

'Merry Christmas, Mary Christmas,' Says Santa Claus

What's in a name? Plenty, if it happens to be Mary Christmas, or Santa Claus, and that's actually happened.

Both Evansville, Ind., and Racine, Wis., have their Mary Christmas, and at Marshall, Mo., there's a jolly fellow whose last name is Claus, and whose parents christened him Santa.



Mary Christmas

Evansville's Mary Christmas comes from an old family which has had a Mary in each generation. Racine's Mary Christmas got that way by marrying a fellow named Samuel Christmas, and she's now a telephone operator. Which explains that strangely personal and timely message long distance operators hear out of Racine around Christmas time: "This is long distance, operator—Mary Christmas!"

Racine's Mary Christmas, who is short, chubby and looks just like the artist's conception of Mrs. Santa Claus, gets hundreds of fan mail letters every year. Three years ago she appeared on a Yuletide radio program and has been so deluged with fan mail ever since that she's founded a "shut-in" club which has members in 40 states, Canada, Hawaii, India, China and New Zealand.

Marshall's Santa Claus is similarly Christmas-minded. Each Yuletide he tries to answer the fan letters which come from all corners of the globe, many in such strange foreign languages that he can't reply. He's much in demand for church parties and other Christmas affairs. Santa is a plumber on weekdays, a vegetable gardener on the side and a preacher in the Church of God at Blue Lick, Mo., every Sunday. Two years ago, when plumbing business was bad, he was grateful for a \$250 check sent him by Mae West, the actress.

In Rosindale, near Boston, lives an Ambrose Claus who with his wife last year celebrated his golden wedding anniversary. Like all other folks named Claus, they seem to have a lion's share of Christmas spirit.

Good Waiter

"Are you the girl who took my order?" asked the impatient gentleman in the cafe.
 "Yes, sir," replied the waitress, politely.
 "Well, I declare!" he remarked, "you don't look a day older."

The largest living species of pigeon in the Crowned Pigeon of New Guinea.

Women's "Build-Up"

Women's headaches, nervousness, cramp-like pains may be symptom of functional dysmenorrhea due to malnutrition! Often, relief for these symptoms follows the use of CARDUI because it usually builds needed physical resistance by improving appetite and digestion. Many women also report that CARDUI, taken just before and during "the time," helps to ease pain and discomfort. Popular for more than 50 years.



The Devil chuckles when he sees a home left unprotected by fire insurance. See us and forget him!

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THE CROWDED INN

By HELEN CLARK WENTWORTH

ALL day long they had been going by the inn, camels and donkeys stirring up dust, weary men and women resting by the stream outside the inn yard. The little country maid had never seen so much travel.

Just outside the city of Jerusalem, near by the village of Bethlehem, there were plenty of people who stopped for refreshment. And Jeremiah kept a good inn. He was a good man, too. But he was hard, sparing neither man nor beast. And his niece Rebecca was hard put to do the tasks that were set before her.



"Why are there so many travelers today?" she asked the little slave girl who helped her prepare the evening meal.

"The tribesmen," replied Fatima, "are going to Jerusalem to be numbered, so that they may pay their taxes. And this will continue for days. These are not times of rejoicing and feasting for us!"

Rebecca looked up at a bearded man, leading an ass on which a young woman rode, entered the courtyard. "Is the inn keeper here?" he asked gently. "My wife and I seek shelter."

"There are no rooms left," Fatima told him, going on with her work. But Rebecca looked up at the woman, whose face was weary and touched with pain.

"I will see what provision can be made," the little maid exclaimed. Her eyes never left the young woman's sweet face. The woman smiled at Rebecca, and her husband smiled too. Rebecca's face lightened eagerly and even Fatima found herself softening.

Rebecca had some difficulty finding her uncle, busy as he was with many things. Then it was hard to make him listen.

"There must be some place, uncle. That new stable, with the clean straw, would be warm and comfortable. She cannot go farther, I know."

"So be it," he answered. Then, as they neared the group, he too was impressed by the young woman's beauty and the lovely warmth of her smile. "There is naught but the stable," he told them, "but Rebecca will seek to make you comfortable there."

Even after she had done everything she could, and had crept into her own dark corner for the night, Rebecca found she could not forget the couple in the stable. Mary, the man had called his wife. There was such a radiance about her. "I wonder what makes her so different," Rebecca thought. And she opened her eyes.

In amazement she saw light in the courtyard, so much that it seemed the dawn must have come. But the light came from a star that shone just about the stable. Out into the yard the girl crept, and suddenly she heard a child's cry, a cooing, happy sound.

Rebecca looked about. No one was stirring. Far off, on the hillside she saw what looked like a group of men, shadowy, indistinct, seemingly moving toward Bethlehem. It must be her imagination. Possibly it was Ephraim's vineyard she saw. Soon she stood in the stable doorway.

There, lighted by a lantern, was Joseph, bending over the young woman and holding in his arms a tiny baby—her firstborn. At Rebecca's exclamation he turned, and into her outstretched arms he handed the little figure and showed her the snowy lengths of swaddling cloth. Tenderly the maid clothed the infant and laid it beside the mother.

"Thank you," Mary whispered. "For the child's sake and in His name, I thank you for what you have done. We thank her, don't we, Jesus?"

The baby opened his eyes and smiled. "He smiled at me," Rebecca exclaimed. "I shall never forget, a new born babe smiled into my face to say thank you."

Mary drew the child into the shelter of her arms. Her eyes closed, Joseph walked to the doorway and watched Rebecca as she returned to her room. He, too, saw the clump of trees or vines, or was it a group of men on the hillside? Then he returned to the manger and settled down beside Mary and the sleeping Jesus.



Sun's 'Virginia' Still Has Faith In Santa Claus

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to life its highest beauty and joy."

Forty-two years ago an editorial writer for the New York Sun penned these now-famous lines in answer to a scrawled letter from a little girl named Virginia, whose faith in Santa had been shaken.

Today Virginia is grown up, married, and serves as assistant principal in an east side New York school. Her name is Dr. Laura Virginia Douglas and this Christmas she's playing Santa Claus not only to her pupils but her own daughter. Meanwhile, in 42 years she's evolved some ideas of her own on what to tell children about Santa Claus.

Pink-cheeked, vivacious, yet shy and hesitant in speaking of personal matters, Dr. Douglas is not in favor of breaking the news boldly to a child that there is no Santa Claus. He will learn naturally, she says, as he turns from the free, imaginative stage of early childhood to an interest in the world around him.

When she first became old enough to realize the full meaning of the Sun's editorial, she felt badly because poor children were not able to have Christmas gifts as tangible evidence of Santa's existence. Later, she says, she grew to realize that material gifts were not so important as the faith which even the very poor child could have in something spiritual.

Yule Flower Named After U. S. Diplomat

Thank an early American diplomat for the poinsettia plant you receive (or don't receive) Christmas morning. The flaming flower whose vermilion-red leaves are mistaken at a distance for the petals of its flower, was brought to the United States about 1820 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, minister to Mexico, who discovered it growing there. Poinsett, who had studied both law and medicine abroad and served many years in the diplomatic service, ended his career in the American house of representatives from 1821 to 1825. But were it not for the plant he brought back from Mexico, his name would now be unknown.

Don't Marry the Girl Day After Christmas

If you believe the early monks, don't select the day after Christmas to get married, start a new job or put on that new suit. It's Childermass day, commemorating the slaughter of the Holy Innocents by Herod, and in the early days was considered an occasion of the greatest ill-omen.

Children, according to legend, were soundly whipped Childermass day to impress on their minds the story of the baby martyrs.

So intense was the fear of this unfortunate festival that the coronation of England's King Edward IV was postponed in order to avoid the fatal date.

White House Maintains Traditions 139 Years Old

WASHINGTON. — Santa Claus makes his 139th visit to the White House this Christmas, carrying on a tradition started December 25, 1800, when Kris Kringle called on little Suzannah, granddaughter of President John Adams from Massachusetts.

The White House in those days was in an unfinished state and the great barnlike rooms were only scantily furnished, providing a great contrast to the beautifully appointed mansion of today. Yet the same joyous spirit prevailed on that Christmas morning, more than a century and a quarter ago, as that found in the White House this Yuletide.

From early years of our country, Presidents have set aside the heavy burden of state and made merry Christmas day with their families.

Christmas Tree Useful During Rest of Winter

AMHERST, MASS. — In northern states where Christmas heralds the coming of cold winter weather, the tree that warms the living room December 25 is being put to work the balance of the winter outdoors. According to Arnold M. Davis, extension horticulturist at Massachusetts state college, fir trees can make excellent "feeding stations" for birds and offer them cozy shelter on frosty winter nights. Suet is often tied to the branches. The tree is also used to protect climbing plants, or the branches can be ripped off and laid as a mulch over low-growing plants or bulbs. Northern birdkeepers find the trees handy as windbreaks.

Did You Know . . .

That, where at the turn of the century it cost a driver about 30 cents a mile to operate his automobile, today, as a result of industrial research, the average cost is less than three cents a mile?

That a job in industry today is backed by an investment—\$6,500—on the average 242 per cent. greater than 40 years ago?

That, despite gloomy predictions that the glass bottling machine would destroy jobs, it created thousands of new ones? Today more men deliver bottled milk than the total number of glass blowers before this machine was used.

That, as a matter of fact, it's little business that's BIG in this country? Eighty per cent. of the economic activity of the U. S. A. is carried on by individuals and personal partnerships.

That more than 16,000 theatres in the United States now show sound films? The country with the next largest number of sound film theatres has only 5,271, and many of these are wholly or in

large part dependent upon American films.

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NOTICE

Valuable Land for Sale

By virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Surry County, as Commissioner, I will sell at public auction, on the premises at the late residence of L. B. Jones decd. on Thursday the 21st day of December 1939, at two o'clock P. M. the following real estate lying in Surry County, N. C., Marsh Township, adjoining N. E. Wilmoth, Mallory Anthony, the Spencer Greenwood lands, Lehman Cockerham and others and on the Yadkin river, and known as the home place of L. B. Jones decd. containing 154.76 acres more or less, for boundaries see plat on record in the office of Register of deeds of Surry County, being the old plat book at page 4, composed of different tracts inside of the plat boundary, said deeds being on record in the office of Register of deeds of Surry County. On this tract of land is more than 50 acres of good Yadkin river bottomland, also has a lot of fine merchantable timber, also well watered

with branches and springs and being about one mile below Burch Station. Terms of sale, one third cash on confirmation of sale and one third in one year and the remainder in two years from date of confirmation of sale. Sale of said lands will be made for assets to pay debts and the cost of administration against said estate. This 15th day of November, 1939.

N. B. JONES, Commissioner.

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TODAY AND FRIDAY—SPECIAL FOR THANKSGIVING

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LANA TURNER LEW AYRES RICHARD CARLSON TOM BROWN and Youthful M-G-M Cast
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News - Short Subject — Admission 10c-25c

SATURDAY—TIM MCCOY

—in—
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FIGHTING FURY OF THE PLAINS!
 15 thrill-packed chapters of hair-raising exploits!
JOHN MACK BROWN The OREGON TRAIL
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Original screenplay by George Plympton • Basil Dickey • Edmond Kelso and W. W. Watson
 Directed by FORD BEEBE and SAUL A. GOODKIND

Also Cartoon - Comedy — Admission 10c-30c

MONDAY-TUESDAY—NEXT WEEK—

IS THE AUTHOR OF THIS PICTURE A TRAITOR TO HER SEX?
 As a stage play it made women squirm and scream: "What lies"! And men whooped and howled: "How true"! Shocking—but don't blame us men, girls! It was a woman who told—and told—and told!
NORMA SHEARER **JOAN CRAWFORD**
Rosalind RUSSELL
"The Women"
 with **Mary BOLAND • Paulette GODDARD • Phyllis POVAH**
Joan FONTAINE • Virginia WEIDLER • Lucile WATSON
 From the Play by CLARE BOOTHE
 Directed by GEORGE CUKOR Produced by HUNT STROMBERG

News - Cartoon — Admission 10c-30c

WEDNESDAY—FAMILY SHOW

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 Serial - Cartoon — Admission 10c to All

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