

Wanted: Couch Shrinker! Santa's Measurement Wrong

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(AP)—“Have a nice Christmas?” No thanks, I just had one. What I am looking for now is a bear trap—to catch Santa Claus.

It's a long story. Sit down and I'll tell it to you. My Christmas started out real nice. I got dozens of friendly messages. Some of them were from well known people. The governor of Michigan sent me a Christmas card. And so did Dorothy Lamour, Roy Rogers, Mory Amsterdam, comic Sid Caesar and pretty Margaret Phelan, the red-haired warbler at the Waldorf.

And somebody sent a scarf. Another fellow sent a bottle of bourbon to help tide up over the water shortage. And, naturally, I got a necktie. It came from a bachelor. It was a delicate purple and decorated with 15 naked ladies, seated, with hands clasped over their knees. I intend to offer the whole tie to the Museum of Modern Art, as I would feel a little silly going around with 15 unclad ladies dangling from my neck. Who wants to look like a sales catalog of French postcards?

But the pleasantest part of my Christmas was the goodwill expressed on cards sent by readers. I thought it was kind of them indeed to take time out from their own busy day to send a greeting to a guy they'd never met except in a newspaper. One old Irish lady in Denver wrote: “May God bless you and keep you in good health.”

Well, I went home from work last Friday feeling good about everything.

“What do you most want Santa Claus to bring you?” Frances asked.

“I asked him to bring me a couch for my brown study,” I said.

“I wouldn't amaze me if he did, Rover boy,” said my wife. My “brown study” is a utility bedroom that I have been trying for three years to convert into a workplace. In that time I have furnished it with a rug, a desk, a chair, some books and a typewriter. But it needed a couch. A couch is as essential to a columnist as it is to a psychiatrist, as all really deep thinking is done horizontally.

Well, a few hours after I got home there came a rap on the door. Three perspiring expressmen stood outside.

“Santa sent you a couch—we are his little helpers,” they said. “Sign here. Where ya want it?”

They jugged in the pillows and the mattress and the slide-out understructure—and put them in the brown study. Then, grunting and groaning, all three lifted the heavy couch frame. They bore it through the living room. But it stuck in the door leading to the study.

“Easy does it—turn it around,” said the straw boss.

Seventeen tries later he said: “It just won't go in. It's too big for the doorway.”

So they carted it back into the living room, set it on its side, and left saying:

“Sorry Mac, Merry Christmas to all.”

And there the couch frame is now—still on its side in the living room. I have to climb over it to sit in my reading chair. And what we are going to do about it, I don't know. Couches don't shrink and doorways won't expand.

Santa Claus just forgot to make a few measurements. And you know what I'd like to do? I'd like to go to his house at the North Pole and wait until he took Mrs. Claus out to the movies. Then I'd like to put a big horse in his bathtub and tie it to the faucet with a sign saying:

“Merry Christmas—bah, humbug!”

NO-GUN MAN STILL ALIVE

DENVER.—(AP)—The way to keep out of trouble in an old-time Colorado mining camp was to leave your gun at home, Frank Stewart says.

Stewart avoided “lead poisoning” so nimble that next year he will celebrate his 92nd birthday. Stewart lived in Tincup, a Gunnison county gold camp, at the time it was noted for the high mortality rate of its law enforcement officers.

“There was rough young boys from all over the country, but they weren't really gunmen,” the pioneer mining man said. “If they knew you had a gun, though, they often shot just to get in the first one. If you didn't carry a gun, nobody seared shooting.”

HOW TO GET HURT!
SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.—(AP)—The display case in police Chief William D. Gilchrist's outer office features:

A razor blade inserted into a section of rubber hose. If the flim gets hit he gets cut. If he grabs it the attacker pulls it through his hand. No hand. A slim little knife with a string attached to the handle. Hung from the back of an attacker's neck, he can whirl it into a victim. A bicycle chain with a friction tape handle. It leaves a characteristic indentation on a skull. An iron ball on the end of a chain. A piece of lead-loaded pipe, neatly bound with tape. Both headache material.

The chief's advice to persons confronted with such playthings in the hands of hoodlums: “Do nothing. There's always the chance he may not use it. If he does, pray that his aim is bad.”

Eugene Motorist Hurt

ASTORIA, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A Eugene motorist, struck while checking his stalled car, was in a hospital today with a compound left leg fracture and internal injuries.

The motorist, Donald Blakely, 22, told police he was checking the fuel pump on his car when another car struck him and continued on at high speed. It happened during a heavy rainstorm. The accident occurred Sunday between Astoria and Seaside but was not reported by police until yesterday.

FAMILY POSTOFFICE
BAR HARBOR, Me.—(AP)—A grandfather, father and son, all named Tobias Roberts, have been postmasters at this famed summer resort community. The first, appointed by Pres-

By Hit-And-Run Driver

dent Martin Van Buren, served from 1838 to 1853 and from 1853 to 1861. The second served from 1870 to 1871. The incumbent took over in 1936.

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CITY Drive-In MARKET

ON HIGHWAY 99 • NORTH of GARDEN VALLEY JUNCTION

The gang at the City Drive In Market takes this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Our 1950 pledge is we will continue to sell at Roseburg's lowest prices during the coming year.

WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd

No. 2 Can Libby's
Crushed Pineapple
23c

1-Lb. Jar Shady Oak
Pure Strawberry Preserves
23c

2-Lb. Pkg. Armour's Cloverbloom
CHEESE FOOD
It's tops, it's
Armour's Star! 75c

No. 1/2 Can Sea Bird Light and Dark
TUNA FLAKES
15c

PICKET
PANCAKE FLOUR
Now... a good, low-priced pancake flour.
5 LBS. . . 35c 10 LBS. . . 67c

A New Type Foaming Cleanser
14 OZ. CAN
AJAX CLEANSER
We made a full 1,000 pound quantity purchase to sell at this low price. 7c

Full 46-Oz. Can Old South
ORANGE JUICE
25c

3-Lb. Can
SPRY SHORTENING
69c

MEAT SPECIALS

LEAN
SLICED BACON . . . lb. 39c

MORRELL'S SHORT SHANK
PICNIC HAMS . . . lb. 33c

STEER BEEF
ROUND STEAK . . . lb. 65c

SHOULDER OR BLADE
BEEF ROASTS . . . lb. 45c

SHOULDER
PORK ROASTS . . . lb. 35c

FRESH
PORK HOCKS . . . lb. 23c

PURE
PORK SAUSAGE . . . lb. 35c

SMOKED
BACON JOWLS . . . lb. 25c

BOB'S PRODUCE

U. S. NO. 2
POTATOES . . . 25 lbs. 69c

TEXAS PINK
GRAPEFRUIT . . . 3 for 27c

MUSTARD GREENS . . . 2 bun. 19c

RED RIPE
TOMATOES . . . lb. 23c

LARGE NAVEL
ORANGES . . . lb. 6c

Large Package Duz, Oxydol, Tide
SOAP POWDER . . . 25c

After Christmas Clearance
Reg. 89c Candy
Peppermint Wreaths
29c

22-OZ. CAN MORRELL'S
BEEF STEW 47c

NO. 2 1/2 CAN SACRAMENTO
YELLOW CLING PEACHES 25c

Large Cello Package
CANDY KISSES
6-oz. 19c

14-OZ. BOTTLE VAN CAMP'S
CATSUP 15c

3-LB. PACKAGE
POWDERED SUGAR 29c

No. 1 Oval Can Booth's
SARDINES
Mustard or
Tomato 15c

1-LB. PACKAGE ARMOUR'S
SHORTENING 21c

5-LB. LONG JOHN TIN
LUMBERJACK SYRUP 79c

COOKING SALAD OIL
MAZOLA, quart 59c

LARGE PACKAGE WHITE KING, DREFT, RINSO
SOAP POWDER 25c

POCKET TINS PRINCE ALBERT, VELVET
PIPE TOBACCO 10c

CRISCO AND SNOWDRIFT
SHORTENING 3-lb. can 79c

WESSON OIL, qt. 59c

NO. 303 CAN DEL MONTE
CREAM STYLE CORN
2 / 23c

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