



BOY SCOUTS OF CITY MEND BROKEN TOYS FOR POOR CHILDREN

All Toys Brought in Are Repaired, Painted and Delivered to Hospitals

WORK IN STORE WINDOW

"Toy" Hospital at Huntley-Stockton-Hill for Past Two Weeks—Feel That Work is Beneficial

The Boy Scouts of Greensboro have operated a "toy hospital" in the show-window of Huntley-Stockton-Hill Company for the past two weeks. All the old broken or discarded toys, which were taken to the hospital, were mended and painted for the less fortunate.

These mended toys were distributed to children of Greater Greensboro who otherwise would have had few Christmas toys, and those who worked in the shop feel that their work has been very beneficial.

THESE GIRLS!

"Lib, let's go in Meyer's and look around. They always have a lotta cute things for Christmas presents."

"Yeah, let's. But look in their window. Aren't the things simply gorgeous, Peggy? Look at those adorable beads. I sure do wish—"

"Elizabeth Gaston, come right away from that window! The very thing I'm going to give you for Christmas is in that window. If we stay here two minutes more you'll know what it is."

"No, I won't. Please let me go back and see. I bet it's those beads. Aw, Peg, I think you're mean. You just wanted to get my curiosity up."

"Forget it. Let's look at these things on the novelty counter. Isn't this vanity adorable! It would be just the thing for Frances Bell."

"It sure would. I could give one to Dot, too. How much is it?"

"Let's see—good night, it's ninety-five cents. I'm surely not gonna give Frances anything that costs that much. She left the price on mine last year, and it was only fifty cents."

"Well, I don't blame you. But Dot always did give nice presents. Don't you remember that she gave me a hand-painted sachet. I priced them and they were a dollar. I guess I'll get one of these vanities for her. Heck, I sure do hate to wait for packages!"

"By the way, Lib, do you know whether Anne is gonna give me anything for Christmas? I can't decide whether to give her anything or not."

"I was wondering the same thing. I might could ask her in a real tactful way if she is going to give you a present and you could do the same for me."

"Naw, I reckon we'd better not. We can fix up an extra for her in case she does come around—a handkerchief or something."

"Yeah, I guess that would be better. I think I'll fix up about three extras, 'cause you never can tell what surprises you will get."

"You sure can't. Here's my package at last. C'mon, let's go down to Grant's. We can get our extras there."

MIRIAM BLOCK.

In Sweden Christmas is celebrated for several days. The Swedes do not use evergreens to decorate their homes, for those are emblematic of snow. Where they can afford it, they use flowers.

OUR OLD FAMILY SERVANT ON CHRISTMAS DAY

"Say, Aunt Betty, Dad wants to see you in the living room a minute."

"Yas, Suh, honey, I'se a-coming right now, jess soon's I put dis hyah pie in de stove."

She then puts the pie in the stove, washes her hands, and goes into the living room, where Dad and Sis are sitting on the sofa, before an open fire, eating fruit, and resting in the calm after the storm. The storm was the two little ones making great joy their toys; they had now gone out in the yard to play.

"Yas, Suh, Colonel. Hyah I is. Dick says as how you all wants to see Aunt Betty, so hyah I is," this from Aunt Betty speaking very dignified, as was her custom when addressing Daddy.

"Yes, Aunt Betty, I sent for you," said my father. "I guess you know this is Christmas and as you have done very well this past year we have bought you a present."

"Well, now, Lordy, you know you all is de bestes white folks I ebber did work for. You member lass week when I bunt dem sweet taters, I says right den, dare goes my Christmas present, but you sees how hit is, everybody makes mistakes sometimes, but look ah hyah, what is you got fur me dis year Cune!"

Well, it is just a little present Sister and I decided to get for you, there it is over there on the table. Hand it to her, Sister."

"Good gracious, you don't mean all dis big box," said Aunt Betty as she unwrapped the box, mumbling blessings upon us. Finally she succeeds in getting the parcel undone and draws forth a long black coat. See what it was, the old cook nearly went into fits, grabbing Sis and hugging her. I guess she felt like doing the same to Dad and me.

"You know, honey, I'se gwine to church dis very night wid dis coat, I'se gwine to wait till everybody sits down, jess before the parson gits up; I'se gwine to strut down the isle and take de front seat so everybody can be sure and see Aunt Betty wid dis handsome wrap on."

"Well Aunt Betty, Dad and I thought you would like it, and knew you deserved it so we bought it."

"Yas, Suh, I shore ob hit, but look a here, Lord hab mercy, I'se gwine an left dem pies inde oben. I hope dey ain't already burnt up, lemme see dom dis minute. I shore do appreciate dis gift and you will have the bestus Christmas dinnah you ebah had."

And away she went to look at the pies she had left in the oven.

DICK BURROUGHS.

EARLY CHRISTMASSES CELEBRATED WITH GIFTS

It is thought that the first Christmas festival was observed as early as the third century. The customs of present-giving has probably descended from the days of paganism, but is looked upon today by all Christians as symbolic of the Savior's love in giving Himself to the world.

In Spain in the homes of rich and poor alike, the Bethlehem manger is found. On a table a rocky hillside is built, showing the inn, the stable, the Babe in the manger, Mary, the shepherds, and even the cattle.

In Wales groups of singers pass from door to door singing Christmas carols. Refrains are sung by the people within. The singers are invited into the houses and served with Christmas dainties.

ORIGIN OF HOLLY IS FROM THE HOLY TREE OF ANCIENT TIMES

Believed Holly Twig Brought Good Luck—Teutons Decorated With Holly

MANY STRANGE CUSTOMS

Called "Holy Tree" Because Often Used in Churches—Evergreens in Use to Keep Away Spirits

There are many old tales told about holly. The word holly was derived from "holy tree." Holly was called the "holy tree," because it was used so much in the churches in olden times.

Long years ago it was believed that if you got a small branch of holly that had been used in the church you would have a lucky year. The custom of employing holly at Christmas comes from the old Teutonic practice of having the house decked with evergreens as a refuge for the sylvan spirits from the cold of the winter. In Ruthland it was deemed unlucky to hang holly before Christmas Eve.

People in certain rural districts of England believed that the prickly holly was the "he" and the non-prickly was the "she." They believed that if non-prickly holly was brought into their house the first Christmas after marriage the wife would be the boss of the household, and if prickly holly was

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Lucas and Pazookus

G. TODD

The story begins:

On his dashing horse, Pazookus
Dashed the dashing Lucas
He who hailed from Mars.

Because:

The men on Mars, on Mars, had
quoth-us,
"Go you, get gone, you both-us,
Away from the planet Mars."

So said the hero—

"By hookus or by crookus
I'll ride my horse, Pazookus
Away from the planet Mars."

And—

So Pazookus, leaving Lucas,
Picked up the story and took-us
To earth from the planet Mars.

But—

Just one look took Lucas
And he turned his steed Pazookus
Back to his mother Mars.

'Tis true,

Yes, Lucas and Pazookus,
They just up and forsook-us
Went back to the planet Mars.

Outside the gate—

They beat on Mars doorus,
Said, "Admit us once moreus,
We want to come back to Mars."

Explaining:

"Down there it is Christmas,
Take us back to your isthmus,
Take us back to our mother Mars."

Further—

"Everyone there was shopping,
Pushin', crowdin', never stoppin',
Please let us back to Mars."

Still—

"We're sure no one could love us,
They'd push us an' crowd us an'
shove us,
We wanta come back to Mars."

And the story ends:

So Pazookus bearing Lucas
Went back to his own little nookus
And were happy again in Mars.

WHY THE CHIMES RANG

Long ago in a country far,
A story has been told,
Of a church of God so grandly built,
Its altars were laid with gold.
Christmas chimes of silver tones
Were upon its towers tall,
But when last they'd rung at Christ-
mas-tide,
Not one could then recall.

'Twas said they were played by angel hands,

When great gifts were brought to Him.
Each year they came with their worldly goods,

And waited till the light grew dim.

A woman brought her jewels rare,
A king his crown laid down.

They gave their money, silver and gold,
But the bells gave out no sound.

One Christmas morn two little boys,
Set out for the church so grand,
"We've so small a gift," little Pedro said,

And he clutched his penny tight in his hand.

When almost to the great church door
An object caught his eye,

'Twas a woman poor, and sick, alone,
Left in the snow to die.

Little Pedro wrapped her in his coat
And rubbed her poor, cold face.

"Brother," said he, "you must go alone,
And take Him the gift in my place."

The organ was playing music grand,
The rich bringing presents rare,

When the little boy crept slowly up,
And the penny laid down with care.

Hark! the Christmas chimes are ringing
Sweet as an angel band:

"Peace on earth," they gladly sing,
"On earth good will to man."

'Twas Pedro's service to mankind
That did what wealth could never do.

And 'tis the only way Christmas chimes
Can be made to ring for you.

FRANCES BURCH.

THE ORIGIN OF SANTA CLAUS

About the year three hundred, there lived a small boy in Greece whose name was Nicholas. He was a very kind-hearted little boy and always wanted to help make somebody happy. Nicholas was the hero of the neighborhood because all the little boys asked for his advice for all their problems.

Later Nicholas entered a convent and studied to be a priest. He was very popular in this school and soon became the favorite of the people.

His birthday was on the sixth of December, but instead of letting people give him presents he gave them presents. He seemed to be supernatural because he could heal the sick, make the blind to see and the deaf to hear, and could perform many other miracles. He soon became a saint—Beloved Saint Nicholas, he was called.

After St. Nicholas died, the custom of giving presents continued and this festival was so near Christmas that the two became confounded.

In Germany, this custom is still celebrated on the sixth of December; the Dutch were particularly fond of this idea, but St. Nicholas, translated into Dutch, is Santa Claus.

The Americans liked Santa Claus better than Saint Nicholas, so every Christmas Eve Santa Claus comes to see all good little girls and boys, and brings them toys and candy.

CATHERINE WHARTON.

"What's the idea of standing there and paddling yourself?"

"I'm being initiated by a frat at the I. C. S."

RUSSIA CELEBRATES JANUARY 6 FOR HER CHRISTMAS TIDE

Many Peculiar Old Customs and Traditions Still in Use in Country

TEMPLE BUILT ON NEVA

Orthodox Church Has Many Feasts—Dignitaries of Church Take Part in Celebration of Ancient Holiday

Russia is a large and slow-moving body and she has not yet made up her mind to submit to the changes made in the calendar centuries ago. Therefore, the twenty-fifth of December comes, according to the calculations of Julius Caesar, on what the rest of the world calls January the sixth. Soon it will come on January the seventh, for Russia is steadily losing a few minutes every year. She doesn't mind this a bit, for they have a good time on Christmas, even if they do have to wait for it.

The Orthodox Church has ordered many feasts and very little meat is eaten, so everyone is ready for a big feast and lots of fun on Christmas Day. They have many peculiar old traditions. In St. Petersburg, Christmas is kept much as it is with us, giving presents, lighting gayly-decked trees at family reunions.

In far country districts, it is the custom to give great celebrations lasting for several days, in honor of the young girls. The girls remain several days, accompanied by a maid, and their parents are careful to express their pleasure at leaving their daughters under the honorable care of the host and hostess. All the girls call one another "little playmate," although they may have never met before, and all sleep in one large room.

In the capital, the Christmas ceremonies have, ever since it can be remembered, ended with the solemn blessing of the Neva. The river is always frozen at this time and a little temple is erected on the ice, adorned with pictures of the Saints. The dignitaries of the Church, headed by the Emperor, wind in stately procession over the ice to the queer little structure. Here the river is blessed with great pomp and ceremony. It is a very beautiful ceremony with splendid symbolism and exquisite prayers.

The popular ways of celebration may be abandoned, but the ceremony of the blessing of the Neva is one that will last as long as the mighty Church endures.

SCANDINAVIANS HAVE VARIED CELEBRATIONS

In Scandinavia Christmas is celebrated in different ways by the different peoples. A Christmas approaches the Lapps of the far north go to some village where there is a church. Christmas eve passes unnoticed. The children of Lapland know no Santa Claus and no stockings are hung. It seems strange to us, who think of Santa as coming from the Frozen North, that children of those lands should not know him. On Christmas morning all the Lapps go to church to hear of the birth of Christ. This is the only time in his life that Laplander knows any approach to joy.

The Norwegian children earn their feast, for all day before Christmas they are busy tying bunches of oats and corn on trees and fences for the birds' Christmas dinner.