

● X For Christ

When scholars let it be known that the Greek character for Christ is very nearly like our x, it dawned on the hurried business man that those lazy people who dislike to write a great deal that x could be used in place of Christ—of course none of them ever came out and admitted that they wrote Xmas instead of Christmas for the sake of saving time and space.

Yet that very fact may be an indication of an entire movement in the way people have begun to think of Christmas—as an abstract, meaningless thing. In our highly commercialized age, perhaps we have substituted the concrete forms of gift-giving and decorating for the real meaning of x.

If only we would make this Yuletide season one in which Christ truly fills His place in the "Mass of Christ!"

● Why Spoil It?

"Never deny the babies their Christmas! It is the shining seal set upon a year of happiness."

The belief in Santa Claus is cherished by all children. It gives them something to look forward to each year—the hope of seeing him! When this beautiful dream, as delicate as a bubble, is broken, they lose something they never can regain.

Surely no one would want to join himself to the ranks of those who would tear down and destroy the happy dreams of childhood.

No one believes in the person of Santa Claus after a few years, but it is the spirit of the Christmas season, typified by him, which must be kept alive. As Peter Pan says—the only way to keep such things alive is to believe in them.

● Christmas Thoughts

What does Christmas mean to you? Quickly someone will answer, "Santa Claus!" and truly that has come to be the meaning Christmas has for the large majority of people.

Also clearly associated with this season of the year come the thoughts of holiday dances and parties, the exchange of gifts among friends; many think much about the special feast which is expected on Christmas day, and perhaps a few think about going to church services for an hour or so.

Yes, we go to church to hear special programs of Yuletide music, to go to pageants held in school buildings and other public places and send greetings to our friends which bear out the theme of the Savior's birth, but who on Christmas Eve gives any real thought to the events which took place many years ago in a manger in Bethlehem?

THE FULL MOON

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Santa Claus

He climbs the fence and disappears.

And thus observes a colored youth

(The common sentiment, in south):

"Oh, what a blessin' 'twu'd'd ha' been,

Ef' Santa had been born a twin!

We'd have two Christmusses a year—

Or p'aps one brudder'd settle heah."



Timely Tips For Holiday Pleasure

When writing good old Santa Claus Don't ask for all in sight, Cause Santa costs your pop a lot, And you know that ain't right.

You ask for this and beg for that, Not thinking all the while That papa has to dig down deep And end up with a smile.

And when you have all you desire, You every little whim, Do you ever think to stop a bit And give your thanks to him?

When you receive gifts for Christmas, do you ever thank the ones who gave them to you? You shouldn't wait until next June. If you aren't able to see them, write a short "thank you" note.

Oh, yes, there will be some Christmas dances too. The main point is, learn to dance. You can't expect to be invited to a dance unless you can dance.

Sometimes it is necessary that the girl provide the invitation. In case of a girl's organization giving a dance, it is the girl who asks the boy to accompany her.

When a boy wants to dance with a girl who is already dancing, he goes to the couple and taps the other boy on the shoulder. He asks if he may have the dance. The girl either says, "Yes, certainly" or "You may".

Good posture is a part of good dancing. Stand erect, not on a bias. Keep your distance. How can any boy expect a girl to do her best if he clutches her in a vise-like grip and uses her as a sort of bumper!

When collisions occur with another couple or with your partner, the boy always apologizes.

Late Sleeping and Christmas Dinners Appear To Be Chief Attractions of Holiday Season

Sleeping late, bright lights, and turkey for dinner are reasons that some people in school like Christmas.

"It means two weeks of sleeping late in the mornings and loafing in general," replied Miss McKenzie when asked, "What about Christmas do you like most?" "I also think of streets with bright lights, hurrying crowds, and cheerful, gay people."

"The giving of food, clothing and gifts to the less privileged," said Annie Ruth Smith, always a worker.

"It means a two-weeks' vacation and fruit cake," replied Bobby Redwine, one of the smallest freshmen.

"All the dances and good orchestras that come to town," answered Ned Betts, president of the school band.

BOOK BROWSLINGS

One of the most delightful things about Christmas is the odd moments during which everyone gathers about the fire to tell stories or when one can sneak off in a corner and read.

If you like something different and entertaining for Christmas reading, try "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. This story fits into the spirit of the season, for it is the tale of a young couple who cared so deeply about the happiness of each other that they gave up their most treasured possessions.

As Christmas approaches, everyone thinks of Dickens's Christmas Carol, for this story has been told and retold in homes and all over the world. It is one of the few stories of which one never grows tired. To quote from Dickens, "The Christmas Carol was intended to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christmas land." Those who have read the story feel that he has accomplished his purpose.

You know the story of the Three Wise Men of the East, and how they travelled from far away to offer their gifts at the manger-cradle in Bethlehem. But have you ever heard the story of The Other Wise Man, who also saw the star in its rising, and set out to follow it, yet did not arrive with his brethren in the presence of the young child Jesus? Of the great desire of this fourth pilgrim and how it was denied, yet accomplished in the denial; of his many wanderings and the probations of his soul; of the long way of his finding the One whom he sought—it is a story that is appealingly beautiful.

Another joy of Christmas is poems and carols. Whether you enjoy something simple or elaborate, there is a fine collection in Days and Deeds, compiled by B. Stevenson.

"At Christmas time I like to ride around Charlotte and see the private homes decorated," said Keith Almond, star basketball player from Endy.

"Snow, Christmas dinner with turkey, and trying out my little brother's toys are what I like about Christmas," answered Creel "McAfee" Lowder, star football player.

"I usually get to see my best gal," added Claude Shankle, a cheerleader.

"The thing that means most to me about Christmas is going home. I don't get to see my family very often except at Christmas," put in Miss Moore.

"I love Christmas music, both organ and choir," said Mr. Gehring. "Christmas also means gifts of loud neckties, shirt too large or too small, and socks of brilliant color."

Campus Chat

Mr. S. Claus
 North Pole
 North America

Dear Santa,
 I asked you once before to write to me but you said I'd only have a chance to fall.

I ask you the same with him to comply, or I'm going to fall on you.

Yours
 A. B. B.

Dear Santa,
 I have been good this year. As you will no doubt know, I had just a half a unit credit, but so I can graduate Christmas.

Yours
 B. H.

Dear Santa,
 I want another girl;

I lost the last one in the summer. Someone not stuck up, no. Perhaps someone just like B.

Yours
 W. A. B.

Dear Santa,
 I'd like to be a little boy again.

If you want to see me, please go to barefoot; to paddle a boat.

Just a bottle of Elxir, but I'm Sincerely
 A. B. B.

Dear Santa,
 Please bring us a boat.

For a whaling cruise. To catch Moby Dick so we can snooze.

Hopefully
 Tent
 B. H.

Dear Santa,
 Rachel wants a sweater like Ramele M. wants a boy like a sweater.

So Santa, please take our love. You'd better bring a sweater.

Rachel T. & Ramele M.

CUPID'S CAPERS:
 "Oh, happy day!" sighs the Maxine Cashatt says it's all for her and "Skin" . . . "Det. Con- lie Hinceman have been . . . Ben D. jealous, are you, Det. the birdie has been flying and he just couldn't help it out that Margaret Deese and have up a case. We wonder if Annabel Perry's secret is in Salisbury. True or false . . .

Laura Van Hatthoeck's then Floyd Heckard moved away. Along Without You Very Well Williams is a devoted admirer wonder if Robert Tucker will be ferring with the Bowie and mance . . . Hall Carpenter's trip to East Albemarle isn't because have called it all off. Moore, an old flame, lives in . . . Lafayette Blackwell and Mr. Efad, and Bob Morrow and Mr. Lorch? Perhaps they decided to do good . . . Clyde Tucker gave Han the moon just for the fun of it.

Imagine Jolene Fry going to the hunt, without a gun . . . the beauty parlor when J. K. came in for her to get rabbit was off like a streak. They did it.

Who wrote that note to the short hand, that made him and Mary Helen M. read it to me.