

Yes, Virginia, He's Real

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

You have heard this quotation repeated often, but do you know where it came from? The words first appeared in an editorial by Francis P. Church, which was printed Sept. 21, 1897, by the New York Sun. In the years since, the piece has deservedly become a classic.

We are reprinting that editorial today as a way of wishing a joyful Christmas to our readers young and old:

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

"Dear Editor,

"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?"

"Virginia O'Hanlon

"115 West Ninety-Fifth Street."

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 child-life 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 Santclaus. The most real things in the world are those that 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 there 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, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, 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 times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



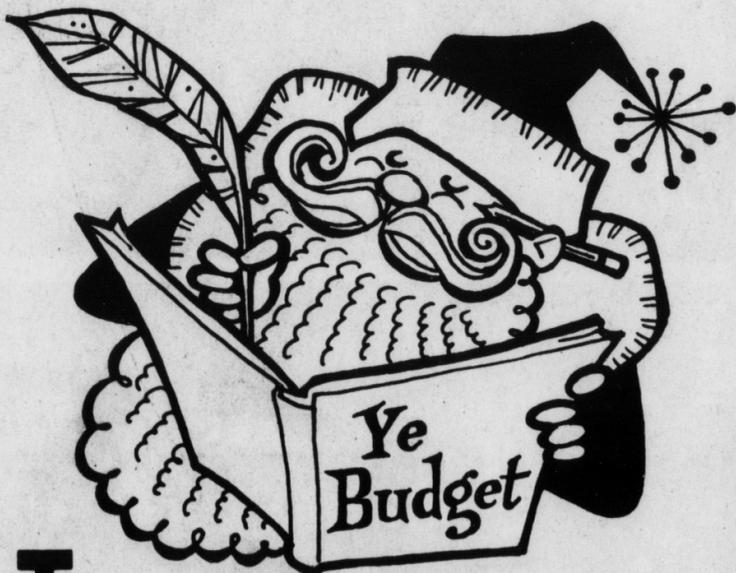
Allen's Flower Shop wishes to thank everyone involved with our Open House on December 6 for making it such a success. We will close at 1:00 on Christmas Eve and reopen on Monday, December 28.

We Wish Everyone A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
ALLEN'S FLOWER SHOP
 James & Selma Crawford

MAY THE DOVE OF PEACE FIND IT'S WAY INTO YOUR HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!



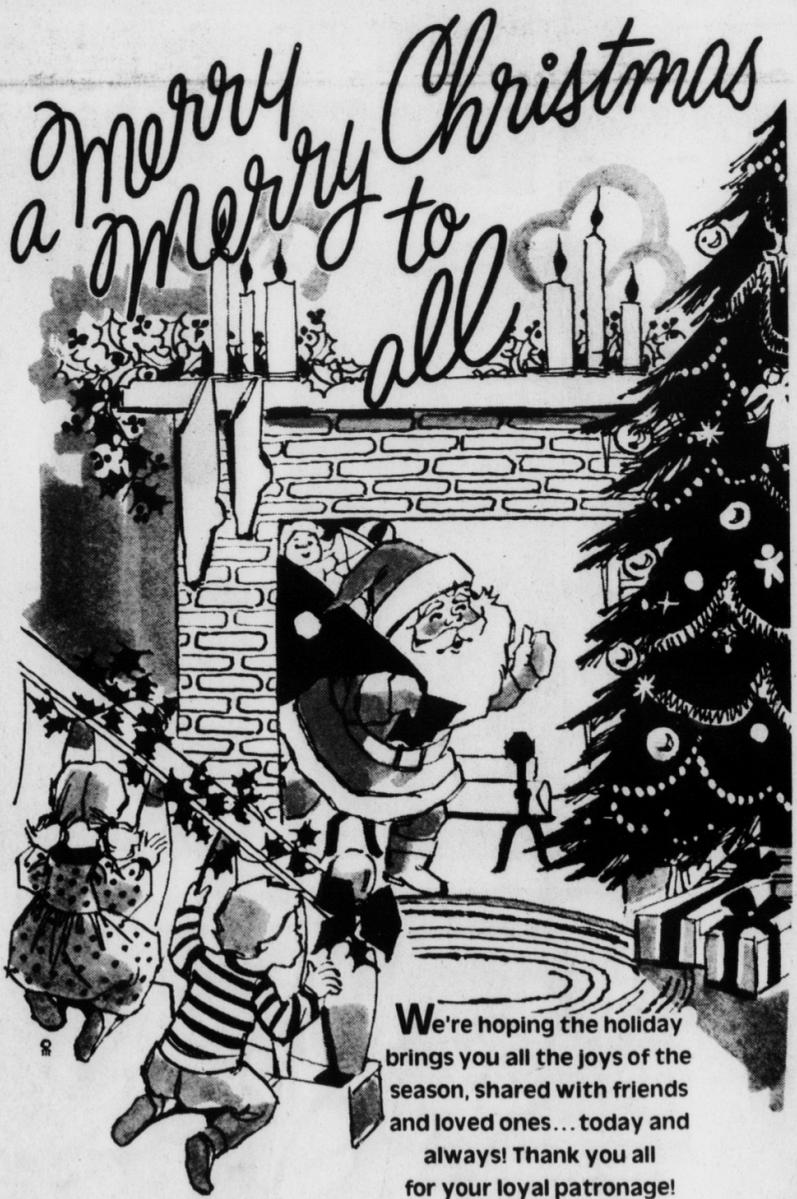
Bennett & John Masters & Staff Of MASTER'S FUNERAL HOME



The way we figure, this Christmas is going to be the best one yet! Hope it adds up to lots of smiles!

JOLLY GOOD WISHES

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN



a merry Christmas a merry to all

We're hoping the holiday brings you all the joys of the season, shared with friends and loved ones... today and always! Thank you all for your loyal patronage!

WADE FORD & Staff