

# Letters to Santa Claus Ask Variety of Gifts

## Requests Include House for Mother, 'Electric Socks'

Children of Jackson county expressed a desire for almost every kind of toy, and in one case a child asked for a "house" for mother, according to Santa Claus, who received hundreds of letters from southern Oregon youngsters.

Some letters were written with the assistance of the child's "mommy" while some brothers and sisters combined their wishes in one letter written by one member of the family, usually an older brother or sister.

Some children, instead of writing, enclosed what resembled a page from an old mail order catalogue. Toys desired by the youngsters were indicated, while those which the child decided he did not want were crossed off.

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TOYS FOR NEEDY—Medford firemen and the Lady Lions Friday held an open house at Franklin's Transfer and Storage to display toys being distributed this week end to needy families. The public donated the toys, firemen repaired them and Lady Lions distributed them. In above photo, left to right, Mrs. R. W. Smith, Mrs. Earl Courtney and Mrs. Joe Patella prove that girls of any age love dolls.

like a paint package, road truck for Dick, a clam shell digger, flatbed truck for John, sign and ticket shop, print shop, typewriter for Jack, Rin Tin Tin set. Thank you Santa.

And a reversible steam engine, tool kit, aircraft carrier, Wild Bill Hickok two gun holster, Roy Rogers signal light, steam engine double, beat the clock, \$64,000 question, safe new combination lock steel, M.D. doctor's kit, new toy coke dispenser, new 63-piece construction set, Roy Rogers ranch, skyline, ready mix concrete truck, Linever get rich, Disneyland, George Gobel, Little Black Sambo and Woody Woodpecker, erector, new tool belt, basketball, alternating current generator, boxing game, football, new dragnet car, games, surprise package, new talking switchboard.

Thank you Santa.

Most children signed only their first name, while others signed their full name and address. A brother and sister included a map of city streets with their home pointed out, but they didn't include a list of what they wanted for Christmas.

Santa said most letters he received had regular postage stamps on them—including air mail postage. He said he noticed a few letters with Christmas Seal stamps and some with green stamps.

Santa said he had little trouble reading the lists, and expressed appreciation for the letters sent to him. A majority of the letters, he said, closed with the words "and anything else you might like to bring me."

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## Famous Editorial

In response to a request, the Mail Tribune is glad to publish again the famous New York Sun editorial, written in 1892, entitled, "Yes, Virginia; There Is a Santa Claus."

It was written by an obscure editorial writer named Francis P. Church in response to a letter from Virginia O'Hanlon, in which she said:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says if you see it in the Sun, it's so. Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

The editorial replied:

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they can see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge."

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound, and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished."

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world."

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not even the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all the world there is nothing else real and abiding."

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, may, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."



PEAR SEED THRASHER—When Gordon Kershaw saw the need of improving his orchard planting stock he built this machine to "thrash" seed from the Winter Nelis pear, an especially disease-resistant variety. Kershaw admits to having invented a number of "Rube Goldberg" contrivances, but this one, he says, is really practical. Above, Kershaw shovels pears into the hopper while Joe Lindsey and Grant Mattig, who helped him build the machine, look on.

## Disease Control Class Set at Eagle Point

Eagle Point—The Eagle Point Agricultural advisory board has announced that an "animal disease control and sanitation on the farm" course will be held here next month.

The course will be taught by Dr. E. M. Hanawalt of Central Point, who conducts some of his livestock veterinarian practice in the Eagle Point area.

The course will be similar to one at Crater High school in Central Point in previous years, and will include modern changes in prevention and control of

livestock diseases developed in the past year.

The first meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the vocational agriculture building at Eagle Point. Ten meetings are planned for the course, which will include motion pictures, lecture sections and practical demonstrations.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Nat Etzel, vocational agriculture instructor at Valley 6-3071, or at the Eagle Point agriculture building.

## Pear Seed Thrasher Developed By Orchardist in Rogue Valley

Gordon Kershaw prominent Rogue valley orchardist and farmer, who is well-known for his experiments with machinery and gadgets of all kinds, has come up with another unusual device that he calls a "pear seed thrasher."

To some this might seem like a useless sort of a machine because any housewife could do the same thing with a sieve. But for Kershaw's purpose this method wouldn't be fast enough, and besides that it might damage the seed, which, in this case, is the product being sought.

The seeds he will "thrash" in the machine are to be planted as nursery stock, and are from a particularly hardy species of pear, the Winter Nelis.

The bulk of the seed now available for planting is from canneries, and is almost entirely Bartlett seeds, which is not as hardy a variety as the Nelis. Kershaw, who runs a nursery on his land in the Table Rock area, decided that in order to grow a better starting stock, he must have the hardiest variety of tree, which, of course, could be grafted onto later with a more marketable pear.

The problem was to extract the seeds from the Nelis pear in large enough quantities to make the project worth while. He visualized a machine that would process the seed automatically, and it wasn't long before plans for such a device were worked out. After a little experimenting, taking place over a period of several weeks, Kershaw was shoveling pears in one side of

a remodeled cider press and pear seeds were dropping into a 50 gallon drum some distance away.

The whole process works somewhat on the principle of a sluice box, with water being mixed with the crushed pear pulp as it travels through the press and down a chute. The seeds are then pumped, along with water, to a settling tank, where they remain until they are taken out to dry.

By furnishing orchardists with this hardy, disease-resistant stock, Kershaw feels that, in time, a better grade of pear trees will predominate in most pear-producing areas, bringing better crops with less care.

## Californian Gets County Jail Term

Paul Edward Campbell, 17, of Oakley, Calif., was committed to the county jail Friday in lieu of payment of a \$20 fine after pleading guilty in district court here to charges of having no operator's license.

He was arrested by state police last Wednesday along with his brother, Carl Russell Campbell, 24, of Oakley, Calif. He was arrested on a concealed weapons charge and is being held for Contra Costa county authorities on a robbery charge.

## TV's 'Vampira' Hurt In Apartment Fire

Hollywood — (UP) — Actress Milla Nurmi, 34-year-old "Vampira" of television, and an actor friend suffered first degree burns Friday night when her Hollywood apartment caught fire.

Miss Nurmi was burned on the arms and hands. The blaze apparently started in an over-stuffed chair.

Her friend, Charles Beadles, 22, suffered burns on his right foot and hand. He and the actress put out the flames. Both were treated at Hollywood receiving hospital.

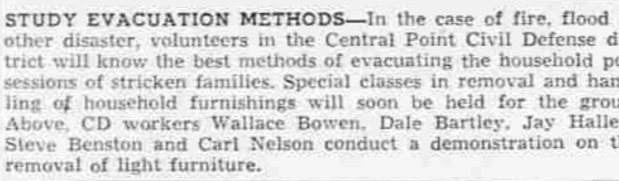
Miss Nurmi said "one of the lit candles in a chandelier must have fallen onto the sofa."

The actress will play the role of a witch in the forthcoming Disney production of "Sleeping Beauty."

Firefighters Regain Control of Brush Fire

Ventura, Calif. — (UP) — Firefighters regained control Saturday of a stubborn three-day brush fire which had flared anew behind brisk winds along U. S. Highway 101 northwest of here.

Some 1,000 acres have been burned so far.



STUDY EVACUATION METHODS—In the case of fire, flood or other disaster, volunteers in the Central Point Civil Defense district will know the best methods of evacuating the household possessions of stricken families. Special classes in removal and handling of household furnishings will soon be held for the group. Above, CD workers Wallace Bowen, Dale Bartley, Jay Hallett, Steve Benston and Carl Nelson conduct a demonstration on the removal of light furniture.



NEW RECEIVER-TRANSMITTER — Shown above, Donald E. Faber, Mayor of Central Point and head of the town's Civil Defense district, and D. R. Offut, CD communications chief, try out the new portable transmitter purchased by the district recently for use in Civil Defense Work. The \$600 unit, especially designed for Civil Defense use, can be purchased by any community for \$75, with the help of government funds. Offut, an experienced radio operator, is currently conducting classes, free of charge, for anyone interested in Civil Defense communications. According to Faber, a practice alert will soon be conducted by the district.

## Great Decisions Chairman Urges Formation of Groups

Mrs. John Ousterhout, chairman of the Jackson county Great Decisions program, Saturday urged interested people to organize informal groups of 6 to 14 people to discuss issues of the 1956 Great Decisions program, scheduled to start Jan. 20.

The groups will meet in private homes and discuss eight foreign policy issues. These topics will also be featured in television and radio broadcasts and newspapers.

Material Provided

Special background study materials will be provided for all discussion groups. At the end of each discussion, individuals will register their opinions through Great Decisions ballots. Results of these go to Congress and the state department. Enrollment blanks and fact sheets will be available at the Medford library on Jan. 1.

Among those assisting Mrs. Ousterhout with plans for the program are Don Hansen, Medford attorney, who is contacting men's service groups; Mrs. Justin Smith, Medford High school teacher, school groups; William Prentice, Copco; Mrs. Irving Thomas, women's service groups; Mrs. Leland Mentzer, League of Women Voters; Everett Faber, station KBES-TV; and Mrs. Ron James, Jayettes.

Mrs. Ousterhout has suggested

Mountain Climber Dies

Cortina Dampazzo, Italy—(UP)—Guido Lorenzi, 29, one of Italy's ranking mountain climbers and Alpine guide, died in a hospital here Saturday of internal injuries.

He fell from the roof of a barn eight days ago.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

**Tabu Dinner House**  
305 South Riverside Avenue

To allow our Employees to enjoy the Holidays—  
We will be closed  
December 23-24-25th

TO ALL... OUR WARMEST

# Christmas

GREETINGS!

We want to rejoice with you this most blessed of Seasons... May the Yuletide be filled with happiness and cheer for each of our neighbors and friends throughout the Rogue River Valley... and may the New Year bring to you all good health and good fortune!

JULIE, ROLAND AND ALL OF US AT—

**MON DESIR DINING INN**  
CENTRAL POINT

We're closed Christmas Eve so that our staff may enjoy this truly family night at home. Special Dinner served on Christmas Day.

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