Santa Claus Remembers Little Ones

By PATRICIA CONNOR
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) —Santa Claus did not forget the little angels with clipped wings.

He brought them music even though some could not hear the notes, some could not see the instruments, some could not sing the carols, some could not rise to clap.

The heart-tugging scene was Monday's sixth annual Christmas concert by the National Symphony Orchestra for handicapped children from 33 Washington area institutions.

The children are mentally retarded, disturbed, blind, deaf, crippled and underprivileged. Some were in braces and some were in wheelchairs.

Santa Wears Glasses

Toddlers and teen-agers alike, they reacted just like more fortunate children. Their faces melted into excited grins when Santa Claus arrived.

Five-year-old Coleen Brashear, a cerebral palsy victim, exclaimed with delight, "Santa wears glasses just like me."

The program ranged from lively classical pieces to "Jingle Bells" and Christmas carols. When orchestra director Howard Mitchell invited Santa to play the cello, the children squealed with surprise.

Santa was Maurice Schones, cellist with the symphony.

Deaf and hard-of-hearing children were among the most enthusiastic. "They can feel the vibrations," a teacher explained.

Remarkable Experience

The youngsters clapped and slid to the edge of their seats when the drum section played extra loud. Two little girls, their legs in braces and brown hair straggling in their eyes, solemnly conducted with their hands.

When Mitchell suggested the children sing the carols, those who could stood up and joined in.

"This is a remarkable experience for children," said Mrs. Jones, director of special education for the D.C. public schools. She stood by a group of mentally retarded children.

"It's being in a group and feeling they've done what others are doing," she said.

Dog Gives Life To Save Dog

SAN DIEGO (UPI)—A big dog sacrificed its life to save a small dog from drowning, the owner of two pets said today.

Ray Robbins said his Weimaraner Katie and small Pomeranian-Chihuahua Taco were playing at Mission Bay near their home when an incoming tide trapped them in the water beyond a fence protecting a wildlife refuge.

"Little Taco was worn out and kept sinking," said Robbins. Katie would reach down and bring her up.

"Katie would have made it around the fence by herself, but she wouldn't leave Taco."

A neighbor waded out and rescued Taco while the large dog clamped her teeth in the fence until rescuers reached her. She was taken to a veterinarian's but soon died.

"She died of overexertion and shock," said veterinarian Dr. G. Thatcher Parker. "She literally gave out from saving the little dog."

CURIOUS CURRENCY

Sperm whale teeth, each more than twice the size of a man's fist, are exported from London to the Fiji Islands, where they are used as currency.

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"Isn't Gordon wonderful? I've never started anything yet that he couldn't finish!"

Unusual Cat Makes Tree Substitution Necessary

GREENVILLE, Mich. (UPI) — Lawrence Roy has a most unusual Christmas tree because he has a most unusual Siamese cat.

The family cat, Pat, isn't the saucer of milk type of feline. Pat isn't even the housecreat type.

Pine needles are more in Pat's line.

Roy learned of Pat's peculiar tastes the hard way.

He recently set up the Christmas tree, an evergreen, and the family trimmed it ever so carefully.

Pat proceeded to literally eat down the tree, needle by needle. Only the ornaments and tinfoil icicles remained.

The Roy family was aghast.

Pat added to their astonishment by munching the icicles.

Roy decided Christmas simply wouldn't be Christmas without a tree in the living room.

So he chopped down a wild cherry tree, stripped of all its greenery by freezing temperatures, and set it up where once had stood a gaily decorated evergreen.

The ornaments and lights—Pat apparently doesn't have the stomach for them—were strung from the leafless branches and some of plastic icicles were added. Pat isn't a plastic fancier, either.

How does Pat like the new tree?

Roy said the cat doesn't mind it at all. Pat climbs happily up the trunk and cuffs away at the tasteless ornaments and plastic icicles.

Could be, Roy thinks, that Pat isn't hungry any more.

After all, Pat's already had a Christmas feast.

DE GAULLE MAKES OFFER

PARIS (AP)—President Charles de Gaulle Tuesday night opened his campaign for public endorsement of his policy of Algerian self-determination and made a new offer to negotiate with the nationalist rebels.

In a speech broadcast throughout France and Algeria by radio and television, he asked for "massive and forthright" approval of his policy in next month's referendum.

About 30 million voters will be asked to endorse local autonomy and eventual self-determination for Algeria in a referendum in France Jan. 8 and in Algeria Jan. 6-8. De Gaulle will make two more speeches before then.

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1 1-lb. can Ocean Spray Whole Cranberry Sauce 300 tins 2 for 49c

1 3-oz. pkg. red, yellow or orange fruit-flavored gelatin
1 cup boiling water
¼ teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ cup BEST FOODS Real Mayonnaise Qt. 55c
1 apple or orange, peeled and dicer'
¼ cup chopped walnuts

Heat cranberry sauce, strain, set berries aside. Dissolve gelatin in hot juice and water. Add salt and lemon juice.

Chill until thickened enough to mound slightly when dropped from a spoon.

Beat in real mayonnaise with rotary beater till light and fluffy. Fold in cranberries, fruit and nuts.

Divide mixture evenly into eight 6-oz. fruit juice cans. Chill 4 hours or longer. Unmold. Garnish with real mayonnaise to taste.

To flame: Cut thin birthday candles in half to shorten. Insert into tops of cranberry candles. Light.

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'Professional' Santa Discovers Rigors, Problems Of The Trade

Editor's Note: Most people who want to play Santa Claus are content to don the red playsuit and, properly fortified, sing out jolly ho-ho's in the privacy of their own living room. AP-NEA writer Hugh Mulligan is made of sterner stuff. He went professional — and lived to say never again.

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN

NEW YORK (AP) — I was a sidewalk Santa Claus.

From 9 o'clock on a blustery morning to 6 o'clock on a rainy night, I courageously stuck by my chimney on Fifth Avenue, ringing up a cyclone of Christmas cheer with my little brass bell.

By the time I banded back my beard and uniform to the Volunteers of America, my leggings were drooping and my sled was dragging. Frankly, I'd had it. My head rang like the title piece in a J. Arthur Rank movie from all that ting-a-ling-ing, and there wasn't the ghost of a hearty ho-ho left in my repertoire.

But I had the consolation of knowing that $17.03 had been dropped into my chimney to rehabilitate Bowery derelicts and support the other charitable works of the Volunteers of America, which annually puts 2,500 Santas on the sidewalks of some 25 cities across the country.

My take didn't cause any bell ringing down at headquarters. The box had a quota of $16 on even the worst of days, which shows that you don't become a top chimney Santa overnight.

As a matter of fact, you have to go to college for three nights down on the Bowery to master the subleties of the craft—things like not leaning on your chimney and not eating garlic or onions, and not partaking of the wassail bowl during working hours.

I graduated magna cum muscatel and was assigned a post on Fifth Avenue just outside Tiffany's and hard by Boswit Teller's.

"Watch yourself in that hoity-toity neighborhood," a fellow Santa warned as we stood final inspection down at headquarters. "Last year I was outside a ritzy shoe shop, and the manager came out and said I was ringing my bell too loud. He claimed it upset the customers."

I watched myself, all right. Neither Tiffany's nor Boswit's had any complaints about my carillon work, although they did have certain other reservations. It seems that while Santa is welcome in spirit at their cash registers, he is ruled off limits in their wash rooms.

Collections were slow at the beginning but picked up around noon when thousands of girls poured out of the nearby office buildings for lunch and a quick round of window shopping. It was a heart-warming sight for the tired eyes of a sidewalk Santa, especially since the beard and mustache provide excellent cover for concentrated girl watching.

Invariably they'd spot the diamond earrings in Tiffany's window and call out, "Hey, Santa, that's what I want for Christmas." Some said they were even willing to settle for the down payment.

A luscious blonde saw an armored truck pull up across the street and immediately made her Christmas wish.

"Bring me that, Santa," she burbled, "and I'll get my own mink."

Minks, diamonds and sports cars topped the list for most girls, although several giggled and asked for husbands, and one, who didn't giggle, asked to have last year's taken back. A boy pushing a garment rack wanted a European cruise, a cop asked for something appropriate for the commissioner—"like a fall off a commissioner"—and a horse player put in for "just one fat one at Aqueduct this afternoon, Santa, and it don't even have to be the double."

Kids still get a big boot out of shaking hands with Santa on a street corner, but sometimes the presence of two or more Santas in the same block seems to throw them.

"He's my helper." I always explained until one high I.Q. specimen tried to trip me up on cross examination.

"The other Santa said you were his helper," he said. "I think the real one is down at Macy's."

Oh, well, even Santa can't win em all. Another tot had his beliefs shaken when he leaned too far out on his noggin. His barking drew a crowd and elicited some unseasonable remarks from the mother.

As far as donations go, office girls are the most generous, followed by men in work clothes, teen-agers, women shoppers and small kids. The carriage trade doesn't amount to much, although one French poodle did make a contribution to my chimney that wasn't covered in the regulations.

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Big Wheat Crop Seen By USDA

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Agriculture Department today forecast next year's winter wheat crop at 1,034,486,000 bushels.

This estimate—based on conditions of the fall-seeded crop as of Dec. 1—compares with this year's winter wheat crop of 1,117,131,000 bushels and with the 10-year (1949-58) average of 833,697,000 bushels. The 1960 crop was the second largest of record.

No forecast was made on the whole wheat crop — winter and spring—inasmuch as the spring crop will not be seeded until next spring. But next year's crop would total 1,284,481,000 bushels if the spring crop were equal to this year's production of 246 million bushels.

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