

# A Christmas Letter from Willie



"Dear Santa Claus"

"I want a drum to make pa rich  
And drive my mamma crazy  
I want a doggie I can kick,  
So he'll not get lazy

"I want a powder-gun to shoot  
Right at my sister Annie,  
And a big trumpet I can toot  
just awful loud at grannie

"I want a druffle big false face,  
To scare in fits our baby  
I want a pony I can race  
Around the parlor make,

"I want a little hatchet too,  
So I can do some choppin  
upon our grand piano new  
When mamma goes a-shoppin

"I want a nice hard rubber ball,  
to smash all into flinders  
the great big mirror in the hall  
and lots and lots of windows

"And candy that'll make mesick  
So ~~mamma~~ ma all night will hold me  
and make pa get the doctor quick  
and never try to scold me

"and, Santa Claus, if pap says  
I'm naughty, its a story  
just say if he whips me I'll  
Die and go to kingdom glory"

Willie

## CHRISTMAS EPIGRAMS

- ¶ It is a wise Santa who keeps his whiskers away from the candles.
- ¶ Better broken toys than broken hearts.
- ¶ Never look a gift in the price tag.
- ¶ Many a man puts on long white whiskers and thinks he looks like Santa Claus when he looks more like a goat—and perhaps he is.
- ¶ One thing they missed during the Spanish Inquisition—Christmas cigars!
- ¶ Shopping done in time is the noblest work of woman!
- ¶ A Christmas gift by any other name doesn't cost half as much.
- ¶ A gift in the hand is worth two in the postoffice.
- ¶ Many a man gets a girl under the mistletoe only to find himself, a little later, under her thumb.
- ¶ A pound of steak to a poor man is worth a ton of holiday greetings.

## In the Christmas Handicap

Mere Man Describes How Friend Wife Wins by an Eyelash

**T**HERE is no use in my going home tonight," observed the tall, sad man as he pushed the dice box from him and accepted the consolation cigar which the tobaccoist vouchsafed him.

"There will be nothing doing the way of cats. My wife hasn't time to cook. She's entered in the Christmas handicap. You talk about the six-day races where fellows ride around and around until they drop dead or go nuts! Why, the Christmas handicap has that kind of an endurance race skun a mile!

"My wife gives one hundred and eleven presents on December 24 and 25. The race is between her and Christmas, and, believe me, Christmas is coming along pretty fast when it comes to the last lap of the race during December. But my wife is coming along pretty rapidly, too. Take it from me, those needles of hers click so fast that they sound like fifty revolutions to the minute, and she hits on all six, too, and she leaves a string of pink and blue double bowknots, kutelets, picos and fourlets in the wake of those needles that would astonish you!

"Tick, tick," says the clock, and 'tickety, tickety, tick, tick,' says the needle and there's a pair of embroidered socks, an embroidered handkerchief or a foot towel, a sweater, a cap, a dolly, a lamp shade, a photo holder or most any old thing.

"Bingo! It's December 22! Bingo, bingo, bingo-o, go the knitting needles and crochet hooks and the tatting shuttles, leaving a string of garments in their wake.

"December 23 jumps up on the calendar, and whizz! bang! zipp! go the needles, the paint brushes, the branding irons and the stencils. And swish, swish! on comes the scenery, the menagerie, or whatever she has to evolve.

"December 24 swings into the stretch. Now Christmas is here. They approach the wire.

"Now, I don't know whether my wife has worked all night or not, but she has brought her string pretty well up abreast of the times. But some of these presents have to be delivered. My wife grabs a handful of them and starts out to deliver them. None of them is finished yet, but she finishes them on the way.

"Clang, clang! goes the street car. Buzz-zz! goes the current and away we go! But bib, bib, bob go the finishing touches on the presents. My wife arrives at a place where a present is to be delivered and rings the bell. Bip, bip, bip, bip go the needles. 'I've yards to make and the maid is on the way to the door.

"Creak-k! The servant opens the door. Swish-h! the present is completed. Thud! My wife drops it into the box. Swish, in goes my wife's card, and rattle, on goes some hollyhopped wrapping paper and my wife wins by an eyelash!"

## Classified Advertising

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FOR SALE—Good, partly improved ranch for sale. Will accept good, modern residence as part payment. What have you. Box 143, Riddle, Ore. 47

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**REWARD**  
REWARD—Paid for information leading to the recovery of iron gate taken from my place at 716 D Street during hallowe'en festivities. M. L. Opdycke. 47

**St. Winnifred and the Tree**  
One story of the origin of the green tree as the Christmas tree among the people of northern Europe is given in a legend of St. Winnifred. It is one of the many thousands of those simple and beautiful beliefs that have attached themselves to the midwinter festival and which generally pass now under the name of "Christmas myths."

It is related that St. Winnifred, a great Christian missionary, began cutting down a "sacred" oak which had been the object of worship by the northern pagans whom he was seeking to lead aright. While he was hewing down the huge tree it was blasted by a sudden whirlwind. Close beside it was a young fir tree, which was not harmed either by the whirlwind or by the fall of the giant oak. Then St. Winnifred is reported to have spoken as follows to the pagans:

"This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace, for your homes are built of it. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are always green. See how it points toward heaven! Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it; not in the wild woods, but in your homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and acts of kindness."

The fir tree, the common evergreen of the northern regions, became the holy tree of the converted pagans, and in its honor or in memory of the thoughts it stood for they decorated it with lights and gifts at Christmas.

**ADVISE CONSUMERS TO BOYCOTT ALL PROFITEERS**  
Helena, Mont., Dec. 22.—The solution of the profiteering problem lies, after all, in the hands of the consumers, William Ruth and James Anderson, members of the Lewis and Clark county fair price committee, declare in an open letter to the public. They confess that the committee, which sat during most of the war period, has effected practically nothing in reduction of prices on the necessities. They advise the public to study dealers and their methods and to boycott those who indulge in profiteering.

**TO EXCHANGE**  
WILL TRADE—Five or 10 acres in pears, 9 years old, adjoining city of Grants Pass, for property in or near Portland, Ore. Inquire of F. M. Geiger, Boise, Idaho. 74

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For information regarding freight and passenger rates call at the office of the company, Lundburg building, or telephone 131.

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Greece and Serbia received 25,000,000 pounds of food in 30 days from the Red Cross.