



Cold Up North?—Lee Garee, (left) and LaDene Von Wagoner, both of Miami Beach, Fla., can't believe it as they frolic on the beach at Miami in bright, sunny weather with the mercury at 74 degrees. (AP Wirephoto)

Santa Called Commercial, But He's Winning Anyway

PATRICIA CLARY
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Los Angeles, Dec. 14 (AP)—The three kings of the Orient, the Latin version of Santa Claus, met the American Santa today and pronounced him "too commercial."

But he's winning Latin America away from them anyway, they admitted. The children think the jolly round saint is more fun than the staid, dignified kings from the Bible.

The wise men, who bring gifts for every south-of-the-border child on January 6, just as they brought myrrh and frankincense to the infant Jesus, were flown here from Mexico by Compania Mexicana de Avacion to meet Santa Claus.

It was the first official visit to this country of the robed and bearded men who are as important to Christmas in Latin countries as Santa is here.

"Santa is very jolly, but he is too commercial," Wise Man Enrique Ortega said. "He sells everything. With all the gifts from him, the real spirit of Christmas is forgotten."

"With us, Christmas is a time for fasting and prayer. We take it seriously."

Ortega and the other two wise men, Juan De Domenico, a CMW official, and Prifrio Romay, Mexican vice-counsel, had a date with Santa and Mayor Fletcher Bowron under the city's 105-foot Christmas tree.

They showed up in the flowing blue robes, draped hat and false beards that the Mexican gift-giver substitutes for Santa's red suit and pillows.

The wise men ride on flying camels, instead of a sleigh.

Mexican children write letters to the wise men, Ortega said, and leave them with them in department stores. More advanced stores now have Santa Claus and a wise man side by side. A child who wants to be on the safe side can place an order with both.

"Families are trying to keep the old customs, but you can't blame the children for liking the jolly, laughing Santa better than a sober old wise man," Ortega said.

"Perhaps it will not be long until Santa Claus conquers the country and runs us out of business," the wise man said.

Detroit Woman Wins \$50,000 for Baking

New York, Dec. 14 (AP)—Mrs. Ralph E. Smafield of Detroit, Mich., won a \$50,000 prize from a flour maker today as the top baker among 100 home cooks selected in a nation-wide contest.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt announced the young Detroit mother won in a "bake-off" contest held at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday.

Other winners were Mrs. Richard W. Sprague, San Marino, Calif., third place, \$4,000; and Mrs. Estella Worley, Los Angeles, \$1,000.

British Doctors Reply to Ewing

London, Dec. 14 (AP)—A group of British doctors lambasted U.S. Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing today for his views on Britain's national health service.

The "Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine," target for remarks by Ewing here last week, retorted that "the public should realize that Mr. Oscar Ewing is Mr. Aneurin Bevan's opposite number in the United States." Bevan is British health minister.

The group objected to being tagged "a small group of diehards" by Ewing, retorting that on the contrary is numbers 3,000 members, most of whom are in Britain's health service now and are trying to make it work.

Ewing last week said the British health program was a success, and charged that certain groups in organized American medicine, opponents of a U.S. health scheme, were contributing to support the propaganda activities of "a small group of diehard British doctors who are still fighting the national health program."

The fellowship replied it was not fighting the national health program but was fighting "to keep party politics out of medicine."

Neighbors Join in Wife's Plea That Husband Be Freed

New Orleans, Dec. 14 (AP)—If the Louisiana pardon board will just have as much faith in her husband as the people of Branscomb, Calif., Mrs. John Wiley Johnson said today, it would let him go home.

Mrs. Johnson and her 2-year-old daughter, Sharron Faye, appeared before the board yesterday to seek freedom for her husband who escaped from the state penitentiary in 1946 while serving a 20-year shop-breaking term.

Mrs. Johnson brought with her a petition signed by 100 Branscomb citizens who think Johnson ought to go free.

The petitioners said Johnson lived an "exemplary life" in Branscomb after his escape. During his stay there he married his pretty wife, went into the trucking business on a loan from the Branscomb bank and became prosperous.

He was arrested again last October when his past caught up with him, and returned to prison in Louisiana.

The Johnson's friends went further than just signing a petition. They paid Mrs. Johnson's and the baby's way here.

The pardon board said it would have a decision on the case in 10 days.

Mrs. Fish Honored

Dayton—Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Fish entertained a group of relatives, honoring her mother, Mrs. Myrtle Miller on her seventieth birthday. Those of the family included Mrs. Vern Garrett and daughter Lois; Mr. and Mrs. Leland Newhouse and family; Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Goodrich and Laura Mae; Sharolyn Wolfe.



Dali in Rome—Salvador Dali, surrealist, who says he is turning to religious painting, leaves his hotel in Rome carrying his canvas of the "Immaculate Conception."

Dim Prospects for Early CVA Hearings

Washington, Dec. 14 (AP)—Prospects appeared dim today for early hearings in the Pacific Northwest on President Truman's proposal for a Columbia Valley Administration.

Chairman Chavez (D., N.M.) of the senate public works committee said a heavy schedule in the senate would make it difficult for his group to conduct the hearings. He had hoped, he said, to schedule them in January.

"But it does not seem likely that we could possibly get away for more than two weeks in the early part of the session," he told a reporter. "That is not enough time for the CVA hearings in the Columbia River basin. I do not believe that we can do justice to the subject and the people in less than four weeks."

Chavez said a definite decision will not be made until after congress convenes next month.

He said he would have to discuss the question with other members of the committee.

Happy Three-Legged Rabbit May Get a Wooden Leg

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

Washington, Dec. 14 (AP)—"Cutie" cottontail is the happiest three-legged rabbit in the world.

If she isn't, she certainly is the only wild bunny which ever had a couple of nurses and a skilled rabbit doctor in attendance for a leg amputation.

Here's the story: John Webster, a Washington lawyer, who lives in nearby Arlington, Va., looked out his basement window a few months ago and saw the little brown bunny looking in—half starved. He and his sons, Mark, 3½ and David, 2½, fed the animal and shoed her into the woods.

But "Cutie" cottontail, as the little boys named the bunny, kept coming back for more carrot tops. And before long "Cutie" discovered the clover on the Webster lawn. The Websters realized they had permanent company.

Small boys, being small boys, don't like their pets to stay out in the wet. So it wasn't long before "Cutie," puffing up to around three pounds, had bunnied her way into the house.

She even allowed herself to get house broken, and learned to rear up on her hind legs and beg for carrots in front of the ice box.

Well, last week, the rabbit was turned out to clover while the kids were napping. Later "Cutie" came back wounded, scratching on the back door to get in.

Mrs. Webster let her in; a badly hurt rabbit.

So Mrs. W. called Mr. W. and he dropped everything legal and came home. Mr. W. bundled the bunny and took her to Dr. R. R. Whitter's animal hospital in Alexandria.

First they put her gently onto the "patient's" table and looked her over. A broken leg, it couldn't be set, Dr. Whitter could see that.

An operation was successful.

"Cutie" has all of the stitches out and is able to balance on the good right hind one and look for a goodie in the ice-box.

There is some thought of a wooden leg, although Dr. Whitter isn't quite sure it is necessary.

Dairy Breeder Tour Success

Dallas—Eighty dairymen and interested persons attended the Polk county DHIA tour of the Oregon Dairy Breeders' association near Corvallis and the John Pugh farm near Shedd. The final visit was to the Rex Dick farm also near Shedd.

The group saw 19 bulls which are owned by the Oregon Dairy Breeders' association. Ben Simonson and Fred Roberts gave an interesting talk concerning the value of artificial insemination and what it can do for the dairymen. More than 12,000 cows were mechanically bred during 1949.

On the John Pugh farm many heifers and several cows produced artificially were observed. These were raised under farm conditions and out of grade dairy cows.

A New Zealand type of milking parlor was observed by the group at the Rex Dick farm. They also saw his loafing shed and method of feeding and watering.

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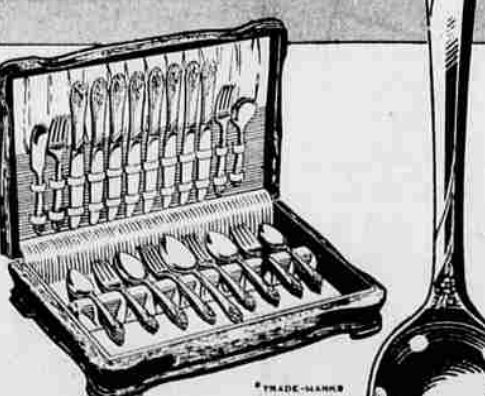
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