

Evolution Given Of Santa Claus

St. Nicholas and Santa Claus met at the Sunday School Christmas party and, being sort of busy right then, agreed to rendezvous at midnight under the Christmas tree.

St. Nicholas, a lean Asiatic wearing his miter and canonical robes, spoke first:

"I lived in Asia Minor some 1600 years ago. I was Archbishop of Myra and, while living on earth, I did drop a few purses of gold down a poor man's chimney so his daughters could be supplied with dowries. European countries celebrate my liturgical Feast Day—December 6—as a day of gift-giving and for centuries I rode across Europe on my old gray mare; my pockets bulged with apples and nuts and trinkets, which I gave to good children while switching the naughty



Santa at army outpost.

ones with my bundle of birch rods. But what is all this Christmas business—and where did that red suit come from?"

"When the Dutch settlers came to America," replied Santa Claus, "they brought many legends about St. Nicholas with them. These legends, with writers and cartoonists cooperating, gradually slipped into American traditions; Santa Claus started coming around at Christmas time; Washington Irving suggested the sleigh and reindeer in 1809; Thomas Nast supplied the red suit, and Dr. Clement Moore sort of tied the whole idea together when he wrote 'The Visit of St. Nicholas' in 1822."

Someone forgot to turn out the lights after the Sunday School party—and St. Nicholas was so interested in Santa's zippered boots that he forgot his bundle of birch rods.

BUY WAR BONDS

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, Dec. 11—"The job of reconverting our plants from war to peace is virtually completed."

That statement was made by President Truman at a recent press conference in which he gave other interesting figures to show what has been happening in this country since V-J Day. Other statements of an optimistic nature, made by Mr. Truman were:

"Total employment has now returned to the V-J Day level and is expected to continue to rise.

"Unemployment is far less than had been expected. This means that the disruption of our economy has been less than anticipated.

"The metal-working trades on which we depend for most of our customer durable goods are in such shape that they expect by the middle of 1946 to ship goods at 2½ times the 1939 rate.

"Retail sales are up 10 per cent now as compared with the same period last year.

"The cost of living has declined 0.3 of 1 per cent since the surrender of Japan, compared with a rise of approximately 1.3 per cent in a comparable period after the last war."

It was a rosy picture Mr. Truman painted, even though he admitted that there had been approximately 1,500 strikes since August. Belittling the danger which most people see in the labor situation, the President said that the man-hours lost because of strikes amounted to only 0.76 of 1 per cent of the total working time available.

The only danger which the President seemed to see ahead was that of inflation. In regard to this he warned: "Inflationary pressures are still great, and danger signals pointing to a further building up through the winter and spring are in the rise of real estate, wholesale and raw materials prices. We must continue to hold the line. We cannot permit inflation."

Although the President made the labor problem appear to be a minor one, so far as reconversion is concerned, it was immediately pointed out by congressmen who are working for labor legislation that his figures were based on time lost before the General Motors strike, and that they did not touch on what might happen in the next two or three months. "If the steel workers walk out," said one congressman, "that strike alone would more

than double the man-hour losses referred to by the President." It is believed here that the months of January and February are apt to be the blackest, so far as the strike situation is concerned, and that several million men may be on strike at that time.

Final settlement of the General Motors strike is expected to set the pattern for the settlement of most other large strikes, but at the moment, unless one side or the other gives in, it may take legislation of some kind to force a settlement. A law requiring labor unions to accept responsibility for their acts is considered by an increasing number of congressmen to be the key to eventual settlement.

Scandal-hunting seems to be one of the chief pastimes of congress these days. Until recently these activities centered chiefly around the work of the committee which is trying to decide who to blame for the Pearl Harbor tragedy; but now the charges made against the state department by Gen. Patrick Hurley, when he resigned as ambassador to China, have almost overshadowed the Pearl Harbor investigation. The state department is in for the most searching investigation ever made, and it may be that some changes in the department will result. However, Gen. Hurley has failed to produce much evidence before the congressional investigating committee so far.

The chance of a meteorite hitting a city is very slight.



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| Robes | Gloves, Mittens |
| Gowns, Lingerie | Shoes |
| Slips, Panties | Dresser Sets |
| House Slippers | Cosmetic Sets |

GIFTS FOR HIM . . .

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| Overcoats | Dress Shoes, Sox |
| Ties, Tie Sets | Belts |
| Bill Folds | Jackets |
| Shaving Sets | Robes, Pajamas |
| Scarfs | House Slippers |
| Military Sets | Hats |

GIFTS FOR BROTHER . . .

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| Longie Suits | Sox |
| Mackinaws | Shirts |
| Sweaters | Felt Hats |
| Oxfords | Caps |

GIFTS FOR SISTER . . .

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| Coats | Dresses |
| Fitted Suits | Gloves |
| Sweaters | Mittens |
| Blouses | Shoes |

GIFTS FOR THE BABY . . .

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| Dresses | Robes |
| Sacques | Gowns |
| Sweaters | Booties |
| Blankets | Comforts |
| Caps | Shoes |
| Diapers | Rattlers |
| Mittens | Hose |

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