

Father Christmas Visits English Family

LONDON (UPI) — Christmas in the land of Charles Dickens is, as he put it, "a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time."

He wrote the words in 1843 in his immortal "A Christmas Carol." His story of goodwill through the transformation of the miserly Scrooge illustrated that together with its religious significance, Christmas to Britons means family reunions and celebrations.

Charity brought about the naming of the day after Christmas as "Boxing Day," which is also a public holiday. It evolved from the tradition of giving Christmas "boxes" of gifts, nowadays of money, to tradesmen.

Christmas here tends to be a mixture of America's Christmas and New Years as, with the

exception of Scotland, the New Year is generally celebrated with less meaning than in the United States and is not a public holiday.

Father Christmas

For children, Dec. 25 brings presents from "Father Christmas," the English version of Santa Claus. They hang out stockings on Christmas Eve and find them filled in the morning.

Father Christmas, who rides through the air in a reindeer-drawn sleigh, is supposed to come down the chimney with the gifts. Some time before Christmas youngsters write a letter to him saying what they would like to receive and, after parents have taken a surreptitious glance at the list, one method of delivery is to let it waft up the chimney on the current of air created by a fire.

Another is to put it in the mail box, often addressed to Greenland or Iceland in the belief that Father Christmas lives in a snowy country.

The modern Christmas meal is usually turkey and Christmas pudding. Up until the 17th Century it was boar's head, served with ceremony in the evergreen-decorated halls of the feudal lords, who opened their homes to friends and tenants for 12 days of merry-making from Christmas Eve. But such festivities were forbidden in the Puritan era by act of Parliament in 1644.

Ever-Green Decorations

However the practice of evergreen decoration, which dates back to pre-Christian times, still persists. Holly and mistletoe were joined in the 19th Century by the Christmas tree, which

was introduced to Britain by Prince Albert of Germany, husband of Queen Victoria.

Another Victorian innovation was the Christmas card. The first known one was designed by artist John Callcott in 1843. It showed three scenes — the feeding and clothing of the poor and a Victorian family at table — and wished "a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you."

Although the card is said to have caused a certain amount of criticism for allegedly encouraging alcoholism because the family held glasses, the idea caught on.

The scientific advances of the 20th Century have brought about a new Christmas tradition impossible in Dickens' day. A message from the sovereign is broadcast to homes throughout Britain and the Commonwealth on Christmas Day. This year, because Queen Elizabeth is expecting a child early in the New Year, she will be heard only via radio and not appear on television.

Santa Phones Bad Children

WEST LEBANON, N. H. (UPI) — There will be no lumps of blackest coal in the Christmas stockings of some of the nation's kiddies if this New England town's "Telephone Santa" can help it.

Santa says the gloomy possibility may be reduced or eliminated if naughty boys and girls call him before he makes his annual rounds.

He says he wants to talk to them in particular because he's looked at his ledger and says there's no need of really good boys and girls telephoning him. "Ho, ho, ho," he says. "Just

let me talk to Johnny, who won't take his medicine or Mary who isn't doing her homework . . ."

In his bustling workshop, he took a little breather to tell a reporter, "By Donder, by Blitzen, why, we will just see about that!"

If Mother of Dad feels a certain somebody is not behaving as he should, Santa says he may have the antidote. "Just a note addressed to me will do. It should say whatever it is that my little friend is or isn't doing."

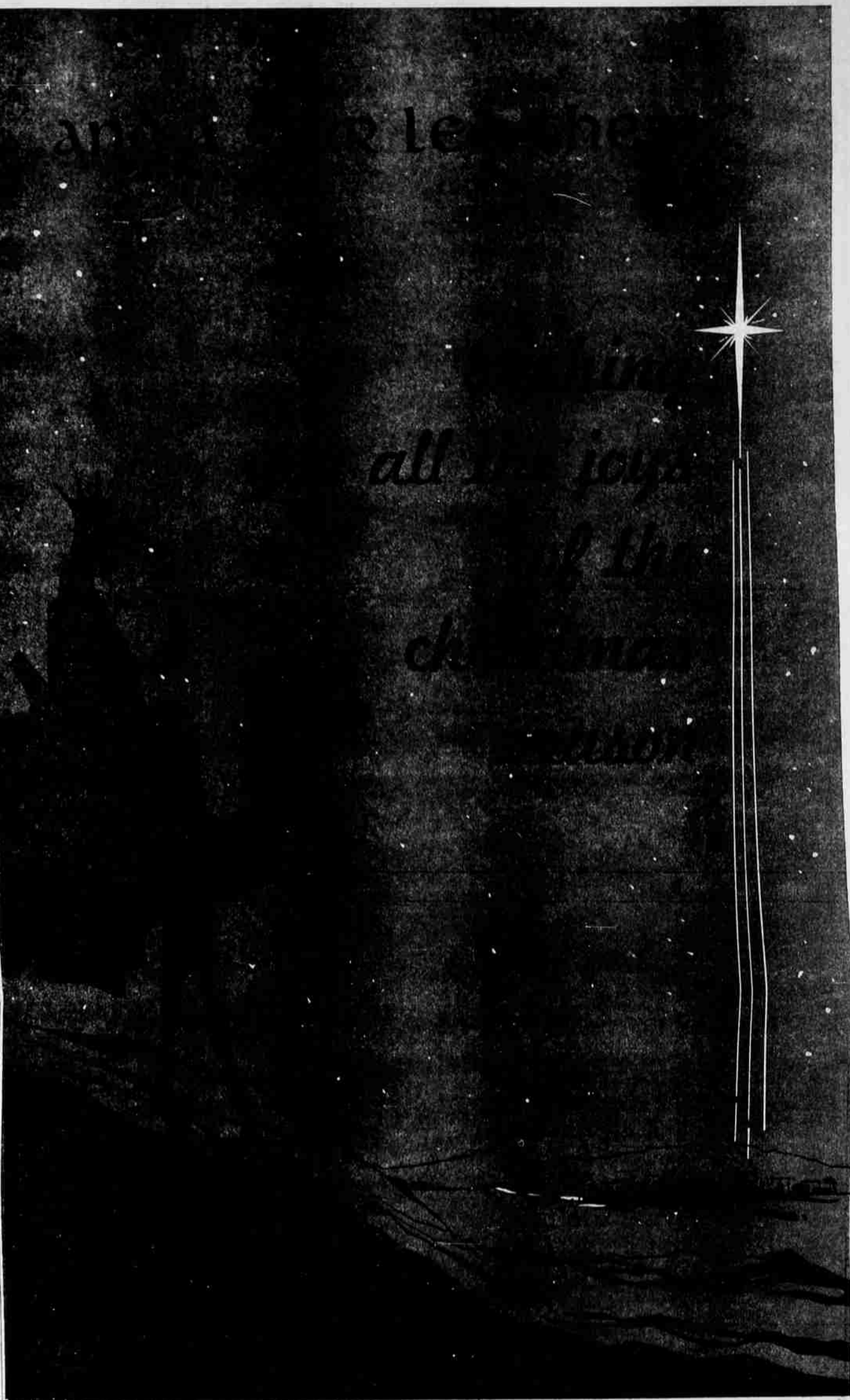
Santa cautions that the telephone number and the time and

date he should call also should be enclosed. He begins his chores on Dec. 9. He says Mom and Dad should be prepared to accept his collect calls.

Santa is 48-year-old Joseph Schambler who works for the U. S. Army in its Cold Weather Research and Experimental Laboratories in nearby Hanover.

Mrs. Claus is his wife, Frances, who knows a great deal about small children. She has been a 5th grade teacher for many years.

Best Wishes
at
Holiday Time
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Greetings of the Season



LOWELL DUNN

We extend this greeting of good cheer and happiness to you, our friends and patrons . . . not just because of the genuine sentiment we feel, of thankfulness for countless cherished friendships.

Our entire staff joins in thanking you for your loyal patronage to us. May your Christmas be merry . . . may the years ahead be happy ones.



Letetia Dunn



James Dunn



Bob Gion



Diane Taylor



Vi Schnabel



Oleta Ramsey



Maxine Oberg



Lucy Nancarrow

It's the time of reverence and thankfulness . . . of friendship and good will . . . the time to pause in the true tradition of Christmas to extend the Greetings of the Season to all the wonderful people of the Klamath Basin we have been privileged to serve during the past year.

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