

Disillusioned Santa Reveals Everything In Last Appearance

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—"I'm tired now. In fact, every year around this time I'm very tired." That is what Santa Claus (a professional one though, for the real one doesn't ever get tired) had to say recently as he was taking off his red and white suit, preparatory to going home.

As he pulled off his white whiskers wearily, he continued: "Besides, this business of being a jolly old fellow is highly seasonal work. Just a couple of weeks' work in Decem-



ber, then something over 11 months' vacation. It is a good thing I am an electrician. I'd possibly starve to death." (The kids should have heard such heresy!)

A few seconds followed while he put on his dark green knit tie before he continued his slightly weary talk: "It was all right at first and the pay was good—\$4 for a party appearance or a club or a lodge. Or \$2 for a private home call. But I guess I can't take it anymore. Anyhow, the kids won't miss me. (Imagine that, the kids not missing Santa Claus!)

Comes next year there will be one ex-Santa who isn't filling stockings, and putting presents under trees, or telling pop to take it easy with son's electric train. That retired Santa will be just sitting in his own home—not, definitely not, at the North Pole—listening to the Christmas carols on the radio, and wiggling his toes. For his shoes will be off.

Christmas Stories Revealed by History

Fortunately, the "idea" in the minds of some to tell the truth to the kiddies—that there isn't a Santa Claus—isn't catching on as well as they hoped.

Everybody—and this includes the kids—enjoys a good story, especially around the Christmas season.

Down through the years have come many beautiful stories, jammed with the kindness of the best in humanity. It is from such stories that many of our Christmas customs have come. For the observance of such customs the United States is indebted to many lands. Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, England and Holland all have done their bit to contribute to our added enjoyment of Christmas customs and traditions. To the Holy Land, more than any other, all civilization is indebted for the matchless history of the Christ child.

One writer who has investigated the observance of the birth of the Christ Child has noticed one curious fact. That is, Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church. Irenaeus and Tertullian, early church fathers, omitted it from the list of feasts. According to what Origen noticed in the Bible, only sinners, not saints, celebrated their birthday.

It was in the year 200 A. D. that evidence of the feast of Christmas was first noted. This was in Egypt. And it wasn't until years afterwards that December 25 was decided upon as being the date for the celebration of Christ's birthday. During that time Christmas was celebrated on various days, one of the dates being as late as May 20. Eight hundred years after the first feast of Christmas, church authorities used the term Christes Maessi, from which comes the English word Christmas. This was in 1038.

Ancient Yule Customs Still Live in England

Many ancient customs prevail in England at Christmas, according to present day records. One custom that goes back to Saxon times is still observed at Okehampton, Devon. Here a "market" is held the Sunday after Christmas at which a man may speak to or kiss any girl who takes his fancy. Mistletoe definitely is not necessary.

In the village of Cam on the day after Christmas the poor are again remembered. For, according to the will of Margaret Trotman, one of Cam's former citizens, any parishioner is entitled to the gift of a loaf of bread. Also, the first 50 widows who apply are given money.

Chinese Copy Custom
Chinese children start Christmas day by folding their hands on arising and wishing each other a good day before opening a single gift. The Chinese have adopted American Christmas customs.

—Carry your draft card with you.

Full Cookie Jar Important Part Of Holiday Menu

Pile high the cookie jar and gift boxes with fruited, sugared cookies as your contribution to Christmas. The jars at home should be full for the children and visiting relatives for general nibbling purposes or cookies for stringing on the tree lend their bit to the festive spirit. Plan to pack a few boxes to send away to friends or relatives, too, as nothing is more welcome than home-made cookies in a variety of shapes, sprinkled with Christmasy red and green sugar.

ASSORTED HOLIDAY COOKIES

Roll'd Butterscotch Cookies
3½ cups sifted cake flour
2½ teaspoons double-acting baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup butter
1¼ cups brown sugar, firmly packed
2 eggs, unbeat
1½ teaspoons vanilla
1½ teaspoons lemon juice

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder and salt, and sift again. Cream butter, add sugar gradually, creaming until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Add vanilla and lemon juice; then add flour, a small amount at a



time, mixing well after each addition. Chill until firm enough to roll. Roll ⅛ inch thick on slightly floured board. Cut with fancy floured cutter. Brush with egg mixture for glazing and decorate as desired. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake in hot oven (425 degrees) 5 to 6 minutes.

Chocolate Cookies.

2½ cups sifted cake flour
1½ teaspoons double-acting baking powder
¾ teaspoon soda
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup butter or other shortening
1 cup sugar
2 eggs, well beaten
3 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, soda, salt, and cinnamon, and sift three times. Cream butter, add sugar gradually, creaming until light and fluffy. Add eggs and chocolate, and beat well. Add flour, a small amount at a time, mixing well after each addition. Chill until firm enough to roll. Roll ⅛ inch thick on slightly floured board. Cut with floured cutter. Brush with egg mixture for glazing and decorate as desired. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees) 9 minutes.

Cutters used for cookies: Baking powder cans (tops of 1-pound and 8-ounce double-acting baking powder cans), thimble or top of salt shaker, and knife (small paring knife).

Egg mixture for glazing cookies: Mix together 1 beaten egg yolk and ½ cup milk. Brush lightly over cookies before baking.

Decorations Used for Cookies.

Sugar: Granulated sugar, mixture of cinnamon and sugar, or colored sugar. (Colored sugar may be bought or prepared at home. To color sugar, dissolve a bit of coloring in a teaspoon of water; sprinkle over ¼ cup granulated sugar, mix well to distribute coloring evenly, and spread sugar out on unglazed paper until dry. This gives attractive large crystals of colored sugar for decorating.)

Nuts: Whole almonds, halves of almonds, walnuts and pecans, or any nuts, finely chopped.

Candies: Tiny colored candies, small red winter-green or cinnamon candies, candied caraway seeds, and silver dragees.

Fruits: Raisins (seedless), currants, and citron. (Citron should be green, and may be cut easily with sharp scissors.)

Safety Suggestion

The National Safety Council's figures prove that each year hundreds of youngsters, swept up with holiday hilarity, meet death and disaster on the highway. Parents are cautioned to ask their sons and daughters to be extra careful during this period of extra danger; to ask them not to drive with drinking drivers, to remember the dangers of speed, and to combine their fun with common sense.

—Eire has a horse racing probe.

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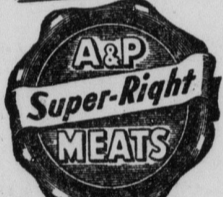
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