

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Office of Postmaster General,
Washington, Dec. 9, 1921.

To the Boys and Girls of the U. S.:
Christmas is almost here.

Your great Post Office Department has a big job ahead and needs your help.

Think what it means to be Santa Claus to our 100,000,000 people and to deliver Christmas parcels to every family in this great country within the short space of a few days and without disappointment.

It can be done, and we're going to do it if we may have your help. I want to enlist the active assistance of every boy and girl in the schools of our country in getting parcels mailed this week to relieve the rush that comes directly before Christmas.

Will you go home today and take this message to your parents and friends:

"Our postmaster has asked us to mail our Christmas parcels this week, for, unless we do, Uncle Sam's load may be so heavy the last few days before Christmas that he won't be able to deliver all the presents by Christmas eve."

The parcels must be well wrapped and tied and addressed plainly, in order that they may arrive in good condition with their Christmasy appearance unspoiled. You can put on your packages, "Do not open until Christmas."

And, there must be a number on your house and a mail receptacle, too, for, if there isn't, Santa Claus's messenger, your letter carrier, may not be able to find the house where the presents belong.

There are some other things, too, in which you can all assist in improving the mail service and in saving our great Government millions of dollars a year that is now wasted because of our carelessness—yours and mine.

Every day that you drop a letter in the mail box 40,000,000 other letters are already pushing and jamming through the postal machinery. One letter a day for each family of five persons in the United States is given to Uncle Sam to deliver.

When you send a parcel to the post office for mailing any day there are about 8,000,000 other parcels ahead of yours passing through the postal hopper. This is in ordinary days; at Christmas time it is multiplied many times.

One family in about every ten puts a badly addressed letter in the mail every day. This mixes up over 2,000,000 half addressed letters with the 20,000,000 fully addressed letters. That means that the fully addressed letters must wait on the slow moving poorly addressed letters, just like the larger boys and girls are delayed by a bunch of "bad kids" tagging along.

You boys and girls can help the Postal Service and save your father some money, because he has to help pay the cost of searching addresses on letters and parcels sent out by this careless and thoughtless in every ten.

First find out if your family is the careless one, then bear in mind that your letters must be handled by skilled mail distributors standing in post offices and on swaying postal cars of a mile-a-minute mail trains, often under poor light.

The addresses on every letter, card, or package must be correct, complete, and legible, including the house number and name of street, and the

"From" address should be in the upper left-hand corner so that the mail will be returned to you in case it is not delivered. Do not abbreviate names of States, because so many look alike when abbreviated.

Put the proper amount of postage on your letters and wrap the parcels carefully. Avoid fancy writing, which causes post-office clerks and carriers to stop and study, and thus lose time. Make the address plain and easily read, and always use pen and ink or typewriter and light-colored envelopes, so as to save the eyes of the post-office clerks. Do not use envelopes of unusual size. The little ones that are so frequently used for cards and notes at Christmas and other holiday times cause an untold amount of trouble and labor, as they will not fit our cancelling machines and must therefore be cancelled by hand. Because of their size and tendency to slip out of a package, these small envelopes are more likely to be overlooked or lost.

Mail your letters and packages early in the day, because this avoids overloading and delaying mail at the end of the day.

Your local postmaster and your teachers will tell you more about the Postal Service.

Do these things, and you will win the grateful appreciation of the people in your post office and especially of
Your Postmaster General,
WILL H. HAYS.

CONDITIONING DOGS TO SHOW

(Continued from page 2)

lously clean. Dogs should never be allowed to sleep on concrete floors in cold or ordinarily cool weather. A removable floor of wood should be placed over the concrete. If these rules are adhered to, disease is unlikely to be a visitor.

Under the head of "Kennel," washing and caring for the dog's coat is properly placed. Setters should not be washed—that is, scrubbed with soap and water—too frequently. The setter is naturally neat. If properly fed, watered and exercised, he is naturally in perfect condition, and his fine silky coat glistens. When fitting him to show, and to encourage the growth of his fine and beautiful feather, frequent brushing with a moderately stiff brush is advisable, followed by a hand massage. When rubbing down a setter, nothing equals the human hand to flatten the hair and produce that glistening coat. Or a generous fragment of an abandoned silk petticoat makes a capital rubbing cloth.

Many owners attending shows provide their dogs with blankets in cold weather. The writer has found, however, that while the coat is kept flat and perhaps cleaner by blanketing, this advantage is more than offset by annoyance to the dog, and the danger of colds if it should by accident be left off. The properly constructed and carefully bedded travelling crate is the dog's best blanket.

This brings us to the point where the owner or handler starts the candidate for field trial honors, or enters the ring at the bench show. We wave him adieu. May good luck attend him.
NOBLESTONE.

We see a story in an exchange where a woman used a telephone for the first time in 80 years. She must be on a party line like the one in Vass.

Renew your subscription now.

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