

Interesting Job? Santa's Beats All At This Season

Who has one of the most interesting jobs this time of year? That's easy. It's Santa.

The round gentleman hiding behind the red ensemble and the flowing white beard learns a great deal about the nature of humans, especially children, at this time of year.

However, after receiving thousands of letters from all over the country, and talking to thousands of youngsters on street corners and in department stores, Santa usually comes to the same conclusion each year. Times and custome change, but children seldom do.

Requests that Santa receives follow a general pattern each year—everything from bicycles to roller skates and cowboy suits for boys, with dolls and elaborate accessories the favorite with the girls.

There are some exceptions. Lots of children make requests for useful items, typewriters and such, in the hope of becoming writers and stenographers. Last year one lad asked for a Bengal tiger.

Santa, understanding human that he must be, promises to fill all the requests that he can and explains tenderly why there are some that are out of reach.

Swiss Brotherhood Sang At Christmas To End Plague

One of the most impressive customs in the world is observed in Switzerland where the "singing at the fountains" is done by the Sebastiani brotherhood in the picturesque spa town of Rheinfelden.

According to the Swiss writer Gottlieb Wyss, the custom is more than 400 years old, dating from 1540 when a plague, sweeping through many lands, visited Rheinfelden. Twelve men formed a brotherhood in honor of St. Sebastian, promising to pray to him to safeguard their town from further distress. They also undertook to nurse those afflicted by the plague and to bury its victims.

If one of their own members died, the brethren acted as pallbearers, and up to the present day, by their own selection, the membership of the brotherhood has remained at 12.

Pestilence in the medieval period was ascribed to the evil spirits in the water, and when the Sebastiani brethren make their rounds of seven fountains on Christmas eve, they start at the fountain in the "Froschweide" where the plague started in the 16th century. After singing for the seventh time near the town church, they join its congregation for midnight mass, first placing their quaint mounted lantern, with its lighted candle, before the altar of St. Sebastian.

For their Christmas eve singing at twelve, brethren are dressed in dark clothes and black silk top-hats. Around their lantern-bear-

French "Angel" Woman of the Year

By DOROTHY ROE

Associated Press Women's Editor

Genevieve de Galard-Terraube, "the angel of Dien Bien Phu," has been named woman of the year in the 1954 annual women's editor poll of 17 newspapers.

The courage of the attractive, blue-eyed, 40-year-old French nurse who stuck to her post and ministered to the wounded until the last shot was fired in the siege of Dien Bien Phu provided one of the most dramatic news stories of the year and provided history with a new heroine. Awarded the French Legion of Honor and the U. S. Medal of Freedom for her heroism, the young nurse has returned to France after a recent triumphal tour of the United States at the invitation of Congress.

Others named outstanding in their fields for 1954 are:

Business: Jacqueline Cochran, business woman - aviatrix - author, who this year added to her many honors an autobiography, "The Stars at Noon," and two new air honors: first woman to break the sound barrier, and first woman to set the jet speed record of 652 m.p.h.

Sports: Babe Didrikson Zaharias, who went on to greater golfing honors in 1954 after winning a desperate bout with cancer in 1953. She was awarded the William D. Richardson trophy as the person who made the outstanding contribution to golf this year, won her third Women's National Open championship, captured her fifth All-American Women's Pro title, was inducted into Texas Hall of Fame, won the Ben Hogan trophy for having overcome the greatest physical handicap in 1953 and was a guest for dinner at the White House.

Education: Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, former head of the Women's Army Corps, also named on the year's list of the 12 best-dressed women in the world.

Public Service: Clare Boothe Luce, first woman ambassador to Rome, who effectively quashed recent rumors of her resignation.

Literature: Pearl S. Buck, novelist, whose autobiography, "My Several Worlds," has just been published.

Entertainment: Audrey Hepburn, pixie stage and screen star, who won the movies' Oscar and married Mel Ferrer, her leading man in the recent Broadway hit, "On-Dine."

Politics: Margaret Chase Smith, reelected senator from Maine by a smashing victory.

they stand in a circle and three times, as the name of Christ is mentioned in their song, they uncover their heads.

On New Year's eve, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the Brethren make another round of the fountains, this time singing an old song which concludes with the wish that St. Sebastian may intercede for all in the New Year so that they may be safeguarded from war, pestilence and other perils.



POLITICS
MARGARET CHASE SMITH



ENTERTAINMENT
AUDREY HEPBURN



LITERATURE
PEARL S. BUCK



WOMAN OF THE YEAR
GENEVIEVE DE GALARD-TERRAUBE



PUBLIC SERVICE
CLARE BOOthe LUCE



BUSINESS
JACQUELINE COCHRAN



SPORTS
BABE ZAHARIAS



EDUCATION
OVETA CULP HOBBY

Mistletoe Has Outlived Sinister Name

Mistletoe, once used as a weapon of death, is now almost a universal symbol of love and peace.

According to Norse mythology, there was a god named Balder, who personified the sun. Loki, another god, plotted to destroy Balder.

Balder's mother, when she first learned of Loki's intentions to kill her son, obtained a promise from all living things that they would not harm Balder. All agreed, but the mistletoe, so it was with a mistletoe arrow that Loki induced Balder's blind brother, Hoder, to kill the sun god.

Higher powers intervened, however, and Balder was restored to life. The mistletoe was placed under Frigga's care, and the mother of Balda saw that it was never again used to do harm.

The custom of giving a kiss of love or peace beneath the mistletoe is an assurance that it will never again be used as an instrument of evil.

Switzerland has electrified 94 per cent of its railroads.



ELIJAH WORLEY FREESE, spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. of Clyde. After finishing boot training in San Calif., he was transferred to man, Okla., for eight weeks is now stationed in Tenn.

Two new strawberry varieties, Dixieland and Pocahontas, recently been introduced and commended for trial plots North Carolina.

The marine service linked England with Ireland and the continent operated by British Railways transports annual 3,675,000 passengers, 1,500,000 tons of freight and 200,000 head of cattle and 110,000 vehicles.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May your joy this Christmas Season be as continuous as the wreath of holly.

May your happiness and good health during the coming New Year be without end.

PARTON'S FEED STORE

DEPOT ST.

GL 6-4581

People Yearn For Old-Fashioned Christmas Again

"How I would long to see just one more 'old-fashioned Christmas'."

These are familiar words at this time of the year. Before the Yuletide season is over, some member of the family, grandfather or grandmother, probably, is certain to pass that remark, as they have done each Christmas of the past.

And yet, if we search back into the records . . . to the turn of the century, say . . . we find that, even then, someone was wishing for "an old-fashioned Christmas." It is then that we realize that the celebration of the birth of Christ has not changed greatly with the passage of centuries. Basically, Christmas is the same, year after year. It is only the world and the people who are not the same.

He may not admit it, but when grandfather first began to raise a family, he overheard his elders musing over the changing Christmas customs and heralding the approach to "complete commercialism" of the Yuletide celebration. Even then they were worried.

No one can deny that Christmas has been greatly "commercialized" since the days of early America. Yet, so has the entire nation. In the days of our ancestors there were none of the vast trading centers and commercial marts that we know today. Our very way of life has been greatly changed with modernization. Our holidays, and Christmas is the principal one, have managed to keep abreast.

Still, without reservation, Christmas is basically unchanged in its true meaning as a celebration of the birth of the Christ-Child redeemer, come to save the world. No matter how great or how small the presents piled beneath the tree, each Christian heart never ceases to remember that Christmas is Christ's day.

Chicago Recalls Christmas, 1804

Surley there will never be another Christmas celebration like the one in Chicago in 1804.

Captain John Whistler (grandfather of the painter who painted the famous "Whistler's Mother") was in command of the garrison at Fort Dearborn and he decided that there should be a great feast—complete with music, dancing and a splendid Christmas tree.

Soldiers from the garrison went a-hunting in the woods just north of the river and came back with a fat buck deer, some rabbits, a raccoon or two, a few wild turkeys. Added to the roasting pig (contributed by some festive-minded citizen) and the magnificent Christmas pudding, these morsels provided abundance for all. Everybody—the civilians and the military—trank a toast to Thomas Jefferson, the President of the United States.

The punch was "dizzy" and there were fifes and drums and a couple of fiddles to play for the dancing.

It was getting late when a watcher in one of the blockhouses gave a warning shout that Indians were approaching; but they turned out to be friendly Indians who came bearing gifts to the feast. They watched the white folks dance, and when the whites were exhausted, the redskins took the floor and began a wild, whooping dance of their own which climaxed Chicago's unique Christmas celebration in 1804.

Dollar Saved

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—They're telling this one about Jesse Jones, publisher of the Huston Chronicle and former cabinet member:

He bet \$1 with W.D. Owen manager of Jones' Rice Hotel garage, on a football game—and lost.

"That's one dollar I'm going to frame," chuckled Owen.

"Well," said millionaire Jones, "if you're not going to spend it, I'll just give you an I.O.U."

Christmas Day Has Moved About On The Calendar

Christmas was once a movable feast. The eastern branches of the Christian church usually celebrated it in April or May. Western Europe sometime in January.

In 337 A.D., St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, set out to make the date universal. With the permission of Pope Junius I, he appointed a commission to determine, if possible, the precise date of Christ's nativity. The theologians of the Church finally agreed upon December 25, and since the year 354 this date has been celebrated.

Members of the Greek, Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches in the 20th century observed the date of January 7.

Merry Christmas

May all the joys of the season dwell in your heart and in your home on Christmas and throughout the year.

Red Wing - GIFT SHOP -

202 N. Main Street
Waynesville



May the old fashioned Christmas spirit of peace and joy embrace your home this glorious holiday season. And may the richest gifts—health, happiness and good will come to you and your dear ones.

Greetings of the SEASON

WAYNESVILLE AUTO PARTS

HAYWOOD STREET

GL 6-5321

HOLIDAY Greetings

At this happy time we wish all our friends and neighbors a Merry Christmas, replete with all the season's joys!

HOWELL'S HARDWARE

Joe Howell, Owner
Main Street

May the true Peace of Christmas abide with you always

KETNERS'

Dial GL 6-6005 Lake Jun