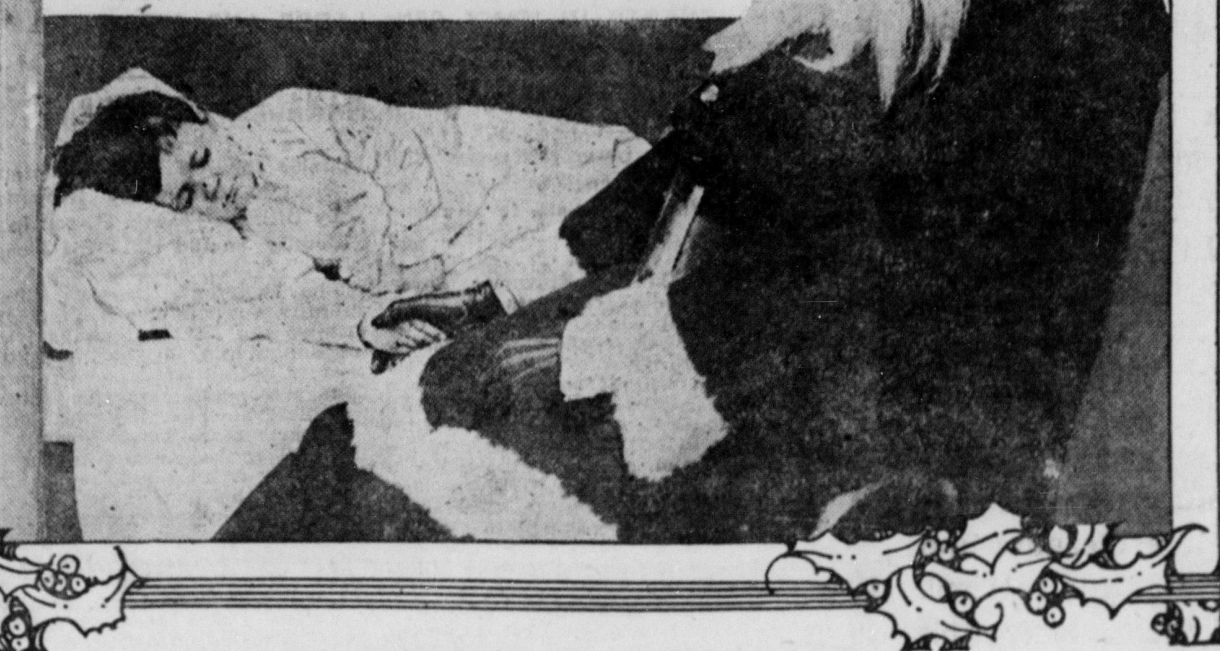


AN AMATEUR SANTA CLAUS



By HAMILTON POPE GALT

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WE had all agreed that Mr. O'Shaugnessy was the very one to be Santa Claus at our Christmas tree.

"No!" he said, "No!"

We had never seen Mr. O'Shaugnessy so vehement before.

"That is one thing I will never do—no, not if the czar of Russia were to command it!"

"Why?" asked some one from a safe distance.

"Because I played the part once, and I will never do it again. I may as well tell you about it, and then you'll know that it is of no use to bother me about it any more."

"One Christmas I was broke, I was hungry, and my feet were on the ground. I had asked a thousand people for something to do, anything to

do, and finally a manager in a department store said, 'All right; we'll make a Santa Claus out of you.'

"I told him I didn't feel much like a Santa Claus inside."

"Oh, we'll fix that all right," he said and handed me a pillow.

"So, with pillows and boots and gloves and a fur coat outside and nothing at all inside, I started in to be Santa Claus in the toy department. While I was thinking about my wife and the two kids at home needing money, and me with no steady job, and other things like that, I heard one of the fellows in the store say to the boss:

"'Say, that St. Nicholas of yours is about as jolly as a hymn book. He reminds me of a funny song entitled 'Silver Threads Among the Gold.' Why don't you throw him out?'"

"I will when I get time."

"I tried to live up a little after hearing this praise of my histrionic talent, but it wasn't much use."

"Pretty soon I saw a boy coming down the aisle like a wolf on the fold. He was also seeking whom he might devour. He was followed by an anxious looking maid and a gentleman in a silk hat, who was an indulgent millionaire father."

"The kid sauntered along in an independent, bored way, swinging his arms kind of reckless, as if he was in hopes of breaking something and relieving the monotony."

"When he came up to where I was sitting he stopped. He had seen plenty of toys, but I guess I was something new in the way of a St. Nicholas."

"He called his daddy and pointed to me."

"I want that," he said.

"Oh, no, dearie," said the maid. "Here, look at this nice giraffe! See! It does this!"

"The kid shook the nurse off irritably."

"He doesn't seem to take much interest in the giraffe," I remarked to the father.

"No, nor anything else," he answered in a patient, weary tone. "He has had all these toys before, and he knows all about them, inside and out. He had one of these giraffes last year and broke it open to find out what

my hand and fought them off wush ever they got too near."

"When bedtime came they tried to tell little Van that Santy wanted to go home now and work on the toys for Christmas, but he held on tighter than ever and insisted that I would have to sleep with him."

"This made it pretty bad. If I was to pull off my boots and my beard and my stomach and one thing and another the boy would be paralyzed with



TAKING SANTA TO KINDERGARTEN.

fear, they said, and for me to turn in boots, beard, stomach and all with little Van in his little bed seemed utterly impossible."

"We compromised by my sitting by his bed and holding his hand until he went to sleep. Would you believe it? That boy was the lightest sleeper you ever saw! Every time I tried to take my hand away his eyes would open and he would take a tighter grip."

"I sat up all night holding that kid's hand. I had a man in attendance, who brought me everything I wanted, and I had collected a ten from Papa Van, but I didn't get much sleep."

"The boy had me with him all the next day. I had to be with him when he got his bath and his breakfast, and I attended kindergarten with him."

"I was 'it' at kindergarten, too, but along about 4 o'clock he lay down on a couch and went sound asleep."

"I stole from the room softly and unobserved. I had had enough of the job and was resolved to escape."

"Just as I was getting out of the front door a good sized boy came along and started to blab something about 'Hello, Santa Claus!' and tried to grab hold of me."

"I paralyzed him by pulling out my stomach and hitting him over the head with it."

"I gained the street and flew for home, dodging this way and that to baffle pursuit and shedding beard, boots, cotton and fur all along the way."

"I hid for three days and then emerged and got a nice little job loading coal on a ship. I have always gone in for a sane Christmas ever since that little experience."

We did not press Mr. O'Shaugnessy.

Concerning Christmas Presents.

A man may not be so badly off for presents if he only has presence of mind.

The question of the hour is, "What on earth shall we buy for a Christmas present?"

Never look a gift horse in the teeth. It is also wrong to look a Christmas present in the price mark.

"What shall I give the hired girl?" is a Christmas conundrum that puzzles some. Give her last week's pay and get another girl.

The proprietor of a big hotel may love his patrons' children, but he never gives the youngsters drums or horns at Christmas. N. B.—Or any other day.



"HE TOWED ME THROUGH THE AISLE."

big, fat butler shoving my chair around for me and waiting on me. I got some birds and one thing and another under my pillow and my furs, but I was awful warm."

"It was too warm for comfort when it got around that there was a real, live Santa Claus at the Van Veegle house. All the children came from all over the neighborhood to maul me. "But young Van kept a tight grip on

CONTRIBUTORS TO HOSPITAL DONATION.

(Continued from page 1.)

- canned fruit, peas, corn.
- D. Wagner Geiss—Apples and potatoes.
- Mrs. Kate Garthoff—2 lbs. oat meal.
- A. J. Garbrick—One-half bu. apples.
- Mrs. Sam Gordon, Sr.—Dried soup beans, cabbage, pickles, canned fruit.
- Mrs. Wallace Gephart—Jellies, cocoa.
- Mrs. Jennie Grubb—Tomatoes, canned fruit, jellies.
- Mrs. Harrison—Canned fruit, macaroni.
- Dr. Hayes—Tea, apricots, coffee, 10 Miss Humes—Corn meal, sugar, cornstarch.
- Mrs. W. R. Houser—2 pies.
- Mrs. S. M. Huff, Milesburg—One-half bu. pears.
- Jacob Herman, Lemont—One-half bu. apples.
- Mrs. S. C. Hunter—Cabbage, canned fruit, grape juice.
- Mrs. George Harris—Prunes, rice, cocoa, gelatine, tapioca, cornstarch, chocolate, junket, mothers oats.
- Mrs. Wm. Hanley—Cabbage.
- Mrs. Fred Herman—Cocoa, macaroni, coffee.
- Mrs. J. P. Harris—Canned corn, soup beans, sugar.
- Mrs. Hamilton—Rolled oats, tomatoes, corn, coffee rice.
- Mrs. G. Haze—4 jellies, 4 pies.
- Mrs. H. Haupt—Cabbage and potatoes.
- Mrs. Jared Harper—25 lbs. sugar.
- Mrs. Daniel Heckman—5 lbs. sugar, cabbage.
- Mrs. Millard Hartwick—Gallon apple butter.
- Mrs. Wm. Hassinger—Cabbage and beets.
- Mrs. T. R. Hamilton—Apples and potatoes.
- Mrs. Hunter—10 lbs. sugar.
- Mrs. James Harris—Rice, oat flake, prunes, cereals.
- Mrs. Hutchison—Apples.
- Mrs. G. E. Hawes—Sweet potatoes, toasted biscuit, 6 jars fruit, pickles.
- Mrs. J. D. Hunter—Canned fruit, jellies.
- R. J. Hartle—8 qts. milk.
- Mrs. Wm. Hampton—sugar, one-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. George Huff—Macaroni, tomatoes, corn, apples and potatoes.
- Mrs. Wm. E. Haines—Potatoes.
- Mrs. Rachel Harris, 5 lbs. sugar, rice.
- Mrs. R. Irwin—Tomatoes and fruit.
- Mrs. Harry Johnston—5 lbs. sausage, 5 lbs. pudding.
- Mrs. T. C. Johnston—Grape juice, jelly, potatoes.
- D. L. Keller—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. Emanuel Korman—Canned fruit, 2 chickens.
- Mrs. Harry Keller—Potatoes, rice, corn starch, cocoa, macaroni.
- Mrs. S. W. Kniesly—Crock apple butter.
- Mrs. Mary Kane—Cabbage.
- Katz & Co.—Web unbleached muslin.
- Mrs. C. R. Kurtz—20 yds. Hill muslin.
- Isaac Kauffman—Cabbage, potatoes.
- Mrs. Kelleher—Macaroni, potatoes, cabbage, baking powder.
- J. S. Keichline—Gallon oysters, 4 lbs. crackers.
- Mrs. J. M. Keichline—Cereal, 5 lbs. sugar, jelly, one-half bu. potatoes, cabbage.
- Mrs. O. A. Kline—Oat flake, apples, cabbage.
- Mrs. King, Centre Hall—1 cake.
- Mrs. Larimer—Apples and potatoes.
- Mrs. Lamb—Cereal, cornstarch, potatoes.
- W. B. Lyons—Cabbage, canned tomatoes.
- Mrs. Matilda Lieb—6 jars fruit, tomatoes.
- H. S. Linn—Glass pitcher, dozen glasses, sugar.
- Mrs. Chas. Lockington—Canned fruit, rice, sugar.
- Mrs. J. P. Lyon—Bushel potatoes.
- Mrs. M. C. Levi—Cabbage, potatoes, canned corn.
- Mrs. G. E. Lentz—Cereal, Ivory soap, canned corn, peas.
- Mrs. Longwell—Grape juice, pickles, cabbage.
- Mrs. H. J. Mueller—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. J. A. Mott—Cornstarch, potatoes, beets, tapioca.
- Mrs. C. A. Morris—4 cans trying tomatoes, 5 boxes cereals.
- Mrs. Frank Montgomery—Tomatoes, corn, peas.
- John Meese store—10 boxes Holland Rusks.
- Mrs. W. H. Musser—Uneda biscuits, cornstarch, allspice, tapioca, canned corn, Lima beans, coconut, rice.
- Mrs. Lester D. McCallan—Apples.
- Mrs. Harry Murtorf—One-half bu. potatoes, 4 jellies, canned fruit.
- Mrs. Harry Miller—4 cabbage.
- Mrs. Frank McCoy—2 pair towels, apples and pears.
- Mrs. Malialis—Macaroni, spices.
- Mrs. McCurdy—Cornstarch, dozen oranges, 5 lbs. sugar, 2 qts cranberries.
- Mrs. Wallace Markle—Beets, carrots and potatoes.
- Mrs. Maurice Miller—Turnips and cabbage.
- Mrs. H. S. Miller—Apples and potatoes.
- Mrs. M. A. Miller—Jelly, pickles, potatoes.
- H. S. Linn—Glass pitcher, dozen glasses, sugar.
- Mrs. G. R. Meek—4 lbs. bacon, prunes, canned peas, corn, soup beans.
- Mrs. W. G. Musser, Cornstarch, potatoes.
- Mr. Bob. Morris—12 cans salmon, 20 cans assorted vegetables, 3 cans peaches.
- Home McKinley—Jellies, canned fruit.
- David Miller—Post toasties, tea, olive oil, pickles, catsup, jelly.
- Mrs. Fred Musser—6 jellies.
- Mrs. J. L. Montgomery—10 boxes assorted cereals.
- Mrs. A. G. Morris, Jr.—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. S. E. Miller—50 lbs. flour.
- Mrs. N. A. Miller—7 jellies.
- Mrs. McMullen—Baking powder, rice, cabbage.
- Dr. Nissley—1 large jar Iodoform gauze.
- Mrs. James Noonan—Gal. peaches, macaroni, peas and corn.
- F. Naginney—1 turkey.
- Mrs. E. L. Orvis—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. John Olewine—Onions, one-half bu. potatoes, prunes, dried peaches, cornstarch, canned corn, cereal.
- Mrs. Jas. H. Potter—Spaghetti, corn, jelly, canned fruit, apples, rice.
- Mrs. R. V. Pugh—25 lbs. sugar.
- Mrs. G. L. Potter—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. Parrish—Cereal, salmon, cocoa.
- Mrs. Henry Quigley—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. H. A. Rossman—One-half bu. potatoes, apples.
- Mrs. J. H. Rider—Canned fruit.
- Mrs. J. C. Rice—Tomatoes, corn, sugar.
- Mrs. Alice Robb—Canned fruit, jelly, onions, cabbage.
- Mrs. Richards—2 men's night shirts.
- Mrs. Chas. Hoff—Cabbage, apples, cornstarch, old muslin.
- Mrs. Rankin—Canned fruit, one-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. Anna Roe—Sugar, sweet potatoes, potatoes, tea, cabbage, jelly, beets.

CONTRIBUTORS TO HOSPITAL DONATION.

- Mrs. G. W. Reese—Tomatoes, canned fruit.
- Mrs. Pete Smith—Dried corn, cabbage, tomatoes.
- W. T. Sholl—Tomatoes.
- C. C. Shuey—24 cans corn, 24 cans peas.
- J. D. Sourbeck—3 doz. oranges, doz. stalks celery.
- Mrs. Ruth Sweetman—1 cake.
- Mrs. J. S. Showers—Cereal, soap, beets.
- Mrs. James E. Solt—Onions, cabbage and turnips.
- Mrs. Grover Solt—Cabbage, potatoes and canned fruit.
- Mrs. Milton Straub—Jar fruit, jar tomatoes.
- Mrs. Wm. L. Steele, Sr.—Potatoes, sugar.
- Mrs. Sholl—Cabbage, apples, potatoes.
- Mrs. Fannie Shultz—Jelly, tomatoes, turnips.
- Sechler's store—10 Holland Rusks, 200 stalks celery, 7 doz. rolls, 14 bread.
- Mrs. John Shugert—Ironing wax, bon ami, prunes, apricots, cocoa, mustard, spallo, macaroni, gelatine, doz. cakes Ivory soap, chocolate, cornstarch, tapioca.
- Mary Shoemaker—Puffed wheat.
- Ellen Shoemaker—Puffed wheat.
- Mrs. Stuart—Cabbage.
- Mrs. J. M. Strunk—Cocoa, laundry starch, coconut, baking power, canned fruit.
- Mrs. Wm. Shutt—Soap, jellies, tomatoes, potatoes.
- D. L. Shuey—10 qts. milk.
- Miss Mary Stump—Coffee, dried beans.
- Mrs. Sebring—Cereal, peas, gelatine, macaroni, box spices, potatoes.
- Thomas Shoemaker—6 qt. ice cream.
- Mrs. R. F. Sechler—One-half bu. apples, one-half bu. potatoes, box of crackers, 1 lb. crackers, rice.
- Mrs. E. E. Sodney—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. Harvey Schaeffer—Bread, canned fruit.
- William Stover—Cabbage and apples.
- Mrs. Harry Stevenson—Apples, potatoes, cabbage.
- Mrs. Fred Scott—Cabbage, jellies, pickled beets, canned fruit.
- Mrs. L. Scott—Soap, tomatoes, corn, peas.
- Mrs. Ann Tate—3 lbs. pudding.
- Harry Thompson—Soup beans, canned fruit, cabbage.
- Mrs. Homer Thompson—2 cans peas, jellies, one-half bu. potatoes, coffee, prunes, pickles.
- Mrs. Earle Tuten—Cookies, spaghetti, 2 cans corn.
- Mrs. Wm. Tressler—Canned fruit.
- Mrs. Harry Turner—Sweet potatoes and potatoes.
- Mrs. Tressler—Jellies.
- Mrs. Tanner—Dried lima beans, rice, peas, macaroni, cornstarch.
- Mrs. W. F. Thomas—10 lbs. sugar, jellies.
- James M. Tanchol—Potatoes.
- Mrs. Claude Thompson—Cabbage, apples.
- Mrs. Robt. Thompson—Potatoes, cabbage and apples, canned fruit, rice, coffee.
- Miss Blanche Underwood—1 doz. desert dishes.
- Mrs. H. C. Valentine—Uneda biscuits, cereals, tomatoes, cocoa.
- Mrs. John Watson—Potatoes, cabbage.
- Mrs. C. Y. Wagner—6 jars tomatoes, 2 jars fruit.
- Rev. Harry D. Weaver—Cabbage, potatoes, canned tomatoes.
- Mrs. D. L. Wian—Beets and cabbage.
- Mrs. James Wilson—Cabbage.
- Mrs. Kline Woodring—One-half bu. potatoes, cereal.
- Mrs. Willis Williams—Apples and dried corn.
- Mrs. Woodcock—Rice and potatoes.
- C. Y. Wagner—50 lbs. flour, 50 lbs. corn meal.
- Mrs. Oscar Wetzel—6 cans fruit, jellies, bread, pies and 1 cake.
- Mrs. Harrison Walker—8 cans vegetables.
- Mrs. Wm. Witmer—One-half bu. apple, soup beans.
- Miss Ella Wagner, Milesburg—grape juice, fruit, dried soup beans, tomatoes, jellies, cabbage.
- Mrs. Rash Williams—Sugar, tea, Ivory soap, peas, cream wheat.
- Mrs. D. M. Woodring—Potatoes and apples.
- Mrs. W. S. Zeller—One-half bu. potatoes.
- Mrs. H. C. Yeager—Cabbage, one-half bu. potatoes, jellies, catsup and peas.
- Mrs. W. S. Zeller—1 doz. Castle soap.
- Miscellaneous—Cocoa, canned peas, corn, tomatoes, pork and beans, pickles, salmon, cornstarch, cereals, apples, jelly, rice, olive oil, baking powder, potatoes, soap, old muslin, magazines, carrots, apple butter, endive, sugar, macaroni, pumpkins, canned soups, asparagus, crackers, chocolate, onions, canned fruit.

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Sweaters for girls 6 to 14 regular \$4.50 to \$8.50 values for \$2.50 and \$3.50.

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