LET'S STOP MONKEYING WITH SANTA

By CYNTHIA LOWRY AP Newsfeatures Writer

There are more people around today doing bad imitations of Santa Claus than there are people doing bad imitations of Hildegarde, Al Jolson and Bette Davis.

This is a very serious situation, as can easily be seen, which is making it difficult even for adults to believe in Santa Claus.

Personally, through long practice, I am able to spot a phony Santa Claus from a distance of two blocks or the length of a department store. But even before I was an expert in the field, I was never taken in by skinny characters in dirty cotton beards and outside suits soliciting Christmas alms on street corners. The tip-off, of course, is that they stand on pieces of board or wear regulation galoshes. Santa Claus wears boots and his feet never get cold. I have known people, however, who believed anyone in a red suit trimmed with fur was Santa, no matter what he was do-

Of course, I have met the good Saint Nick in stores many times, but I have also encountered some bad actors pretending they were Santa. Imposters usually can be detected by a bored attitude and a certain lack of interest in the whole subject of toys.

Some people are even making a profitable business out of imitating Santa, which is pretty reprehensible when you realize that this is his busy season and he can't take time out to protect him-

One man has opened a school to train people to become better imitation Santa Clauses. He has classes on how to paste a beard on properly, and how to stroke it thoroughly without its becoming loose. He warns them not to smoke anything but a hookah because of the fire hazard. He teaches them how to laugh so their abdomens "shake like a bowl full of plane or automobile of any type, jelly", but what's more important it is an unauthorized portrait and he teaches them how to counterfeit Santa's laugh. The proper of the Santa imitators. guffaw, as I understand it, is "Hoho-ho-ha-ha". Seems untrained Santas are apt to go just "Ha-ha-

enterprises are implying that Santa Claus has changed his traditional methods of operation. Santa Claus has made no changes is being a bit more careful about tween your hands. If you happen St. Matthew suggests that even not fail.

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age — they do not believe except what they see —they think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. "All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are "In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. "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 your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no, romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. "Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe "You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chim-neys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? body sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus - the most real things in the world are those neither chil-"Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there — nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the "You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men, that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.
"Is it all real? — ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing 'No Santa Claus! Thank God! — he lives, and he lives forever — a thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

> One December day in 1897, Virginia O'Hanlon wrote to the New York Sun: "I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa

ays, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth—is there a Santa Claus? The answer to Virginia O'Hanlon's question, written in a moment of deep spiritual insight by Francis B. Church, stands even today as a testament reflecting two thousand years of faith. It has been reprinted here because it always will deserve to be read again.

the central figure probably is one

Santa Claus is an ageless, goodhumored man who wears an unusual costume, lives at the North Pole, travels by sled and reindeer I'm against this trend. But I'm through the skies and brings toys the Star of Bethlehem and, like historical and human Jesus, have more opposed to the way certain on Christmas eve to good children. the Wise Men of old, rejoices with sometimes lost sight of the Babe

COSTUME TRICKS

the middle of an oil burner, and colors-emphasize the distance be- ed by Oriental imagery.

Continues To Puzzle Modern Scholars

Once again Christendom sees exceeding great joy.

Have you ever heard that you possibilities that the star may are weary and heavy-laden. can narrow the appearance of have been a natural phenomenon these many years except that in wide hips by paying careful at- since such phenomena occur too cities he will enter apartment tention to your gloves? It's true, far from the earth to serve as any dwellings without fireplaces by says Good Housekeeping magazine. sort of local guide. Modern opincoming in a handy door or win- Gloves that contrast too strongly ion is, however, inclined to hold dow. I also understand he had a with your costume - white with that there was a Star-although bad time recently by landing in black or navy, black with very light the story probably has been touch-

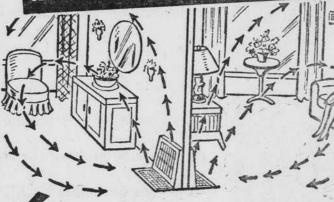
all types of chimneys these days. to be wearing gloves that contrast the Wise Men may have lost sight Any time you see a purported strongly, hold your purse under of the star while they were in Je- YELLOW TOMATOES POPULAR rusalem; hence they rejoiced when

historians have sought an historically human Jesus of Nazarethand are still arguing whether or not they have found Him; even zealous theologians, striving to harmonize messianic and eschatological theories with the illusive in the Manger Who from His lowly Astronomers have discounted stable draws unto Himself all who

Pressing close to that sacred Manger, Christendom glimpses the Star of Bethlehem once more and rejoices in the light of righteousness and peace which has conquered every tyranny that evil men could think of, the light that shineth in the darkness and shall

it reappeared to their vision as siderable popularity in farm and they approached the Manger of town home gardens and in recent years have been growing com-Come to think of it, astronomers mercially to some extent as a have sought an astronomically au- source of juice for canning.

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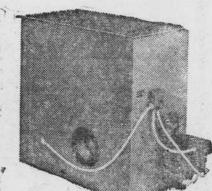


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Above The Hullabaloo

By LYTLE HULL

ONE MAN COULD STOP IT! The whole world is marching gaily backward through the pages of history; back to the days of the great feudal barons who ruled their subjects with a "hand of iron"; yes backward toward the dark ages which were ushered in with the fall of the Roman empire in the fifth century.

Russia got a head start in 1917 and is now an absolute despotism ruled by the prototypes of the ancient tryants. Every nation "behind the iron curtain" is in the same sad state. China is fast following in the footsteps of these countries, and within a short time all southeast Asia and later Japan will do likewise. England has succumbed to the siren songs of inexperienced theoreticians.

Western Europe is teetering upon the brink of state socialism and without moral and financial help, already would have succumbed to the dictatorships which this condition eventually entails. It is now merely waiting for us to hand the anti-Communist government in Spain over to the Reds and or for a dictatorship to take over in Eng-

When the New Deal first realized that the American public was composed principally of people who voted "emotionally" and not "thoughtfully," it became convinced that a few in government were more capable of running a nation than the people themselves. So with the help of a docile congress it usurped many of the powers which belonged to the people. This progression has gone so far now that even congress is slighted by the New Dealers. Outright state socialism, under the pretty name of the "welfare state," is now only few steps away.

The new dealers are fostering these steps toward the end of personal freedom. Many millions of gullible Americans want it; many millions don't want it. The millions of dum-bells in between keep on voting away their own freedom. One man alone could stop the

fearsome trend-the President of the United States. Is there any hope that the man who occupies that position today will see the light in time?

CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees are ready for market at eight to 15 years of age, depending on the species, soil enditions, and the size desired.

BLACK TO BLACK

Blondy Black, star halfback for Meat production under Federal Mississippi State's 1941 team, inspection for the week ended Demanufacture since 1830, was first used for the left of the le oss against Alabama that season. Holt Rast, Alabama jend, tackled Black just as the ball was thrown, the pigskin going almost straight up in the air. Blondy recovered in time to catch the ball but for

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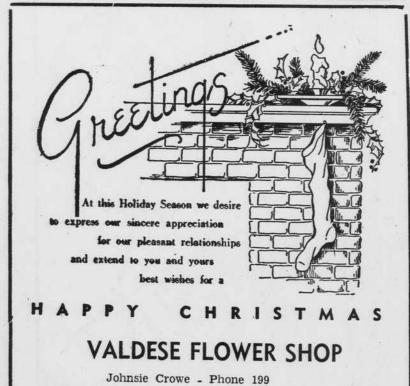
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