

Sources Not Agreed on Ancestry of Santa Claus.

Just how old is Santa Claus? Where does he come from? Why does he enter by way of the chimney? Why does he drive a sleigh? Even the best reference sources do not quite agree about the ancestry of the jolly, big-hearted fellow we know.

But, after all, is it so important whether the name Santa Claus has its origin in the Dutch "Sinterklas," or in the German "Christkind" or "Kris Kringle"?

It is generally agreed that the idea for our modern day Santa Claus began with a young boy called Nicholas over 1600 years ago.

During his early years, growing up in the Asia Minor portion of present-day Turkey, he was generous and pious. These qualities grew within him until as a man he became the bishop of Myra. His most famous deed of

generosity was directed toward three beautiful daughters of a poor nobleman. He wanted dowries for his children so they could be married.

So, Nicholas on three different nights tossed bags of gold through a window of their home, and each daughter could be married and well cared for.

Down through the centuries the story of Saint Nicholas was carried to other countries and when unexpected gifts appeared they were attributed to him.

Children still wait for Saint Nicholas, or "Sinterklas" as they call him. He is pictured as a kindly, white-bearded bishop who rides a white horse over the rooftops when he lowers his gifts down the chimney.

It is to this "Sinterklas," brought over by the early Dutch settlers, that we give thanks for Santa's custom and method of giving, for the full white beard, riding over rooftops and, partially, for his name.

Santa Claus had many other forerunners, some who still bring gifts in his place to children in other lands.

Another "ancestor" of Santa came from Germany. "Christkindl," sometimes called "Kris Kringle," is a little messenger of the Christ child. This same angel also was the gift-giver to the Swiss children. There the angel arrived in a sleigh drawn by six reindeer. The elves, Santa's fine helpers, are "imported" from Norway.

Writes Poem

Dr. Clement Clark Moore, a seminary professor, wrote "A visit from St. Nicholas" ("The Night Before Christmas") for his children. He vividly described Santa Claus, bringing together all the many legends he knew.

In 1863, cartoonist Thomas Nast was commissioned to illustrate Moore's poem. Santa Claus, much as we see him today pictured everywhere at Christmas, emerged from Nast's drawing board 96 years ago in New York City.

Since then, this red and white garbed fellow known as Santa Claus—with the big heart, the jolly face and abundant good-will is here to stay and is now quite, quite real for every child!



SHIELDS
CUFF LINKS—A tasteful, lavish gift that features his initials on the cuff links and tie bar set. Elegant in gleaming silver or gold "satin and silk" finish.—By Shields.

Portrait Photos Make Fine Gifts

Portrait photographs make wonderful, personal gifts as warm and alive as a handshake and as welcome as a sprig of Christmas cheer on a blustery December day.

Children especially make stunning portraits as they pass a new milestone each Christmas.

Here are some tips to remember when having the small fry photographed:

Be sure the child is well rested and fed. Hair should be simply styled and natural looking. Avoid the plastered

down style for boys; too tight curls for little girls. Dress the child in snug-fitting clothes—perhaps last year's—so they will have a smooth line. Be sure they are neatly pressed; avoid ruffles or flounces that detract.

If the child has a favorite toy, take it along; it will help the child relax. Many photographers suggest that the best portrait can be made if the child is not told he is to have his picture taken until he arrives at the studio.

Although most photogra-

phers prefer to have mother or parents in the studio during the sitting, by all means let the photographer take the picture. He can get the best expression in a portrait when he wins the child's confidence.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Thursday, Nov. 26, 1959

Shop Wisely for Christmas Tree

Shop as wisely for your Christmas tree as you do for that very special gift. In order to get a lovely tree that will stay that way there are several considerations.

First, check the shape of the tree, making sure that it is uniform and full-branched.

Most important—check the tree for freshness. Gently shake a few of the branches. If needles fall off, the tree is "too old."

Be sure to measure the height you want for the tree in your home and then take that yardstick with you when you buy. A tree in an open-air lot looks smaller than it actually is. It's a waste of money buying a tree that is too tall; it also means it will have to be cut down.

Many people feel that it is worth it to spend a little more and get a fire-proofed tree. Many families are selecting the colored trees in place of the green ones. This is simply a matter of taste.

There are four kinds of trees that are popular and generally the best—Douglas Fir, White Fir, Silvertip and Minnesota Spruce.



BLUE MINK—Make it a blue Christmas and make her happy! This Cerulean (blue) Mink is young-at-heart-styled to appeal to every woman no matter what age. Called the "Up 'n Over," it's designed to go on over the head, though it sometimes comes with a hidden full-length front zipper. Modestly priced! By Jean Campbell of Sportswirl.

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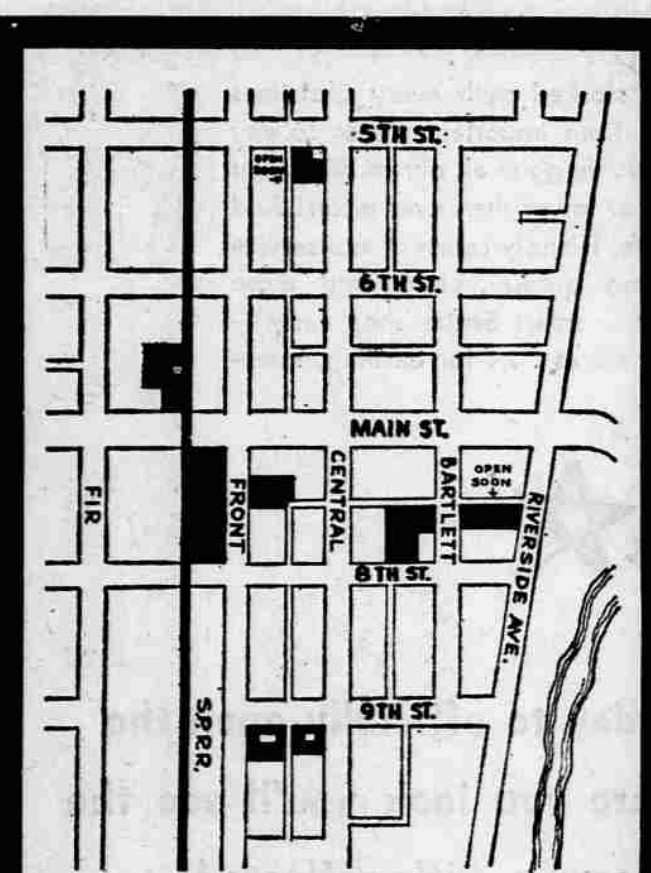


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