NOW AND THEN

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?
By Alice Mathews

Is there, in truth, a Santa Claus?
Of course there is; so let us pause
And long reflect upon the glow
At Christmas time all folks should know.
Alas how dreary life would be,
No child like faith no poetry
No romance would December bring
Unless to Santa Claus we cling:
Thank God, he lives in human hearts
And will, till Father Time departs,
When love abiding, is made real
By generosity's appeal!
No scepticism can engage
To take old "Santa" from Life's Stage:
Despoiled O Ne'er let childhood be
Of joy and mirth and mystery:
For Santa Claus with us must stay
To make complete, the Christmas Day!

LISBETH'S CHRISTMAS

Little golden haired Lisbeth was going shopping. Her uncle Jack had given her five dollars, and she could spend it as she pleased.

How wonderful! She had not even told her mother nor her brother Carl, as she wanted it to be "a 'sprise" as she called it. A pretty picture she made as she went along, the streets of the crowded city.

She kept repeating, "a pipe for daddy, a pair of skates for Carl, and something lovely for mamma."

Not often was she allowed to go alone, but today her mother had yielded to her pleading and let her go.

Every where people were buying, buying, buying and the shops were very full.

So Lisbeth, for some time went window shopping and saw many children gazing at the beautiful things shown in them. Dolls everywhere looking out with wide staring eyes, with such pretty dresses, and all sorts of toys. But then she had plenty of dolls, and Carl had quantities of toys, so many that his closet was piled up with them.

As she went on the way she saw numbers of children going by, carrying bundles and all were going to the same place. She followed them and looked in. There was a big tree standing but it had no lights nor pretty things on it. There were many around it, and one by one the bundles that the children bought were opened and hanged upon the tree.

"We are dressing the tree for the Children who have no Christmas at home," said one of the children.

"No Christmas at home" repeated Lisbeth again and again as she went home with her money still unspent. "Daddy" she said that evening as they sat in their luxurious living room "why don't we give to children who have no Christmas at home?"

"Oh, replied her father, the Welfare will take care of that, I pay enough taxes, to feed many hundred. So little daughter don't worry your pretty head about that; he said patting the golden hair of his adored child." The father was wealthy, gave to the support of the church, though he and his family seldom entered it, owing to week-end journeys and guests. He also gave to the support of hospitals. Thus he thought he was doing all he could. But Lisbeth was not satisfied. She was telling Carl about the tree as they went up stairs to bed. "And," she added, the children who were giving the presents did not seem to have many themselves."

Just she slipped and down she fell. Her parents heard the fall and hastened out in the hall. There she was lying white and still. the agonized father telephoned and in a few minutes the Doctor was there. It was her back that was hurt and it would be months lying in bed strapped to a board before it would be well again.

On Christmas Eve, as her mother sat beside her bed in the hospital, Lisbeth said, "Mother I have five dollars in my coat pocket. Will you take it and spend it for the Children who have no Christmas at home?

Bountiful were the baskets that went from Lisbeth's home that day, and also many a child's heart was made glad by the toys bought with Lisbeth's money.

On Christmas morning, the parents were in church praying that their little daughter would be restored to them well and strong again.

* * *

When at last Lisbeth was home again brought back to health, her parents were no longer indifferent to the sorrows and poverty around them, but helped them, by personal gifts and sympathy.

Well, the King of England has abdicated, and gone into exile, "A man without a country," Will he not have a yearning for old England when he reads the doings in his country, of his mother, brothers and sister?

It seems that he has paid a dear price for the woman he loves and, for freedom from the cares of Government. Already he has gone to the Doctor to be treated for his ear. Perhaps, after all, he found the cares of government too heavy for him to bear and has left it to others, who are better fitted to rule than he is.

John Masefield, England's poet laureate a self made man, has proved himself to be a true poet. The lilt and rhythm of his poems are so pleasing to the ear. He uses Alliteration with good effect.

The following verse is from his "Christmas Eve at Sea."

The dim blue skies are bright with stars.
Dear God they shone in Palistine
Like this, and yon pale moon serene
Looking down among the lowing kine
On Mary and the Nazarene.

WOMANS PAGE

Apropos of the recent upset concerning the King's desire to marry Wallis Simpson, we are reminded of George IV, who was so madly in love with a charming widow, Mrs. Fritz Herbert. As the then Prince was a very handsome impressive man she loved him in return, but realizing the hopelessness of it all she left England and went to the Continent to live. George III, insisted upon his son marrying Caroline of Brunswick; a woman with no personal charm, but who would bring much money with her to England.

George held out for a long time, and finally persuaded Mrs. Fritz Herbert to consent to a secret marriage. For his sake she never revealed the fact, hiding the certificate and other important papers in a metal box and asking that it should not be opened until one hundred years after her death. In the meantime the prince was so pressed with debts that he married Caroline, but after the birth of their daughter, they separted, she to be surrounded by her dogs and cats, while he went seeking other women with whom to fall in love.

Lady Fritz Herbert, though neglected by the crowd, and finally by her husband, still kept her secret. She lived four years after the King died, always being surrounded by dignified refined people.

It was during the reign of Edward VI. that the hundred years had passed, and the box was opened and the certificate found.

King Edward let it be known by publishing the fact, but all of her contempories were dead.

It is not always a happy thing to be loved by a King.

SIR HENRY COLE

In 1846 Sir Henry Cole, of London, was in a predicament. The number of his friends and acquaintances had reached such proportions that it was no longer possible for him to extend Christmas greetings to all of them in person. Being a genial, friendly sort, Sir Henry felt that something had to be done about it. At his club one evening he ran into J. C. Horsely, a reputable artist of his day, member of the Royal Academy, to whom he imparted his dilemma.

Out of their conversation that November evening grew an idea that was to revolutionize social habits and establish a world-wide tradition. Mr. Horsely designed a special greeting card of which Cole had 1,000 copies printed to send to his friends. These were the first Christmas cards in the history of the world.

Custom Spread Rapidly

The custom spread rapidly through western Europe. In 1875 it reached America. And here, as in Europe the early Christmas cards were designed by artists of standing. Thus, among our country's first Chrstmas cards, we find designs by such notable artists as Thomas Moran, J. Alden Weir and Elihu Vedder, whose paintings are to be found in many of the important museums of the country. Since 1880, however, the artistic merit of the designs steadily declined until they became, in the words of the leading historian of the subjcet "rubbish of all sorts."

This year famous artists are getting together and are painting artistic Christmas Cards in a collection known as the Designers and Illustrators Christmas Cards.

As I am writing, I see a shack being erected on the Court House Green. it is temporary, built for the convenience of the workmen who are building the addition to the Court House. Why cannot Chestertown have her Library building in the Court House Green? There is an ideal place for it a little back of this temporary building?

Will not some progressive generous citizen take up the idea?

The Library is not only for the Citizens of Chestertown, for there are as many readers from all over the county as there are in town.

WOMEN CLUBS AT XMAS PARTIES

1936 Plans Carried Out As Scheduled

Christmas for the Homemakers' Clubs started December 4 with the Fairlee Club. This party was held in the basement of the school house. Mr. Stockton Startt acted as Santa Claus. Each member brought a present for her club sister and sister's husband. There were fifty present. The committee was Mrs. Mabel Skirven, Mrs. Neal Willson, Mrs. W. T. Brice, Mrs. F. Christopher.

The next in line was Betterton with their party in the M. E. Church basement. Mr. Harry Owens was Santa Claus. Mrs. Florence Workman is the newly elected president With both president and vice-president out of the county, Mrs. Workman assumed the responsibility. were thirty-five present.

Flatland had their party Wednesday at Worton Hall with forty present. A playlet on Christmas with Christmas carols was part of the program.

Rock Hall's party was Thursday at Church Hall. Their program consisted of Muscial selections and readings. Then Santa appeared with presents for each one. One hundred and ten were present.

This week started with Millington club on Monday night at the Community Hall and did they have fun! The program was in charge of Mrs. John Hopkins, Miss Frances Turner and Mrs. Norman Wallen. There were thiryt-five present.

Swan Creek met Tuesday at Mrs. P. W. Bigelow's. Jimmy Toulson was Santa and Christmas Carols completed the program. Twenty-four were present.

Quaker Neck's party was Thursday night at the community house. Mrs. Herschel Carroll and Mrs. Lawrence O'Meara had charge of the program, of games, singing and contests.

Kennedyvlle will meet in the school house on Monday night. Mrs. Bruce Dukes in charge of the program.

Still Pond's party was Friday night in the Odd Fellows Hall. Mrs Kennard Jones had charge of the program.

Golt will complete the parties next Tuesday with a community tree in connection with the Sunday School. Every child will get a treat at the time.

HOMEMAKERS' CLUBS OBJECTS

The objects of Homemakers' Clubs are: to raise the standard of Home and Community life and to demonstrate better methods of homemaking; to develop leadership and initiative among rural women in the promotion of those movements which are for the upbuilding of rural life; to promote sociability and neighborliness, to encourage and cooperate with each other in bringing together the community people for all public spirited enterprises; to act as advisor to the Home Demonstration Agent.

One of the projects last year was Home Ground Improvement. The goals were 25 driveways and 25 entrances improved. This one of the big problems, the road between house and state road. The results were 42 driveways improved and 32 entrances improved.

The committee gave the prize awarded by Mrs. Jesse Maxwell for the best improved driveway to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lee of Quaker Neck. The driveway showing the most permanent improvement was by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carroll, Fairlee.

Others who have enrolled in the project are Mrs. George Carroll, Quaker Neck, Mrs. Howard Rees, Mrs. Samuel Emory, Mrs. W. T. Brice, Mrs. Neal Willson, Mrs. Howard Hadaway, Mrs. Stockton Startt, Fairlee; Mrs. Harrison Cornelius, Mrs. Clarence Ford, Mrs. Edward Hepbron, Still Pond; Mrs. Herbert Ford, Mrs. Gerald Myers, Mrs. Wm. Crow, Mrs. James Lusby, Mrs. Charles Miller, Jr., Kennedyville; Mrs. P. W. Bigelow, Swan Creek.

The committee decided to continue the project 1937. It you are interested, see your local committee.

ON THE SPOT

Office Boy (nervously): "Please, sir, I think you're wanted on the phone."

Employer: "You think! What's the good of thinking?"

Office Boy: "Well, sir, the voice at the other end said, 'Hello, is that you, you old idiot!' "

Cocoa or chocolate which is beaten with a rotary egg-beater will not form a scum.

Oranges will peel more easily if they have been dropped into boiling water before cutting.

A few drops of honey added to cream which refuses to whip, will bring about satisfactory results.

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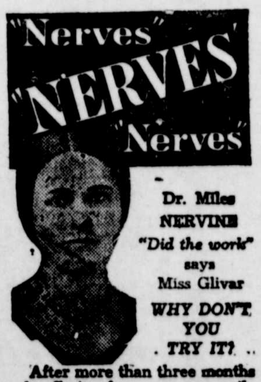
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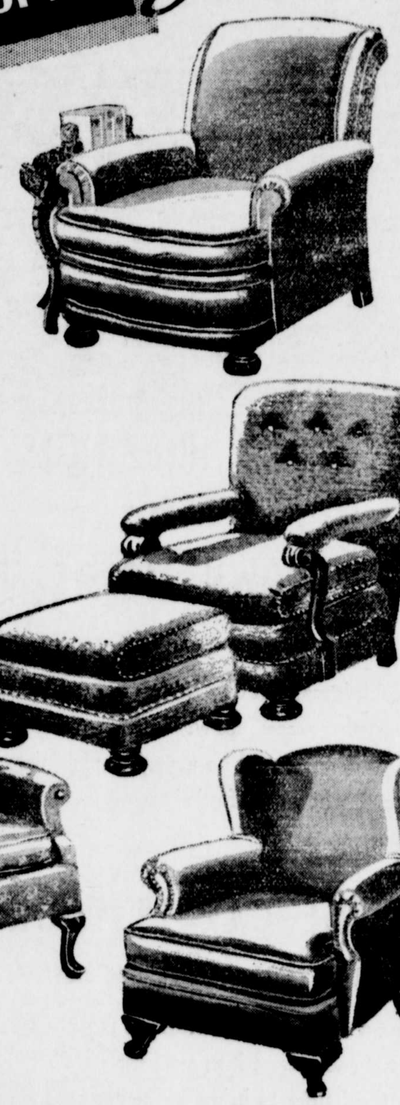
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