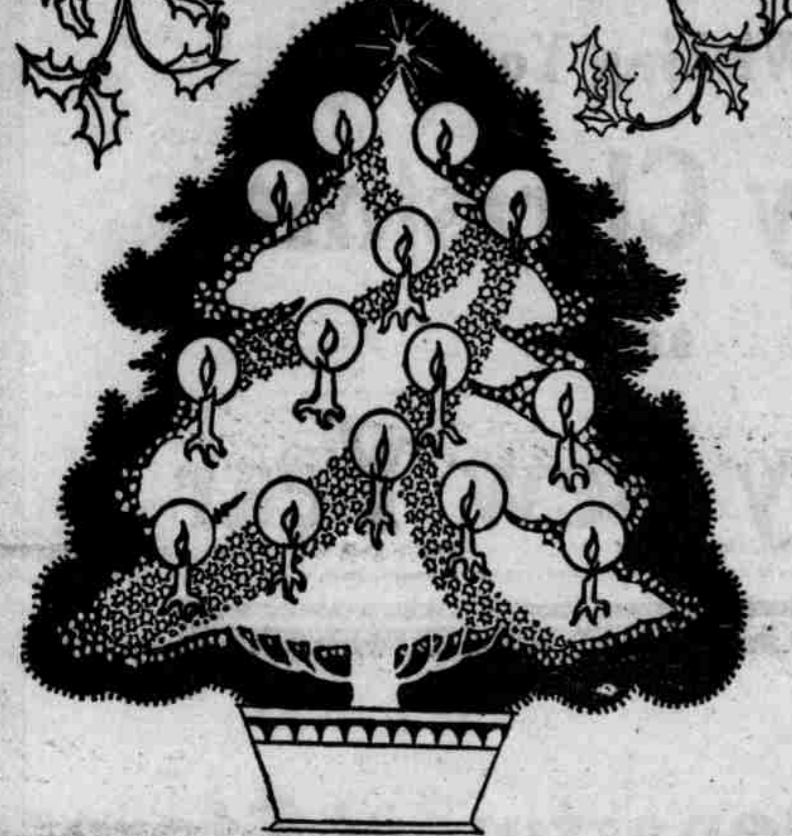


# The TRUTH ABOUT SAINT NICHOLAS

by A. W. CALLISEN



FOR hundreds of years children everywhere have loved Santa Claus. And no wonder, for Santa Claus is a real person, as real as Captain John Smith, General Grant, or our beloved George Washington, only his real name was Saint Nicholas.

Ages ago the Germans called him Sankt Niclaus, which their children turned into Sankt Claus—the Santa Claus of today.

Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, was a Greek who lived in Asia Minor about sixteen hundred years ago, and his life was so spotless and his good works so enduring that he is even now beloved in all lands. Many churches have been named for him.

The parents of Saint Nicholas were rich and respected and lived in a city called Patara at the southwest corner of Asia Minor. Long they dwelt together, childless, but at length their prayers were answered and the little son Nicholas was sent to cheer their loneliness. It is said that from the very first he was the wonder of all friends and neighbors, so different was he from other children of his age.

At school he was one of the brightest and best scholars, and so great was his love for the church, and so anxious was he to serve Christ, his master in all things, that his father

and mother willingly allowed him to study for the priesthood. Thus it came that he was sent to the home of his uncle, Bishop Nicholas of Patara, under whose loving care he was instructed in all the wisdom of the church as known in that day.

And now we come to the story of how Nicholas, from the kindness of his heart, first brought gifts to children while they lay asleep. It so happened that in the city there dwelt a very good and learned man with his three young daughters. This man had at one time been very rich, but by taking bad advice from one he thought his friend, lost all his wealth. Now he was bitterly poor, and as he was too proud to beg, the family had no longer a crust of bread to eat. Good Nicholas heard of this and his kind heart was greatly troubled. So he filled a purse with gold and went by night to the poor man's house though he had no idea how he should deliver his gift without being seen. The moon was shining brightly and by its light he saw a trellis which was built against the house for a grapevine to grow upon. This he climbed, and peeping through the window saw the three hungry children asleep on their bed, their cheeks still wet with tears. It made his heart ache to see their distress and tears came into his own eyes. Gently dropping the purse of

gold on the floor he crawled again to the ground.

The next morning the poor man rejoiced greatly when his daughters brought him the purse of gold, and for a time the family's troubles were at an end.

When the money was at last all spent, Nicholas again climbed the trellis by night and dropped a second purse, and later a third. You can fancy how astonished the poor man was at this unexpected help, and after the second purse he determined to watch for the generous giver. This he did and the third time caught Nicholas in the very act. The poor man fell upon his knees and thanked him with tears for his act of mercy, but Nicholas earnestly begged him never to tell who had befriended him.

Through the centuries, however, the story became known in the town, and as the kind-hearted Nicholas continued to help the needy in secret, giving away the entire wealth he had inherited from his parents, people soon learned to say whenever a gift had been left during the night: "Saint Nicholas brought it!"

Nicholas continued as he had begun, and devoted his whole life to the good of his fellow men. He visited the sick, and helped the needy both with money and good advice.

Six hundred years later when King Vladimir of Russia came all the way to Constantinople to be baptized he heard the splendid story of Saint Nicholas. And from the king and his Russian people the story spread to the Lapps in the far north. These simple folk believed that the good saint lived at the North pole amid the wonderful northern lights, and that he came to them with gifts in a sled drawn by reindeer, the common way of travel in their country. So has the story come down through the years to the children of today.

Yes, indeed, St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, as he is better known, was a very real person! A very good and loving friend to all who needed him!

HERE was Christmas music everywhere. The pines were singing softly to themselves. It seemed as though they sang great long notes filled with melody.

Blue, curling smoke could be seen from the chimneys of houses, and great old trunks of trees made crackling sounds. It was a world of white and dark patches, of lights and shades and of the sounds of the wind and the ice-cold trees.

It seemed like a background of music to Frances and Floyd as they walked up beyond the town to the woods to gather Christmas greens. They wanted a great many greens. The house expected them. Every picture wanted its spray of green behind it, every window wanted its wreath, and the house wanted its big tree, and its little one for the center of the dining room table.

"You're coming to Christmas dinner, you know," Frances told Floyd.

"Yes, your mother did ask me. It was so good of her. Of course it will be my first Christmas away from home, but we never celebrated Christmas much at our house. Not the way you seem to do.

"Why I never knew people to celebrate Christmas as you do—and there are no young children in your house."

"We've always done it that way," Frances answered. "Mother always has Christmas celebrated as though every one of us was a child.

"Maybe it's what keeps us feeling so young and merry all the time. We're such a family for games and fun—all by ourselves, too."

What a beautiful walk they had, and how Floyd did enjoy helping them decorate later on.

## WOODMAN CHANGES DECLARED ILLEGAL

### Insurance Question Is Ruled On By the Colorado Supreme Court.

Denver.—The state supreme court has ruled that certain changes made in the constitution of the Woodmen of the World, with headquarters in Denver, intended to change insurance rates, were not legally adopted.

The changes were made at the organization's head camp session at Oakland, Cal., two years ago last June.

Eight members of the order who contended the officers of the organization were trying to change it from a fraternal association on an assessment plan to an "old line" insurance company, instituted the suit against officers of the organization.

"The decree of the district court in effect left the Woodmen of the World and its membership in the same condition and with the same rights and duties as though no amendment had been attempted," said the court's decision in affirming the judgment of the Denver district court.

"Only in so far as this decree effectuates this purpose it is affirmed. If deemed necessary, questions of the modification of the final decree of the trial court, in order that the same may be practically applicable to the present circumstances of the parties may be further presented to this court upon petition for rehearing."

The supreme court ruled, as did the district court, that no record of the proceedings at the Oakland meeting, participated in by delegates from nine western states, had been kept, and that therefore a viva voce vote on changes in the organization's insurance machinery were not in conformity with its constitution.

The plaintiffs, holders of insurance, alleged the officers in seeking to put into effect the new plan of issuing insurance concocted a "scheme to drive the membership by arbitrary and illegal methods and coercion into surrendering their benefit certificates and accepting old-line insurance."

The defendant officers contended the district court had not jurisdiction and that the plaintiffs, under the Woodmen of the World constitution, had no right to sue.

The states represented at the Oakland meeting in June, 1928, were Colorado, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. At the time the suit was instituted in May, 1929, the statement was made that the organization had a membership in the western states named of about 140,000.

The change in the constitution provided for a new class of insurance or a reserve division with a higher rate on the policies.

A member explains the position of those favoring the assessment plan formerly in vogue as follows: "The delegates were empowered by the constitution to increase the cash reserve by special assessments. A special assessment, therefore, was the only solution to the problem at the meeting of the delegates from the nine western states in Oakland, and it could have been made easily. By the change in the rates of insurance, when they adopted the new plan, they attempted to throw out all the old members; they practically forced them out by raising the rates so high that they had to drop out. The membership of the order dropped from 140,000 two years ago to approximately 50,000 now, because so many were forced out by the increase in the rates."

### Walla Walla Program to Mark All Historical Spots

Walla Walla.—Inauguration of a program which it is hoped will eventually lead to the marking of all historical spots in Walla Walla county in anticipation of the centenary of the arrival of the Whitman missionary party here in 1836 was announced Tuesday at the chamber of commerce by Paul Clark.

Erection of a marker in commemoration of the Old Oregon Trail will be the first step in the program which it is hoped will have markers at every spot in the county touched by historical figures.

Lewis and Clark, Wyeth, Governor Stevens, Hudson's Bay figures, Old Ford Walla Walla at Wallula are among characters and spots to be recognized while restoration of the Whitman Missions hoped for in this activity.

Votes Fund for Jobless Men  
A \$300,000 emergency relief fund for Portland unemployment was allowed by the chairman of the Multnomah county tax supervising and conservation commission for the first time in the history of the county. The city of Portland was allowed \$200,000 of this amount. An item of \$50,000 usually allowed the city council for emergency snow removal was put into the unemployment relief fund. The tax levy was increased 1.2 mills.

Mac Smith, well known merchant of Helix, is seriously ill at his home there.

C. M. Eager and family spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bond in Pendleton.

# 1930's greatest

Free trial... liberal terms if you buy

## ATWATER KENT RADIO

MODEL 1055

Perfected Screen-Grid

MODEL 1055  
The popular low-boy. Exquisitely finished. Blends with any style of furnishing.

### \$125

LESS TUBES

## Rogers & Goodman

(A Mercantile Trust)

### They Raise Turkeys and Kill Oodles of Rattlers

Raising turkeys in the canyons of Wallowa county is practicable if rattlesnakes can be killed off. This is the conclusion of L. F. Evans, who marketed 221 birds this fall from his Joseph Creek canyon ranch, says the Weston Leader. He dressed them at home, carried them on pack horses to the plateau above, trucked them forty miles to a shipping point and expressed them to Portland. Evans killed ninety rattlers during the season as shown by the notches on his stick. He says:

"When the turkeys hear and see a snake they gather around in a circle. When the birds are small they run in and try to pick out the snake's eyes. We watch the turkeys and when we see them gather, someone runs there with a club. It's a case of a dead snake or a dead turkey.

"If we get there in time we kill the snake. If we are late, the snake strikes and hits a bird. It is our observation that the striken turkey runs about twenty feet and drops dead."

### Schannep Re-Elected

At the 25th annual convention of county judges, held at Portland Saturday, Judge I. M. Schannep of Umatilla county, was re-elected president of the association and Judge M. R. Biggs of Crook county, was named vice-president. In his address before the convention, Henry B. Van Duzer said: "There are upwards of 1750 pick, shovel and wheelbarrow jobs for six days a week for three months," and by rotating labor, work on banks, fills, etc., on the state highway system, not including Multnomah county, can occupy twice as many laborers on a three-day a week basis.

### Farmer Gored to Death

Ren Womer, 41, Polk county farmer, was gored to death in his barn near Pedee in the southwestern part of the county by an angry bull. The body was found by Leo Condron, a brother-in-law, who went to the barn to investigate when Womer failed to return from his chores. No one witnessed the tragedy. The body, terribly mutilated, was found in the bull's stall, but the animal had broken his rope and was outside in the barnyard when Condron arrived.

### School Journalism Contest

All high schools of Oregon which publish a school paper, or where the high school students supply news to local papers, will be eligible to compete in the third annual Oregon High School Press Association Journalism contest, held under the auspices of the school of journalism, of the University of Oregon. Awards will be made at the time of the High School Conference, to be held this year January 8 to 10.

**\$5 Special**

On

**Ringlette**

**Permanent Wave**

Until January 1st

**Athena Beauty Shop**

Sadie Pambrun, Operator

Phone 32

**Bring in Your Bent and Sprung Axles**

THIS SHOP IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AXLE GAGUE TO STRAIGHTEN AXLES

Acetylene Welding and Blacksmithing

C. M. Jones Blacksmith Shop

**Real Estate**

Wheat, Alfalfa and Stock Land

SHEEP FOR SALE

L. L. Montague, Arlington

**Transfer**

Bell & Gray

Phone 593

**Two Auto Truck Drays**

Always At Your Service

City and County

Hauling

**Peterson & Lewis**

Attorneys at Law

Practice in all State and Federal Courts.

Inland Empire Bank Building

Pendleton Oregon

**The Athena Hotel**

MRS. LAURA FROOME, Prop.

Courteous Treatment, Clean Beds

Good Meals

Tourists Made Welcome

Special Attention Given to Home Patrons

Corner Main and Third

Athena, Oregon

**RELIABLE WATCH REPAIRING**

Main St. H. H. HILL Athena

**H. A. Frick**

Carpenter and Contractor

Pendleton - Phone 1392J

Specializes in

**Metal**

Weather Stripping

**Pleads Guilty to Sale and Possession**

B. B. Richards, when interviewed by the Press man, pleaded guilty to the sale of the best insurance obtainable for the money and possession of more policies in reserve ready at a moments notice for your use and purpose. A policy for every hazzard.

**B. B. RICHARDS,**

Insurance

**The First National Bank of Athena**

CAPITAL \$50,000 --- SURPLUS \$60,000

Undivided Profits over \$45,000

**A Real Service to the Community**

Conveniently Located, Financially Sound, Able and Willing to Serve You.

**Maintains a Complete Trust Department**

BACKED BY MORE THAN 38 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL BANKING EXPERIENCE. COME IN AND SEE US ABOUT YOUR BANKING REQUIREMENTS.



Let your voice say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year" to the folks at home

IT WILL mean so much to someone! The cost is low. And even lower, if you call "station-to-station"—the term used to describe inter-city calls when you will talk with anyone who answers. "Information" will gladly give you the number if you don't know it. It's easy to make an inter-city call.

**The holidays are here**

Why not telephone your Yuletide Greetings? Why wait until the last-minute rush on Christmas or New Year's Eves? Telephone today. We are at your service.

**THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY**