

Portland's Christmas scenes



Kind, gentle Santa Claus radiates happiness to all

by Barbara Earnest

In the midst of a jumble of crowding, complaining, weary Christmas shoppers, it is possible to find a small corner where the traditional happiness of the holiday is still apparent.

This oasis of pleasure is nothing less than the realm of the roly-poly, happy, kind and gentle man in the red and white suit—Santa Claus.

Into his spacious lap climb youngsters of every age and from every background, but suddenly they are all equal, they are all believers.

The small, shy, thumb-sucking boy who is coaxed by mother and that strange man to go to him; the older, aggressive, saucy girl so proud of her new dress; all receive the same warm and enthusiastic welcome from their hero.

Small hands grabbing their prize—little plastic boats, a tin green car, a baby doll—are loved as much as the hands that wind their way around Santa's neck.

The tense faces of the tired mothers relax into a

glowing, adoring smile as they watch "their baby" tell Santa about Christmas.

A flicker of worry passes over the parent's face as she realizes that her child has again changed his mind about what he wants for Christmas, after she has just spent a large portion of her money for the gift he had so longed for before.

Likewise, the child glances warily at his mother when he assures Santa that he has been a very good boy all year long, and he always helps his mommy.

The sense of peace and security reaches out to enthrall the passer-by. The hurried shopper finds enough time to pause and watch a toddler whisper into Santa's ear. They turn away with smiles, reminiscent, anticipating, or simply peaceful.

To the believer, this jolly and sincere man is indeed a marvelous person. Yet even the "enlightened" person who considers everything a fairy tale must agree that Santa Claus has a wonderful quality—the ability to radiate the happiness that was meant to accompany this day.



—Illustration by Daniel Rhodes—

Music, art, candy canes, tree bring students into holiday spirit

by Cynthia Froom

The halls are alive with the spirit of Christmas. Everywhere we can overhear students saying, "Hey, what do you want for Christmas?" The appearance of bright smiles on students' faces let you know that Christmas vacation will soon be here.

Teachers may have a gripe about the Christmas season and for a very good reason. Students' visions change from math tests and English papers, to Christmas presents and holiday parties.

Strolls past the choir room also prove that a change is present. The "Sound of Music" has been replaced by "The Hallelujah Chorus." "Louie-Louie," a song that is constantly heard through the halls, is substituted by "Jolly

Old Saint Nick."

After school sales change from the traditional licorice whip to candy canes and chocolate snowmen. Art projects, formerly featuring drawings of bottles, chairs and portraits, now illustrate snowy winter Christmas scenes.

Students can be overheard cancelling plans for week-end skiing trips to the mountains, for a trip to the mountains to select their Christmas tree. Dating is slowed down to allow time for staying home and trimming the tree.

Christmas banners and posters in the halls and Christmas decorations in the classrooms turn the formerly dingy building into a bright, cheery Christmas setting.

The Christmas season changes Grant into a veritable wonderland.

Life-size nativity impresses visitors at shopping center

by Marilyn Best

Santa Claus, live deer, carolers, a life-sized nativity, America's most spectacular Christmas lighting display—this and much more is Christmas at Lloyd Center.

Thousands of people, young and old, come and join in the Christmas rush, but take time to admire the spectacular decorations. The 85-foot Douglas fir Christmas tree in the plaza bears 15,000 lights and stands higher than the Christmas tree at the White House.

It is this tree and the nativity scene, a setting designed to convey the atmosphere of ancient Palestine by the use of life-sized Biblical figures and animals depicting the Christmas story, that cause the shoppers to pause and gaze at the spectacular and religious display.

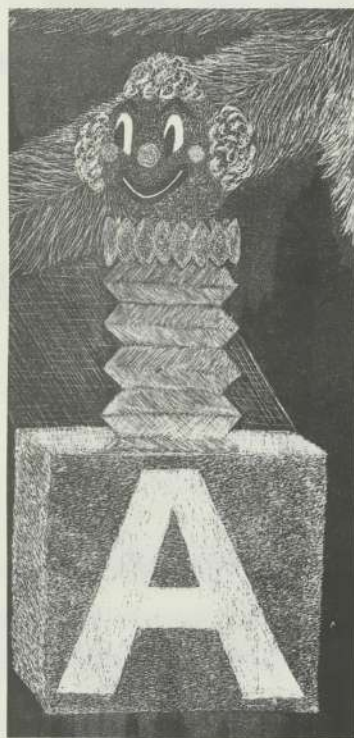
Sights, sounds, people representative of holiday season in downtown area

by Bonnie Brown

Headlights, glistening on steaming pavement,
Traffic lights, blinking reds and greens;
Street lights, glowing amid their holiday decoration,
A neon sign, reflecting time and temperature.
Hundreds of windows winking up and up—a star,
twinkling.

Honking horns and screeching tires,
A shuffling of feet as a light flashes.
Salvation Army volunteers — their bells ting-tinging,
Friendly greetings,
Door hissing close.
Ringing registers, chattering shoppers, crying laughing children.
Church chimes, echoing.

Impatient taxi drivers, giggling girls, pointing.
Customers inquiring; little folk, wondering;
Sales clerks, hoping; husbands, pondering.
Everyone hurrying, hurrying...
Christmas sings in downtown Portland.



—Illustration by Paulette Cerruti

shining
heart
of
Christmas



We take pride in our Christmas collection of religious jewelry. At this most joyous season, won't you consider the special pleasure such a gift will give to some one you love?

One of the West's
Finest Jewelers



Open Mon.,
Thurs., & Fri.
'til 9 P.M.

Stevens & Son
Jewelers & Silversmiths

Lloyd Center (West Mall) AT 4-2103; Salem 364-2224
Associated with Hardy's Inc. 511 Pine St., Seattle 1, Washington

DIVIDED PAYMENTS
No Interest or
Carrying Charges



Thespians
wishes
you
a
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**