

Buy Your Groceries from Your Home Grocer

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Foss-Winship Hardware Company



Howard Heaters

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THE TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO.

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TRY THESE--THEY'LL PLEASE!

ONE BEST THE MONOPOLE

Monopole Vegetables
Monopole Fruits
Monopole Salmon
Monopole Oysters

DELL BROTHERS, Athena, Oregon
CATERERS TO THE PUBLIC IN GOOD THINGS TO EAT

Municipal Christmas Tree Idea Is Adopted by Many Big Cities.



Photo by American Press Association.

THE municipal Christmas tree idea is growing. Several large cities now erect a huge Christmas tree each year, and appropriate exercises are held on Christmas eve. This picture shows how the giant pine in one of New York city's parks aglow with Christmas lights. The municipal tree of last year in that city was such an innovation and a success that arrangements were made for another this year. Singing of Christmas carols forms the most prominent part of the celebration. The idea is a splendid one, and each year sees a greater number of cities following it. Some of the principal cities which planned to have such public trees this year were Boston, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Kansas City and Philadelphia.

A Song of Christmas

TWINE the bitter-sweet and holly
Arched above the hearthstone's glow.
Joy, and melancholy,
Come, drifting with the snow,
In each face the frost's a-tinge,
And afar on flying wing
Comes the sleigh-bells' rhythmic throng
Through December journeying.

Set the board and ask the blessing
For the bounty amply spread,
In the simplest words expressing
What a loving Father said—
"Peace on earth"—for this is nearest
When the snows with us abide
And the winter air is clearest
In the hush of Christmastide.



HIS REINDEER STEEDS ARE PRANCING.
Bring the old musician's fiddle,
Rattle of the bygone days
Send the fairest down the middle
While the lute music aways,
Light of foot and quick of laughter,
Bring the dancers, toe and heel,
As they pass or follow after
In the quaint Virginia reel.

Make a welcome for the stranger
Should his footstep cross the door,
By the memory of the manger
And the Christ that was of yore
Gather children's faces round you,
As he gathered them long ago,
If it be the years have crowned you
With their radiance divine.

Deck the tree and light the candles,
Let the stockings all be hung,
For a saint with furry animals
Over the housetop high has swung,
And his reindeer steeds are prancing
Through the star bespangled rime,
And the moonbeams pale are glancing
In the merry Christmas time.
—Ernest McJaffey.

It is obtainable.
He was young, though of a serious
turn of mind. Conversation was lag-
ging, and she was earnestly hoping he
would take his leave. Her musings
were interrupted, however, by him
asking:
"Do you think perfection is ever ac-
tually attained in this life, Miss Alice?"
"Yes," she answered quickly, "some
people become perfect here."—Denver
Republican.

Patience is the honest man's revenge.
—Cyril Tennant.

The First Christmas

IT often has been stated that the
birth of Christ must have occur-
red four years before the date
fixed on for the current chronology
and that it is probable the event oc-
curred at some other time in the year
than a few days after the winter sol-
stice. The reason for the confident as-
sertion is the ascertaining of the fact
that Herod died about four years B. C.
The basis of this supposition is the
report that at the time of the birth of
Christ "there were shepherds abiding
in the field, watching their flocks by
night," a circumstance not natural in
the latitude of Bethlehem near the
shortest day. That is the height of
the rainy season in Judea, and the
date does not appear to have been ob-
served generally before the fifth cen-
tury.

Many students of Biblical history
have argued that the story about the
star of Bethlehem points to a date for
the Nativity not later than May 8,
B. C. 6. On that date the planets
Venus and Jupiter were so closely in
conjunction as seen from the earth
that the apparent distance between
them was equal only to the breadth of
the full moon. These planets were



then visible in the east a couple of
hours before sunrise and must have
produced a strikingly beautiful appear-
ance and have been spoken of as an
object. That was about fifty days be-
fore the death of Herod, a fact which harmonizes
with other conditions of the narrative
for it is probable that the hands
for the slaughter of all the child-
ren two years old and under was in-
some months before his decease.
The limit of two years would
allow a margin for any uncertainty
to the time of the appearance of
the star, as related by the narra-
tive. There were no paschal full moon-
days between the year
A. D. 33 and no other
full moon days
from that time
that Christ was
born. At the time of
the birth of Christ
would vindicate
Jewish doctors
was not yet
is resurrected.

Ancestry of Santa

WHAT is Santa Claus' age?
The jolly, roasting, pe-
belled, ever young old fel-
low that we know has made
his appearance on earth in so many
guises that the secret of his first com-
ing threatens to remain forever veiled
in the mists of antiquity. No one can
say with any certainty just when he
first made his appearance among pre-
historic men, for every old Santa in
one form or another delighted child-
ren's hearts in many a pagan house-
hold centuries before the commence-
ment of the Christian era and prior to
any recorded history.

The name of Santa Claus, by which
he is known in America, is the Dutch
pet name for St. Nicholas. The name
Kris Kringle, by which he is known
in England, is a corruption of Christ
Kindheit or the Christ Child. But the
festivities that distinguish Christmas
existed long before Christianity, and a
jolly god of good cheer appears as the
personification of the period from the
earlier pagan times. Now the Santa
Claus of today is simply that old jolly
god sobered up, washed and purified.

The Dionysia of the Greeks, the Sat-
urnalia of the Romans, the Yule-
Feasts of the old Norsemen and at the
Tentons all celebrated the coming of
the winter solstice. People then gave
themselves up to all sorts of revelry
and excess. In the Dionysia the repre-
sentative figure was not the young
Dionysus or Bacchus, but the aged,
cheery and disreputable Silenus, the
chief of the Satyrs and the god of
drunkenness. In the Saturnalia it was
Saturn; in the Germanic feasts it was
Thor, both long bearded and white
haired gods like Silenus.

Now, although the central figure of
the Christmas festival is the child God,
the Christ Kindheit, the influence of
long pagan custom was too strong
within the breasts of the early Chris-
tians to be easily superseded. The tra-
dition of hoary age as the true repre-
sentative of the dying year and its at-
tendant jollifications still remained
smoldering under the ashes of the
past. It burst into new flame when
the past was too far back to be looked
upon with the fear and antagonism of
the church and there seemed no longer
any danger of a relapse into paganism.

At first, however, the more dignified
representative was chosen as more in
keeping with the occasion. Saturnus
was unconsciously rechristened as St.
Nicholas, the name of the saint whose
festival occurs in December and who
as the patron of young people is espe-
cially fitted for the patronage of the
festival which has come to be looked
upon as especially that of the young.
At first St. Nicholas did not supersede
the Christ Child, but accompanied him
in his Christmas travels, as, indeed, he
still does in certain rural neighbor-
hoods of Europe where the modern
spirit has been least felt.

St. Nicholas, according to the hagi-
ologist, was a bishop of Myra, who
flourished early in the fourth century.
He is the patron of children and
schoolteachers.

Press Paragraphs

A Mackenzie Meltrum was a guest
at the Brotherton home in Weitzburg
Monday and Tuesday.

A magnificent ball will be given at
the Athena opera house on Tuesday
evening by Gordon's orchestra.

D. A. Barrett will give a magnificent
reward for information leading to the
recovery of a bay gelding, with star in
forehead and branded U on right side.

Henry J. Ferguson died at 11 hours
in Adams, Saturday, where he had re-
sided for the last 90 years. Death was
due to old age. Interment was made
in the Athena cemetery Sunday. A. M.
Meltrum conducting the funeral ser-
vices.

A beautiful wedding took place
at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Owsen
on Christmas morning at 8:30,
when Nettie Adell Carson and Samuel
E. McCaw were united in marriage.
After the wedding breakfast, the hap-
py couple left on the morning train for
their home in Geasban, near Belling-
ham, Wash. A Mackenzie Meltrum
was the officiating clergyman.

OLD SANTA CLAUS

Believes in a Square Deal, that's why the old fellow decided to make his headquarters here

This is the store where you receive full value for every dollar you spend. We carry a large assortment of Xmas presents for young and old. Toys and dolls of every description for the children. Suspenders, gloves, hats, caps, socks, sweaters, handkerchiefs, silk hose, mufflers, slippers, shoes, wool blankets, Indian Robes, Comforts, Bed spreads, silk petticoats, table linens, lunch cloths, doilies, trunks, suit cases, and other things too numerous to mention. Bring the Children.