

# SANTA'S PROBLEM PUP

CHAPTER 3  
By Bob Boyle

After lunch Juniperperper and Jinkernipes helped Mrs. Claus clear away the dishes. Santa was at the huge table enjoying his after-dinner pipeful of tobacco.

"Hey, where is Peako?" Juniperperper said.  
"I don't know, where is he?" Jinkernipes asked.  
Mrs. Claus looked in the kitchen and couldn't find him.  
"Now I wonder where the pup could be," she said.

The three went back into the wood-paneled dining room.  
"Hey, there he is," Jinkernipes said. "Look, he is stretched out across Santa's feet and is sleeping."

"He really looks comfortable," Juniperperper said.  
"Well, I think that dog should stay in the kitchen," Mrs. Claus said.

She gave a low whistle. Peako perked up his ears. She whistled again and Peako lifted his head.

She whistled and whistled again.

"But Peako didn't move."

"He wants to stay with Santa," Juniperperper said.

"I guess he is tired after a busy morning," Jinkernipes said.

"Then we'll let the little dear sleep right here until Santa finishes his pipe," Mrs. Claus said.

"You know I think Santa is Peako's favorite," Juniperperper said.

"And it's no wonder," Jinkernipes replied.

"Did Santa ever have a dog, Mrs. Claus?" Juniperperper asked.

"Oh, I guess he has had thousands of dogs," she replied.

"Of his very own?" Juniperperper asked.

"No, none that he ever kept," Mrs. Claus said.

"Why not?" Jinkernipes asked.

"Well Santa has the rule that all puppies must be given out on Christmas," she said.

"He loves dogs so much that if he started to keep one for himself, we probably would have a hundred."

Just then Miss Kay Nihn, the kennel keeper, came bursting into the kitchen.

"What's going on here?" she said.

"That isn't nice," Santa said. "But what is the problem, Miss Nihn?" Santa asked.

"Hello Kay," Mrs. Claus said. "What do you mean?"

"I understand that there is a dog in this house," Miss Kay Nihn said. "And I am in charge of all North Pole dogs. I want to know if it is true that there is a dog here, who brought him here, and why isn't he in my kennel."

With that Peako came bounding in.

"See, there is a dog here," Miss Kay Nihn said. "Where did he come from and WHAT is he doing here?"

The boys here found him behind a snowbank," Santa said. "And they brought him here."

"A likely story," Miss Kay Nihn said.

"It's true," Juniperperper said.

"Well, Santa, give me the dog and I'll take him to the kennels," Miss Kay Nihn said smiling and pleased with herself.

"To the kennels?" Juniperperper said.

"Yes, that is the rule," Miss Kay Nihn said. "All dogs belong in the kennels."

"Not Peako," Jinkernipes said.

"Miss Kay Nihn is right," said Santa. He scratched Peako behind the ear and said, "Well, boy, you have to go to the kennels. It is a rule."

"Oh shucks," said Juniperperper.

"Fuddyduddy," said Jinkernipes in a whisper so soft that he wasn't heard.

Miss Kay Nihn put a leash on Peako and led him away.



Miss Kay Nihn put a leash on Peako and led him away.

"Mrs. Claus, you know right well that I am the keeper of the dogs here in the North Pole," she said.

"Yes, I know that Kay," Mrs. Claus said. "Why?"

"Well I understand that a couple of the male elves have a dog in this house," she said. "I don't approve of that at all. I'm in charge of the dogs."

"Oh, Kay, don't be such a fuddyduddy," Juniperperper said.

"Did you hear that, Mrs. Claus," Miss Kay Nihn said. "Juniperperper called me a bad name. He should be punished."

"You are a fuddyduddy," Jinkernipes said.

"Him too, Mrs. Claus," Miss Kay Nihn said. "They both called me a bad name and I want them reported to Santa Claus. He should punish them."

Just then Santa came into the room.

"What's going on here?" he said. "What's all this noise?"

"Santa, I am glad you're here," Miss Kay Nihn said. "These two elves used bad words and I want them punished."

"Tsh, tsh," Santa said. "What do you have to say for yourselves?"

"Santa, she is a fuddyduddy," Jinkernipes said.

"That isn't nice," Santa said. "But what is the problem, Miss Nihn?" Santa asked.

"I understand that there is a

# Old-Fashioned Christmas

During this Christmas week — after the hustle and bustle and crowds of shopping, and as we enjoy the decorations, gifts and family gatherings — North Carolinians may think that, in a world of almost instant upheaval, Christmas is the one thing that changes little.

Not so.

Christmas as we know it — the "gifts for everyone," the "commercialism" that many deplore, and even the lavishly decorated Christmas trees in homes, stores, and offices — are all primarily inventions of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

As a matter of fact, early New England Puritans even viewed Christmas as "Popish idolatry." In The Americans-The Democratic Experience, Daniel J. Boorstin explains that in 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an act punishing with a fine "anybody who is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, such days as Christmas day."

The law was repealed by 1681, but even as late as 1685, the diary of Judge Samuel Sewall noted with satisfaction that "on Christmas day everybody conducted business as usual."

During the next two centuries, Boorstin continues, Christmas remained a "simple folk holiday marked by no grand religious observance with little commercial significance." Typesetting was laborious and costly and the mainly institutional-type ads in newspapers remained the same for months at a time. Any mention of Christmas at all was simply the word "gifts" or "a good stock of toys available."

But by the end of the Civil War the fabled American enterprise entered the picture. On a cold December day, Macy's store in New York stayed open until midnight, grossing its largest day's sales ever. A few years later, the same store offered Christmas window displays, which quickly became an annual tradition.

Woolworth's is credited with being among the first to offer Christmas-tree ornaments, which, of course

are now a multi-million dollar industry. Boorstin notes that the inventor had to persuade the reluctant Woolworth to stock a few of the ornaments — only \$25 worth — as a trial.

Each enterprising merchant added something to the festival. In 1899 Woolworth was the first to offer a Christmas bonus to employes as a hedge against a strike during December, which was fast becoming the biggest sales month of the year.

Mail order houses, also becoming very big business, began to issue special Christmas catalogues; newspaper advertising and subsequent buying reached a peak during December and the annual "Christmas" rush was on.

And the effect shows no signs of slackening. Only the fluctuations of the economy seem to have any effect on the recurrent mania, despite perennial pleas for "sensible observances" and "less commercialism" and repeated appeals by some to "put Christ back in Christmas."

Even Santa Claus, the jolly old elf who surprises good children with toys and gifts of all kinds, had his share of controversy. The Democratic Experience traces the development of the character from the real St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop in Asia Minor, who became the patron saint of Russia, and mariners, thieves, virgins and children.

But, as he crossed the oceans to America, Santa became transformed into the hero today's children recognize. "His earliest conspicuous appearance in American literature," Boorstin explains, "was in Washington Irving's Knickerbocker's History of New York (1809), where St. Nicholas traveled through the skies in a wagon, and began to acquire some of his other features." Santa Claus's "rotund figure, jolly mien, and white beard were conferred on him by Thomas Nast."

# Holly — 'Tis The Season

The Christmas holiday just wouldn't be the same without the favorite plant of the season, holly.

This plant's association with Christmas is so strong that at one time it was the only Christmas tree. That was before the growth in popularity of pines, spruce, cedar and similar evergreens.

For those who are not satisfied with the quality or price of holly they can buy, the plant can be grown at home. Holly is found around many Tar Heel homes, but some people object to it as a yard plant.

For transplanting, most people prefer to buy nursery grown hollies rather than selecting a wild specimen. Wild specimens become too big to move safely from the woods without special equipment and very small hollies have a large proportion of unproductive (no berries) trees among them.

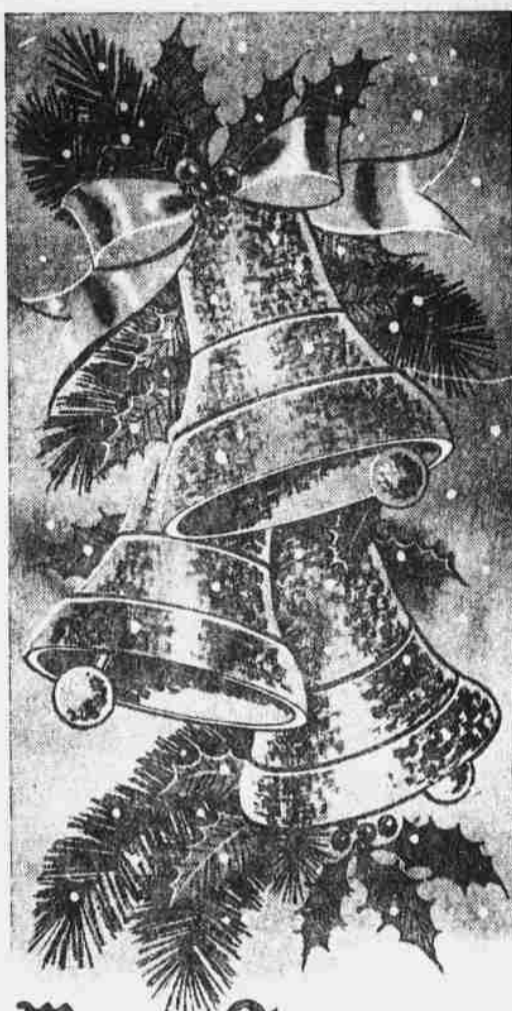
There are special holly varieties that bear even more heavily than the wild kinds. One of these Burford holly has become very popular because the foliage

is glossy and thrifty, and the berries are even more numerous than those of the wild holly.

Also, every plant will produce berries, there being no "drones" in Burfords.

Hollies should be transplanted in sheltered

places for best results. They need protection from the wind. The most familiar kinds, those with red berries, are generally too large for a base planting except at large buildings.



## Merry Christmas

AS JOYFUL CHURCH BELLS RING, WE WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS THAT CHRISTMAS TIME CAN BRING.

**FARMERS FEED & SEED**

206 W. GRUBB ST.

HERTFORD, N.C.

**CHRISTMAS Joy**

**WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST OF HOLIDAYS!**

**South-17 Drive-In Elizabeth City**

# Merry Christmas!

**Greetings**

Like jolly old Santa himself, we've a pack of good wishes for a holiday season that will long be remembered for its good cheer, and its enduring happiness.

**Hertford Hardware & Supply Company**  
HERTFORD, N. C.

it's His birthday  
please don't forget it.

Peoples Bank & Trust Company