Born (From Ben Hur), Candle in the Window.

Twelve Suggested Plays for Christmas: A Christmas Carol, Bird's Christmas Carol, Christmas Guest, A Christmas Chime, Christmas Burglar, The Night Before Christmas, One Night in Bethlehem, The Littlest Shepherd, Why the Chimes Rang, No Room at the Inn, Lighting of the Christmas Tree, A Light on Beacon Hill.

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All students of The North Dakota Agricultural College who have paid their activity fee will be admitted upon presentation of their activity card. A limited number of seats will be sold the general public. Scale of prices \$2.50, \$1.50, \$1.00 tax included.

Call or Write The Little Country Theatre, Fargo, N. D.



OUR WARM AND SINCEREST GREETINGS GO OUT TO YOU AT THIS HAPPIEST SEASON OF THE YEAR.



Santa Affected By Restrictions

It's difficult to understand, but the genial spirit of Christmas, Santa Claus himself, hasn't always had it easy. There have been occasions when laws or traditions or regulations have put certain curbs on the old gentleman. Here are some examples:

In Newark, N. J., Santa is required to pass a stiff physical examination before he can serve in a department store. And even then he is barred from kissing any of the children who perch upon his knee.

In Charleston, S. C., charity Santas have been forbidden to make a pitch on public streets on the grounds that children flocking in to see them may create a traffic



hazard. And in Washington a few years ago, when the postmaster general was asked to print a Santa Claus stamp at Christmas time he rejected the proposal with a scornful, "I should say not!"

Outside the U.S.A., Santa has had trouble, too. In Montreal, Canada, an influential organization fought against holding of the city's annual Santa Claus parade on the ground that it was "merely a display of grotesque and vulgar buffoonery." A prominent journalist in Rio de Janeiro fostered a movement to do away with Santa Claus (Papa Noel) in Brazil and substitute a toy-bearing grandfather Indian. In Mexico City the minister of education recommended that the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, instead of St. Nick, should bring gifts to children.

In the field of opinion, Santa has encountered some detractors. A Prof. Ivan E. McDougle, sociologist at Goucher college, Baltimore, declared: "The Santa Claus myth has lived too long. Parents should substitute philosophy"—whatever that is.

Star of Bethlehem Continues to Puzzle Modern Scholars

Once again Christendom sees the Star of Bethlehem and, like the Wise Men of old, rejoices with exceeding great joy.

Astronomers have discounted possibilities that the star may have been a natural phenomenon since such phenomena occur too far from the earth to serve as any sort of local guide. Modern opinion is, however, inclined to hold that there was a Star — although the story probably has been touched by Oriental imagery.

St. Matthew suggests that even the Wise Men may have lost sight of the star while they were in Jerusalem; hence, they rejoiced when it reappeared to their vision as they approached the Manger of Bethlehem.

PLAY IT SAFE

Don't Mix Gaiety With Danger When Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken.

The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls.

The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one:

The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace.

Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as those with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use.

The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer.

Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long.

One should never use a rick-

The Evolution Of Santa Claus

His creator was Thomas Nast, one of America's greatest cartoonists. During the early 1860's he was asked to illustrate Clement Clark Moore's poem, A Visit to St. Nicholas, better known to us as "Twas The Night Before Christmas." The result was Santa Claus as we know him.

Santa's creator was born in Bavaria in 1840, son of a musician in a Bavarian army band. When he was a fat little boy of six, Thomas' father left Germany to enlist in the United States navy, and Thomas' mother brought the boy to New York to live.

Along about the time stocky Tommy was 15 he landed his first job as an illustrator for Leslie's Weekly at \$4 a week. By the time he was 20 he was sent to England by the New York Illustrated News to sketch the Heenan-Sayers fight, an outstanding sports event of the day.

In 1862 he joined the staff of Harper's Weekly and began the series of emblematic drawings which continued throughout the Civil War. From those he created certain trademarks that have been the inspiration of cartoonists down to the present—notably the Republican elephant and the Democrat donkey.

Famous as the political symbols are today, Nast's Santa Claus probably holds first place in the hearts of Americans. Before Nast's day, a few artists had drawn Santa on one occasion or another, but could not seem to agree on how the old gentleman should look.

Nast changed all that.

He located Santa's home at the North Pole and gave him a sleigh drawn by reindeer. He drew the familiar, fat, merry old fellow with red cheeks and white beard, dressed in red, wearing a cap and boots, carrying a pack of toys and smoking a short pipe.

The artist then gave Santa a spy-glass so that during the year he might pick out the good children from the bad, and also a big book in which to write their names and keep their records.

This conception of Santa Claus first appeared in 1863. Since that time, the pictured Santa has been the same, although the spy-glass and pipe seem to have been dropped by the way.



PRESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS TREE . . . This was the annual community Christmas tree in Washington, D. C., as it blazed with light last year. President Truman, at his home in Independence, Mo., pushed a button to turn on this holiday brilliance by remote control. The White House shows dimly in the background, framed by the tree and huge Christmas candles.

"Peace and Friendship . . ."

The following is from "Peace and Friendship of Men of Good Will," by Harry S. Truman, President of the United States:

"I have come out here to Independence with my family to celebrate the great home festival. For of all the days of the year, Christmas is the family day. Christmas began that way. The moving event of the first Christmas was the bringing forth of the first born in the stable at Bethlehem. There began in humble surroundings the home life of the Holy Family, glorified in song and story and in the hearts of men down through the centuries. The great joys and mysteries of that event have forever sanctified and enriched all home life.

"I am speaking to you from our family living room. As I came up the street in the gathering dusk, I saw a hundred commonplace things that are hallowed to me on this Christmas Eve; hallowed because of their associations with the sanctuary of home. I saw the lighted windows in the homes of my neighbors, the gayly decked Christmas trees, the friendly lawns and gardens. . . I looked at all these familiar things, the same things that you will all see tonight as you go toward home.

" . . . good will, after all, is the very essence of Christmas. . . What could be more appropriate than . . . to dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace on this holy night?"

"God that made the world and all things therein . . . hath made of one blood all nations of man for to dwell on the face of the earth.

"In the spirit of that message from the Acts of the Apostles, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas."



MAY THERE ALWAYS BE A SONG IN YOUR HEART AS YOU MEET EACH SUCCEEDING DAY OF THE NEW YEAR.