# LETTERS TO SANTA FROM ALL CLASSES

## Some Ask Needed Shoes and Stockings While Others Pine for Toys.

## ONE WILL "PAY LATER"

**Scattered in Among Notes of Joyful Expectancy to Patron Saint Are Some That Paint Vivid Pictures of Want and Lost Hope.**

Shoes and stockings are the things that are asked for most frequently in the hundreds of letters received at the Portland Postoffice addressed to Santa Claus.

Some of the letters are written by children who consider shoes and stockings as lightly as the air they breathe, and these boys and girls ask for all manner of things, from Teddy bears to life-sized automobiles.

One letter from a little girl, mailed without a stamp and addressed simply "Santa," says that the writer lives in a candy store on the East Side, but that she doesn't get candy very often, and would like some for Christmas. Careful directions are given in this letter as to where its writer may be found, but many of the odd little missives give no better clew as to whence they came than the postmark.

"I am a little girl 10 years old," says one letter, "and papa can't get no work and is not able to buy anything as I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers so you see he can't get me anything for Christmas. Santa one thing I want is some pretty hair ribbons of corse I nede shoes and I like nice dollyes too I hate to ask for to much please dont pass me."

**Some Badly Written.**

Some of the letters are mere scrawls, sent by children who have not yet learned to write, and addressed by their parents.

One letter from Yamhill, Or., legibly printed after two attempts had been made, reveals the fact that its little boy writer, for only a little boy would be so business-like, already has a fair idea of the credit system.

"DEaR SaNTA," he says, "I WOULD LIKE SOME PaINTS. PaY YOU LaTER."

This is another letter from a Portland child:

"Please give me a nice doll and a set of dishes and a rocking chair and a pair of stockings number 9 for my mamma she has not stockings atol she has to whair papas stockings and they are all ragged to and papa needs them to and I think thats all for this Christmas good by Santa from Anna."

An alternative is suggested in many of the letters. For instance:

"Dear Santa, please send me a tricycle if you cant send me a pocket nife."

The patron saint of childhood receives an urgent invitation to attend the Christmas exercises at the Troutdale School in a letter from a little girl. He is advised to wear a thick coat, because of the wind that is blowing at Troutdale.

**Come in Auto, Says One.**

"Come in an auto if the weather is fine," says the letter, "but if cold and snowy come with your sleigh and reindeers."

Many of the children put in a good word for some younger member of the family, as in the following:

"I want a by cycle auto mobile Dorothy wants a doll."

A little boy at Eagle Point, in Southern Oregon, writes that his papa "says you wont come here," and advises Santa that if he can't make Eagle Point in his rounds, there is a train running in there on which the presents may be sent.

"Dear Santa Claus—I am a little boy eight years old," runs another letter. "I have three sisters and 2 brothers. I want a pair of shoes and a pair of gloves and a new cap and some candy," and then, as a hesitating climax, "a new football."

A letter postmarked at Gilmer, Wash., says that its writer lives on a homestead, and that "there are no good roads, and mamma thinks you can't get here for Christmas."

**Not Much Expected.**

After reciting a long lists of wants, a little girl considers it the part of discretion to add:

"I go to Sunday school."

"Please stop at our house," pleads another letter. "We don't expect much, but would like a few things."

"I will write to you so you will not forget me," runs another. "I want a pair of shoes. We all want some shoes and some toys too, so do not forget us."

As in this letter, nearly all the children who ask for shoes express that wish before mentioning toys or candy.

One Portland boy writes: "On Christmas day bring me an automobile—also a lot of gasolene."

"Dear Santa—I want a Webster's academic dictionary and a bicycle," says a letter from a Hillsboro youngster.

A little Portland girl who trusts that Santa Claus will be able to find her all right, even though she does not give her street and number, writes the following chummy letter:

"My Dear Old Friend—I received your letter last Christmas. It was a good little letter, so I will answer it. Now I will tell you what I want. First I want a kewpie doll and then I want a hair ribon and then I want some puzzles and then I want some house slipers and I want lots of nuts and candy. Bring the first 3 things. But I would like to have the others to. I don't no if I am going to have a Christmas tree or not. I can't think of any more to write. So I will close. Your truly little friend, Emily Lingo."

**Boy Wants School Shoes.**

"Please send me a dolly and a story book. I am 7 years old," writes Pauline Brashear, from Yale, Wash. Her brother, Jones Brashear, 6 years old, wants a horn.

A little girl writes from Echo, Or.: "Please bring sister and I a teddy bear for Christmas."

"Dear Santa Claus," writes Lucien Brown from Silverton, "please send a doll for my sister and a train for my little brother.

The little sister is 4 years old. Lucien confides on the back of the sheet, which is covered with angular hen-tracks written by little sister herself.

A request for "school shoes and rubbers No. 4 and a pair of gloves" comes from a little boy who lives on a rural route out of Salem.

"I have two little brothers, one 6 years old," he continues. "Please send him a pair of overalls size 26x22 a pair of gloves and a pair of stockings No. 8 and one 4 years old please send him a pair of overalls 22x17 and a pair of shoes and rubbers No. 2."

The letter closes with never a mention of candy or toys.

The letters will be turned over by Postmaster Myers to the Associated Charities and other charitable organizations, and to persons who apply to him at his office on the first floor of the Postoffice building.

# CHILDREN TO ROMP IN OLD FASHIONED DRAMA

**Marsh Babies, Beverley Treglio, Mayo Methot, Lucille Treglio and Buster Van Rouk to Assist Baker Players in "Shore Acres."**

Photo by Davies.

KIDDIES IN "SHORE ACRES," AT THE BAKER. LEFT TO RIGHT —ARNO MARSH, JR., ARNON MARSH, BEVERLY TRAGLIO, MAYO METHOT, LUCILLE TRAGLIO, BUSTER VAN RONK.

THE children who take part in the Baker Players' production of "Shore Acres" this week certainly gave the photographer the time of his life keeping them in one place long enough to get a picture of them. They range from 2 months to 8 years old, and a brighter, more active bunch of children would be hard to find. They enter into the spirit of their respective roles like veterans. Some of them are veterans for that matter.

The familiar face of Mayo Methot, the leading child actress of the cast, is easily recognized, and then there are the two Treglio children, Lucille and Beverley, both of whom have been seen in different productions in this city. Buster Van Ronk has played heavy thinking roles with the Baker Players and aspires to leads already. The two younger children are the daughter and baby son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Marsh, Mr. Marsh being a former minstrel man, with Haverley's Minstrels and other organizations.

"Shore Acres" is a typical old-fashioned home picture of New England and the presence of these children contributes greatly to its success. Other children delight in seeing them on the stage. It is fun for these "kiddies" in the play, with no school for the week, to romp on the stage and have a real turkey dinner at every performance.

# FRANCHISE DELAY OPPOSED

**Milwaukie Wants to See Construction of New Line Go Ahead.**

MILWAUKIE, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The Milwaukie Commercial Club is anxious that the franchise of the Portland & Oregon City Railway shall stand as it is without being delayed by a referendum.

"Construction has gone forward on the south side of Milwaukie," said Secretary Johnson, "and the ties have been distributed up to the Milwaukie line and through Sellwood Addition. Cars will be in operation over this new line by April, unless it is held up by a referendum. Of course, we are on the outside and have nothing to say about the franchise, inside of Portland, but there is a large territory south of Portland deeply interested in this new railway. We sincerely trust there will be no referendum on the franchise."

The Commercial Club has started the circulation of petitions for the renaming of a number of streets. These petitions will be presented to the next regular meeting of the Council in January.



# 600 FAMILY MEN GO TO WORK THIS WEEK

## Every Department of City Government Bending Efforts to Help Unemployed.

## AGITATORS TRY TO ANNOY

**With Effort Being Made to Prevent Actual Want Persons Not Seeking Work Seek to Create Wave of Dissatisfaction.**

With every department in the city bending all efforts to relieve the conditions of the unemployed in Portland, several thousand men undoubtedly will be taken care of on a basis of two days' work each week at $3 a day, before the Spring work opens up and the situation is permanently relieved by developments that will follow in the natural way.

By putting family men at work first the Water Bureau alone, under Commissioner Daly, will relieve conditions in 600 families this week, according to the plans outlined by him yesterday. He has caused 200 notices to be sent for that many men, to be put to work on various jobs under his supervision, and he anticipates that practically all of this work will go to those not on the civil service list.

Commissioner Daly will organize his employes under the emergency ordinance, which was introduced in the Council last week by Mayor Albee, and passed by the unanimous vote of Commissioners Daly, Brewster, Dieck and Bigelow, into gangs of 50 each, with 200 men working two days a week. If the weather is good he probably will employ more than this number.

In the department of public affairs, under direction of Commissioner Brewster, several hundred men will be employed on the two-days-a-week basis, probably for 10 weeks or so—just as long as the funds hold out. They will begin work this morning on Laurelhurst and Mount Tabor parks, in rather small numbers, to be increased from day to day.

**Skilled Labor May Follow.**

In the department of public works, Commissioner Dieck said yesterday, not so many men will be required, but he will have places for 50 or 60 today, working on the cutting of curbs and crosswalks, and he will have some skilled labor for men to perform in the near future.

Mayor Albee yesterday expressed the hope that the city will be able to care for large numbers of unemployed and worthy workmen, and he also said he hopes that every employer in the city and surrounding country who possibly can afford work to even one man will make it a point to do so.

"We are leaving no stone unturned," said the Mayor, "to relieve the conditions of the unemployed. The Commission, with one accord, is working hard to the end that large numbers of men may be employed and their conditions made better immediately. Married men are to be cared for first, but we hope to be able to have enough work so that many single men, who are temporarily out of work, will be able to get enough to keep themselves comfortable until work opens up in the Spring."

Mayor Albee also praised the work of the Portland Commons, the People's Institute, Salvation Army and Volunteers, the Associated Charities and all who have aided in registering the unemployed in this emergency.

**Agitators Are Active.**

Notwithstanding the fact that the city officials have done everything in their power to assist the needy and to give them an opportunity to earn enough to keep them from actual want, efforts are being made by outsiders and those who do not want work to cause trouble. They have been demanding full time work on union scales, and threatened trouble unless they get it. Banners with inflammatory wordings have been carted through the streets for several days, but Chief of Police Clark has put the ban on these and has confiscated a number of the worst ones, on the ground that they were being used to incite violence.

Chief Clark has learned that large numbers of unemployed men have been sent out of Seattle on freight trains, the roads having permitted this at the request of the authorities there. Mayor Cotterill recently estimated the number of unemployed in Seattle at 15,000, and conditions are bad there.

Special precautions are to be taken here to employ only those who are worthy, and no outsiders will be cared for unless they are deemed worthy of a few days' work; none of them will be worked as long as Portland men are unemployed.



# WAR PLAY CAUSES ARREST

**Civil War Veteran Waves Horse Pistol, When Room Refused.**

Display of the gun he wore on the field of battle caused the arrest of James W. Murray, 70 years old, a veteran of the Civil War, yesterday, when persons living at 281 Fourth street telephoned police headquarters that a "wild man with a gun" was terrorizing the neighborhood.

Murray went into a lodging-house at 281 Fourth street, asked for a room, and says he was ordered to leave. He pulled out the old "horse pistol" and went into detail of his exploits in the "late unpleasantness." The proprietress became hysterical, and after the old warrior had departed in high dudgeon, she hurried to a telephone.

Motorcycle Patrolman Coulter found Murray at Third and Madison, excitedly explaining his part in the war to a fireman, and displaying his gun, an old army Remington. He was booked as a lodger at the police station, and probably will be examined on a lunacy charge.