

# Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus...

Sixty-one years ago an eight year-old posed a question to the editorial staff of the New York Sun. The newspaper's answer has become one of the Christmas season's classics. The little girl wanted to know simply, "Is there a Santa Claus?" and the answer is reprinted here, as it appeared in The Sun.

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 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 Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children or 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 this 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.

## Great Story Hidden For Centuries

Through his unforgettable Christmas stories, Charles Dickens brought the spirit of Christmas to millions, and achieved much fame during his lifetime.

One of his most moving narratives, however, remained hidden from the world for years, at his own request. Some one hundred years after it was written exclusively for the enjoyment of his children, Dickens' "The Life of Our Lord" was first presented to the world.

The author's deep veneration for the life and lessons of Jesus Christ are found in these words:

"Everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived who was so good, so kind, so gentle and so sorry for people who did wrong or were in any way ill and miserable, as He was.

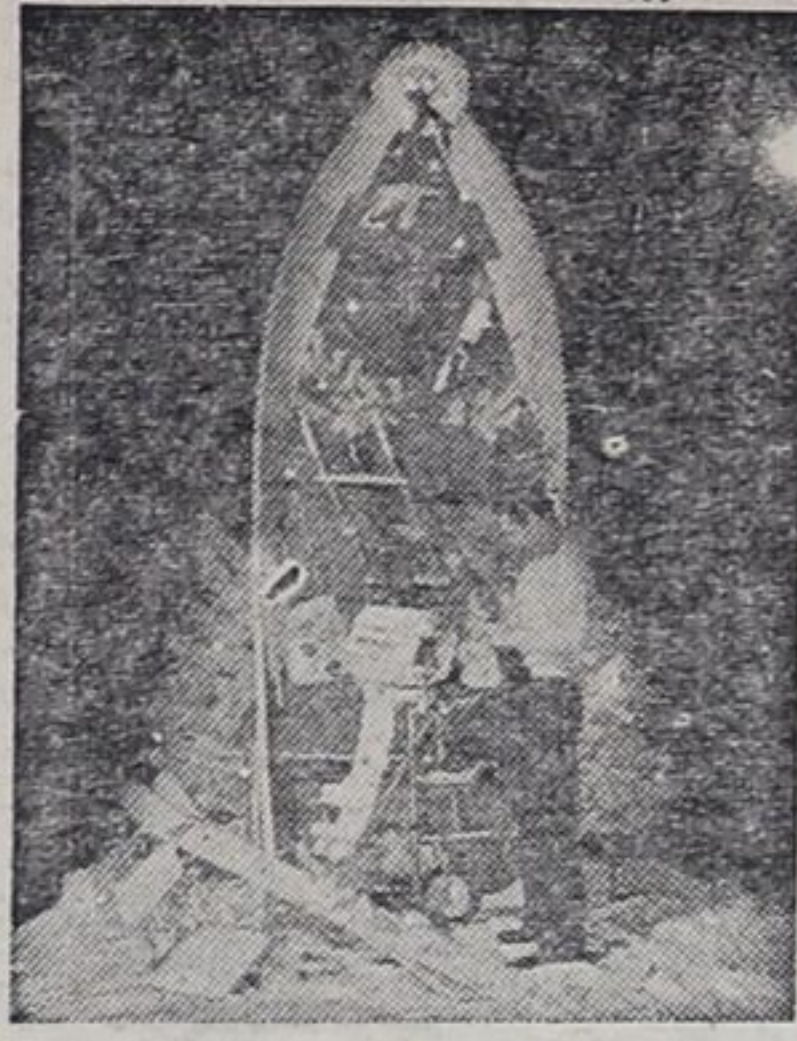
"And as He is now in Heaven, where we all hope to go, and all meet each other after we are dead, and there be happy always together, you can never think what a good place heaven is, without knowing who He was and what He did."

"The Life of Our Lord," not be commercialized and it was never made public until the year 1933, after death of Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, the author's youngest child.

The literary prize was then purchased by the London Daily Mail for the price of \$210,000—or \$15 per word.

### EXTRA TOUCH

If you have a number of children on your Christmas list and consequently must settle for small-size toys, you can make each child's package more attractive by decorating the outside of the wrapped package with bright lollipops and other "treats."



**FOR THE MAN . . .** Selecting gifts for the outdoor man is usually easy shopping as a sportsman will appreciate gifts that he can not use immediately. Boating and fishing equipment won't be used until warmer weather, but they're welcomed by the man who enjoys these sports.

## Christmas Names

Many towns and cities in the United States have names which reflect Christmas in one way or another.

Santa Claus, Indiana, Bethlehem, Conn., and Christmas, Fla., are the best known. Santa Claus and Christmas have sole claim to unusual postmarks, but Bethlehem, Conn., shares "Bethlehem" with six other states.

Virginia and Missouri each boast a Noel; there is an Advent, W. Va., Kentucky has a Mary, and Oregon and Utah each have a Joseph.

At least one Wiseman is found in Alaska, another in Arkansas and, perhaps, a third in Wiseman-town, Kentucky. West Virginia boasts of Goodwill and there is Joy in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas—as there must also be in Peace Valley, Missouri.

Kentucky, which has its share of Christmasy names, also has a Mistletoe. Louisiana has Trees and you can find an Evergreen in six states.



Ring out, ring out! The bells of cheer sound our happy wishes to you and yours for a Joyous Christmas Season.

**MATABANICK HOTEL**

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**Morissette Manufacturing and Sales**

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