

"PRINCE OF PEACE" BORN IN A MANGER

Origin Of Jolly 'Ole' Santa Claus

The droll figure we Americans know as Santa is actually a combination of many legends, reaching as far back as 200 A. D. St. Nicholas, the fore-runner of our modern St. Nick, was known for his generosity. After his death many European

Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

Each Christmas finds thousands of pilgrims from around the world making their way to the birthplace of Christ, and once again the many sacred spots in the Holy Land are thronged by the faithful. In Bethlehem, pilgrims make it a point to visit the Church of the Nativity, believed to have been built on the site where the Saviour was born. In Nazareth, they can see the little town where Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph. The Garden of Gethsemane is the place where Jesus wept and prayed before his crucifixion and in Jerusalem, pilgrims may visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditionally the place where Christ was crucified and buried.



THE JUGGLER

The juggler should have been happy. But, the truth to tell, no matter how wondrously he performed in the square before the great cathedral, he earned only jeers instead of coins. To add to his embarrassment, the Prior of the cathedral admonished him for desecrating a holy place. The poor juggler, possessed of the kindest of hearts, was sore distressed. On the admonition of the Prior, he renounced the vagabond life and became a monk, to atone for a wastrel life.

Soon thereafter, the monks were readying a festival to Our Lady. The erstwhile juggler decided to bring to the altar the only gift of which he was capable. Consequently, colorfully dressed again, he began to juggle before the statue of the Virgin. Horrified, the other monks sought to stop him. Imagine their wonder when the Blessed Mary herself intervened, stepping graciously from her pedestal with arms outstretched. Tenderly, she raised the prostrate juggler and wiped his brow with a fold of her raiment. The spellbound priests looked on in speechless awe. Only one was heard to murmur, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall

glorify themselves." (Continued On Page 24)

THE NUTCRACKER

One Christmas Eve, many years ago, a little girl named Marie received as a gift a wonderful wooden nutcracker. No ordinary kitchen tool, this -- but a brave hussar with high black shako and bright red coat, who cracked nuts between his teeth every time he clicked his

heels. No wonder Marie stole softly downstairs to see him again! But what was her astonishment, reaching the tree, to find a fierce battle raging between the plump parlor mice and the come-alive toy soldiers. To protect her from harm, the valiant nutcracker transformed himself into a boy prince, and bore her away to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. There, all her favorite candies joined in dances representing the countries from which the originated.

Light as spun sugar themselves, the children traveled on through the frosty night to the land of the Snow King and his Queen. Before scintillating thrones of ice, they whirled with the dazzling snowflakes, until a drift of perfumed blossoms melted the ice-bound court, and wreathed the drowsy children with the magic of spring. Deep in a mist of dreams, Marie and the little Prince lost one another. When at last Marie awoke in her little white bed at home, the amazing nutcracker lay stiffly on the counterpane. But the Prince, long a changeling by enchantment, had escaped forever into the Land of Dreams Come True. Ever since that night, the nutcracker has refused to talk about the strange adventure. But at times there is a twinkle in his eye which amounts almost to a wink. Marie knows that he, too, will never forget! At great formal parties when her father and mother entertain the peers of the Realm, the nutcracker is an object of special delight to all -- and only Marie truly knows why.

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St. Francis Originated Yule Carol

At this most joyous of seasons, have you ever wondered how our modern-day Christmas carol came about? None other than St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, is credited with originating the Christmas carol as we know it.

It was he who first conducted a Christmas mass, singing the Gospel and giving the main sermon in song. This new and wonderful way of saying the mass was kept alive till the time of Richard the Lion-hearted. Minstrels and folk-singers passed them on from generation to generation.

During the 15th Century the singing of the Gospel broke away from the austere, sombre chants of the Church, going on to achieve greater magnificence and musical splendor.

In the 17th century, during the Puritan's time, the Christmas carol went into a decline because of the belief that celebrations should not be joyous. Not until the 19th century did the Carol have a semblance of returning with all of its jovial popularity. And this was achieved only through illegal printing and singing of carols in private homes.

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The Christmas Story Retold In All Glory

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about

them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Tune In On Christmas

If ever there is a time of year when sound is essential, it is Christmas. There are so many wonderful things to hear! Choirs lifting their voices prayerfully, carolers extolling the season cheerfully, children making their earnest pleas to Santa Claus, voices of dear ones over the long distance wires, friends laughing and happy, holiday music on radio and television, sleigh bells and church bells and door bells.

Yes, Christmas is the gayest, most pleasant holiday of them all, and sound is the keynote to the whole event. Consequently, what is sadder than the sight of an older member of the family who cannot hear as well as he was once able. He feels that Christmas isn't as much fun as it used to be. He thinks it's probably because people aren't as friendly, as cordial, as warm and wonderful as in the good old days.

He resents the music he cannot hear. It annoys him when people seem not to talk clearly or loudly enough. He is apt to be grouchy because no one is spending time with him. It may be Christmas, but he

is bitter, and dissatisfied and terribly disappointed that things cannot be the way he remembers them.

What can be done for the older member of the family to bring him back into the full circle of Christmas spirit and love? How can he be expected to enjoy that in which he cannot fully participate? What can the family do to "win him back to the fold?"

The answer is a simple one: give him the gift of sound this Christmas. Give him a hearing aid fitted to his exact needs and comfort. A hearing aid is a gift the entire family can purchase and give together, and it is a gift that will go on giving, Christmas after Christmas after Christmas!

Don't let an older member of your family sit on the sidelines this Christmas -- help him to totally enjoy the holiday. Bring the whole season into focus for him. Give him the intangible gift of hearing, in the tangible form of a hearing aid. You'll enjoy your holiday better, too!

It's sound advice from the Hearing Aid Industry Conference.

Old Fashioned Setting Makes Cheery Christmas

Eric-brac, a hearth, grandmother's antiques, bay windows, wooden staircases and stately parlors -- all are reminders of the Victorian era when world problems seemed far away, almost lost in a veil of gossamer.

Nostalgia, to be sure, but these items lend something special to Christmas and you may want to incorporate a portion of them in your setting. If you have such pieces or installations in your home, or traditional furnishings of any period, you will want them to look their best for the holiday.

Properly burnished with wax or polish, and perhaps draped

in cedar boughs, these pieces can give off a yuletide glow all their own.

To give your setting an extra touch, the United Wallpaper Company suggests that you prepare your room with a traditional wallcovering in one of the brilliant flocked designs.

The new Minticello collection contains flocked demasks reminiscent of cut velvet in ruby reds, soft golds, white on white, dramatic black and red, and graceful two-tone flocks in a variety of combinations for even greater elegance.

Flocked papers look and feel luxurious, and have a vinyl-coated background to enhance

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Have A Healthy Holiday

Jingle bells! Jingle bells! Jingle all the way!

It's that time of year again. Time for the fast social whirl -- the parties, the luncheons, the gift exchanges, the out-of-town guests, the unexpected visitors. And that means added excitement, confusion, hurrying around, tension, unanticipated crises -- on top of running a holiday household.

The holiday hustle and bustle is fun and time-consuming. When there's so much to do, it's easy to let some of your regular routines lapse. But your family's health is one routine that requires constant attention, all the time, and especially at holiday time when everyone wants to be in the best of health. At that busy time of year,

you can't afford to relax your family health practices. Whether you are thinking about them or not, bacteria are a constant threat to your family's health.

Infections from staphylococcus bacteria, for instance, can affect the skin and eyes, and the respiratory and digestive systems. Unchecked, they grow on the skin and in nasal passages and spread to the environment where they are disseminated in the air, in plumbing, on walls and floors, on furniture, in clothes -- anywhere.

Regular family health habits are the best protection against staph bacteria. Frequent hand washing and daily baths with an anti-bacterial soap such as Dial

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A SCENE FROM THE MANGER ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

SEND HOLIDAY JOY TO YOUR RELATIVES LIVING FAR AWAY

At least once during Christmastide, you'll be gathering friends and relatives in your home -- you'll have decorations, punch, laughter, music, and song.

And during the festivities, your thoughts will turn to other close relatives and friends who couldn't be with you.

Why not send the party to them?

Gather everyone around the Hammond Organ, for example, and make a simple tape recording of the fun and gaiety. Have the youngsters take turns at the electric organ, playing Jingle Bells and other fun songs of the season to demonstrate their accomplishments.

For an added fillip, the youngsters can imitate sounds of an Hawaiian guitar, a violin, or chimes, on the Hammond, Re-

latives will think you've brought a whole orchestra home for Christmas... and so will the friends on hand.

Take your turn at the organ, too, for the instrument is one enjoyed by all ages both playing and listening.

You'll get added fun by rehearsing in advance of the party. Have the family decide who will play what tunes.

A Hammond Organ is so simple to learn to play and brings forth such professional tones that with only a few rehearsals everyone will sound "accomplished" on the recording tape.

At the end of the group musical recording "session," have each person send a verbal message backgrounded with appropriate Christmas time music.

Your taping project will give

the entire family the extra good feeling of shared participation, will certainly delight the recipients, and will add a special attraction to your Christmas time gatherings.

TINY PACKAGE

There has been a saying that "good things come in small packages," and exciting Christmas gifts are no exception to the rule. What bigger and more thrilling gift could you possibly give to a loved one than the whole wide wonderful world of sound packaged in a tiny, modern, transistorized, miniature hearing aid, weighing barely an ounce! Don't let someone you love turn a deaf ear to Christmas -- this year give a sound gift.

Candles Make Good Setting

Although the origin of Yuletide candles has long been forgotten, candles at Christmastime are a well-loved tradition in most homes today. Nothing quite equals the lovely, soft glow of graceful tapers, particularly when displayed in an imaginative setting. An especially effective centerpiece can be designed with tree ornaments, combined with sprays of flat cedar, dipped in white paint and sprinkled with artificial snow; or clusters of fir branches and pine cones can also be used to great advantage with colorful candles. Brighten your home during the holiday with candlelight!

How Yule Came Into Existence

Our Holiday Season with its joyous feeling mixed with religious observance intrigues many as to its beginning. Of course there are many legends and interpretations concerning the origin of Christmas, its name and why we celebrate it during December. Much time and study were given to establish a reasonable date and answers to give us the Christmas we now enjoy. The fourth century is as far as clerical researchers and lay scholars can go, into history, to pinpoint the observance of our traditional Christmas. However, the custom of a Christmas festival was already established dating back from pre-Christian eras.

The word CHRISTMAS began as "Christ's Mass" or from old English "Christes Masse" or the Mass of Christ, and it was St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, who strived to set up a universal day of observance from its regular spring celebration. The good bishop was granted permission by Pope Julius I to appoint leading theologians of the time to determine, as accurately as they could, the date of Christ's nativity. Having discovered many discrepancies and contradictions in astrological and astronomical calendars for the accurate celebration of Christ's

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CANDLES CREATE GAY HOLIDAY SETTING

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A VISIT FROM St. Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And Mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap; When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash,

To open the shutters and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on Cupid! on Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky:

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too. And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof, The prancing and pawing of each little hoof -- As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!

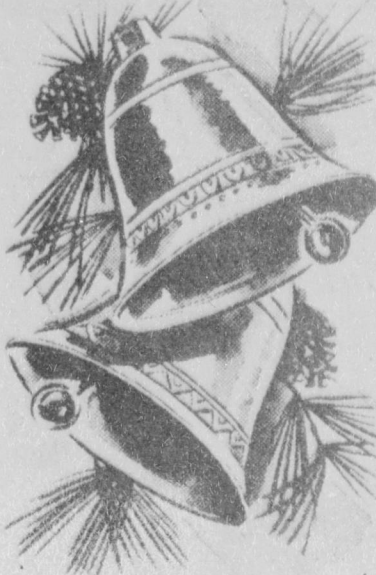
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself, A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

By Dr. Clement Clark Moore



The Bells Of Locen

A delightful legend surrounds the custom of bell-ringing at Christmas. Many years ago, so the story goes, the little town of Locen, Holland, boasted two fine bells that gave forth clear, lovely tones. But one night they mysteriously disappeared. In vain the townspeople searched for them; then, on Christmas Eve, at the stroke of midnight, the familiar bell tones rang out. No one knew where the sound came from but each successive Christmas Eve the bells rang out over the little town and their fame spread far and wide.