

For What It's Worth .

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

I READ THE other day that post office bigwigs are becoming somewhat alarmed over the fact that there is very little, if any, mail for Santa Claus this year of 1952. Seems that those of the younger generation are not taking the old be-whiskered gentleman as seriously as the kiddies of generations past. This is taken to be just another one of those indications that the world is definitely on the downhill skids.

This sort of thinking on the part of adults has always puzzled me greatly. It has always appeared so inconsistent for mature people to be continually screaming for progress and at the

same time bemoaning and condemning change.

I am not nearly so concerned with the prospect of Santa Claus fading away as the traditional feature of Christmas as I am with the saddening possibility that the spirit of giving may somehow be lost with the passage of time. With Santa Claus, the popular conception had come to be that of "get" rather than that of "give." It was then only natural that giving should come to be thought of as merely a necessary evil which one accepted in order that he might receive.

As we gather our families around us this Christmas season, it might be well for us to further strengthen the oldest of all traditions connected with the birth of the Christ child: The bringing of gifts in the spirit of love and of friendship.

As for Saint Nick being entirely forgotten, I entertain no alarm whatsoever. There are enough grown-ups in this country who still believe in Santa Claus to keep the old gentleman from disappearing entirely.

And so as the Christmas season is upon us, may I take this opportunity to wish for all of those who have received any thought or pleasure from this column the past year the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years.



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