

Is There a Santa Claus? Here's The Famous Answer to that Query

Little children accept the story of Santa Claus without question, but as they grow older they begin to have doubts. One of them in 1897, wrote to the New York Sun asking whether there is a Santa Claus. Its answer, written by Francis P. Church and printed as an editorial article, has become almost as famous as Dr. Clement C. Moore's "The Visit of St. Nicholas," or, as so many know the poem, "Night Before Christmas." Here it is:

"We take pleasure in answering this prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am 8 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?—Virginia O'Hanlon."

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been deceived by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they 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 in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you 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.

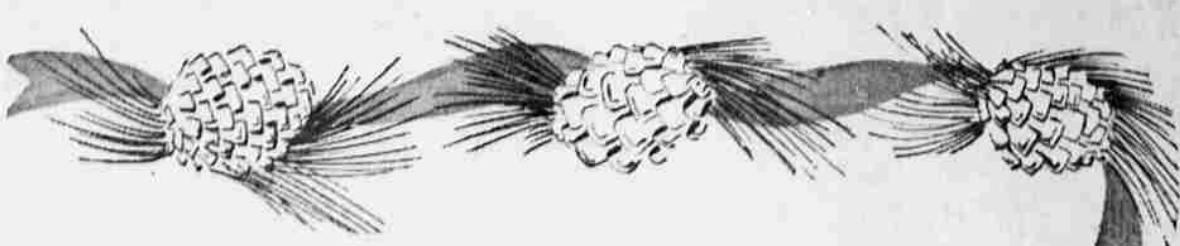
"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and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

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

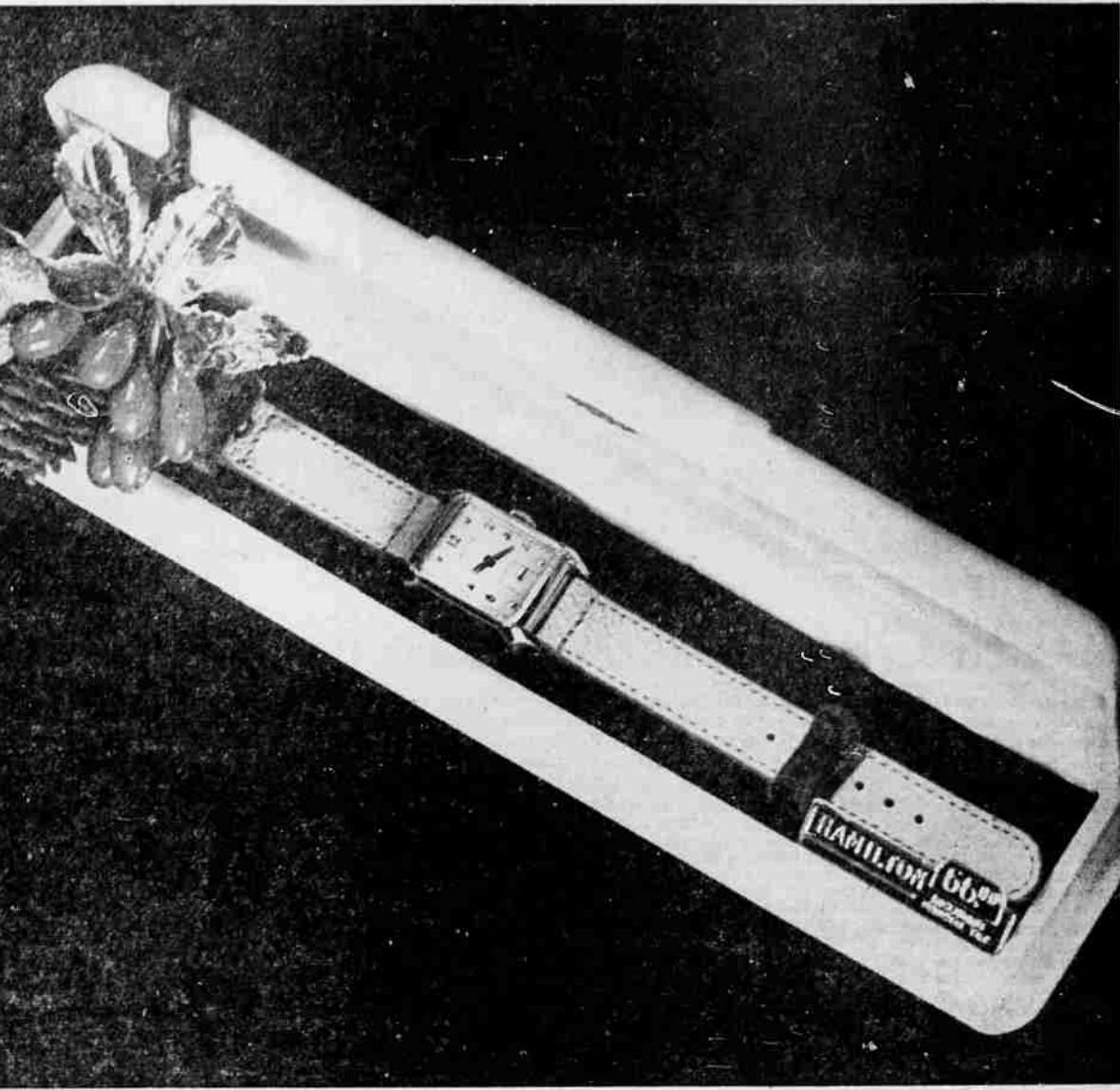
Tree Harvest (Continued)



Evergreen branches compare with the furry antlers of deer or the feathery fronds of ferns in the above picture, and the picture below, showing the back of a truck, loaded with Christmas trees, picks out the stump ends and the green whirls of branches with snow-flake designs. Trees are cut in the forest and piled by the side of the road for pickup by truck at the end of the day. Leslie Babcock is the man shown behind the stacked trees and Ronald Ansted is the boy in the plaid shirt. For more on the tree harvest, see page 8.



RICKYS JEWELERS - 700 MAIN ST.



December 3, 1947

Mr. and Mrs. Klamath Basin
U. S. A.

Dear Friends:

In preparing an ad for this Christmas issue we have found it impossible to advertise more than a token of the nationally known brands in stock for delivery in all departments.

In selecting the article pictured we have attempted to convey by symbol that we will show you only the best at prices that all can afford. Need more be said?

Our sincere best wishes for your HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS.

Rickys Jewelers