

The Christmas Saint

By James P. Kelly

CHRISTMAS eve. Streets white with swirling snow flakes. Marionetta, behind the counters of the five-and-ten, peered into one of the little ten-cent mirrors it was her business to sell.

Marionetta was crying because there was no Santa Claus. More than anything she hated to go back to the tiny basement flat that she and mother and Jim called home, and tell Jim the truth.

Jim, or Jimmy, as Marionetta always called him, was crippled. Marionetta insisted that he was too little yet to know about Santa Claus. She had gone without her lunch for days and days and saved her nickels and dimes to buy the things Jimmy wanted.

That very morning she had started out to work, her precious savings tucked away in her purse, her heart all but singing out loud.

Then, when she got off the car, someone in the motley crowd bumped her elbow and her purse was knocked from her hand. Marionetta dived for



Jimmy shouted with delight.

it, but another dived at the same time and when she straightened up a small, flying figure was crossing the street. That was why her feet lagged on her homeward way.

Her hand on the door of the basement flat, at the dirty tenement house where she lived, she noticed a big automobile drawing up at the curb, and an elegantly dressed lady slumping. Showing off! She turned her back on the picture, flung open the door and stepped inside.

"Hello, Sis," Jimmy looked up brightly. "Tonight's the night!"

Marionetta looked dully at her mother.

"I lost my purse," she said tonelessly. "Some kid snatched it this morning. It looked just like that McCarty kid that comes here to play with Jimmy so much but he ran so fast I couldn't be sure."

"Don't cry, honey," her mother said. "We'll make out, somehow."

There was a knock. Mrs. Clancy went to the door and opened it. There stood the lady of the big automobile, her arms piled high with packages.

"Is this where Jimmy Clancy lives?"

"Yes, ma'am," Mrs. Clancy stepped back. "Won't you come in?"

The lady stepped inside. She kept smiling at Jimmy, whose eyes were wide and bright.

"I met Santa Claus down the street this afternoon, Jimmy," she said, "and he asked if I would bring these things to you. He said he was going to be very busy tonight."

Jimmy was feverishly tearing at the packages, which the lady had dropped into a big chair beside him. As his heart's desires emerged from their tinsel wrappings Jimmy shouted with delight.

Under cover of the excitement Marionetta drew near the pretty lady and whispered:

"Tell me how you knew about Jimmy?"

"Why, my dear, it's such a strange story! This morning I saw a little boy snatch a purse that someone dropped, and when he ran away I had my chauffeur follow him and bring him back to me. He told me he wanted to keep the money to buy some toys for a little crippled friend whose folks were too poor to buy things for him. I promised him I'd play Santa Claus to Jimmy if he'd promise me to wait on that corner for the girl who dropped the purse, every morning at the same hour, until he found her and gave it back to her."

"Why," cried Marionetta, "did you ever hear anything so like a fairy tale? That was my purse, and it really was Jerry McCarty, mother! There was such a crowd he couldn't see who dropped it. He'd never have stolen—but it wasn't stealing, and just to think that a moment ago I was doubting the Christmas saint!"

The lady laughed. Then in that clear voice she said:

"Well, just to make you even more sure of him, I'm going to bring a famous doctor to see Jimmy the day after tomorrow, and I'm going to have him take Jimmy to a hospital and cure that bad leg of his. The good Christmas saint doesn't want to find him crippled when he comes back next year."

(Associated Newspapers—WNU Service.)

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

BY TOPPS



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ROSEBUSH, TEXAS NAMED AFTER A ROSEBUSH IS ONE TOWN THAT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME—THERE IS A ROSEBUSH IN EVERY VARD IN THE TOWN

NYA SLASHES ITS PERSONNEL

RALEIGH, Dec. 17.—A reduction in NYA area offices in North Carolina from nine to six as a part of the current curtailment of NYA activities resulting from cuts made by the Federal Bureau of the Budget in national NYA appropriations was announced here today by State NYA Administrator John A. Lang.

Beginning January 15, area offices will be operated in Washington for area one: Kinston, area two; Raleigh, area three; Greensboro, area four; Lenoir, area five; and Asheville, area six. Offices being discontinued are Henderson, Wilmington, Sanford, and Charlotte.

"This reduction, totaling \$28,400,000 in the Nation will result in a curtailment of NYA activities in this State by approximately 25 percent," Lang stated. "The consolidation of areas will effect a proportionate saving in administrative costs," he added.

Areas, with counties to be served under the consolidation include Carteret.

WPTF Broadcasting 24 Hours Each Day Due To News of War

WPTF has been operating steadily, 24 hours a day since sign-on Sunday morning, December 7 and will continue to do so until further notice.

While programs were frequently interrupted during the earlier part of the week to bring the latest flash, WPTF and NBC are now making every attempt to include news before the beginning of a program and refrain from any interruption until it is over. Exception will be made when the news is vital. This is in line with radio's policy to entertain as well as inform.

TAKE STEPS TO BUSINESS SUCCESS

4-H County Council Holds Its Annual Christmas Program

The Beaufort 4-H County Council held its annual Christmas party in the Home Agent's office on last Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. The Beaufort 4-H Club gave a very interesting Christmas program. It was as follows:

Poem: "Old Christmas"—Kitty Lynch.

Trio Song: "Old Holy Night"—Sarah Dudley, Kitty Lynch, Jean Springle.

Poem: "Christmas in England"—Sarah Dudley.

Christmas Story by Hans C. Anderson—Manda Congleton.

Poem: "Christmas Everywhere"—Jean Springle.

After the program Christmas gifts were exchanged and all joined in singing Christmas Carols and playing games. The recreation was led by Miss Evelyn Horne, Home Agent, and Mr. J. Y. Lasister, Farm Agent.

Delicious refreshments were served, consisting of Christmas candy and "rosy apple Santas"—made by the Newport 4-H Club members.

The next 4-H County Council will meet Saturday, Feb. 14, at 10 o'clock in the Home Agent's office. The topic for this meeting will be "Poultry."

Age Limit For U. S. Marine Recruits Is Raised to 35 Years

For the first time since the present emergency has come into effect the United States Marine Corps is now enlisting men between the ages of 17 and 35. Prior to this the Marine Corps was only enlisting men who had reached their 30th birthday.

This five year difference in age is expected to bring many men into the ranks of the Marine Corps. Since the outbreak of hostilities

many men between the ages of 30 and 35 were told that they were too old for the Marine Corps and were turned down. All of these men are now urged to come back to the Marine Corps Recruiting Stations and enlist.

The Marine Corps is also now enlisting all former Marines who have not reached their 35th birthday and are not married. These former Marines who have some clerical experience will be retained if they so desire, for recruiting duty. These Marines are requested to report to the Raleigh Marine Corps Recruiting Station for reenlistment.

The Marine Corps Reserve is now open, with unlimited vacancies for those that desire to enlist in the reserve. These men will receive the same pay, promotions and other advantages that the Regular Marines receive. The only difference being that the Reserves will serve till the duration of the emergency and then will be released.

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New License Tags For Army Vehicles

It won't be long before the 3,000 government vehicles at Camp Davis will blossom out with new license tags if Harold L. Manning, civilian foreman of the Camp Davis paint shop has his way.

The five employees inside the paint shop have been working for some time to finish the new red and yellow plates, which will identify a vehicle almost down to the correct platoon, and the production rate of 500 plates a day has been stepped up to over 600.

It's not a magician's trick, but it's all done with screens, shellacked and with regimental numbers cut out of the cloth. Paint is poured along the sides of a frame, and with a squeegee, the paint is spread over the cloth. Where regimental numbers have been cut in the screen, paint seeps through to the blank plates below. The finished product is as smooth a job of numbering as DaVinci himself could do. Six plates can be painted at a time, and two frames are being worked constantly.

After the regimental insignia has been numbered on the red plate, the battery number or letter is painted in by hand, as are the truck numbers, which are placed in small figures on the left of the large regimental number.

The painting job at Camp Davis is never finished. The 12 employees of the shop are kept busy constantly, fixing up soiled paint jobs, and keeping new buildings tastefully decorated in governmental colors.

At times it is necessary to hire

additional help to catch up with the perpetual task of keeping Camp Davis neatly painted. The job is comparable to that of the crew that paints Brooklyn bridge. As soon as they have finished one end, it is time to begin all over again on the other end.

The 1,000 odd buildings at Camp Davis are guaranteed to keep any crew of painters busy, but with additions in the form of chapels, gyms, warehouses, being constructed daily, the crew has trouble just keeping even.

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