

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 good 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 aims 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 doing.

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 himself.

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 jelly", but what's more important he teaches them how to counterfeits Santa's laugh. The proper guffaw, as I understand it, is "Ho-ho-ho-ha-ha".

Seems untrained Santas are apt to go just "Ha-ha-ha-ha."

I'm against this trend. But I'm more opposed to the way certain enterprises are implying that Santa Claus has changed his traditional methods of operation.

Santa Claus has made no changes these many years except that in cities he will enter apartment dwellings without fireplaces by coming in a handy door or window. I also understand he had a bad time recently by landing in the middle of an oil burner, and is being a bit more careful about all types of chimneys these days.

Any time you see a purported picture of Santa riding in an airplane or automobile of any type, it is an unauthorized portrait and the central figure probably is one of the Santa imitators.

Santa Claus is an ageless, good-humored man who wears an unusual costume, lives at the North Pole, travels by sled and reindeer through the skies and brings toys on Christmas eve to good children.

COSTUME TRICKS
Have you ever heard that you can narrow the appearance of wide hips by paying careful attention to your gloves? It's true, says Good Housekeeping magazine. Gloves that contrast too strongly with your costume — white with black or navy, black with very light colors — emphasize the distance between your hands. If you happen to be wearing gloves that contrast strongly, hold your purse under your arm so that one hand is up.

YES, VIRGINIA

"Yes, indeed!
"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 little.

"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 in fairies!

"You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. — the most real things in the world are those neither children nor men can see.

"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 world.

"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? — oh, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"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 says, '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.

Star Of Bethlehem Continues To Puzzle Modern Scholars

Once again Christendom sees the Star of Bethlehem and, like the Wise Men of old, rejoices with exceeding great joy.

Astronomers have discounted possibilities that the star may have been a natural phenomenon since such phenomena occur too far from the earth to serve as any sort of local guide. Modern opinion is, however, inclined to hold that there was a Star—although the story probably has been touched by Oriental imagery.

St. Matthew suggests that even the Wise Men may have lost sight of the star while they were in Jerusalem; hence they rejoiced when it reappeared to their vision as they approached the Manger of Bethlehem.

Come to think of it, astronomers have sought an astronomically authentic star — and found it not; historians have sought an historically human Jesus of Nazareth — and are still arguing whether or not they have found Him; even zealous theologians, striving to harmonize messianic and eschatological theories with the illusive historical and human Jesus, have sometimes lost sight of the Babe in the Manger Who from His lowly stable draws unto Himself all who are weary and heavy-laden.

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 not fail.

YELLOW TOMATOES POPULAR
Yellow tomatoes have had considerable popularity in farm and town home gardens and in recent years have been growing commercially to some extent as a source of juice for canning.

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 tyrants. 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 for a dictatorship to take over in England.

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 a 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 dumb-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 conditions, and the size desired.

BLACK TO BLACK
Blondy Black, star halfback for Mississippi State's 1941 team, caught his own pass for an 18-yard loss against Alabama that season. Holt Rast, Alabama end, 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 a loss.

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INSPECTED MEAT
Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended December 3 totaled 392 million pounds.

PLYWOOD IN PLANS
Plywood has been used in manufacture since 1820. It was first used for timber piles to prevent pins from slipping.

Merry Christmas

Here are our three
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they all come true for you!
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