

CONDUCTOR ACTS AS SANTA CLAUS FOR KANSAS KIDS

PRATT, Kas.—(P)—Santa Claus travels by rail instead of sleigh from here to Tucuman, N. M. Every year, L. M. Horton, one of the oldest conductors on the Rock Island railroad, selects a day shortly before Christmas for appearing before his passengers in the cheerful garb of old St. Nicholas instead of the severely blue uniform he ordinarily wears.

He plays Santa's role not for the passengers, but for the children who live in the towns and on the farms that break the monotony of the prairie along the railroad thru southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma, northern Texas and eastern New Mexico.

Rips of paper are dropped by the conductor from the car window early in December. The notes are addressed to all children who live Santa Claus, telling them on what day they can expect to see this remarkable character himself on the rear platform.

The word spreads to all homes in the towns and to the farms on both sides of the railroad. On the appointed day, train No. 1 is met by eager youngsters. The children gather not only at the stations where the fast flyer makes regular stops, but also along the right-of-way in the country. They know Santa Claus will be on the lookout for them, whether the train is standing or moving.

From the rear platform he throws boxes filled with candy, fruits and nuts, and the children joyfully pick up the gifts.

Horton himself provides the last things for delighting the children's hearts and palates. Occasionally he throws off the train a toy entrusted to him for delivery to a certain child whose place of waiting for Santa Claus is arranged in advance.

The conductor decided to become a Santa Claus after he had observed how happy he made children to whom he threw candies and comic sections of newspapers left by passengers on the train.

Horton has been employed by the Rock Island for 41 years. His home is in Pratt.

MOTOR VEHICLES USED AVERAGE OF 200 GALLONS GAS

Every motor vehicle in the United States used an average of approximately 200 gallons of gasoline during the first six months of 1928, as compared with about 170 gallons during the same period of 1927, according to the American Automobile association.

The national motoring body bases its statement on a gasoline consumption of 4,662,393,535 gallons during the first half of the current year, 3,971,423,311 gallons in the same period last year, and a total registration of more than 23,000,000 motor vehicles.

"This upward trend in gasoline consumption," says the A. A. A., "indicates an increased use of the average motor car. It reflects the large increase in motor touring in 1928 over any previous year. It may be accounted for in some measure by an unusual amount of short-selling by 'Gyp' gasoline stations."

"Whatever the reason, the large amount of gas sold has made possible a greater mileage of improved highways, as the revenue collected by the states from the gas tax amounted to \$149,635,308 in the first six months of the year, which is \$30,384,557 more than the revenue from the same source in the first half of 1927."

"There does not appear to be any relation between the gasoline tax and the amount of gasoline consumed in the various states. This cannot be interpreted as an argument in favor of increasing rates. It rather offers conclusive proof that the automobile is a necessity."

WORLD A HAPPIER PLACE TO BE VIA STUDY OF INSECTS

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—(P)—The absent-minded professor who scampers after elusive butterflies and bugs with a net contributes much to the benefit of humanity.

Carnegie Institute of Technology here has more than 1,500,000 specimens of bugs, beetles, etc., and officials point out that very few of them are harmful. Knowledge furnished by entomologists this world would be a mighty uncomfortable place in which to live.

Study of myriad insects, gathered from near and far, reveals which is beneficial to mankind, and discloses how to rid infested places of harmful insects.

Pittsburgh is the home of four outstanding figures in the entomological world. Dr. W. J. Holland, director emeritus of Carnegie museum, has a personal collection of specimens gathered from the four corners of the earth. Dr. Hugo Kahl, a native of Sweden, presides over the museum's collection. Associated with him are two others—H. G. Klages and B. Brautwurm—both well-known entomologists.

MAYOR DRIVES FIRST RIVET IN MAMMOTH NEW REFINERY



WHEN MAYOR JOHN DENNIS, of Torrance, California, drove the first rivet last week in the new \$10,000,000 General Petroleum refinery at that place, there was celebrated a ceremony of far-reaching industrial importance for the entire Pacific Coast.

The unit pictured above is the first of nine 134,000 barrel tanks to be built on this 950 acre tract which was acquired by General Petroleum about two years ago, in anticipation of its expansion program now under way. Additional tankage to be erected shortly after the first of the year will provide storage for 100,000,000 gallons. It is expected that the new refinery, the largest in Southern California, will be in full operation by February 15, 1929.

CHANGELESS BETHLEHEM HAS 129TH CHRISTMAS

By Ernest Davis
(Associated Press Correspondent.)
BETHLEHEM—(P)—The approach of Christmas yearly raises this Judea village to Olympic heights as the spiritual capital of almost 700,000,000 Christians.

Here one may examine at close range a scene which the western world has always pictured as far off, unreal and vague. Jerusalem is a city which has felt the impact of modern progress, but Bethlehem remains a town of divans and legends. It is still the ancient city of the Bible, but older than the book.

Dirt filled lanes and turnings lead in all directions, some of them so narrow that one modern vehicle would choke them. There are the old houses of white stone with tiny apertures for windows, giving the impression of having stood there from the beginning of time.

Bethlehem clings to a hillside with streets at scenic railway angles. It is none too clean or freshly smelling, a place of decay and ruin. Round about, from beyond its vine-clad hills are fields stretching to Jerusalem in the north and to Hebron and Beersheba on the fringes of the desert in the south. Flocks of sheep graze over the fields, black sheep for the most part, with here and there a white one.

Bethlehem is regularly thronged

with people as long ago, when at the decree of Caesar Augustus "all went to be taxed, every one into his own city."

Today it is only the stranger from the west who is filled with wonder and amazement when he finds things just as they are described in the Bible. The people of Bethlehem, on the contrary, are surprised to find any deviations from the customs of architecture of 1928 years ago.

The Holy Land lives amidst relics from Biblical times and hundreds of persons pass daily along the street through which Christ was led to Golgotha. To the north, east, west and south are ancient Jewish towns now being excavated by historical societies. Even to the present day the Samaritans may be seen bringing the passover sacrifice to Mt. Gerizim, and there is hardly a mile of any road lacking in geographical designations from the Bible.

Here in daily life one meets with dozens of things spoken of in the Bible. Thus, for instance, it would not occur to anyone in Palestine to doubt that Moses was able to look at the promised land from Mt. Nebo. The transparency of the air permits a clear view.

The population of the Holy Land are not deeply impressed by the holiness of their country and the worshipful attitude of foreign-

HOME EDUCATION

"The Child's First School is the Family."—Froebel

Issued by the National Kindergarten Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City. These articles are appearing each Sunday in the Mail Tribune.

MAKING TOYS A TREAT

Theodora Brownfield

Helen received five dolls for Christmas last year. Within two days one was broken and the others did not interest her particularly because she had received so many other gifts throughout the year, that these were no treat.

Yet, this same little miss of five spent the morning not long after playing on my back steps with the parings we had cut from a bunch of turnips. She had a glorious time tying strips of pink gingham on the longest parings "petting" she had dolls with curly hair. And why was she so much more interested in these imaginary dolls, the only tangible evidence of which was their make-shift curls, than she was in the beautiful dolls she had received at Christmas? Almost all children are eager to make something or do something themselves, without interference—to have a chance to use simple materials and their own imagination.

Making use of every-day things teaches children to be creative besides amusing them, usually, far more than ready-made toys do especially when given in an overabundance. There are countless ways that a mother or father can let children make their own fun. For example, one of the happiest boys we have seen in many a day

was sitting in an old auto tire he had hung from a tree, to make a swing that was "different" and a substitute, used, no doubt, because of lack of rope. A short piece of rope was used, however, to suspend this old tire from a tree and the boy was getting an extra thrill by the "bounce" of the rubber as well as the swing of it as he sat "inside" and held on to the sides of the tire.

Of course, not all children want to do things for themselves and if they lack initiative, a little help in starting them to fashion toys that they will enjoy, is a sure way to build up their interest in creating in both a material and mental sense. If Betty's doll furniture goes to pieces, let Betty mend it or make it over, or devise something to take its place. If Robbie's toy dog loses its leash or collar, let him make a new one or "invent" a harness that will serve the purpose.

A few suggestions from adults, at the start, will put children on the "right track" and after that, "little interference" is the best rule if the children are really to learn for themselves. They should not be over-stimulated by outside help or by outside predding. Even babies will enjoy the game of making playthings—of course, very simple ones.

When the children come to realize the work that goes into their making, toys will be truly "a treat."

ers toward Bethlehem and Jerusalem arouses their curiosity. They see the flags raised every Sunday over the consulates of the powers and lowered to half-mast on Good Friday and other days of mourning and they are puzzled.

Palestine watches the celebration of three Christmases, December 25 by the denominations of Europe and America; January 6 by the Greek church and January 18 by the Armenians.

Incidentally this arrangement tends to avoid conflicts. The place in which Christ is supposed to have been born is now covered over by the ancient basilica of Constantine. It remains unchanged since its dedication in the reign of Justinian 1400 years ago.

The areas allotted to each denomination are carefully marked. Each has a part of the church assigned to it. Extreme care is observed to prevent disputes which may lead to an exchange of diplomatic notes or sanguinary encounters.

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GENERAL MOTORS PARTY CHRISTMAS

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors, will deliver a short address in the General Motors Family Party on Christmas eve. Mr. Sloan will extend his greetings to the big "family," which is now linked together on the air from coast to coast as a result of the recent addition of the Orange network to the General Motors hour.



ALFRED P. SLOAN, JR.
President, General Motors

Three artists of first magnitude will present the musical program. They are Maria Kurenko, famous contralto of the Metropolitan Opera, and Adrian Schubert, the

symphony orchestra conductor. An hour's program of popular classical numbers will be given.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR NEXT WEEK ANNOUNCED

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—(P)—The weather outlook for the week beginning December 23, was announced here today by the United States weather bureau, as follows:

For western states: The outlook is for rain over the western half of Washington and Oregon and generally fair weather elsewhere except that rains are probable over northern California and local snows over Idaho and northern Nevada by the end of the week.

Cool weather will prevail generally.

Nominations Confirmed
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—(P)—The nominations of three members of the interstate commerce commission were confirmed today by

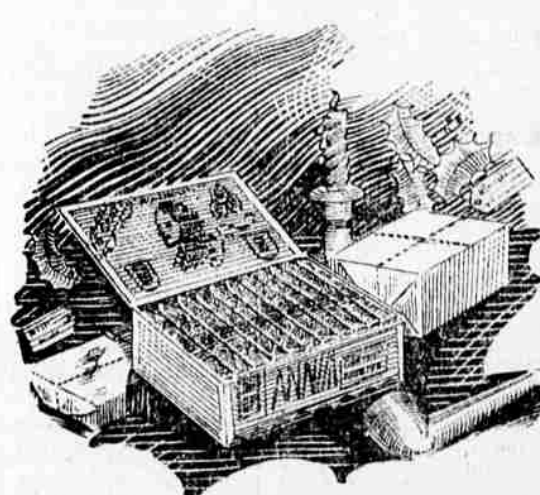
the senate. They were those of Clyde E. Atchison of Oregon, Claude B. Porter of Iowa and Patrick J. Farrell of Washington, D. C.



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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT

Detroit, Michigan, Dec. 21, 1928.

MEDFORD MOTORS, 128 Riverside, Medford, Oregon.

Effective midnight, December twentieth, Plymouth list prices reduced on all closed models as follows: Four-door sedan, forty dollars; two-door sedan, twenty-five dollars; de luxe coupe, forty dollars; business coupe thirty dollars stop This drastic reduction on Plymouth list prices without change of quality, places Plymouth cars in most advantageous position in industry stop Immediately take steps to broadcast good news to your public stop Merry Christmas.

WALTER P. CHRYSLER, President.

Medford Motors

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