

Christmas Play

By Katherine Edelman

THE town hall was wreathed with holly and mistletoe. Bright red bells hung from the old-fashioned chandeliers. Christmas candles sent their soft glow into the night. The whole place cried out welcome to the crowd who thronged through the doors.

By eight o'clock every seat was occupied. Small gossip and murmurs of expectancy ran through the crowd. The little town was proud of the boy who was taking the leading part in the play. They had known Ted Rawlings all their lives. Known him as an easy-going lad, interested in nothing more than fishing and hunting around the country, and later as an astonishingly changed ambitious fellow. No one seemed to understand how the quick transition occurred.

All eyes turned to the stage as the heavy curtain rolled upward. Three hundred pairs of eyes fastened themselves upon the moving, speaking figures. "Isn't Ted wonderful," young girls whispered breathlessly to each other. Between acts, thunderous bursts of applause filled the room. Hands clapped with vehemence. Small boys made their approval known by shrill whistling.



"Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying.

Ted carried the audience with him, every step of the way. He seemed to enter, to merge himself completely in the character he portrayed. His make-believe was so intense in the last act, that there was a deep silence for a moment when the final curtain fell.

FOR the time it was no make-believe to Ted. He was living again all the agony of parting, of seeing Sally Howard go away without a word. He had been sure until her train pulled out that she would come and say how sorry she was for the bitter, reproachful words she had hurled at him. Words that had left their mark upon his soul—that had stung him into a mad, ambitious desire to show her what he could do.

He found no real satisfaction in the tumultuous applause that followed. In this hour of his triumph,

his heart cried out for Sally. If only she was here! If only she had cared! He scarcely knew what he was saying in answer to the lavish congratulations.

Suddenly small hands pressed tightly around his arm, and a remembered voice spoke in his ear. "Ted, you were perfectly wonderful," Sally was saying, "wonderful wonderful. I'm so proud—so proud of you."

"But, Sally, I don't understand. I thought you were in New York."

"I was, until last night. I've been keeping track of you. I know all about the play, and—and the way you have been working lately. I wouldn't have missed this for anything in the world."

"But the things you said, Sally? They hurt—they still do."

"I wanted them to hurt, Ted. I know—I know it was cruel, but there seemed no other way. Someone had to give you the right kind of push to get you going. You know you were really lazy? But now, well, you've really put on speed."

"Nothing like the speed I'm going to show in getting ready for a Christmas wedding. There's just two days left. We've got to make it a really big event. Let's give out the announcement now—while the crowd is still in the hall."

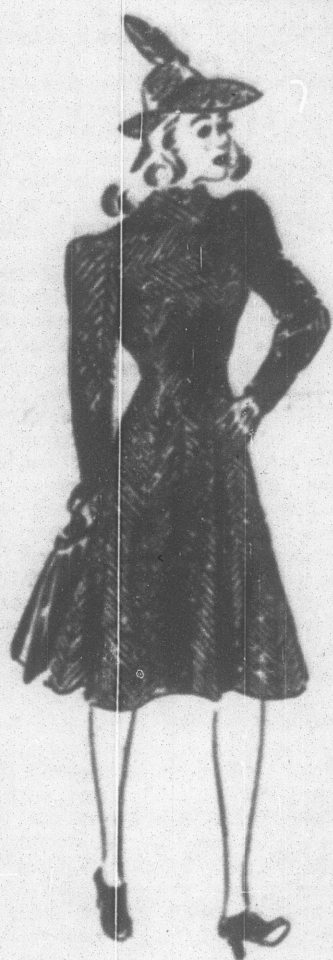
The First Santa Claus
The first Santa Claus was St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who started mysterious midnight gift-bearing journeys. In the Fourth century he was famous because he was a rich man who enjoyed giving secret gifts to the poor. One of his tricks was to throw purses of gold into cottage windows and run away.

From Europe's Christmas Menu
Take your choice of Christmas eats: Plum pudding in England, Pfefferkuchen in Germany, Viernack in Denmark, Fatigman's Bakels in Norway, Horse-shoe cake in Hungary, Speculaas in Holland, and Lutfsk in Sweden.

Getting a Sheaf in Holland
Not on reindeer but on a white horse, St. Nicholas arrives in some parts of Holland, and instead of looking for stockings he searches for wooden shoes to fill them with gifts. Equal parts of ammonia and turpentine will remove indelible ink marks.

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Christmas GIFT GUIDE



FANNIE C. WETZEL
CARROLLTOWN, PA.

There are gifts of all kinds, and all sorts—and most all of them are appreciated by the recipient—but, it is our belief that a gift of something to wear, or some accessory of dress, is the most acceptable of all for wife, mother, daughter, sister or sweetheart. With this belief we have purposely stocked our store with such items that make it easy for the men as well as the ladies to decide with ease in making their gift purchases. What you buy here is satisfactory.

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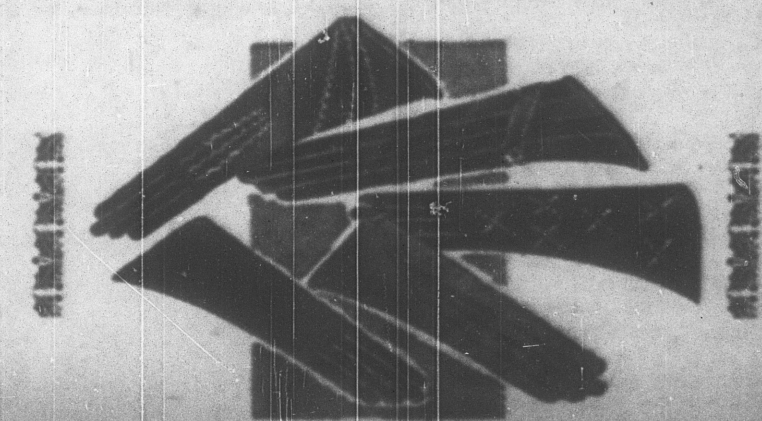
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- Hostess Coats, Satin and Prints \$2.95 to \$5.95
- Beautiful Line of Robes, Lamb's Wool, Corduroy and Flannel \$6.95, \$5.95, \$3.50
- Corduroy Pajamas, styles, colors and sizes \$1.95
- Snow Suits, Girls, from 6 to 16. \$4.95, \$5.95, \$9.95
- Snow Suits, Children's 4 to 6 \$3.95, \$3.95
- Baby Coat Sets, with leggings, colors \$2.95, \$3.95

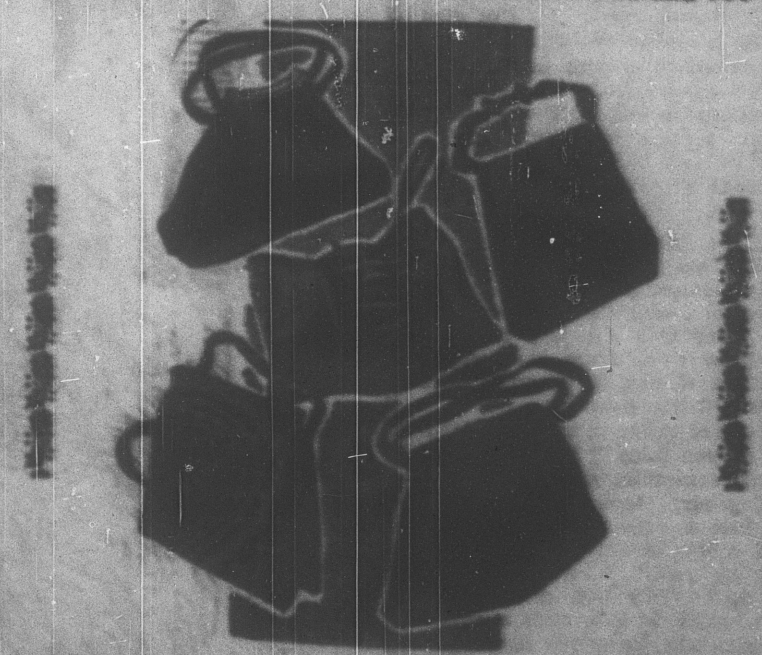


- Satin Gowns \$2.50 and \$3.00
- Satin Pajamas \$1.95 and \$3.00
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- Lace Scarf Set, including two scarfs and vanity, \$2, \$3.50
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Tailored Parkas, Suede and Leather \$3.00 and \$1.00
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Children's Parkas 25c and 50c

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- MEN'S SCARFS 49c and 98c
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