

Santa Claus Town in Midst of Annual Chore

Santa Claus Ind.—(U.P.)—This sleepy southern Indiana village—what little there is of it—is in the midst of its annual chore of being the Christmas mail capital of the nation. Elbert Reinke, who heads up the 98-year-old Santa Claus post-office, brushed the dust off his mail cancelling machines late in November and got ready for the rush that comes as regular as clockwork.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of bundles of Yule greeting cards are hauled into this tiny community by truck from the nearest railroads 10 miles away. Reinke and his staff of Christmas-rush extras work far into the night throughout December cancelling the mail with the "Santa Claus, Ind." postmark.

In addition, Reinke's staff weighs, stamps and cancels hundreds of parcels containing toys brought in a big commercial shop shared by the postoffice in a resort area that plays host to thousands of children each year.

Across the hills in a nearby town, members of an American Legion post work long hours too, sorting through thousands of letters dropped in to the nation's mailboxes for Santa by hopeful youngsters.

Commercial Battle

Many postmasters shuttle all the mail addressed to "Santa Claus, North Pole," to the Hoosier town. Jim Yellig and a crowd of Legionnaires send form replies of acknowledgement to all children whose letters bear return addresses.

The village of Santa Claus was founded in 1852 and its name was chosen at a town meeting held on Christmas Eve. A postoffice was established in 1856, and mail was brought from the outside world by horseback and in oxcars for years.

Santa Claus today consists largely of a commercial venture laid out a few years ago on a wooded acreage a quarter of a mile from the old village. Tourists from all over the country bring their youngsters here to ride a miniature railroad train, visit Santa's toy shop, see a flock of reindeer, and chat with Santa himself even on the hottest August day.

Nearby, the old village is deep in weeds. A handful of families live there, but efforts to keep the tourists in the town itself failed during a battle in the 1940's between two groups of commercial interests capitalizing on the town's name.

A huge statue of Santa was built in a small park, and a rival group established a commercial fairland. But the group located outside the town at a cross roads intersection won the fight for the tourist trade, and eventually, the postoffice was moved there.

From the crossroads, and the postoffice, a tourist cannot see the old Santa Claus as it falls into decay.

Girl Scouts

Christmas Party
Girl Scout Troop 124 held a Christmas party at the home of their leader, Mrs. Owen A. Kunkel at 28 Highland Drive on Wednesday afternoon.

Rita Olson and Joyce Leon had charge of the games; Kathleen Cutshall took care of the grab bag of gifts, Barbara Myers and Gayle Evans served refreshments. Janet Ayers and Betty Vail were on the clean up committee.

De Etta Lawson is president of the group, Deanna Kunkel is secretary and Melinda Kennedy is treasurer.

On five treeless, fog-bound islands in Bering sea, the Pribilofs, the largest assemblage of wild animals to be seen anywhere on earth gathers each year. Approximately a million and a half fur seals jam the lonely dots of land in breeding season.



READY FOR BOWL—Ohio State's All-American Howard Cassidy (right) and Dean Dugger (left) are fed oranges by Marilyn Smuin, Tournament of Roses queen, after the team's first practice for their Rose Bowl game with the University of Southern California in Pasadena, Calif.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

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As for engraving the Lord's Prayer on a pinhead, Paul D. Wentz of Sharon, Pa., engraved the Lord's Prayer on a two mm. pinhead. There are seventy words in the prayer and 283 characters. It took Mr. Wentz three hours and a half to do this engraving.

Baldness

Not all baldness is hereditary but most of it is. When a young woman marries a bald or even partially bald man, the chances are very good the male children of the couple will be bald in their adult years. Also the daughter of a baldheaded man often passes the characteristic to her children.

Among The Married

How long does it take your wife to do her housework? The record is two hours daily. This is held by Mrs. Wanda Jennings, winner of the Mrs. America title for 1954. She has a five room house, one child and a husband. Speed ratings are based on records. So the Jennings' record may enable husbands to determine the house-keeping speed ratings of their matrimonial mates. Such figuring may be a little complicated at first because of varying conditions. That is, allowances will have to be made for women having houses of more than five rooms, more than one child, etc. Any assistance given the house-keeper by her husband must also be considered. I have asked our Horses & Women experts to try to devise an accurate method of figuring housekeeping speed ratings. Their findings will be reported in a later issue.

Windy City

According to experts on the subject, Chicago known as "The Windy City" is not as windy as New York City. New York is this country's windiest city. Kansas City is the hottest, Minneapolis the coldest, Santa Fe, N. M., has the most sunshine and Miami, Fla., the most thunderstorms.

Literary Note

When Grandma was a whistle girl the most popular novels with young women featured a great lover who used the "treat 'em rough" technique in love making. As for example, "The Sheik," by Edith Hull. Seems to be a revival of this type. From a current novel by Barbara Cortland, in which the heroine is held captive and made love to by a South American bandit known as El Diablo, I quote: "She writhed as she

thought of his kisses, long, fierce, passionate and possessive, which had seemed in their very ruthlessness to acknowledge him as her master." Does that top "The Sheik" for heated love passages? I couldn't say. I never read it. Ask your Grandma.

Wonder Boy

Jockey Willie Shoemaker is quite a "wonder boy." However, there have been "wonder boy" jockeys before. Winnie O'Connor, of Brooklyn was America's leading jockey at 17. John E. Madden paid Winnie a fee of \$10,000, win or lose, to ride Yankee in the Sheepshead Bay Futurity. The dollar had four times the buying power than it has now. There was no income tax. The fee Madden paid was equivalent to paying a jockey of today \$50,000 to ride one race. Incidentally Yankee won the race.

Asides

Those who were the only child generally develop into the brightest adults. So says a student of human intelligence. That lets me out. I am one of four children.

Visitors Arrive From Minnesota

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bowen, San Pedro, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. Verle Demo and two sons, Minneapolis, Minn., arrived Wednesday evening from San Pedro to visit for about a week with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Demo, 106 Cottage street. Mrs. Bowen and Mr. Demo are daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Demo. Another son, Rex Demo, and his wife, 1181 East McAndrews road, also will be guests at the parents' home for Christmas day dinner.

Student Elected To Chapter Office

Keith Mirick, Medford, was elected chorister of Phi Delta Theta chapter at Willamette university when the fraternity recently held elections, a release from the school states. Dale Patton, McMinnville, was named president of the chapter.

Young Mirick, a son of Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Mirick, is spending the holidays here with his parents. He is majoring in music at Willamette university.

Effingham, Ill.—(U.P.)—At least one resident of this city conscientiously observed a plea to restrict water use. During a recent heavy rain, which helped but did not solve the city's water shortage, he was seen washing his car in the down pour at midnight, clad in a raincoat over his underwear.

Society

Officers Named By Trail Riders

Medford Trail Riders held their annual election Saturday night, with Lloyd Murphy named president. Other officers are John Mitchell, vice-president; Mrs. Clyde Bunker, secretary; Sam Kiems, treasurer.

Named to the board were Tom McInturf, Clyde Bunker, Clarence Dodge, Peyton Newcomb and Vincent Swinney.

Retiring officers were all presented gifts for "a job well done."

Last Sunday the riders held the annual turkey dinner. There was a gift exchange, with Mr. Murphy serving as Santa Claus.

In the afternoon a trio from Southern Oregon college, Ashland, entertained the members. The trio, Gayle Turner, Nancy Mallon and Gaynell Krumbel, sang Christmas carols and led group singing.

The Eve Prentice accordion band entertained the group for an hour, with two pupils also presenting dance numbers.

The evening concluded with dancing. The January meeting of the organization will be held Saturday, January 15.

Children's Party Given by Groups

Members of Crater Lions club and the auxiliary gave the annual Christmas party for the children of club members last Sunday afternoon. The event was held in the Moose lodge hall.

The children played games until Santa Claus arrived. Each child had an opportunity to talk to Santa Claus, and he gave each candy and a toy.

Mrs. Aubrey Smith was chairman of the party.

Employees Guests At Annual Dinner

The Sisters of Sacred Heart hospital gave the annual Christmas party for employees Tuesday. A turkey dinner was served in the social rooms and in the cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and both rooms were decorated in the traditional holiday theme.

The hospital has about 150 employees.

Scout Offices To Be Closed; Growth Noted

Offices of Rogue Valley area, Girl Scout council, in Medford and Grants Pass will be closed from December 24 to January 2, so that the Staff may take a week of their vacation at this preferred time, it was announced today.

"The members of the board wish all the members and friends of scouting, a happy holiday season and at this time thank them for their constant efforts to make the program this year bigger and better for our girls," Mrs. Michele Rossi, council president, stated.

"Through the good teamwork of our leaders and neighborhood chairman, registrations due before December 31 are in almost 100 per cent. Our registrar, Mrs. Melvin Cannon, reports that we have passed the 2,000 mark by a good margin, and that our records show an increase of 275 girls over the December 31, 1953 report," she added.

TO BE SECRETARY

Portland—(U.P.)—Miss Grace C. Townsend, formerly secretary to Sen. Guy Gordon, said today she would be secretary to State Sen. J. O. Johnson of Tigard in the state Legislature opening next month.

Students To Plan Party at College

Five valley students are on a committee of Marylhurst college freshmen who will plan a Twelfth Night party which the class will give on Campus January 6. The students are the Misses Nancy Conroy, Janet Dempster, Mardi Meyers and Dolores Zeleznik, Medford, and Miss Joann Russell, Central Point.

Miss Dempster is president of the hostess class. The event will be the closing festivity of the Christmas season at Marylhurst.

They are all at home for vacation, as are Joan Perreard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Perreard, and Cathie Wong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wong, both sophomores at Marylhurst.

Health Unit Holds Christmas Party

Gold Hill—Gold Hill Health unit held the annual Christmas party December 16 at the home of Mrs. Arthur Boye, with Mrs. E. Kanceller and Mrs. Schoenmann as co-hostesses.

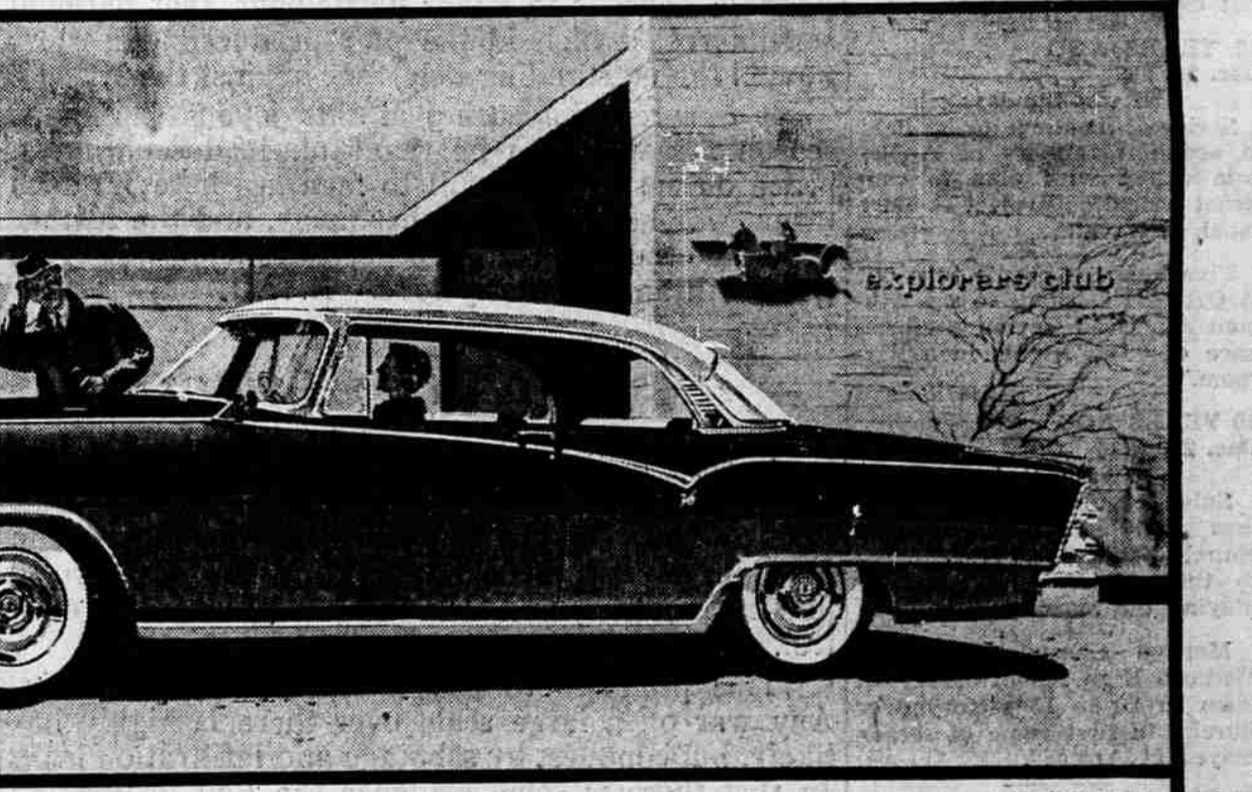
During the business meeting the new x-ray program was discussed and a report made on the progress of the Christmas seal sale.

The group voted to assist in the coming March of Dimes campaign in Gold Hill.

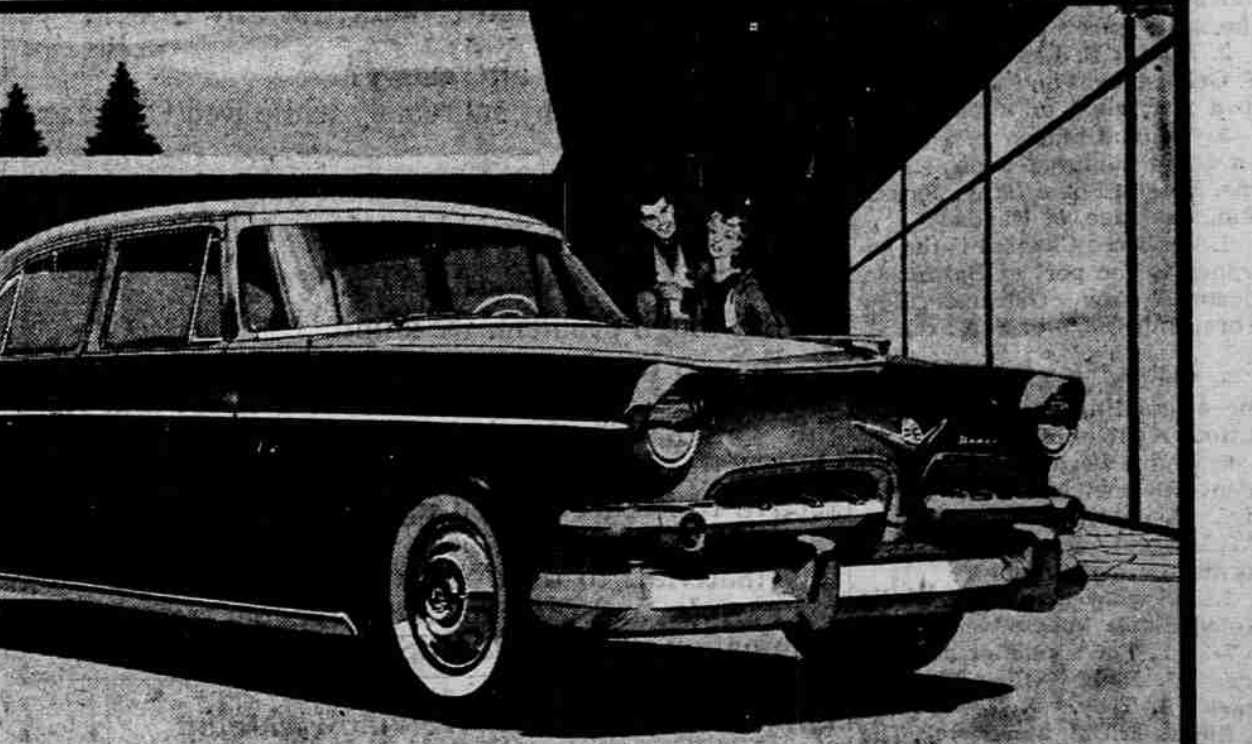
The group sang Christmas carols and enjoyed a program. The names of "secret pals" were revealed and gifts exchanged. The hostesses served refreshments which included a large variety of Christmas cookies.

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