War Activities

# The Free Press Christmas Story BARARARA

#### A NOTE TO SANTA CLAUS

By MARJORIE YOURD HILL

What are you doing, tonished herself by saying, "if you ha Linda?" exclaimed Miss Susan any 'tracktors' for little boys, you Clause as she entered the sun know.' parlor one morning in December and found her twenty-year-old niece sewing upon a bit of organdy with a pink cheeked doll lying beside her on the what she was committing herself to

"Dressing a doll to give away to some child for Christmas, Auntie. Everyone in our class is doing it. See, isn't this sweet?" Linds held up the tiny garment upon which she was working.

"Humph!" commented Miss Susan Then, as an idea occurred to her. "Who are going to give it/to?"

Linda did not reply for a second. Then she answered, quietly, "The Children's

opinion is about that place!". "But the children aren't to blame," on a lace ruffle, "and I'm sure you

policies and resigned." broke off abruptly, noticing the postman on the porch, and darted out to bring a clerk at her elbow, "and genuine, fine

in the mail. "Here are two for you, Linda," she said, sorting it over. "One's from your

Linda rose hastily, her cheeks suddenly would do. red as peonles, and came over with her hand outstretched for the letter.

'Look's like a man's handwriting." pursued her aunt. "See here, Linda, is vou?" that young Preston writing to you.

Linda said nothing. "Because if he is, you're not to answer I've forbidden you to see him, and don't want you to write to him, either. her parcels. She went to her car, got I won't have you taking up with Clyde in, and mechanically drove home. Only want none of my family to have any- point the finger of ridicule at her weakthing to do with his. So there, young ness.

lady!" Miss Susan handed Linda's mail to her, ed at herself, "have you gone clean and Linda carried it away to her room | daft?" to read. Miss Susan, opening her own. frowned over one of her letters.

did I happen to get this?" The letter was curious, a rather smeared epistle painstakingly scrawled in pencil on a piece of ruled tablet paper.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little orphan boy 8 years old, liveing at the Children's Home

and am writeing you about what I want for Xmas I would like a paire of bedroom slippers my feet get cold on the bare floors here. A tracktor too but most of all a relative to visit me like the other children.

Hopeing to have a visit from you and wishing you a merry Xmas and a happy new year. From your faithful friend

Miss Susan pursed her lips in disapproval. What ridiculous mistake for the post office people to have made leaving a letter addressed to S. Claus in her mail box! She sniffed disgusted-

the wastebasket. . After perusing the rest of her letters Miss Clause prepared to attend to her daily marketing, donning her elegant but old-fashioned looking hat and the mink coat she had worn for fifteen years.

She drove away in the silent sedate electric which she had owned since before the World War. It was the only one left in town, relic of a less hurried age, and in it Miss Clause was always treated with the greatest respect even longer to suit the whims of one old see the tableau. by taxi drivers and policemen who dared not attempt to accelerate her slow majes- in great indignation. Other committees Something seems to have come over

entered a department store, intending showed signs of rebelling, so that the that little boy on her knee!" to get a Christmas present for Linda. Dark brown wool stockings, she thought, or perhaps a serviceable scarf. Miss Linda, being in her last year of college. Susan did not encourage frivolities of bore it all patiently, even to giving up any sort, and gave only small and utilitarian presents to her friends and rela-

to pass a toy section, presided over by I leave here I can resume my friendship a genial Sants Claus who was surrounded with Jerry A year won't hurt us. It by a host of small petitioners. Involun- will be a sort of test, that's all." tarily Miss Susan remembered the crumpled note in her wastebasket at upon Jerry by letter before letters were

Billy. Billy Wright. That was the child's name, she recalled. In spite of turbulently written in his last letter herself, she wondered what he looked "She gives from pride, not love." like. Maybe he was brown-haired like the little chap just then whispering in- though she had hated to admit it, she tently in the kneeling Santa's ear. Or feared Jerry was partly right. But no maybe- She caught herself, shook her one had ever suspected-least of all Miss

head impatiently and hurried on. She was swept along the aisle by the warm loving heart down underneath. surging crowd and found, herself pushed ..... Consequently Miss Susan was consideragainst a counter bright and shiny with ably upset by the strange feeling protype were all nonsense anyhow, she re- taility, but often during the day she flected. Much better give comething paused to look at the small round-tord

useful, like a pair of mittens. "Have you been waited on?" asked the

**5年後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後後** for her to go home for a ten-day vacation. The doll she had dressed had been sent away a few days before. Linda wished she could be present at the orphange when the gifts were distributed. Jerry would be there to sing, for all the Many Towns and Villages Across Albert, Ontario, in Huron County, in children adored his jolly songs. His father was to play Santa Claus. Afterwards, all the orphans and their friends and relatives would banquet together. but Linda and her Aunt Susan would sit down to dinner alone and then spend a dreary afternoon.

The Department of the Departme about the lonely child who had no relaappeal out into the world for some one to call his own.

> magnificently red and gleaming machine. A suddenly appalling sense of flashed over Miss Susan, and she backed

away hastily. "Never mind, never mind," she gasped, and made her escape in the crowd, leaving the clerk gaping after her.

Resolutely, Miss Susan directed her angrily course toward the women's clothing section, but so flustered was she that she allowed the girl to sell her a gay set of scarf, beret and gauntlets in bril- home was as rapid as her electric would liant stripes instead of the practical permit, and her fingers trembled as -The orphanage! You know what my brown hose or sensible scarf she had unwrapped the shiny toy and gloatingly decided upon for Linda.

said Linda with mild obstinacy, sewing she paused before a near-by counter of children's house slippers. Little warm. wouldn't want them to go without wooly slippers with rabbit's ears, fringed Christmas presents just because you dis- Indian moccasins, and, what took her agreed with the board of trustees practical eye, some sturdy sheepskin slippers that came well up over the "The whole place can go to ruin, for ankles. These certainly would keep a all I care!" snapped Miss Susan. She boy's feet warm on a draft bare floor. "Only a dollar forty-nine," persuaded

quality sheepskin, madam."

Miss Susan dallied with one little slipper in her hand, "What size would mother, I guess. And the other one is an eight-year-old boy take, I wonder. she meditated aloud, dreamily. The She studied the envelope carefully, clerk handed her a pair she thought

> "And if they are not the right size. we will gladly exchange them. Shall send them, or will you take them with said

Miss Susan as if in a trance, and before she knew what really had happened she was back in the street dazedly clutching Preston's son. Clyde's the ringleader of when she was taking off her wraps did the trustees, the worst of the lot, and I her stern everyday self wake up and

"Land sakes Susan Clause," she-storm-

She clicked her tongue disapprovingly against the roof of her mouth as she "What on earth-"she puzzled. "How surveyed her purchases, noting the red binding of the slippers and the brilliance

of the scarf set. "Now, whatever did I go and do such foolish thing for?" she furned.

However, she carefully laid the articles away in her bureau drawer, and before dinner, at noon she retrieved the little note to Santa Claus, glancing guiltily around as she fished it out of the waste-

She said nothing to Linda about the episode, of course. She would not admit even to herself that the hitherto impregnable fortress of her self-righteous anger against everything connected with the sie saw the wondering delight on his Children's Home had been insidiously small face as Santa handed him the two weakened-and by a childish scrap of paper. But the truth was that Miss ed him open them to discover the trac Susan's stony self was crumbling, though

she tried valiantly to resist. For years she had gone her own imperious way, giving generously of her wealth, but controlling where she gave: ly and dropped the offending missle in dictating to the hospital board, ruling She had also helped educate the chila poor country doctor. Linda was the

> and sent through the local college. Susan had been flouted. Right in open meeting Clyde Preston had gotten to his feet and as much as said that they lianging over a bay window, Linda and 'didn't intend to run the orphanage any Jerry looked across the room in time t only person upon whom she retained a serry chuckled, as if a secret joke firm, authoritative grip was Linda. And amused him. "So it worked, after all!

"For." Lindsa reasoned, "Aunt Susan On the way through the store she had means well, I know. And after all, when

She tried to impress this viewpoint forbidden, but Jerry refused to see it. "Stubborn, selfish old," maid," he had

Linda shook her head over that. Al-Susan herself—that she really had a various mechanical toys. She glanced duced in her bosom whenever she thought over the display, wondering just which of the trusting little note to Santa Claus of the contraptions was the sort o' which had so oddly found its way into "tracktor" Billy wanted. Toys of that her mail box. She abhorred sentimen-

> slippers in her bureau drawer. It was the day before . Christmas. ed he was correcting a split infinitive on-There were no festive preparations going one notice. He was discharged on proon in Miss Susan's house. Linds had betion:

long ago mailed the presents that were intended for her family. It was too far

Miss Susan's inner disturbance had develops, life and prosperity is coming heightened as, hour by hour, Christmas to many small towns and villages across ence to a city of 15,430. drew nearer. . She constantly thought Cahada tives and who had so hopefully sent his

"Surely," replied the clerk, producing "Though why I should feel responsible, I don't know," she fretted.

She was thinking of him as she marketed for the last time before Christmas. Then, instinctively drawn, she went to the department store, and to the toy

"I want a tractor-the biggest, reddest one you, have," she demanded, half

Out of the store she stalked with on her face an expression of mingled shame and secret delight. Her progress caressed its smooth reflecting surface Her demoralization was completed as with her eyes. It was the first toy Miss Susan had ever bought in her life, and it made her feel exhilarated.

"I'm going over to the Children's Home to-morrow morning," she announced abruptly after supper that evening. "You may come, if you want to Linda."

Linda looked amazed, but sensibly said nothing except a demure, "I'd love to, Aunt Susan.

'Accordingly on Christmas morning. after Linda and her aunt had opened their presents-and how surprised and pleased Linda was with the gay scarf set -they started off for the Children's Home, Miss Susan carrying two packages which she did not volunteer to explain. When they arrived she handed them to

"For Billy Wright, from a friend," she

To Mr. Clyde Preston, when she saw im Miss Susan nodded stiffly, but that gentleman hurried over and amiably shook her hand.

"I knew you'd come around again. Miss Clause," he beamed. "And we're really glad to see you!" Miss Susan twisted her mouth wryly

"It's not on your account I came," she retorted, "althought I will admit those new-fangled policies of yours haven't ruined the place yet, as I expected." Mr. Preston laughed. "I'll say they

haven't! Things are working out fine. "You needn't boast so soon," cautioned Miss Susan acidly. Then, "Do you know who Billy Wright is?" "Yes." informed Mr. Preston. "Tha

little fellow over there," pointed out a small, delicately-formed child hovering wistfully in the doorway watching the joyful re-unions taking place all around

As she looked across the room at the child she had been dreaming of for days. Miss Susan's heart was flooded with an overwhelming warmth. He was all she had imagined-this little boy who had no one to love him. Through the ceremonies that followed she shyly, watched him over the heads of the crowd: When packages from under the tree and watchtor and tife slippers he wanted she

moisture in her eyes.

Susan after it was all over. "That lady is a friend of yours, and with machine guns. the church, militating in civic affairs: I think she would like to see you," she told the little boy; so he stumbled bash- places with comparatively small populadren of her sister who was married to fully over to where Miss Susan sat, tions and even then the schools themaustere in her black silk. The two lonely souls looked dumbly at each other for r third\_she had taken into her home and long second. Then the little hand of Erie, with a vopulation of 506, is: the

From the seclusion of the long curtains for the future call for a bombing and

woman. Whereupon Miss Susan resigned "I can't understand it at all, Jerry. and boards of which she had so long Aunt Susan. Why, she sent me to find After buying her groceries, Miss Susan been the self-appointed ruling power, you after the singing, and now-look at

"What, Jerry?" "Why, little Billy asked me to mai Jerry Preston, in order that she might a letter of his to Santa a couple of weeks ago, so I dropped it in Miss Susan's mail box, just to see what would happen! And look what miracles were wrought!" he said, smilingly into her upturned eyes.

### STRONG ARGUMENT

Warren, O. (CP)-Saying he bought skunk furs and this was his busy season. an insistent young man asked to be excued from jury duty. He was:

#### KNOWS EVERY INCH

Parsons, Kas. (CP)-J. W. Smith. railroad conductor, has never worked anywhere but on a 275-mile run from his home town. Retiring after 57 years service he figures he has travelled 3,-500,000 miles.

TOO PURIST FOR A. R. P.

London (CP)-Charged with defacing A.R.P. notices, a 51-year-o'd man plead-

# tion is listed at 84.

**Dominion Gain Impetus From** Air Training Plan

Boost Canada's

**Smaller Centres** 

British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

Plant 200 to 1;000, airmen of various ages, all with fairly good pay, down in or near a village and things are bound to happen. Social activities spurt ahead and garagemen, restaurant proprietors, hotel keepers and merchants find their

business increasing. Personnel of air training schools range from about 200 in an elementary flying training school to 1,000 in a service fly-

ing training school. ... Tradesmen and employers in these villages and towns employ more help to meet the airmen's needs and with enlarged incomes they spend more money themselves. Some larger towns and cities also benefit from air training schools. but there the new business and new activity is less noticeable than in the smaller places: "

Already the Rentals Control Administrator has had to step into two towns near air force establishments because a story?" housing shortage was sending rents too high. These are Barrie, close to Camp Borden, and Trenton, Ohtario, close to Trenton air station. These, however, were permanent air force establishments which existed before the war and Camp Borden is also an army training centre.

Rapid Growth

The little hamlet of Malton, in Peel County, west of Toronto, is growing by leaps and bounds as a result of air developments. The growth started when Trans-Canada Airlines selected it as a terminus. That brought aircraft factories to the place. Now the air force has an elementary flying training school and an air observers' school operating

Windsor Mills, Quebec, is another place whose population is not officially listed which has an elementary flying training school. Cap de la Madeleine, Quebec, with a population of 8.748, has one. So has Goderich, Ontario, with 4,491; St. Eugene, Ontario, a small hamlet, and

High River, Alta., with 1.359. Prince Albert, Sask., bids fair to become an aviation centre, with an elementary flying training school already operating there and an air observers' school due to open next year. Portage La Prairie, Man, is similarly fixed.

Within the next year Virden, Man., with a population of 1,481, will get a double capacity elementary flying training school, and Stanley, NS., will get a

standard elementary school. The biggest school under the plan is the service flying training school. Most of these opened so far, except the one at Camp Borden, are near cities, but a number will be placed at smaller centres within the next year. MacLeod, Alta., with a population of 1,365; Dunaville. Ontario, with 3,405; Summerside, P.E.I., with 3.759; and Yorkton, Sask, with 4.931, will be sites of service flying training schools where pilots complete their training and learn to operate the faster and larger aircraft.

Need Open Spaces Bombing and gunnery schools are about the same size as service flying smiled happily, but with a suspiicous training schools, but do not require as many aircraft. They do require wide The matron sent him over to Miss open spaces, where fliers can practise dropping bombs and shooting at targets

So it is natural they should go to selves may be remote from the villages. Jarvis, Ontario, on the shore of Lake A few months ago, however, 'Miss Bi'ly was laid trustingly on Miss Susan's site of one, and Mossbank, Sask, with a population of 358, gets another. Plans

# BE A



want light, clean, inside, profitable work, learn Barbering the Trade Practical Trained men more steady.

round employment in almost every City and Town. You will be able in a short time, to run your own shop. No other business requires such small starting capital. With a Barber Shop, you can add your own Pool Room, Cigar Stand Candy and Soft Drink Counter, etc., all in the same building. under the one expense for rent, light, and heat. There is practically no limit to your earning power with all these opportunities at your command. There is an excellent chance for YOU if you GET STARTED NOW! Pay as You Learn Plan: Write for free literature. America's largest system. Schools from coast to coast.

MOLER BARBER SCHOOLS

SSO YOUCE ST. .

#### NOW IT'S "SCROUNGING"

An air navigation school, now operat-

and another will be established at Port by enemy action. the near future. St. Thomas, Ontario, site of the technical training school, in which the air force trains the mechanics and other

skilled men who service its planes, has Ottawa, December 11th (CF)-As the been feeling the presence of airmen since last January. Several thousand men are stationd there and that makes a differ-

The industry of Canada is being speeded up; the foodstuffs of Canada are being supplied and properly stored to meet the greatest need at the proper time. The human manpower of Canada is working its way into production, inistry, the Navy, the Air Force and the Army.-Ron. James G. Gardiner.

#### A TRUE STORY

I had last night." "Is this a true story?"

"Then go ahead." "I stopped to pay a bill, and-" "I thought you said it was a true

Christie's Fruited

PUDDINGS ... 25c

gunner school at Fingal, Ontario, and another at Dafoe, Sask., whose popula-

London (CP)-It appeared to be "organized Scrounging," said the prosecuting counsel at a trial of nine men, chargto the Manitoba village of Rivers shortly ed with stealing from premises damaged

#### SOMEONE'S PEDIGREE HERE

#### WAS GALLANT SKIPPER

London (CP) Capt. Edgar Moulton, who was last seen on the bridge of his ship, the Arandora Star, sunk by enemy action, has been officially commended for bravery and devotion to duty in the British . Merchant Navy.

London (CP)-A 22-year-old laborer was given three months iprisonment for nissing for 35 years, were found when stealing six fur coats from a west end an attic in an East Ham vicarage was furrier whose shop was damaged by

# 



# Happy Holidays

Happy Days are here and healthy days too for people who drink plenty of Pure Pasteurized Milk from Masales' Dairy. It's rich nourishment and energy producing qualities will put the glow of Santa's cheeks into yours. A quart a day is the world's lowest priced health insurance.

# **MASALES' DAIRY**

Pasteurized Milk and Cream

Phone 74, Acton

COLUMN TO THE PROPERTY OF THE

#### MAGERS' SAIES DOWN GO CANNED FOODS. Prices take a slide at Carroll's this week-end. It's a big "pay-day" opportunity to restock those depleted pantry shelves at a fine saving. HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS If you are giving Christmas hampers away this year see your Carroll store manager before placing your order. He has several already prepared to sell at \$1.89 and \$2.89, or

Aylmer Choice TOMATOES

if you would like to make your own selection, he will be

pleased to help. Special attention will be given to groups

McCormick's Butter. BARS 15c Mixed NUTS in shell AYLMER Hard Christmas CANDY 2 16. 25c Christie's Cocoa Iceburg CAKE

or organizations buying in quantities.

Table FIGS 14-lb. pkg. 14C Seedless **RAISINS** 100 Cut Mixed PEEL 27c Glace Red CHERRIES 16. 41c **Easifirst Shortening or** 

Domestic 2 lb. 25c

# Aylmer PORK and BEANS 2 20-oz. 15c

AYLMER ASPARAGUS Tanty 2 12-oz. 17C AYLMER TOMATO SOUP **AYLMER PEAS and CARROTS** AYLMER INFANTS FOODS AYLMER TOMATO JUICE AYLMER APPLE JUICE **25c** AYLMER BARTLETT PEARS

**Aylmer Sliced** PINEAPPLE

Kellogg's CORN -FLAKES 3 Pkgs. 19c Chase and Sanborn's 1-lb. 47c COFFEE BEANS Have Your Label Ready! WIN 25 DOLLARS Listen to CFRB

Camay Toilet SOAP RINSO pkg. 9c, 22c, 43c **CHIPSO** pkg. 8c, 20c, 47c 10c Box of Gibson TISSUES

with Infants Delight

½-lb. 36c, 31c Aylmer Sliced or Halved Ontario

PEACHES

SOAP 4 cakes 230

15-oz. 23C

Grapefruit 3 for 14c LARGE SEEDLESS

Crisp Iceberg

LETTUCE !

every Tuesday Night

Mother Parker's Tea

**Red Emperor** 

2 for 19c GRAPES

Also Cranberries-Tomatoes-Celery-Yams-Special Prices Grocery Bargains on Sale Until Monday Night-Fruit and Vegetables Until Saturday Night Only