

Town of Santa Claus Awaits Its Biggest, Best Christmas

By HAL MAERTZ

United Press Staff Correspondent

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. (UP)—The town of Santa Claus appeared headed for its biggest and best Christmas on record today.

With 'Santa Claus' big day only five days away, residents reported the number of agents and the volume of mail handled at the local post office were both running at a near-record pace.

Once again, this little southern Indiana village has become one of the most important places on the map for the duration of the Christmas season. Letters from all over the world pour into the post office so that they can be relayed with the 'Santa Claus' postmark on the envelopes.

Postmaster Elbert S. Reinke, the 'Santa Claus of Santa Claus,' said

PHEASANT BUSINESS

DE SMET, S. D. (UP) — Fred Peschl, locker plant operator, said "this was the busiest year we've had for several years" for processing pheasants for out-of-state hunters. His plant handled 5,000 pheasants in an 18-hour day, seven-day week.

The Navy theme song "Anchors Aweigh" was written in 1913 by bandmaster Charles A. Zimmerman and Midshipman Alfred H. Miles of the U.S. Naval Academy.

from 8,000 to 10,000 letters are receiving the famous postmark every day and the peak of the rush is yet to be reached.

He expects a daily load of 125,000 pieces of mail before Christmas is over.

Reinke also announced that a 9-year-old Rocky Point, N.Y., boy, Noel Baxter, has been chosen as honorary mayor of Santa Claus for 1956. Noel was chosen in a nationwide contest open to all children who were born on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The village of Santa Claus owes its nationwide fame to the fact that its original name was too common.

Back in 1832, the village was called Santa Fe. But, when the villagers petitioned for a post office, the postal department turned them down. There was already a Santa Fe station in Indiana and another would simply confuse people, it said.

The villagers consulted again and chose Santa Claus. As a result, the town is one of the most famous communities in the nation around Christmas time and tons of mail flood the post office.

A 40-ton statue of Santa Claus has been erected to greet the holiday tourists. There is also a Christmas fair, complete with a candy castle and a wishing well.



HE'S NO FLASH-IN-THE-PAN — Meet "Flash," 7-year-old versatile shepherd dog who's as much at home working with police as he is working with babies. Six-month-old Stephen Ruiz of Smyrna, Ga., knows Flash is a pretty good baby sitter. San Jose, Calif., police also praise the dog who once helped them break a juvenile crime wave. Owned by Ray Disher of Smyrna, Flash is now a member of a dog show that tours the Atlanta, Ga., region. He's shown above in typical baby-sitter roles.

Arab Countries Have Been Frequently Beset by Crises

By CHARLES M. McCANN

United Press Staff Correspondent

Young King Hussein's trouble over his desire to take Jordan into the Baghdad alliance is just another of the crises that have long beset the Arab countries.

Eight Arab nations are supposed to be united in the Arab League.

When that alliance was formed March 22, 1945, it seemed to be a step toward the years-long dream of pan-Arabism, which would unite 50 million people.

Actually the Arab countries are torn by rivalries which have prevented any real cooperation.

The Arab League members are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Libya.

Both Egypt and Saudi Arabia would like to be dominant in the Arab world.

King Saud of Saudi Arabia has inherited from his father, Ibn Saud, a feud with Jordan and Iraq.

Opposes Unification

Saud, like his father, is bitterly opposed to a recurrent proposal for a "greater Syria" which would unite the blood-related royal houses of Jordan and Iraq with Syria.

Syria wants no part of any such union.

Lebanon, though a member of the Arab League, does not want to be dominated by it and especially it does not want to be drawn into a war with Israel.

The so-called Baghdad Pact was a punishing blow to Arab unity. If a blow were needed.

This treaty for Middle Eastern defense against Communist agree-

ment was signed Feb. 26 last between Turkey and Iraq.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia were bitterly angry over this development. It hit at their own ambition for Arab leadership and it put Turkey, the most powerful of Middle Eastern nations, into an influential position.

Since then Pakistan, Iran and Great Britain have joined the alliance and the United States has associated itself with it.

Now Jordan is involved in a serious internal crisis because King Hussein wants his country to enter it.

In doing that, Hussein would be following the lead of his cousin King Faisal of Iraq.

"Anti-colonialists" might suspect that Britain has played a part in this situation.

Both Hussein and Faisal attended Harrow, the famous English public school — which means it is highly private — that numbers Winston Churchill among its more illustrious pupils.

Iraq has long been allied with Britain, and Jordan's Arab legion, the most powerful fighting force in the Arab world, is commanded by British General Glubb Pasha, who is John Bagot Glubb. He has been in Jordan since 1926, after fighting there in World War I, and assumed command of the legion in 1933.

As it happens, the Baghdad Pact has become the strong alliance which the Arab League was supposed to be.

Freshness Still No. One Quality

KINGSTON, R. I. (UP) — What do you look for in an egg?

If you look for freshness and quality, you're in the majority—at least the majority of persons polled recently by W. H. Wallace and A. L. Owens of the state Agricultural Experiment Station.

They reported their findings in a station publication. About 40 per cent., they found, look for "convenience" and "satisfaction."

Only 21 per cent. of the home-makers reported "shopping around" or purchasing eggs from a special source to get what they believed was higher quality.

The largest group of consumers, 38 per cent., bought eggs in two-dozen lots, while 34 per cent. bought in one-dozen lots. The rest ranged from half-dozen to three dozen per-time purchasers.



GRAVE DECISION — A coffin protrudes from this monument in a churchyard at Pinner, England. It's said that one John Loudon "buried" his father in mid-air to keep relatives from getting the dead man's money. Loudon supposedly believed the estate couldn't be touched until his father was "under ground."

Friendly Wild Animal Could Be Dangerous

CHICAGO (UP) — Should you find a wild animal that seems friendly, stay away. It may be infected with rabies.

The American Veterinary Medical Association offered this advice to hunters, farmers or just strollers-in-the-woods. It said that rabies among wild animals is more prevalent than scientists used to think.

"Normal, healthy wild animals are usually shy and always try to avoid humans," the AVMA said. "But rabid animals are aggressive and this trait often takes the form of apparent friendliness."

The warning goes for foxes, squirrels, skunks and other denizens of the woods.



New Type Silo Is Developed

MARIETTA, O. (UP) — A new trick in silo domes has been introduced by the Marietta Concrete Corporation.

To top its new concrete farm silos, the firm created a plastic roof. The new top, called silo-lite, is constructed of fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

While it is translucent, the roof is unaffected by weather conditions.

The company says the dome shows great strength and can be installed easily on existing wooden or metal silos.

More than 60 per cent. of the rural roads in the United States are hard surfaced.

FROM WATER TO SOUP—Turtle soup is what these oversized critters will wind up in. Heinz Sidel, left, and Ernst Scheld look over some of the 78 giant ocean turtles in cold storage at Frankfurt, Germany. The turtles, each weighing about 150 pounds, were shipped from the West Indies.

BROTHER ARRESTED

SNEADVILLE, Tenn. (UP) — Sheriff George Taylor arrested his brother, Gilbert, on a drunken driving charge, got him fined \$250 and sentenced to serve 360 days.

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