WHERE'S Daddy?

By DANIEL F. LINDSAY

KALLY O'NEIL walked slowly up the front steps. Her mother watched her from behind the curtain. Being five years old and having a problem had her near tears. She reached up on tip toes and opened the door.

"Kally, honey. Come in here a minute." Kally pushed the hood of her snow suit back and went into the living room.

"What do you want, Mommie?" She shook her blonde curls free.

"Oh, nothing much," her mother smiled, "I just want to know why my little girl looks so sad?"

"Well, Mommie," she slipped her coat off, "it's that girl down the street."

"Yes, dear, what about her?"

Kally could stand it no longer. She burst into tears and running over laid her head on her mother's lap. "That girl says," she sobbed, "that there isn't any Santa Claus."

"Well, now," her mother leaned down and gently bit the tip of her ear, "who'd ever believe a tale like that?"

"You don't believe her?"

"Of course not," she smiled down into the worried blue eyes. "We know there's a Santa Claus."

"B-but she said Daddy was him."

"Oh, pooh. Sit down there on the floor and I'll help you get your snow pants off."

"We could ask Daddy," Kally suggested.

"Yes, we could," she had an inspiration. "Better still we can wait until tomorrow night and see for ourselves."

"We can?" she sat up in surprise.

"Sure. You go to bed just like always, then when he comes I'll wake you up."

"Santa was just coming out."

She got up from the floor all excited. "You mean we can peek?"

"That's just what we'll do."

"George," she turned to her husband that evening after Kally had been put to bed, "our daughter has quite a problem."

"Women always have problems," he smiled over his newspaper. "What is it this time?"

"She knows about Santa."

"That's too bad," he pursed his lips, "but what can we do?"

"Get someone to put her toys under the tree while she watches."

"Sure," he laid the paper down, "why couldn't I do it?"

"She heard that you are Santa."

He chuckled. "She isn't the only woman in the family who thinks that."

"How about Bob Perkins?" she ignored his attempt at humor. "He's the right build."

"Okay," he agreed, "I'll arrange it in the morning."

"Kally," her mother shook her gently, "Santa is downstairs."

"He is?" she sat up rubbing her eyes, "HE IS?!"

"Okay," she slipped out of bed and into her slippers. In the early morning light she looked like a tiny blond elf.

"Put on your robe."

SHE got it and took her mother's hand. They crept down the stairs. Mommie held her back while she made sure Santa wasn't smoking a cigar. He was placing gifts around the tree. She motioned her to look. Kally peeked around the corner with big eyes. Then her head darted back.

"Where's daddy?" she asked in a stage whisper.

They heard footsteps on the stairs. Daddy crept down. Kally peeked around the corner again. Santa was just coming out with an army barracks bag over his shoulder. The three of them ran and hid behind the staircase. As soon as the front door slammed Kally was up the steps like a shot.

"Hey, Sweetheart," Daddy called after her, "he left the toys in the living room." He stopped as he heard his wife's laughter.

"What's the matter with her?" he glared at her suspiciously. "Doesn't she like the little tike?"

"I'm afraid, dear, that you'll never understand the feminine mind."

"What do you mean . . . where's she going?"

"To get her coat."

"Her coat . . . why?"

"She's going down the street to tell the little girl that she's all wet. Because she has just seen Santa in her front room."

Gleaners Class Met For Christmas Party

The Gleaners Class of the First Baptist church held its December meeting on Monday night at the Woman's club house. This meeting, as is customary, was in the form of a gala Christmas party.

A stately tree, decorated with traditional lights and bright balls, was in one corner of the lounge. The mantel was decked with silvered foliage, nandina berries and burning red candles in silver holders. A lovely poinsettia graced the desk.

Mrs. J. B. Falls, president, presided and during the brief business session, funds were collected to aid a student at Gardner-Webb college.

Lively games and stunts were directed by Mrs. Charles Owens, Fellowship vice-president, after which gifts were exchanged among the members and Mrs. J. K. Willis, teacher of the class, was presented a gift of exquisite crystal.

Just before the exchange of gifts, the hostesses served a delicious salad and dessert course. The hostess committee was composed of Mesdames B. N. Barnes, G. C. Yelton, Boyce Gault, R. G. Whisnant, R. S. Oates and C. C Oates.

A succulent feed for a dairy cow is one with a high water content. Good examples are: pasture, silage, and soiling crops. Such feeds furnish a cheap source of feed nutrients and because of their succulence tend to keep the digestive system in good order. It is important that one be included in the ration throughout the year.

Oysters, crabs, terapin, clams and fish are the leading seafood production of Maryland.

Cotton prices edged upward during the last several weeks. Sales of spot cotton in October totaled 2,043,000 bales, the largest for any month on record. Domestic mills used about 826,000 bales, 14 per cent more than in September but 12 per cent less than in October 1946.

Since a good producing dairy cow, during the early part of the lactation period often draws on the mineral reserve stored in her bones, it is advisable to add to each 100 pounds of the concentrate ration 2 pounds of a mineral mixture composed of equal parts of finely ground limestone and steamed bone meal.

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