

'Dear Virginia' Editorial Penned 58 Years Ago

By JAY BREEN
NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (AP)—Exactly 58 years ago this Christmas, a curly-haired girl named Virginia had her doubts about Santa Claus and wrote to the newspaper her father recommended for a straight answer.

It is only in the nature of things that Mrs. Laura Virginia Douglas has a delicate Christmas task this year which should bring back memories. She's going to take an eight-year old granddaughter named Virginia on her lap and try to erase that faintly skeptical look which comes in the little girl's large blue eyes when St. Nick is mentioned.

This world has spun its way through more than half a century of peace and good fortune, pain and agony, since Mrs. Douglas was an eight-year old and needed the same reassurance. But she never lost the lesson of faith she got in that famed editorial which eventually was titled "Dear Virginia" and travelled around the earth.

Feels GUILTY
"I feel guilty sometimes," she said. "Because I'm afraid some of the nice things that happened to me were done only because of that editorial. People who knew me and that story would get a look of holly and mistletoe in their eyes when they met me."

There was the time she had a job in the New York school system which she disliked heartily. She placed a plea for a change before her principal, got a promise of a change, but the months went by without reward. When it finally came, she went to the principal and explained how happy she'd been over the outcome.

"You needn't have worried," he said with a smile. "I'd be the last man in the world to take a way your belief in Santa Claus."

The experience has been duplicated, to some extent, many times in her social life.

"It is rather as if people think I have been carrying around a childhood legend in my mind all these years and they feel like they might be stepping on Christmas tree bulbs if they marred it for me," Mrs. Douglas said.

Tougher Faith
Actually, her faith is tougher and much more adult.

"I most sincerely believe in Santa in a way," she said. "In the way the editorial pointed out that the spirit of goodness and kindness, the desire to give one's heart, is a thing that one never has to tell a child was just a story."

So Mrs. Douglas won't have to



FRIGID FRIEZE—Frozen rime, deposited by super-cooled fog, recently embroidered buildings, trees and statues in Stockholm, Sweden. This sculpture, "Idyll," by Christian Ericsson, is an idyllic example of the beauty produced by the rare meteorological phenomenon.

difficult a job when she plops the Virginia of 1952 in her lap and settles down for an explanation of this business about St. Nick. She'll just dig out a faded copy of that editorial 58 years old and read it, starting with:

Dear Virginia: Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe, except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds.

CONTRACT AWARD LET

PRINEVILLE, Dec. 22—Highway officials here have announced that a contract for the final relocation lap, an approximate 4 1/2 miles extending from the Crooked river bridge of U. S. 120 at the west edge of town, will be awarded at a meeting of the state highway commission in January, according to present plan. With completion of the new grade, a new paved route will extend from Prineville to the Lone Pine and O'Neil districts. The new road will also provide a new paved route connecting with U. S. Highway 97 at Terrebonne.

SALE PLANNED

CULVER, Dec. 22—Roy Newport reports that the 1953 show and sale of the Oregon Polled Hereford Cattle Breeders association will be held at Salem March 1 and 2. Newport, who is a member of the show committee of the group, attended a meeting in Salem the past week to make arrangements for the event.

Prineville Lodges Hold Installation

PRINEVILLE, Dec. 22—Following a pollack dinner, officers of the Prineville Masonic lodge and Carnation chapter of the Eastern Star were seated at a joint installation at the Masonic temple Saturday evening.

Officers of the lodge are Otto N. Hoppe, formerly master at the Salem lodge; worshipful master; Joseph T. King, senior warden; Willis E. Mahlin, junior warden; Ernest Edwards, treasurer; Charles R. Hendrie, secretary; E. Bob Brown, senior deacon; Lyle Laughlin, junior deacon; Arthur R. Neese, senior steward; R. Carl Scaplan, junior steward; Russell A. Stanton, marshal; Harry E. Linens, chaplain; and Lester L. Waite, Tyler.

New Eastern Star officers installed were: Eula Almaek, worthy matron; Charles Straughan, worthy patron; Lola Van Osten, associate matron; Edwin E. Goodrich, associate patron; Hattie Cooknight, secretary; Fern Davenport, treasurer; Mary Lou Straughan, conductress; Aleta Wright, associate conductress; Bernice E. Davidson, chaplain; Louise Stryker, marshal; Edith Reed, organist; Lucille Brownfield, Ruth; Dorothy Gillam, Esther; Sylvia Gumpert, Martha; Mabel Erickson, Electa; Bertha Neese, warden; Dolph Byrde, sentinel; Claudia Taylor, lady of the lights; and Audra Brennan, captain of courtesy girls.

Truck registrations in the United States increased by 77.8 per cent in 10 years—from 4,830,064 in 1940 to 8,637,969 in 1950.

Goldie M. Smith Dies at Age 81

Mrs. Goldie May Smith, 81, a resident of Bend for the past two years, died Sunday at the St. Charles Memorial Hospital. She was born at Patavia, Ill., in 1871, and before coming to Bend had resided at Bremerton, Wash., for 35 years.

She is survived by her husband, William C. Smith, 407 Staatsstreet; two daughters, Mrs. Lois M. Carlson, Portland, and Mrs. Josephine Wanichek, Bend, and two sons, Gordon and Loyd Smith, both of Spokane.

Christian Science Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 10 a. m. at the Niswonger-Winslow chapel. The body will be taken to the Portland Mausoleum for vault entombment.

PORTLAND DAIRY MARKET

Prices were adjusted upward on the inside range of the Portland wholesale dairy market Monday. Butter—To retailers: AA grade prints 77c lb., cartons 78c; A grade 77c, cartons 78c; B prints 70c. Eggs—To retailers: Grade AA large, 68c doz.; A large, 65-66c; AA medium, 64c; A medium, 62-63c; A smalls, 50c. Cartons 3c additional.

PLANS CANCELLED

MADRAS, Dec. 22—The Madras Garden club, which had scheduled outdoor lighting contests for the city of Madras and the Agency Plains district, have announced cancellation of the plans. The critical power shortage was given as the reason.

Bulletin Classifieds Bring Results

Cattle Producers Plan Convention

Oregon beef cattle producers will be among the leaders at the 50th annual convention of the American National Cattlemen's Association in Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 5-7.

A large delegation, headed by President Harry Stearns, Prineville, is expected from the active Oregon Cattlemen's Association and its affiliated county and local stock groups.

In addition to Stearns, other Oregon stockmen active in con-

ferences of the large national organization include Harley Hotchkiss and J. C. Coell, Burns; Henry Gerber and William Kittredge, Klamath Falls; Garland Meador, Prineville; Herman Oliver, John Day; W. W. Scott, Vale; Larry Williams, Canyon City; H. F. Severance, Post; and Dorman Turner, Bonanza.

Robert Lister of Paulina is vice president and member of the legislative committee of the American National.

The Oregon delegation will join participants from 30 states in hearing headline talks by Laurence Lee, president of the U. S.

Chamber of Commerce; Senator Andrew Schoepel of Kansas; O. R. Strackbein, chairman of the National Labor-Management Council on Foreign Trade Policy; Stephen Hart, attorney for the National Livestock Tax Committee; Wesley Hardenbergh, president of the American Meat Institute, and Sam C. Hyatt, Hyattville, Wyo., president of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

Over 90% of the titanium produced to date has been used in aircraft because of its high strength-to-weight ratio.

CONFERENCES SET
TACOMA, Dec. 22 (AP)—Pacific Northwest power officials were scheduled to hold another weekly telephone conference Monday to determine if a further power curtailment would be necessary for industry. Observers said recent precipitation may have been sufficient to avoid another curtailment.



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DUO GIFT—This pretty lacy package holds a big bottle of Helena Rubinstein's captivating Heaven-Sent Eau de Toilette and matching Shaker Talc. Also in White Magnolia and Apple Blossom. 2.00 plus tax.

FRAGRANT FLIGHT—Here is enchanting Heaven-Sent Eau de Toilette in a delightfully whimsical package that will make her imagination soar! 1.25 for a two-ounce bottle. In the other package, silky Heaven-Sent Body Powder with its own-big fluffy puff—1.50. Prices plus tax.

WINDOW BOX—This big picture window shows off Helena Rubinstein's famous Apple Blossom Cologne and matching Body Powder (which comes with its own fluffy puff). Also same set in Heaven-Sent fragrance. 2.75 plus tax.

FESTIVE PACKAGE—This pretty holiday package holds a bottle of sprightly Apple Blossom Cologne at 1.25. Or have the Festive Package in a body powder-puff set at 1.50. Prices plus tax.

ROYAL JEWEL PACKAGE—A present fit for a queen. Incredibly lasting Command Performance Eau de Parfum with matching Bath Powder. Both inside a shimmering cube. 3.95 plus tax.

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