Has Many Aliases

Santa Claus is Wanted Man

Santa Claus is a wanted man. But he won't be easy to track down for he has too many aliases.

In one part of the world he pops up under the name of Julenissen; in another, the Abbot of Unreason; in a third, as Saint Nicholas, or Father Christmas.

Santa's rewards, as well as his name, vary from place to place. In one country, a bad child is liable to find coals in his stockings. Elsewhere, a good child may discover a "Yogi Bear"!

What And When

Santa's timetable and the gifts he brings vary with the particular country where he has staked out operations.

In Spain, he bears gifts on January 6, Epiphany, in celebration of the Three Wise Men. Children put their shoes in the windows and fill them with straw for the neighbors horse — in the hope that while the horses may neigh, Santa won't say "nay."

In Germany, he wears a big chain which he rattles at the door, and enters bringing candy and cookies for the good youngsters, an empty potato sack for the bad ones.

In North America, Santa fills the good child's stockings with everything from electric trains and model space rockets to toys testing their skills and expanding their knowledge.

In Italy, Santa comes as an old woman on a broomstick, named La Befona, and leaves gifts in the shoes of nice children. But woe to those who don't mind their parents — they're apt to find ashes in their brogans!

Names He Gets

Santa Claus has been known by many names in his remarkable career.

Saint Nicholas. In the fourth century he was modeled after the original St. Nicholas who lived in Turkey and whose deeds of courage and kindness earned him after death the title of patron saint of children. The legend of the good saint as gift-giver later spread to Russia, Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

The Abbot of Unreason. In the Middle Ages, the gift-giver took human form and became an officer who directed the festivities of the holiday season. Dubbed the Abbot of Unreason by the Scots, and the Lord of Misrule, he held office from Christmas till January 6, and his word was law. Either elected or appointed, he ruled over the holiday activities in royal households, colleges, and inns. The English called him King of the Bean, and to the French he was the Boy Bishop.

Christkindlein. In Germany during the 15th century, Martin Luther, a religious leader who also invented a lot of new German words, substituted the Christ Child, or Christkindlein, for St. Nicholas as the bearer of gifts. He wanted to make the bearing of gifts a symbol of the Wise Men's visit to Bethlehem, bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh. So the Christ Child came secretly to German homes on the Eve of Christmas.

Kris Kringle. In the 17th century, a German colony led by William Penn settled in Pennsylvania, and again Santa changed his name! The settlers had brought the Christkindlein with them, but somehow it got transformed into Kris Kringle.

Santa, himself! The Dutch nicknamed St. Nicholas "Santa Claus" for short, but his image as a fat little man with rosy cheeks and white beard comes down to us from a poem written in 1822 by Dr. Clement C. Moore, an American minister. Dr. Moore based the poem on a colorful Dutchman he once met, and named it, "The Night Before Christmas." He recited it to his children, who were delighted. Then he threw it away. A lady visitor rescued it from the waste-basket and had it published in the Troy, N.Y., Sentinel. It became a literary classic and almost every child now knows about the creatures that were not stirring, not even a mouse.

Father Christmas. During the 19th century, Santa recrossed the Atlantic from the USA and became known as Father Christmas in England and Pere Noel in France.

Julenissen. That's what the Norwegians call him, and he works overtime in the land of the fiords. He brings gifts to good children before they go to bed on Christmas Eve, after the family has finished Christmas dinner; and in the week between Christmas and New Year's he totes his sack to a community party for the children called "Jultrefest."

Regardless of the name by which Santa is known, and no matter where he appears, one fact about the old-timer remains constant:

He is a wanted man!

Bright Door, Window Using Decorations

Instead of the conventional Christmas wreath on the outside of the door why not string some bells and tree ornaments on narrow baby ribbon and hang from a huge red bow?

Make your door and windows bright and cheerful by framing them with ribbon and with sprigs of holly. You can hang the ribbon in festoons across the curtains and tie at the sides in wide sash bows for colorful effect.

WHOOPING CRANES

Eleven adult whooping cranes and three young-of-the-year have been sighted by the Canadian Wildlife Service on the nesting grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Thirty-six whoopers completed the long flight to Arkansas last year. Because of the real danger that they many become extinct they are protected by law in both Canada and the United States.

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Whether Santa arrives by reindeer or jet, we hope he brings you a happy holiday season . . . just as you've brought us a happy year, through your patronage and good will. Many thanks!

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Tips on Photography

Pause Technique for Action Shots

It's a bit tricky . . . but you can learn it.

Watch, for instance, as a child scampers to the top of the ladder over at the park slide. Suddenly, just as the child reaches the very top, and is ready to start zooming down, there's a pause. Not a long pause, mind you, but it's a very definite pause. And if you're ready to trip your camera shutter during that split-second pause, you'll get a photograph which is seemingly filled with action.

Little Pause

You can use this same idea on the tennis courts or the golf links or the baseball diamond. Try it. Amble over to the corner-lot baseball game and watch a future Babe Ruth swinging his bat . . . ah, yes . . . just before the "big swat" there's a momentary quick-as-a-wink pause as the bat reaches the final point in the back swing. You may not even see it when you first start to look for that "pause" . . . but it's there! Keep watching. You'll see it. And before long you'll teach your camera to see it . . . and to get it.

Sometimes you dare not wait until it's actually "there" to snap the shutter because you'd lose the picture during the split second required to get the shutter to do its job. Instead, you have to start snapping the shutter a split-second "ahead" in order to take the picture simultaneously with the advent of the pause. This is called "leading the action" . . . meaning that you have to acquire that photographic sixth sense of knowing just when the "pause" will occur. You have to teach yourself to snap your shutter a split-hair jiffy ahead of the pause instead of actually waiting for it.

Box Camera Okay

Ah, yes, all this is fine (you say) for millionaires with 1/10,000th ultra-electronic shutters and stuff. But no — don't go jumping off to your conclusions like that. You don't, either, have to have a super-duper shutter. Of course, it's more convenient to have a camera with an adjustable high speed shutter and all the other gimmicks . . . that's precisely why such cameras are made . . . but you don't have to come up with this my-shutter-is-too-slow alibi regardless of what camera you own. You can actually get many good action "pause" pictures with a box camera.

For instance, at the very tip-top of the high-jumper's leap there's a pause . . . so snap it. There's another pause when he lands. Speaking of landing reminds us to suggest that you visit the airport to see the four-motored streamliner taxiing down the runway just before the take-off, or as it comes in. At the end of the runway the plane will pause to "rev" its motors. Snap that shutter. We could list dozens of such examples, but you'll think of hundreds of 'em if you try.

. . . you can learn to photograph them all.

A Speck O'Dust

A tiny speck of dust on a color slide looms up as large as an elephant fly when projected on the average home screen. Even larger on a large-audience screen. Nor do you enhance your reputation as a photographer when you alibi with . . . "that spot on Nancy's nose really isn't a spot, it's a speck of dust that must have gotten on the slide."

How to prevent such a thing?

Either clean your slides before using with a soft camel's hair brush or mount your slides — usually between glass. You can use the "shap" type of metal-and-glass binder . . . or the fiber-and-glass type . . . or the glass-bound by tape-and. Regardless of what type, don't try to bind your ready-mounts between glass; it makes the finished product much too thick for use in most viewers or projectors. Use masks. And tape-in the transparencies into a fixed position so they won't slip around later, causing you to do the whole job over again. Perhaps the most popular way of doing this is with Scotch Tape. About the easiest, too.

Proper Corner

Don't overlook the importance of titling, either on the mask itself, or on a label which you paste over the mask. And please, please, remember to put the projection mark in the lower left-hand corner when viewing the slide in an upright position.

You're probably justified in thinking that mounting is much ado about a speck of dust. That's not the really important reason, anyway. Nope. Fingerprints and scratches are the real culprits you must avoid — what's more, you can't brush either one of them off. So . . .

First Lighted Tree Thrill to Children

The story is that Martin Luther created the first lighted Christmas tree — our most cherished symbol of the Yule season next to Santa Claus.

Looking out of a window on Christmas Eve in a castle where he was a guest, he saw the stars shining brightly through the boughs of a giant fir tree. One very bright star stood in the firmament at the top of the tree. So Luther chopped down a small fir in a forest near the castle and brought it inside. He secured candles which he put on the tree, with the largest one at the top — the Star of Bethlehem.

The prince and his princess were delighted and they placed all their gifts for their children under the tree. And when the children saw it in the morning, they were ecstatic with joy. And that is how our lighted Christmas tree originated.

Yule Not Holiday In Colonial Times

Christmas was not much of a holiday in Colonial times. On December 27, 1773, Sir William Stevens made the following entry in his journal at Savanah, Ga.:

"A few people inclined to labor still; so great a propensity was there among them, through prevalence of custom, to keep the Christmas holidays, tho' feasting here was not yet in fashion; and my servants thought it best working, without which I told them there was no eating."

SPENDING

Over the past 10 years spending by the federal department of Health and Welfare has increased from $423 million to $887 million.

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