



Don't Forget Unfortunate Kids; Take Toys to the Fire Station

November 30, 1949

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy, eight years old. I live with my grandmother. She says Santa Claus won't forget me, but I thought I would write you just to make sure.

I would like to have a red wagon for Christmas this year if you have one. Some of the other little boys I play with have wagons but none of them are red and I sure would like to have a red wagon.

I know you have lots of little children to visit but I hope you have a red wagon you can bring me. Thank you a lot Santa Claus. I'll try to be a good boy until Christmas.

Very truly yours,
JOHNNY SMITH.

The foregoing letter is typical of many received by the fire department. This letter was never mailed, because the grandmother, unable to provide the Christmas present her grandson wanted, took the letter to a welfare organization and it was turned over to the fire department.

Some letters came addressed directly to the fire department because the people of Klamath Falls

have come to know the extent of the toy rebuilding program the firemen undertake each Christmas.

Last year, firemen delivered toys and gifts to more than 600 families in Klamath Falls and the Klamath basin. They made trips as far as Keno and Algona to take toys they had rebuilt and repaired for Christmas gifts.

The department begins its Christmas program early in November

by collecting toys. People bring in old toys and firemen spend their spare time on repairs.

Wheels are replaced on broken tricycles and bent frames are straightened. A fresh coat of paint is given the toys and then they are tagged with the name of the fire department and stored upstairs for Christmas delivery.

Firemen at the city fire station, Broad and Wall, are the only firemen in the area working on the toy program, due to limited tools, equipment and space facilities.

City Fire Marshal Roy Rowe said letters came into the department from all over the area. Some are direct requests for families who are unfortunate, others are from friends who ask for toys for neighbor children, and other names come from welfare organizations.

Rowe said that people sometimes fail to give the names and ages of children when they send in requests. "If we know the name, the sex, and the age of a child we can come a lot closer to selecting a toy or

CHRISTMAS IS A WONDERFUL time for little boys. Left to right, Gary Williams admires a basketball, complete with a hoop. Roger would give anything for a new bicycle, and little Jimmy would be perfectly satisfied with a brand, spanking new sled.

gift that will make him or her happier," Rowe said.

Slow Response
"So far this year, the response for needed toys hasn't been too well accepted," Rowe continued. "But as long as people bring us the toys in time to repair them and deliver before Christmas, it is all we ask."

"Cooperation from downtown stores usually helps us increase the number of toys we have to give away," Rowe said. At times the stores will turn over old or soiled stock to us to use and we get a lot of good toys and playthings for distribution."

Firemen usually begin delivery three or four days before Christmas obtaining cooperation from parents or guardians to keep the toys until Christmas. This much time is usually needed since the deliveries are so wide spread.

It has been 19 years since the fire department first began to play Santa Claus to Klamath Falls children. The toy program was abandoned during the war years 1941-47 but was revived last year. "This year, plans are bigger than ever. The back part of the fire de-

partment shop looks like a toy wonderland at present. Sleds, tricycles, wagons, buggies, dolls, games, blocks, playthings and every possible toy a child could want is somewhere among those the firemen are working on.

In one corner, bent and broken wheels are being replaced on a tricycle or wagon and in another corner, doll arms and legs are being fastened together. In the center of the room on a bench, a fireman is spraying paint on a repaired rocking horse to give it that new, Christmas morning look.

"We have to call for help sometimes when it comes to repairing these dolls," Rowe said. "We have to ask some of the ladies' organizations to make or sew dresses. That is a little bit out of our line."

"Sometimes our reception when we deliver toys to various homes is not so very warm," Rowe said. "People are not so appreciative."

"But on the other hand," the fireman continued, "most of the people are so grateful that one delivery to a home like that makes the whole program worthwhile."

Don't Worry About HIM; Visit the Sports Scene!

By RED HURD

Lady, you have no worries about buying a Christmas gift for your husband or boy friend.

Just check the sporting goods stores in town and your problems are solved.

Of course, if the guy's favorite outdoor sport is fishing, you have an easier chore than if his number one hobby is hunting.

The reason for this, of course, is that shotguns and rifles are still a little scarce. But miscellaneous accessories to go with a nimrod trip are plentiful.

Idea
How's about, for example, a sleeping bag? Or maybe a new telescope sight for the rifle he already has, would hit the spot.

Here are a few more suggestions: Binoculars, a leather shotgun case, leather boots or maybe a hunting coat.

But the fishing field is fertile in the gift department. Because there is no shortage. Take your pick of rods, you can buy 'em all—fly rods, casting rods or salmon rods. And there's a variety of matching reels to go with

a complete stock of equipment for any sport.

There's a long winter ahead and someone in the family will want to spend some time skiing or ice skating there is an assortment of beautiful Christmas gifts for winter sports.

And for the small fry there are ice skates with double runners.

Hunters
Hunters "what am" hunters won't go without accessories such as a barometer, thermometer, a compass or altimeter, either hand or for the car.

This brings you down to the smaller items if the Christmas budget has already been stretched to the limit.

Here's a few suggestions: a pocket knife, hunting knife, lantern, camp cook stove or a flashlight, fishing hat, duck straps, snowshoes or gun belts.

This suggestion column could go on and on. We suggest you just drop in your favorite sporting good store and have a look-see.

In the meantime, don't let Christmas buying worry you. You'll have more ideas than you can possibly use.

Stars
Frost with white icing, then sprinkle with pink or yellow sugar. Make a candle in center of star using red for flame, green for candle and mixed colors for candle holder.

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