

WHOSE CHRISTMAS CARD WAS THIS?

It was a quieter world when a carefree lad, who since has become a famous, care-laden man, joined two friends in sending this holiday greeting

By K. C. JEROME



We're puttin' on our top hat,
Tyin' up our white tie,
Brushin' off our tails,

In order to
Wish you

A Merry Christmas

Rip. Leem. Ken.

● Comic Christmas cards aren't so common today. But a number of years ago they were popular, especially among young people.

The specimen shown here is a distinctive one because one of the three senders later became world-famous. Can you identify him?

The year was 1935. Hitler rejected the Versailles Treaty that year; Will Rogers was killed; John L. Lewis founded the C.I.O.; Italy invaded Ethiopia. And at Princeton University, the freshman class included three boys who had come from the Choate School and were rooming together.

The hit movie of the year was "Top Hat," which featured music and lyrics by Irving Berlin and dancing by Fred Astaire. The three freshmen decided on a Christmas card illustrating the main musical theme of that movie.

"Puttin' on our top hat," at left, was Rip, actually Ralph Horton, Jr. After graduation, he went into construction and sales work in Texas. Now he lives in Washington.

"Tyin' up our white tie," in the center, was Leem, who is Kirk LeMoyne Billings. He entered the advertising field after college and today is vice president of a large New York agency, Lennen & Newell, Inc.

"Brushin' off our tails," at right, was Ken, the third of the pajama-clad trio. Have you recognized him by now?

Ken never did graduate from Princeton. Illness forced him to withdraw from college at about the same time this card was mailed. He intended to register there again the next year but transferred to Harvard instead.

His nickname was changed, too. It became Jack.

He sends out more austere Christmas cards today—for he is the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

Card reprinted by permission of "Princeton Alumni Weekly."

COVER

Doris Pinney captures a youngster's rapt curiosity over a soft, furry kitten. For more about these lovable creatures, turn to "When Your Cat Has Kittens," page 8.

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