

*Bringers of Gifts
Range From Santa
To Knight Ruppert*

In America on Christmas Eve, there is a merry tinkle of sleigh bells as Santa Claus drives up in a sleigh drawn by eight reindeer. He drives from roof to roof, pausing just long enough to climb down each chimney. From a huge pack on his back he fills the children's stockings with toys and goodies. Gifts that are too large to be stuffed in the stockings are put on the Christmas tree or stacked underneath it.

This is Christmas in America—but it is not always Santa who brings the gifts to children in other lands.

The Dutch children anxiously await the arrival on Christmas of St. Nicholas. He was the bishop of Myra, so he is dressed in the traditional bishop's robes of black, wears a mitre, and carries a crozier.

He rides a white horse and is accompanied by Black Peter, his page boy. Instead of hanging up their stockings to hold the gifts, the Dutch children place their wooden shoes in the chimney corner before going to bed. On the window sills they leave a bunch of hay for "Sleipner," the bishop's white horse. It is customary for St. Nicholas to overturn chairs and leave the room in general confusion for Christmas morning.

English children wait for a Santa Claus who closely resembles our own. They also find gifts tied to a green Christmas tree, but this custom has been in effect only since Queen Victoria was a young bride. She married Albert, a German prince, and it was he who introduced this Christmas custom to England from Germany.

It is an angel who leaves the gifts in Czechoslovakia. She descends on a golden chord to accompany Santa.

In Scandinavia gifts are distributed during the supper hour. They are brought by dwarfs and the children leave bowls of porridge on the doorstep for them. Santa comes riding on a goat instead of a reindeer.

The birds receive the largest number of gifts in Sweden. Each family places a sheaf of grain on a pole or on the fence posts for the birds' Christmas dinner.

Spanish children place their straw-filled sleeves on the window sills so the Magi may feed their horses while they leave gifts. The older people fill an Ura of Fate from which the gifts are drawn on Christmas Day.

Knight Ruppert, who is the German Kris Kringle, is represented by a young girl wearing a golden crown and gown in a flowing white robe. She carries a small tree laden with gifts which she distributes.

The children of Switzerland have their gifts brought to them by a radiant angel who rides in a sleigh drawn by six reindeer. She brings them goodies to eat as well as toys.

And in Poland, at least before the Communists came in, the people called at the parish house on Christmas morning where the priest presented them with "peace wafers," which symbolized peace on earth, good will to men. The people exchanged Christmas wishes as the wafers were broken and eaten before returning home.

As Americans observe this Christmas in the comfort and luxury of modern civilization, who among them will pause for a thought of how their forebears kept the holy season?

An example of Christmas of the past in America is provided in a study of the history of the old village of Kaskaskia, first capital of Illinois, where the pioneers braved the rigors of a new and unsettled world.

Despite the hardships and discomfort which prevailed in the days of the early settlers of this land, there was hardly a cabin so humble but what its occupants found some way to keep Christmas.



OLD, OLD STORY... If teacher could get this kind of attention as she lectures on the three R's, she'd have a room full of geniuses. She is reading the ageless Clement Moore classic "Twas the Night Before Christmas." And not a creature is stirring.

**All-Stars Add
Hart, Sitko
For Saturday**

Two All-American football players from the nation's top ranking 1949 team are scheduled to play

with the College All-Stars against the Charlotte Clippers in Charlotte Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon.

Leon Hart, mighty end who also doubles in a ball-carrying role from his flank position and from the fullback slot, and Emil Sitko, fullback, are to join the All-Stars for the classic. It was announced Thursday. The College team, coached by Wake Forest's Peahead Walker and

South Carolina's Rex Enright, will be gunning to take the "Rubber" game of the series with a formidable array of talent, mostly from southern college teams. The professional Clippers took last year's thriller 30 to 21 to knot the tally after the 1947 All-Stars downed the pros 21-13 for their first loss in 13 consecutive games.

Led by Little All-America Casey Jones, the Clippers came from be-

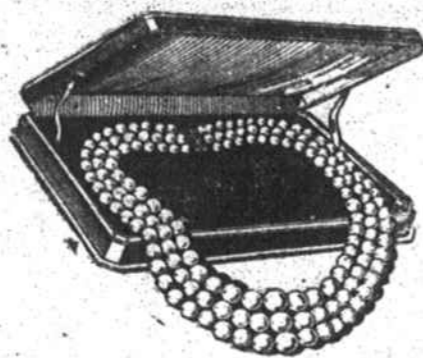
hind a 21 to 6 deficit late in the third quarter to down a talented team of University of Georgia seniors 29-21 last Sunday.

Addition of Hart, winner of the Heisman trophy as the player-of-the-year in the nation, and Sitko to the All-Star lineup ranks the Collegians as favorites in many quarters. In the third annual classic but followers of the Clippers are quick to point out the remarkable record of the

Carolina Pros. The Charlotte team ranks as possibly the most independent professional team in the country.

Game time Saturday is 7:30 p. m. and a crowd of over 10,000 is expected.

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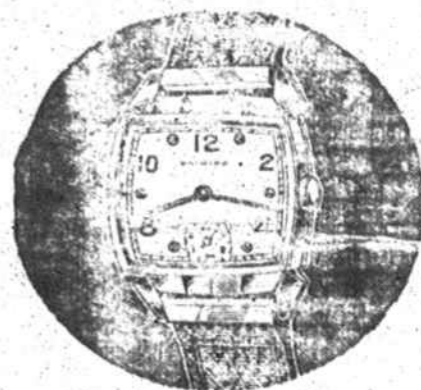
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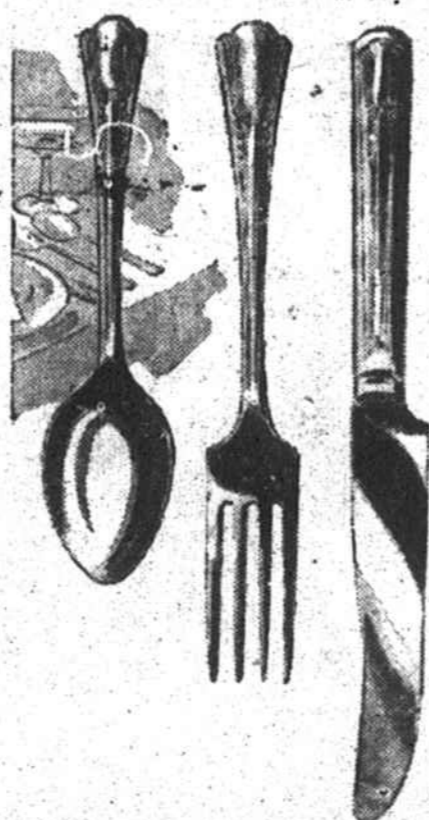
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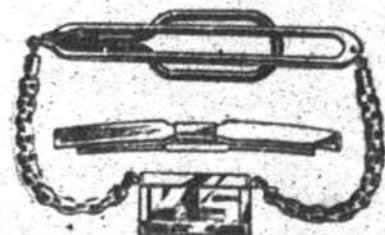
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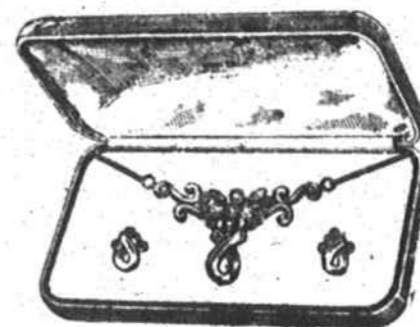
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