

# The Post asks: "What do you want from Santa Claus?"



JESSICA ELSTON, 6  
Dallas

"A make-up kit. That's all."

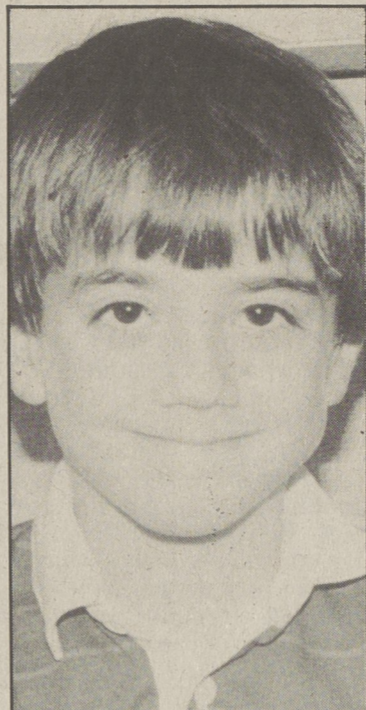


SHEEHAN GALLAGHER, 6 1/2  
Lake Louise  
"Omega Supreme Transformer and Metroplex Transformer and Sky Lynx. And for my Dad, Ultra Mangus."



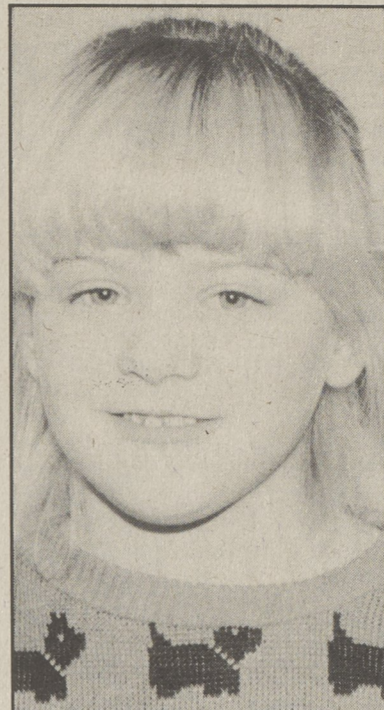
SARA DODEHO, 6  
Dallas

"I want a Pound Puppy."



J.D. KROHN, 6  
Dallas

"Transformers and Mask."



JILLIAN OBUHOSKY, 7  
Dallas

"A keyboard and a Pound Puppy."



RANDY EVANS, 6  
Dallas

"Mask, Transformers and Go-Bots and a new watch."

## Jews are preparing for Hanukkah celebration

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

The eight days of Hanukkah are days of joy and celebration and are widely observed by both secular and religious Jews. This year, Jews around the world will begin the celebration of Hanukkah, also known as the "Festival of Lights," with sundown on December 26.

Hanukkah is unique in that, until Israel Independence Day was proclaimed in this generation, it was the only Jewish holiday without any Biblical basis. Despite this, Jews recite prayers of thanksgiving and, when lighting the Menorah, bless God, whom they say "Commanded us to light to Hanukkah light."

According to Mrs. Thomas Rosing of Dallas, the story of Hanukkah dates back to the fourth century BC with the conquest of Asia and the Middle East by Alexander the Great. His conquest resulted in the fusion of Greek and Eastern traditions known as Hellenism.

At the time, Jewish cultural life was swept into the Hellenistic society until Antiochus IV, a Syrian king, resolved to crush all opposition to the extreme Hellenistic culture. King Antiochus ordered the Jewish people to give up their religion to worship idols. It was he who established the detested pig as the sacrificial animal.

Antiochus anticipated no resistance to his decree but many of the Jews were horrified by the sinfulness of the new culture. Led by Judah Macca-

bee, they fled to the mountains where they gathered bows and arrows and began a guerilla war. Depending on mobility, inaccessibility of the mountains and superior knowledge of the terrain and support of local population, Macabee's forces attacked and finally defeated Antiochus' army.

The Maccabeans marched toward Jerusalem where they found their temple in ruins. Idols were scattered everywhere and the altar was covered with the sacrifice of the pigs. The Maccabees cleansed the city and the temple of its idolatry and restored the Temple to purity.

Three years from the day the first pagan sacrifices were made, Judah offered up the restored daily sacrifice of the morning and, for eight days, the dedication (Hanukkah) of the altar was celebrated.

The history of the Hanukkah lights dates back to the Maccabees. According to tradition, the Maccabees could not find either the Menorah or the special oil to light the flame. Instead, they placed iron rods upright and used a small jug of oil which was just enough for one day. They lit their replica of the Menorah and, to their surprise, the flame burned for eight days.

Today, Jews all over the world light the Menorah in honor of the miracle of that small jug of oil.

Lighting the eight candles of the Menorah is the major ceremony of Hanukkah. The candles are placed, one at a time, in the

(See JEWS, page 8)



Lighting the Menora

Mrs. Thomas Rosing and her daughter, Marci, demonstrate the lighting of the Hanakkah Candles with the Shamas.

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