

Santa's Steed— the Reindeer



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Drawings by Ray Walters)

EVERY child knows Santa Claus makes his rounds on Christmas eve in a sleigh drawn by "eight tiny reindeer and their names are 'Dasher,' 'Dancer,' 'Prancer,' 'Vixen,' 'Comet,' 'Cupid,' 'Donder' and 'Blitzen.' The eight-reindeer team, however, was not always Kris Kringle's motive power. Time was when he made his visits mounted on a snowy white horse. That was when he was known as Sinterklass, the pet name of the little Dutch children for their friend, Bishop St. Nicholas, who, they believed, brought them gifts on St. Nicholas eve, December 5.

When Sinterklass came to New Amsterdam and became Americanized, his name was changed to Santa Claus and he began using a little wagon drawn by a fat pony, for his visits on New Year's eve instead of December 5. Then in 1822 Clement Clark Moore wrote the famous poem which he called "A Visit From St. Nicholas," but which later became famous as "The Night Before Christmas." In this poem Santa's equine was the "miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer" and the sleigh and reindeer it has been ever since.

Just as Santa Claus is an "immigrant" and a "naturalized American," so are the steeds which he drives. No doubt it will be a surprise to many Americans to learn just how many of these "immigrants" there are in America now as well as to know that the reindeer is not only a part of the symbolism of Christmas but in one part of this continent he is an important economic factor. Up in Alaska there are more than 700,000 of these animals grazing on the frozen tundra of the North and their rapid increase, despite the fact that more than 250,000 have been slaughtered for food since they were first introduced here, is America's protection against a meat famine caused by the rapid diminishing of our beef herds. All of which is due to an experiment which our far-seeing Uncle Sam embarked upon some thirty-seven years ago. The story of that experiment and the part which a Wisconsin professor had in it is told by a writer in the Milwaukee Journal as follows:

Reindeer are caribou, domesticated through many centuries. The average weight of a full-grown animal is 150 pounds, but by crossing with the larger woods caribou, it is hoped to develop an animal of 250 pounds. Through the centuries of domestication the flesh has lost the game flavor until now it is said to resemble a cross between duck and mutton.

The animals are more docile than cattle. A man is safe in a milking herd, although he may appear to a watcher to be in imminent danger of being trampled under the feet or impaled on the horns of the deer. This docility together with knowledge of their hab-

its, makes them the easiest to handle of all domestic animals. The roundup is simplified by the fact that the mosquitoes in summer drive the deer to the sea coast, where they are protected by ocean breezes. Herding is made easy by their attachment to their grazing ground. A reindeer turned loose many days' journey from the pasture of its own herd will find its way surely and quickly home.

Reindeer were introduced to Alaska in 1821. In that year sixteen were brought from Siberia at the instigation of Dr. Sheldon Jackson. When Doctor Jackson was sent to Alaska by the government to establish schools among the natives, he found his wards threatened with starvation as a result of the slaughter by white men of the game animals on which the natives had depended for food. He conceived the idea of replacing the fast disappearing game with reindeer, the principal domestic animal of Lapland and Siberia, the climate and vegetation of which resembled that of Alaska.

Returning to the states and unable to interest congress in the venture, Doctor Jackson sought contributions from the public. He obtained \$2,148 with which the first animals were procured in Siberia. At the same time Siberian herdsmen were brought over to care for them.

In 1823 150 more reindeer were imported. Congress then became mildly interested and small appropriations made possible importations through the next ten years until, in 1902, when the Russian government put an embargo on further exportations from Siberia, 4,250 animals had been taken into Alaska.

The Siberian herdsmen proved incompetent as teachers for the Eskimos, and for a time the venture was threatened with failure. It was then that Doctor Jackson went for advice to Prof.asmus B. Anderson of Madison, Wis., who, while minister to Denmark, had visited the reindeer herds of Lapland. Doctor Jackson's early interest in the animals had been aroused by a report on the industry there made by the professor.

In pursuance of Professor Anderson's advice, Esquimaux herders were engaged to replace the Siberians as instructors to the Eskimos. Each was lent 100 animals from the government herd for a period of years, at the end of which an equal number of reindeer were required to be returned to the government. The lapps were permitted to retain the increase.

The Eskimos were apprenticed to the lapps for a period of four years. At the end of the first year each was given six reindeer, at the end of the second, eight, at the end of the third, ten, and ten more at the end of his fourth year of training. With normal increases, each man's herd would be almost 100 head by the time he had completed his apprenticeship. He was well equipped to teach in business for himself. Today, more than two-thirds of the reindeer of Alaska are owned by natives, of whom some 5,000 have been trained in their care.

The effect of this training on the Eskimos is one of the most important

of the church. From the day of his birth, Nicholas revealed his piety and grace. He refused on fast days to take the natural nourishment of a child.

But Nicholas was not a barefoot recluse vowed to poverty. His father was a wealthy merchant, and his riches, inherited by the magic wand which fairy godfathers wield, enabled him to be a dispenser of the good things of life as earthly representative of the Supreme Giver of Gifts.

The bankers and brokers wished to give sanctity and dignity to their busi-

ness, and also adopted the generous Nicholas as their heavenly protector. He was, in fact, the most popular saint in the calendar.

The feast of Saint Nicholas was originally celebrated on December 6. But when church people in the late Middle Ages tried to suppress, for one reason or another, the festivities which grew up around the Boy Saint's day, the children refused to give him up, and gradually his festival was assimilated with Christmas day.—John Macy in the Bookman.

SPEED OF CONGRESS MAY BREAK RECORD

Rapid Enactment of Bills May Make Extra Session Unnecessary.

Washington, D. C.—Congress is on its way to a record-breaking performance in the enactment of its routine work of the session—the appropriation bills authorizing the funds necessary to run the government during the approaching fiscal year.

In two weeks the house has passed two of the nine regular supply bills, and taken up another. Before the Christmas recess begins next week, leaders intend to establish the record of getting four of these bills out of the way. The senate has passed the first of the bills sent to it by the house and leaders hope to have two others out of the way before Saturday.

Failure by this congress to enact the appropriation bills is the only thing which would absolutely force Herbert Hoover to call an extra session of the new congress.

However, the president-elect has promised an extra session for the consideration of farm relief legislation, if it is not provided at this session, and whether this problem is going to be left to him and the extra session still is problematical.

Some republican leaders, who also are members of the farm bloc and were prominent in the campaign of Herbert Hoover, want this entire question left to the care of the new administration.

Opposing this group is a sizeable bloc of republicans who are strongly opposed to an extra session next spring. They want a farm marketing bill passed now and the other portion of the agricultural relief pledged in the party campaign platform—upward tariff revision—left to an extra session next fall or to the regular term of the new congress beginning a year hence.

MORE DIVORCES; FEWER MARRIAGES

Washington, D. C.—In the United States during last year there was approximately a ratio of one divorce to every ten marriages.

The estimate of this ratio was made in the census bureau preliminary figures for 1927 on marriage and divorce. The figures indicated a steadily rising divorce rate, accompanied by a decline in marriages.

Divorces granted during the year numbered 192,037, an increase of 11,184, or 6.2 per cent above the previous year, which was 1926. Marriages for 1927 numbered 1,200,694, or 1880 less than in 1926. The number of marriages was 10.12 per 1000 of population in 1927, whereas in 1926 it was 10.27, while divorce rate was 1.62 per 1000 population in 1927, against 1.54 in 1926.

The number of legal unfastenings of the marital tie in Nevada during 1927, was 1953, an increase of 91 per cent over the state's total of divorces in 1926, producing a ratio of 25.23 divorces per 1000 of the state's population in one year.

WATSON—SENATE LEADER

Indiana Senator Assured of High Post with Withdrawal of Jones.

Washington, D. C.—Withdrawal of Senator Wesley L. Jones as candidate for the senate leadership clears the way for Senator James E. Watson of Indiana by practically unanimous vote.

Watson, by early and energetic work, had corralled so many votes that if the contest had gone to its full-length his success was generally predicted. Aside from this, Senator Jones was confronted with the likelihood that if he took the leadership he would be required to drop the chairmanship of the commerce shipping and river and harbor legislation, which are of high importance to his state and the Pacific Northwest.

It is assumed that Senator Jones will be retained as the republican whip and assistant to the leader upon the retirement of Vice-President-Elect Curtis from the senate.

Flu Spreads Across Entire Country.

Chicago.—The epidemic of mild influenza which appeared first in California, several weeks ago, now has spread across the entire United States to gain a foothold in the east, health reports indicated. Closing of a college in Massachusetts and two educational institutions near Philadelphia deferred the first indications that the wave had attained the proportions of a nation-wide epidemic.

Blaze Hits Town of Clatskanie.

Clatskanie, Or.—Fire of undetermined origin Saturday night destroyed the building and stock of the Clatskanie Mercantile company, the estimated loss being \$28,000, covered by insurance.

MILTON S. HERSHEY



Milton S. Hershey, chocolate manufacturer, who has presented the town of Hershey, near Harrisburg, Pa., with a \$2,000,000 community center.

COLLEGES REPORT ENROLLMENT GAIN

Philadelphia, Pa.—An increase of 2 per cent in enrollment—the smallest annual gain since the war—is shown in reports received by Dean Raymond Walters of Swarthmore college from 216 colleges and universities throughout the United States, which are on the approved list of the Association of American Universities.

These reports, as presented in the current issue of "School and Society," reveal increases in 101 institutions, comparing the November 1 registrations with those of a year ago.

An analysis by stats shows that in 26 states there are more fulltime students in approved colleges and universities of those states than in 1927, and in 22 states there are fewer such students.

As to the cause of enrollment decreases this year, Dean Walters quotes various suggested explanations, "such as agricultural and industrial conditions, the development of junior colleges, a trend in certain areas away from the small colleges to the state universities and deliberate limitation of enrollment." He declares that "the present collegiate period, if it is a plateau, is nevertheless a plateau 25 per cent higher than it was five years ago and very markedly higher proportionately than any similar popular level reached in other countries."

BRIEF GENERAL NEWS

The Vienna press displays prominently views of the seizure of seven cases of machine guns and munitions found on a Danube river steamer in Vienna harbor Friday.

The French government's decision to refuse the request of the United States for extradition of Henry M. Blackmar was formally conveyed to the American embassy at Paris.

President Portes Gil has informed foreign newspaper correspondents that there is no basis for rumors that Mexico is negotiating with representatives of the Roman Catholic church for settlement of the religious question.

The league council has decided to send copies of the new peace appeal which was addressed to Bolivia and Paraguay, to governments of all American countries which are not league members, United States, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Costa Rica.

The foreign affairs committee of the Polish diet has adopted a motion regarding peace guarantees, proclaiming the necessity of maintaining Rhineland occupation to achieve that end. Evacuation, it is contended, would weaken chances of maintaining peace.

President-elect Hoover had a busy day winding up his good-will visit to Buenos Aires. Numerous visitors were received at the American embassy and auto trips made to various places of interest. A gala performance at the Colon theater was a final feature of the entertainment.

Gas Tank Car Evolved. Washington, D. C.—The latest achievement in lighter-than-air aerial navigation was announced by the war department recently in the development of tank car gas stations for army dirigibles. Instead of taking 1200 small cylinders for helium gas to fill army blimps as has heretofore been necessary to obtain a sufficient supply, it now is all carried in one tank car.

New Television Record Set. Johannesburg, South Africa.—A local resident named MacCormick is believed to have established a new television record by receiving images broadcast from station 2XAL, New York. The images as received were fairly clear. The radio amateur call book magazine lists 2XAL as the Experimenter Publishing company, Villa Richard, Coytesville, N. J.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

Attempt will be made at the coming session of the legislature to raise the salaries of county judges, clerks, and assessors.

The Deschutes county court has voted \$200 to cooperate with the state game commission in the establishment of a fish hatchery on Fall river.

The Lions club of Lebanon is making arrangements for the decoration of the streets Christmas and will also have a Christmas tree at some central point.

W. F. Norman of Woodburn was elected president of the Marion County School Officers' association at their annual convention held in Salem recently.

Fifteen marriage licenses were issued and four divorce suits filed in Baker county during November. Fees collected by the county clerk amounted to \$1916.80.

The port of Coos bay commission has voted to disapprove an application of the state highway commission for a bridge over Haynes inlet, an arm of Coos bay.

The total assessed valuation of Washington county for the present year shows a loss of \$870,489 as compared with 1927. The present valuation is \$26,966,162.

Baker's rate of taxation for 1929 will be 48.5 mills, the highest in history, with the probability of a higher rate in 1930, according to an announcement by W. A. Baird, county assessor.

The logging camp of the Benson Timber company, about 10 miles west of Rainier, closed last week for the usual seasonal shutdown. Operations will be resumed about February 1.

The Port of Astoria has been completely reimbursed for the more than \$30,000 it had on deposit with the Astoria National bank when that institution closed its doors last February.

The annual Christmas tree industry is on again and trees are being cut to fill Portland orders and for the usual shipments. Many are shipped yearly from Dover, and other sections around Sandy.

J. A. Buchanan, municipal judge, has been appointed United States commissioner at Astoria, replacing Howard K. Zimmerman, who resigned when he was elected to the office of circuit judge.

The name Tillamook, as applied to cheese, is worth at least \$5,000,000 to members of the Tillamook County Creamery association, according to the estimate of Carl Habertach, secretary of the association.

One truck belonging to Gus Reichow of Forest Grove hauled from that vicinity this fall more than \$55,000 worth of walnuts, the Forbis and the Withycombe ranches furnishing the bulk of the tonnage.

The most recent attempt to reopen the upper Columbia river to navigation was abandoned December 15 when the Harkins Transportation company took the steamer Beaver off the Portland-Hood River run.

The Lane county agricultural council at its annual meeting in Eugene adopted a resolution seeking to secure legislative action against marauding dogs which are killing a large number of sheep in Lane county.

Employees and ex-employees of the Baker White Pine Lumber company, now in receivership, may receive all their back pay by Christmas, it was learned. Half of the accrued wage bill was paid several weeks ago.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, seeking to end its controversy with the city of Baker, has offered to the city commissioners a new franchise which provides for payment of \$65,000 over a period of 25 years.

A mill whistle blew at Empire recently for the first time in 36 years. The southern Oregon mill shut down in 1892 and was reopened by the Simpson Lumber company. President L. J. Simpson pulled the whistle cord.

The membership of the Amity Co-operative Walnut association is now 36. During the year 41 new growers were added, with an additional output of 152 tons of walnuts and 12 tons of filberts over last year's production. Total output this fall was 222 tons of walnuts and 15 of filberts.

A crew of 12 state highway department employees has commenced the widening of bad curves on the Baker-Cornucopia highway. The work will require about a month, according to J. N. Bishop, resident highway engineer.

Larkey Bros. of Klamath Falls have started logging four miles west of Lapine. The yellow pine logs are carried by auto truck to the Great Northern railroad a mile east of Lapine and from there are shipped to Klamath Falls.

Forty-two Washington county farmers passed the field inspections for certified potatoes conducted this year by the farm crops department of the Oregon State Agricultural college.

The new Burns union high school building has been completed and is now occupied. The structure, which cost \$30,000, has a fine gymnasium, large assembly hall and an auditorium.

The dam in the Alsea river near the hatchery, about 12 miles east of Waldport, was dynamited recently and partially destroyed. Whoever is guilty made a complete job of it, and salmon and other fish can now go up stream at will.

The first carload of Rogue river valley turkeys in the Christmas pool of the Poultry Producers' association pool was shipped to New York recently. The price is 30 cents for No. 1 birds. The Thanksgiving shipments brought the grower 37 cents.

Crop revenues from the Medford irrigation district increased from \$1,388,700 in 1924 to \$1,702,417 in 1928, according to the annual report of the directors filed with the state engineer at Salem. The report was prepared by E. J. Leach, manager of the district.

Setting the open season for deer from September 20 to October 20 and placing the limit of one buck to each hunter is a proposal to be made to the coming legislature. It was decided by the state game commission at its monthly meeting held in Portland recently.

Proposal to have congress appropriate \$200,000 to finance the tunnelling of the Klamath irrigation district main irrigation canal of 2340 feet in Klamath Falls will be placed before authorities in Washington, D. C. by R. R. Butler, recently elected representative from that district.

The Oregon State Horticultural society held its annual convention in Roseburg last week with an attendance of approximately 125 outside delegates. Portland, Salem, Eugene and Medford were well represented, with several fruit growers in attendance also from Hood River.

A county bridge on the Pratum-Willard road, a few miles from Salem collapsed under the weight of a grader and tractor. The bridge was approximately 25 feet above the water. It was built in 1912, and recently was inspected and reported in good condition. Officials said the bridge would be rebuilt.

B. W. Cooney, ex-Douglas county agricultural agent, died in Roseburg from pneumonia, following an attack of influenza, his death making the third in the family within a week. Mrs. Cooney and their 10-year-old daughter Genevieve having passed away Thursday and Friday of last week, all from the same cause.

J. E. Shelton was elected a district director of the Oregon State Motor association at a meeting in Eugene recently. This is the third consecutive time that Mr. Shelton has been elected to this position. The term is for two years. The district represented by Mr. Shelton comprises Lane, Linn, Lincoln and Benton counties. The annual meeting of the state association will be held January 9 at Portland.

The Jackson county court is up in arms against the practice of some city people using the countryside as a dumping ground for their refuse, and seeks a drastic cure. At a recent meeting County Judge Sparrow and County Commissioners Bursell and Alford were irate over the practice, and Alford suggested that "us county fellows ought to dump a few loads of tin cans on a few city lawns and see how they like it."

The place on the Deschutes river where immigrants on their way to western Oregon camped after crossing the "high desert" is to be converted into a city park after the first of the year. The old camping ground is now in the city limits of Bend at a low spot on the river. It has been used as an automobile park for several years. As a memorial to the immigrants, the camping site is to be known as Pioneer park.

Eighty-two settlers who arrived in Oregon during November invested \$298,050, according to a report issued by W. G. Ide, manager of the state chamber of commerce. The new arrivals purchased a total of 7187 acres of land. Letters were received during the month from 74 families who announced that they had decided to move to Oregon, bringing aggregate investments of \$261,150. Increased interest in Oregon is reflected in a large volume of inquiries received from all parts of the United States, Mr. Ide said.

A total of \$171,638.19 will be distributed to 31 counties of Oregon this fiscal year by the federal government under the law which provides that 25 per cent of the receipts from sale of timber, forage and other products of the national forests shall be returned to the counties in which the forests are situated. The amount is a decrease of \$7655.71 from that distributed to the same counties in 1928, caused by a smaller timber-cut on the national forests in 1927, according to district forestry officials.