

Santa Affected By Restrictions

It's difficult to understand, but the genial spirit of Christmas, Santa Claus himself, hasn't always had it easy. There have been occasions when laws or traditions or regulations have put certain curbs on the old gentleman. Here are some examples:

In Newark, N. J., Santa is required to pass a stiff physical examination before he can serve in a department store. And even then he is barred from kissing any of the children who perch upon his knee.

In Charleston, S. C., charity Santas have been forbidden to make a pitch on public streets on the grounds that children flocking in to see them may create a traffic



hazard. And in Washington a few years ago, when the postmaster general was asked to print a Santa Claus stamp at Christmas time he rejected the proposal with a scornful, "I should say not!"

Outside the U.S.A., Santa has had trouble, too. In Montreal, Canada, an influential organization fought against holding of the city's annual Santa Claus parade on the ground that it was "merely a display of grotesque and vulgar buffoonery." A prominent journalist in Rio de Janeiro fostered a movement to do away with Santa Claus (Papa Noel) in Brazil and substitute a toy-bearing grandfather Indian. In Mexico City the minister of education recommended that the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, instead of St. Nick, should bring gifts to children.

In the field of opinion, Santa has encountered some detractors. A Prof. Ivan E. McDougle, sociologist at Goucher college, Baltimore, declared: "The Santa Claus myth has lived too long. Parents should substitute philosophy"—whatever that is.

A Toronto psychiatrist got in his blast. "It should be made clear to children," he said, "that Santa Claus is not necessarily a real man any more than any other character out of a story book."

The state of Wyoming which boasts the greatest reclamation project in the U. S. is fast developing into a great producing state. It is claimed that one million head of fine beef cattle and 3 1/2 million head of sheep graze on its prairies, ranches, and farms, that the wool clip each year is of great value, while dairy farming is increasing in the state.

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Swiss Brotherhood Sang at Christmas To Banish Plague

One of the most impressive customs in the world is observed in Switzerland where the "singing at the fountains" is done by the Sebastiani brotherhood in the picturesque spa town of Rheinfelden.

According to the Swiss writer Gottlieb Wyss, the custom is more than 400 years old, dating from 1540 when a plague, sweeping through many lands, visited Rheinfelden. Twelve men formed a brotherhood in honor of St. Sebastian, promising to pray to him to safeguard their town from further distress. They also undertook to nurse those afflicted by the plague and to bury its victims.

If one of their own members died, the brethren acted as pallbearers, and up to the present day, by their own selection, the membership of the brotherhood has remained at 12.

Pestilence in the medieval period was ascribed to the evil spirits in the water, and when the Sebastiani brethren, make their rounds of seven fountains on Christmas eve, they start at the fountain in the "Froschweide" where the plague started in the 16th century. After singing for the seventh time near the town church, they join its congregation for midnight mass, first placing their quaint mounted lantern, with its lighted candle, before the altar of St. Sebastian.

For their Christmas eve singing at twelve, brethren are dressed in dark clothes and black silk top-hats. Around their lantern-bearer they stand in a circle and three times, as the name of Christ is mentioned in their song, they uncover their heads. The song dates back to the middle ages.

The Courant, published in Hartford, Conn., established in 1764 is our oldest newspaper.



BACKED UP . . . What would Christmas be without bright new dollies for little girls to cherish? Giving promise of a goodly crop of dollies for this Christmas are these finished heads on racks in a toy factory, ready to be given bodies and limbs.

RELIEF AT LAST For Your COUGH

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The Kings Mountain District Court of Honor met at the City Hall at 7:45 p. m. December 8. Mr. Schiele, Scout Executive, led the Scouts in the Scout Law, and Rev. Phillips led the Scouts in prayer. After the announcements the following Scouts appeared for advancements:

Tenderfoot: *Flem Mauney, troop 1; Curtis George, troop 3; Lawrence Terry Ledford, troop 7; Leonard Alvin Smith, troop 2.

Second Class: Edgar Earl Mar-

lowe, troop 6, and Guy Allen Murray, troop 6.

First Class: George Hord, jr., troop 6.

The following appeared for merit badges:

Bookbinding: Billy Briggs, troop 2.

Cooking: J. Earl Stroupe, troop 7.

Home Repairs: Richard Lynn, troop 5.

Pathfinding: Jack Still, troop 2, and Douglas Falls, troop 2.

Woodword: Richard Williamson, troop 7.

Awards of previous courts were made. Troop 7 won the advancement

and attendance banner. The next court of honor will be held on January 12, 1950, at 7:45.

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Season's Greetings

—and to all of you we extend our wishes for a Merry Christmas—and a year ahead chock full of good health, happiness and prosperity!

Belk's
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Here's holiday refreshment for your Buick!

TIME'S coming when the air is full of good spirits, and we all feel pretty chipper — but what about that faithful Buick of yours?

Wet winter driving is roughest on cars—and even though it still handles like a sweetheart, your Buick may have slipped a notch or so in performance, or gradually acquired a squeak you haven't been aware of.

So do this . . .

Bring it to us for one of our winter tune-ups, plus a special winter LUBRICARE treatment. (This Lubricare is something you and your Buick should know about — it's an over-all trouble-check, plus a wonderfully thorough lubrication routine!)

Between these two refreshing treatments, you'll have all your Buick's glad and breezy power back — plenty of Fireball zoomph to pull you out of any traffic fuss. You'll have a quiet-riding body and chassis that make every mile a glad glide. And you'll have top mileage efficiency, with a motor that starts on the coldest morning as quick as a scared alarm clock!

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