

## Letters

### Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

(from the Editorial Page of *The New York Sun*, written by Francis P. Church, September 21, 1897)

To the 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**  
New York

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected 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 child-like 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 Clause, 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, fancy, 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 the world there is nothing else real and abiding.

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

Cares to purchase turkeys at a great savings.

The second annual Turkey Drive has been a resounding success. THANK YOU ALL.

**The Turkey Herders**  
Vernonia

### Thanks for helping the Boosters bazaar

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the following people for their help and for supporting the 26th Annual "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar: Nona Skinner, Rietta Behnke, Kinnell Steward, Samantha Cook, Chantel Trass, Cathy Ward, Justin Ward, The Junior High Basketball Team, Matt Blair, Edward Dotter, Joan Dotter, Anthony Dotter, John Dotter, Darrik Morris, Dakota Meiser, Glesty Waters, Craig Tolonen/True Value, Derek Ramsey.

And an extra special Thank You to: Barbara Rainbolt, Carol Senn, Paul & Julie Ramsey, Barbara Ervin, Angela Wolfe, Bill Yeo, Steve Le Sollen, Penny Dean, Sue Rainbolt, Teresa Grey, Jessica Davis, and the girls from ballet classes 1 and 3.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who donated the wonderful pies and desserts; and to all those who came down to the bazaar. With your help we were able to raise enough money for the Booster Club Scholarships for 2004. Thank You!!

**Corrie Smith**  
**Kristin Ramsey**  
**Jeni Waters**  
**Shannon Dotter**  
Vernonia

### New law makes Docs give info to DMV

To the Editor:

A warning to the elderly. If this has not happened to you, just be patient it will no doubt

**Please see page 29**

## — NOTICE —

The INDEPENDENT publishes on the first and third Thursdays of each month, so this is the final issue of 2004.

The next issue will be on January 6, 2005. The deadline for that issue is December 31, 2004.

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Try to take time during this busy time of the year to treat yourself and read a good Christmas story, watch a holiday movie or listen to some seasonal music. The local library is the place to find all of these and more. For humorous reading, you

might try something like *The Redneck Night Before Christmas* or John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas*.

Holiday riddles, jokes and poems are readily available. The following is a poem by Kenn Nesbitt:

*He wasn't too good with a razor,  
and every time he would try,  
Kris Kringle would cut himself shaving,  
so badly it caused him to cry.*

*The townspeople laughed when they saw him,  
with cut marks all over his face,  
He felt so embarrassed and foolish,  
he'd lower his head in disgrace.*

*So one day he threw out his razor,  
and all of the townspeople cheered,  
No longer would Santa be shaving,  
instead he was growing a beard.*

*But though he has given up shaving,  
and grown out a beard white and thick,  
Most folks still remember those cut marks,  
and that's why they call him "Saint Nick."*

*The Christmas Thief*, by Mary Higgins and Carol Higgins Clark and *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg are both recent acquisitions for your holiday reading enjoyment. Seasonal videos and DVD's include *The Bells of Saint*

Mary's, *White Christmas*, *Annabelle's Wish*, *Miracle on 34th Street* and many more. Music CDs include *This Christmas Time* by Lonestar and *Cowboy Christmas* by George Strait.

For those wishing to "give" to the library this season, some of the books from the St. Helens Bookshop are still available for adoption. One of these, *Clyde the Glide*, by Clyde Drexler, will be added to the library's collection by the Vernonia Study Club in memory of Enid Parrow, a long time Blazer fan.

Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m., parents and youngsters are encouraged to put on their pajamas and come to the library to hear some Christmas stories, have some cookies and milk, and do a few relaxing exercises with Camrin Eyrrick.

I would like to close this month and this year with a poem by an unknown author.

*Every time a hand reaches out  
To help another...that is Christmas.*

*Every time someone puts anger aside  
And strives for understanding  
That is Christmas.*

*Every time people forget their differences  
And realize their love for each other  
That is Christmas.*

*May this Christmas bring us  
Closer to the spirit of human understanding  
Closer to the blessing of peace!*

Have a wonderful holiday season!

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Ave.  
**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;  
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Preschool Story Time:** Mondays, 10:30  
a.m., when school is in session.  
**Phone:** (503 ) 429-1818