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INVITATION FOR CHRISTMAS

By Alice B. Palmer

HOW glorious! How wonderful! thought Dan, an invitation for Christmas! Christmas with Rose Marie!

Dan had been an orphan at the same school with Rose Marie and a great friendship had sprung up between them. She had since been adopted by a kindly family in the East, but had always kept in touch with her old friend, Danny.

Now the invitation for Christmas. Dan had never been invited anywhere for this one great holiday and his whole being was stirred with great expectation.



Danny had always had a most pleasant Christmas at the orphanage. Many generous persons had helped make it so, but he had never been to a real "honest to goodness" home Christmas celebration. His heart leaped with joy. "Wonder how it will be! Wonder who'll be there! Oh boy, I can't wait!"

"Let's see," pondered Dan. "How old is Rose Marie? She was twelve when she left and that was five years ago. Why she must be seventeen, and a young lady! Wonder how she looks! Wonder if she still blinks those hazel eyes and shakes her 'molasses candy' hair about like she used to do."

Some days later an atmosphere of complete Christmas joy pervaded the cozy home of the Gaylords on East End avenue. The turkey was sizzling in the oven and the great variety of Yule cookies were being frosted and tinted with the Christmas colors.

Some hours later, all was a hushed silence as the little family seated about the lighted tree awaited the guest of the evening.

Soon there were footsteps crunching the snow and the next moment the loud peal of the doorbell.

Father met Dan with the cordial welcome of "Merry Christmas, my boy. I presume this is Danny—our Rose's old friend from Rye Junction."

Then Mother and Rose Marie, their faces wreathed in Christmas smiles, reached for Danny's outstretched hands, simultaneously.

Danny had never in all the movies beheld anyone as lovely as Rose Marie.



"Why, Rose Marie, you are wonderful, simply wonderful! The same eyes, the same hair, oh, I—"

"Here, here, you young people, you are forgetting it's Christmas. Merry Christmas, Dan! Merry Christmas, Rose Marie!" shouted Dad.

Then followed an "honest to goodness" Christmas in a real home.

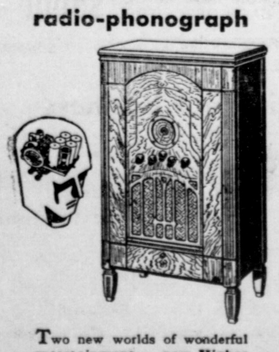
Everywhere Danny's eyes rested, it seemed to say in golden letters, "Merry Christmas, Dan!" "Merry Christmas, Dan!"

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Letters To Santa Claus

Chestertown, Md., Dec. 10, 1934
Dear Santa Claus,

How are you now? Hope you are alright. I have been very good. I am only 6 years old. I want you to bring me a blackboard, and chair with erasers and a box of chalk, toy shooting game, a wagon, some candy and a big orange. Hope you and Mrs. Santa and your Helpers a Merry Christmas.

Your friend,
Tommy Lusby

Chestertown, Md., Dec. 10, 1934
Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? Hope you are alright. I have been a good girl and I help mother well. I want you to bring me a cook set, 2 chairs and a table, a thick book of fairy tales. I have been listening to your program every night. I enjoyed it very much. Don't forget to bring me some candy and a big orange. Hope you and Mrs. Santa and your helpers a Merry Xmas. Your friend,
Mary Lusby

Chestertown, Md., Dec. 10, 1934
Dear Old Kris:

How's tricks?.....You really should have no trouble picking me out of the mob on Christmas Eve, for I'm a flaming red-headed printer's devil who has been a few months at the trade and able to "pi" tpye with the best of 'em.

When it comes to gift suggestions you might jot me down for a brown derby to go with that new checkered suit of mine; a blow-torch to light that new pipe of mine; and a year-round reserved seat in Judge Thomas Healy's Courtroom. Anything else which you might drop down my chimney would be appreciated.....

Devotedly yours,
Dudley (Rusty) Reed

Chestertown, Md., R. F. D. 3
December 14th, 1934
Dear Santa Claus:

I a writing to tell you what I would like to have for Xmas. I would like to have a two-wheel bicycle, a hopping frog, writing paper, nuts, candy, and an orange. My two kitties, Buck and Bill, would like, you to bring them some mechanical mice. Thanks. Your loving child,

Ethel Louise Stoops.

Dear Santa Claus:

I hope you wont forget me and my brother. We have tried to be good children. Please bring me dishes, dress my doll, a new coat and dress, some stockings and bring my brother a wheelbarrow and shoes, tool chest and train, and some games and don't forget to fill our stockings. Love to you

Clyde and Sonny Gorsuch

Chestertown, Dec. 14, 1934.
Dear Santa Claus:

We are two little boys two and ahalf years old. We'd like for you to bring us two wagons and two dump trucks exactly alike if you can, because we are going to speak at church this year. Also bring us two pretty suits exactly alike. Don't forget our sisters and our brother, Charles, Jr. He wants a rector set. Remember the candies, nuts and oranges. Lovingly yours,

Bobby and Jimmy Coleman.

Georgetown, Dec. 15, 1934.
Dear Old Kriss:

I am a little girl 4 years old. Bring me a wagon, a set of dishes, a milk truck and oranges, nuts and candy. And please don't forget to trim my tree and don't forget my mother and dady. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hessy.

Chestertown, Dec. 13. 1934.
Dear Santa:

I am a very good little boy, I am not yet three years old. And I want you to bring me a farm with a lot of animals, a big dump truck, a streamline train, a big wagon, a pretty horn, a little black doll baby, some pretty picture books and a lot of candy, nuts and oranges. Don't forget my little cousins and Aunt Annabele. With love and kisses.

Little Billy K. Crew.

Chestertown, Dec. 13 1934.
Dear Santa:

We are just two good little girls and we want you to bring us two boy dolls, as we are lonesome. Bring a little boy by the name of David Pardee, an airplane, so he can fly down to the pond to see a little girl by the name of Naomi, so he won't have to go in a car and get stuck in the mud. Please bring Clifton Trinks a walfys bob, a red shirt and green tie. Then you can bring Billy Lynch a car so he can call on a certain girl near Fairlee, and get on the good side with her mother. Bring Alan Jewell a pair of baseball pants stuffed with feathers so he wont hurt himself sliding home. Please bring Waldon Kendall a pretty red head doll. Bring Sutton Trink a nice fat girl, and a new bicycle so he can ride down to see Ruth. Bring Frank Dwyer a bottle and nipple. And a certain blond hair a red hair doll and call him "Harry." Please Santa, don't forget to fill our stockings full of kisses. Good-bye until next year, Your good little girls,

Lois and Birdie.

Chestertown, Dec. 17, 1934.
Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy. Will you please bring me a pair of high-top shoes, size one. Also a pool table and an erector set, a moving picture machine and an electric motor. You will find something good to eat on the table. Don't forget my mother, daddy, sister and my dog, Fusty.

Newcie Jr.

Georgetown, Dec. 15, 1934.
Dear Old Kriss:

I am a little boy 7 years old and this is my first year to school, so please try to bring me a blackboard, colored chalk, a truck, a colored set to paint and anything else you choose to bring. Don't forget the oranges, nuts and candy, and don't forget baby sister. Thank you.

Toms Hessy.

Chestertown, Dec. 15, 1934.
Dear Santa Claus:

I would like to have a 3-wheel bike, a big wagon, a bathinette, a rubber doll that cries and closes its eyes, a doll house, a micky mouse, watch, a sewing machine, knives and forks, some dishes, a dolly, little micky and ninine mouse,high chair for dolly, mickey mouse, coloring book.

Betty Turner.

Galena, Md., Dec. 11, 1934
Dear Santa:

I am a good little girl and mind my teacher. Please bring me a game of Uncle Wigyly, two dresses and stockings and shoes. Plenty of candy and oranges.

Margaret Newcomb.

Galena, Md., Dec. 11, 1934
Dear Santa:

I am a little boy five years old, would like you to bring me a towing car and train, snow suit and plenty of candy and oranges.

George M. Newcomb, Jr.

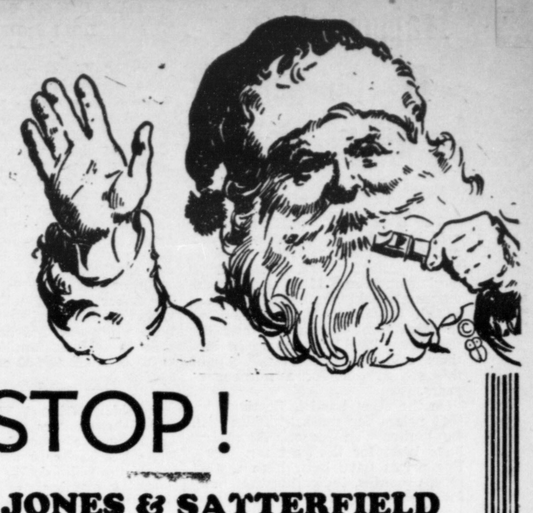
(Continued on Page 9)



Photo by Frank Fournier

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