

Santa Claus Is New York's Own; Landed Early With Dutch Settlers

(From the New York Times)

Santa Claus is peculiarly New York's own. Not only did he land here in Manhattan with the Dutch settlers three hundred years ago, but for almost two centuries he never took his presents out of the state. Here, in the genial company of Washington Irving, James Kirke Paulding and Clement Clarke Moore, he gradually changed the stern, gaunt aspect he had brought from Holland to his present bulging and benevolent mien. Here, too, a century ago he acquired his reindeer sleigh and his habit of coming on Christmas instead of on the Dutch St. Nicholas eve (Dec. 5). And thus, in his New York personality, he has finally found his way to all parts of the United States, to England, and even Australia and India.

Indeed, in the beginning, New York, as New Amsterdam, was dedicated to Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, by its Dutch founders. For Santa Claus—or Sinterklaas as it is now known—written in Holland as of course, only the centuries ago, but the name which Dutch children have given to their friend and gift bringer, the good Bishop-Saint Nicholas. And it is said that the ship which brought the first Dutch children to Manhattan Island bore his face as figurehead. From the first, too, his special day of Dec. 5 was set aside along with Christmas, New Year's Easter and Whit Sunday, as one of the five chief holidays of the new colony, just as it had been in Holland.

So, year after year, as regularly as St. Nicholas eve came around, in New Amsterdam, in Brooklyn (Brooklyn), in Fort Orange (Albany) and many another windmill-crowned hamlet above the icy Hudson, the children in every good Dutch family gathered in an expectant circle. For weeks beforehand they had trained their legs and helped with the milking and churning in an agony of good behavior. And now, their eager faces scrubbed as pink as the first place they, they sang their song to Santa Claus.

The Real Dutch Saint

In slightly differing Dutch versions that song has come down to us in various parts of New York state from Schenectady to Flatbush, but always substantially as it is given under the picture on this page. So it was sung in some old Kinderhook families as late as 1861, and so it is still sung in Holland today.

In the midst of it would come a knocking at the door and in would stride Santa Claus himself—not round and jolly, but solemn and majestic in trailing robes. In one hand he might have a basket of presents or a purse, but in the other was sure to be a birch rod, an awful warning to a naughty boy.

Each child, in turn, Santa Claus questioned about his behavior in the year gone by and, receiving a pat of approval or a warning shake of the head. Then, bidding them all look for his presents in the morning, the good saint suddenly flung a handful of toll-pennies into the room, and in the ensuing scramble vanished into the street.

Then the children put their hats on, or later the great blue yarn stockings made for the purpose, in the chimney corner for Santa Claus to fill on his night ride over the house-tops. Today, in Belgium and Holland, the children always tuck a carrot or bit of hay in their shoes for Santa Claus' faithful horse. For Santa Claus comes there in splendor, riding a fiery white charger and wearing a jeweled mitre and gloves. But in America, curiously enough, we have no record that Santa Claus ever rode a horse. Perhaps he had only his unicorn, as mentioned in the song, that could take him from place to place in a twinkling.

At any rate, he got about. For there, in the morning, over the hearth steaming with waffles and sausages and other good Dutch fare, were the blue stockings bulging with apples and olives, balls and dolls and toys. Only one stocking hung limp, holding nothing but the birch rod which the naughty must wear to school in his buttonhole.

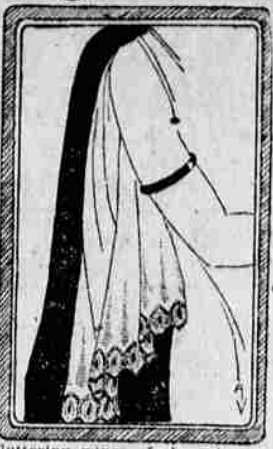
New Amsterdam Festivities

Santa Claus eve and Santa Claus day were only the beginning of the winter merry making in old New Amsterdam. For three of the five chief holidays on the official calendar came within the month. There was Christmas with its morning's turkey-shooting and family dinner parties. There was New Year's eve with bell ringing and gun firing, and the great festival of New Year's day with its special Dutch feature of New Year's calls.

After 1624, when New Netherland finally became New York under the English, poor Santa Claus soon found his day entirely gone from the list of public holidays, and in his own colony, too. For while the English governor and colonists in New York, unlike the Puritans of New England, were by that time ready to celebrate Christmas in the old English manner with holly and mistletoe, Yule logs andwassail, they paid no heed to Santa Claus.

Perhaps it was the Revolution that affected Santa Claus. At any rate, it was not long afterward that he broke almost two centuries of conformity to Dutch tradition and suddenly emerged, a free and independent American character. Instead of being gaunt and severe, he became here in New York the same of joviality, and so fat that he was never again much on walking or riding or being waited by means of magic tabards. Instead, for many years he drove in a little wagon drawn by a fat pony. In place of his long robes he took to breeches and shoe buckles of the Dutch colonial fashion. Soon he almost forgot that he had come on Dec. 5 and for almost half a century took to delivering gifts on

Angelic Touch



Fluttering wings of sheer lace on Milady's shoulder give a bit of an angelic touch to her evening gown.

SHRINKAGE SHOWN IN GERMANY COUNTY DAIRY PRODUCTS

EMMETT, Ida. (Special)—The November report of the Gem County Cow Testing association shows a shrinkage in the yield of both milk and butterfat. The report states that 326 cows were in the test; yield of milk was 163,095 pounds; butterfat 23,333 pounds. Forty-eight cows produced an average of 712 pounds of milk and 35.4 pounds of butterfat. The frost herd consisted of six cows, which averaged 892 pounds of milk and 38.8 pounds of butterfat.

STUDY APARTMENTS

CHICAGO (AP)—A consultation bureau to aid those about to build co-operative apartment buildings is planned by the National Association of Real Estate Boards. The bureau first will make a survey of the field from floor plans to financing.

ALL-METAL FIGHTING PLANE

LONDON (AP)—Built for the purpose of attacking enemy bombing planes, an all-metal fighting machine tested by the Air Ministry will maintain a speed of 175 miles an hour at an altitude of 15,000 feet.



Her Yuletide Preference!
Whitman's Chocolates

Something about their richness that lingers—a delightful something that makes them a "Gift of Good Taste!"

The Tiffin



Flowers for Christmas

When In Doubt

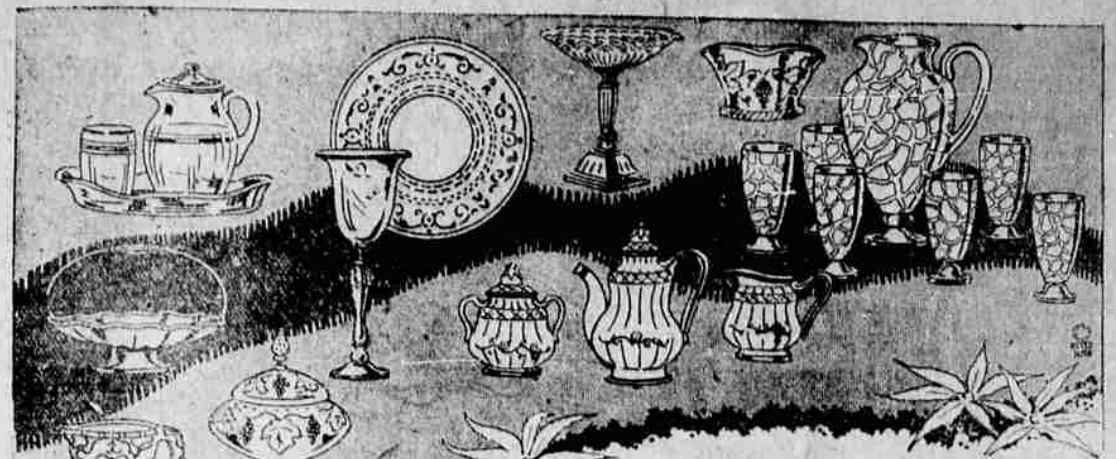
Flowers

FLOWERS of rare and exotic loveliness make a charming symbol of your Christmas greetings. We have all varieties of exquisite fresh cut flowers and potted plants that will bring delight to those who receive them.

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Clarks Florists

Foley Hotel Bldg.



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for all the family at the Christmas Store

Gifts for Mother, Father, Brother, Sister—for all the family—can be found at the OREGON HARDWARE STORE. In our Art and Gift Department you will find a choice selection of beautiful and distinctive gifts that add so much to home comfort.

For the Kiddies we have a large variety of Playthings in our Toy Town. Come in and see the thousands of delightful gifts.

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Hand painted to your order. 13 in. by 26 in. and framed. 98c

Waffle Irons

Six-inch Torrid Jr. Fully guaranteed and standard in every respect \$3.98

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Full size, all steel, roller bearings \$4.98

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Animated, Wooden Toys, 10-inch size, highly decorated 49c

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Artistic Vase Lamps Complete selection in parchment and art glass shades; hand decorated, \$3.95 Each



Czecho-Slovakian high color, hand decorated vases, \$1.95 to \$6.95



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