

### Cartoonist Frist Drew Old Santa

If you picture Santa Claus as a round jolly elf, pink-cheeked and with snowy beard and mustachios then you carry the image of him as he was created about 90 years ago.

Santa Claus, as we know him, was created by Thomas Nast, noted cartoonist whose famous political cartoons helped to break up the notorious Boss Tweed's Tammany ring in New York City.

During the 1860's, Nast was asked to illustrate Clement Clark Moore's poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," better known to most of us as "The Night Before Christmas." The drawings accomplished by Nast for this poem, showed Santa Claus as the now-familiar figure.

Prior to the Nast rendition, the artists who attempted to draw Santa Claus could not agree how he looked.

It was Nast who located his home at the North Pole and gave him the sleigh drawn by reindeer. He drew Santa Claus as the jovial gentleman, dressed in red, wearing cap and boots and carrying the huge pack-full of toys and treasures.

Santa Claus in this image first appeared in 1863, and since that year, Santa Claus has remained pretty much the same to all of his many admirers, young and old.

### Historians Can't Fix Birth Date

Through the years, historians have been unable to fix the actual date of Christ's birth or the date at which Christmas first became a general festival.

For three centuries following his birth, Christ's nativity was variously celebrated in January, March, April, May, September and October by Christian groups.

Before the fifth century, there was no official church agreement as to when Christmas should come in the calendar.

In Britain, December 25 had been a festival since early pre-Christian times. The ancient Anglo-Saxons began their year on this day and called their holiday "modranecht," or mothers' night.

Western church authorities met in the fourth century to set a definite date for the celebration. Eastern churches did not cooperate until the sixth century when December 25 was set as the day for the observance of Christmas.

Folks often question as to why December was selected as the month for rejoicing.

This month was chosen in order that a Christian festival could compete with those of the pagans because December was noted for its feasts and holidays in every civilized land.

Romans, Greeks, Saxons and the Nordics all took part in the celebration of these festivals which had originated before the birth of Christ.

From the Romans comes the custom of giving gifts. . . for this custom has been traced to the Roman feast of Saturn (Saturnalia) which was celebrated during the 17th, 18th and 19th of December.

From the Saxons come the ceremony of burning the Yule log, which was lighted in honor of their great god Thor.

### Personal Touch, Practical Are Aprons as Yule Gifts

Aprons, as Christmas gifts, are so popular with women as to be almost traditional by now. The ones that are made for the wearer are best, because they combine the personal touch with practicality.

When they're made from cotton feed bags, according to patterns, gift aprons have another asset: they're thrifty. But thrift doesn't mean dullness. Vary the patterns that you use with the needs of your friends and make everyone happy.

For a friend who likes to entertain, a party-time apron will be a welcome gift. A 100-pound feed bag in a soft blue, maroon and white ballet print was chosen for the apron we made. It's easy to do, pretty when it's finished. A white cotton ergandy sash and big pocket provide contrast and trim.

Another half-apron for a hostess uses a 100-pound print bag and part of a plain bag. Plain fabric is inset in inverted triangles and forms the waistband. Print is a light blue and rust against white, with plain fabric dyed a matching rust.

A practical apron that looks pretty is done in plaid, bound in red tane, given a red patch pocket. Wide shoulder straps criss-cross in back, button in front.

The coverall is a handy apron

### Turkey Is Essential For Yule

There's nothing more festive for the Christmas feast than a golden brown turkey with all the traditional trimmings.

Of course, the size of the turkey depends on the number of people you plan to serve. Remember, a 15-pound turkey will serve 12 hearty appetites.

If you plan to stuff the turkey, allow one pound of your favorite dressing to each pound of turkey. Make sure not to pack the stuffing in too tightly as it will swell in cooking.

Secure the opening with a soft thread or with toothpicks across the opening, lacing it ladder-wise with a soft twine.

Place the turkey, breast-side up in a shallow roasting pan. Place it on a rack if you have one.

Brush the entire bird with melted butter or margarine. Then take several layers of clean white cheesecloth, large enough to cover the breast, legs and wings of the bird, soak these thicknesses with melted butter or margarine and cover the whole turkey. Place in a preheated oven and baste occasionally while roasting.

**ROASTING TIME TABLE**

Weight 10-14 lbs., oven temp. 325 degrees, cooking time 3 1/2 to 4 hrs.

Weight 14-18 lbs., oven temp. 300 degrees, cooking time 4 to 4 1/2 hrs.

Weight 18-20 lbs., oven temp. 300 degrees, cooking time 4 1/2 to 5 hrs.

### If Candle Bright, Luck Good

According to Christmas tradition, anyone who burns a bayberry candle during the Christmas holidays and if the candle burns bright and clear, will have good luck throughout the year and a long and happy life.

There is also significance to the custom of burning bayberry candles at Christmas. The belief is that during the early days of our country's history, there was a scarcity of animal fat from which to make candles. So the branches of bayberry shrub were covered with wax and burned at Christmas.

For as long as people can remember, the burning of candles has been an important part of the celebration of Christmas Eve.

### Tip: Watch Fire Danger

Warning: It only takes an average-sized living room Christmas tree two minutes to burn.

That's not enough time for the fire wagon to get there.

Here are a few precautions which can help prevent unfortunate happenings and possibly bad fires this season:

- 1-Use a live tree, or one freshly cut whenever possible.
- 2-Use non-inflammable trimmings.
- 3-Check your lights, be sure the connections are safe and there are no frayed wires in the string.
- 4-Never use lighted candles.
- 5-Don't leave tree lights on for long periods and when the family isn't home.
- 6-Check regularly to see whether the needles near lights are turning brown, and if they are move the lights to another spot.
- 7-When the tree gets dried out, get rid of it.

### St. Nick Is Seal Theme

This year's TB Christmas Seal was designed by Robert Stephens of Newark, N. J., who was a newspaperman, iron worker, restaurant worker, art teacher and army combat engineer before he settled down to commercial art.

In submitting the design for the seal, he chose Santa Claus as the central theme, not only for a seasonal touch but because Santa is the symbol of unselfish giving.



A REAL ONE-ROOM schoolhouse is operated by the resident families of Crater Lake national park, with Mrs. Mary Ruth Packard as teacher. The students, shown with Mrs. Packard, are (left to right, seated) Judy Fulton, Terry Caster, Patty Trulove and Donnie Yegge; (standing, left to right) Dee Turner, Judy Trulove and Chet Caster. The school is located in the school administration building and operates without the benefit of school tax money. The students range from kindergarten to third grade age.



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## Nick is Most Popular Saint

One of the most popular saints in Christendom, especially through out the Eastern World is Saint Nicholas, patron saint of old Russia, of Aberdeen, of parish clerks and of scholars (who used to be called clerks). He is the original of our Santa Claus.

Little is known of his life but he is said to have been the Bishop of Myra in the early part of the fourth century.

Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of pawnbrokers because of the three bags of gold (later transformed to three balls of gold) that

he gave to the daughters of a poor man to save them from the necessity of earning their dowries in a disreputable way.

He is also the patron saint of little boys. Legend has it that Saint Nicholas restored the lives of three little boys who had been cut up and pickled in a salting-tub to be served as bacon.

Saint Nicholas is invoked by sailors, because he allegedly a storm during a voyage to the Holy Land. He is said to have originated the Christmas stocking custom. According to this legend, he once

climbed to a roof top to avoid being seen and dropped a purse of gold down the chimney for a needy family. The money, instead of falling into the fire, is supposed to have lodged in a child's stocking hanging on the mantelpiece to dry. Saint Nicholas' act became known, and thereafter when unexpected gifts appeared, they were attributed to Saint Nicholas.

His day is December 6th, and he is represented in Episcopal robes with three bags of gold, three gold balls, or three small boys—in allusion to one of the above legends.

at CHRISTMAS remember...

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