od and gifts

e allowed to

rose briary may need proving Christians were forbidden to but history records the use of decorate their homes with holly as a symbol of goodwill Christmas greenery during the and friendship even before the mid-December Saturnalian Christian era.

twigs were used too, in various decorations became so well rites throughout much of established and so popular they Europe in those early days. And were given Christian acceptance. large quantities of the shiny green foliage and red berries were brought indoors to The largest Christmas tree ever brighten the scene during drab lighted is believed to have been winter days. But even before the 364 feet tall. It is located in Romans set foot on English California's redwood forest and shores, the druids were using was first decorated in December, holly in their own pagan rites. 1945.

Love, the poets say, is like the Due to this pagan association, wild rose briar and friendship early Christian leaders opposed like the holly tree. use of holly during the The similarity of love and wild Christmas season. In fact, the revelries of the Roman Empire. Holly wreaths, sprays and Eventually, however, holly

YULE WHOPPER



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FROM SAINT NICHOLAS TO ST. NICK

How Santa Looks, Travels

His White Beard, Red Suit Are

Recent Garb Genial, jovial, red-cheeked and white-bearded. As any child can tell you, that's how

Santa Claus looks. But the benevolent giver of presents has not always been pictured like this, nor has he always traveled by sleigh or brought his gifts on Christmas Eve. In fact, he has not always been named Santa Claus!

"Santa Claus" is in truth a child's euphonic way of expressing the Dutch "Saint Nikolaas," or St. Nicholas, says

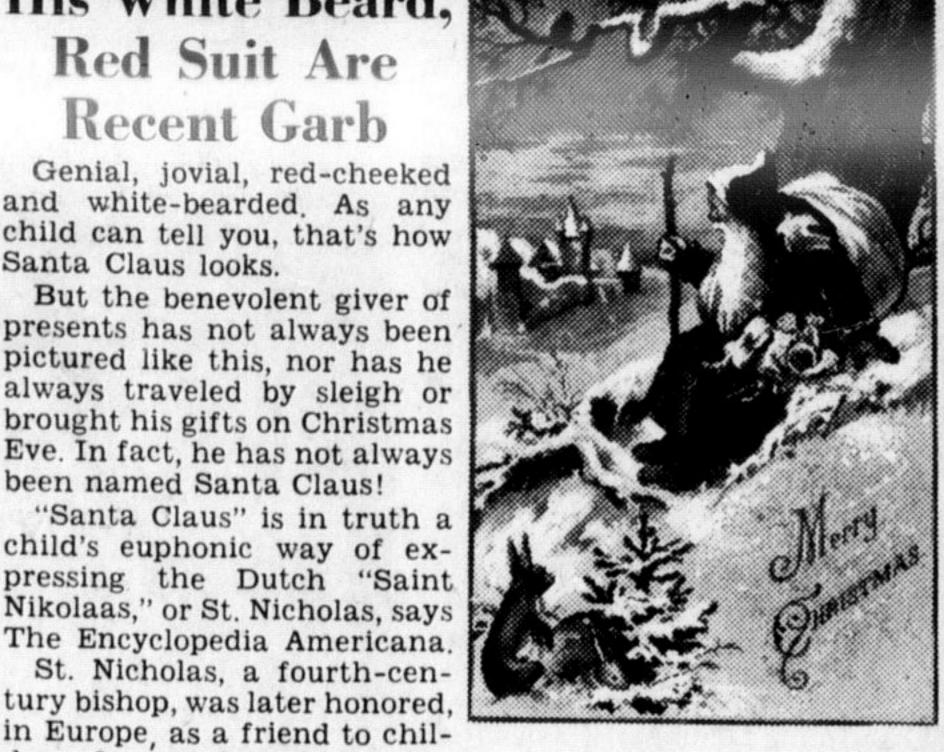
St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop, was later honored, in Europe, as a friend to children. Legend finds him making his rounds on December 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, with gifts to reward children for good behavior.

Instead of a jolly red suit, St. Nicholas wore a robe, or tabard, and for that reason he really didn't need a sleigh, or even a horse. His robe enabled him to travel from place to place, instantly.

In Holland, however, he was said to use a horse for his journey at night over the roofs. Dutch settlers brought St. Nicholas to the New World. where he gradually changed his name to Santa Claus and traded his horse and robe for reindeer and a red suit. It was Clement C. Moore, in

his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," who made Santa into a jolly elf "Saint Nick," who rides "in a miniature sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer."

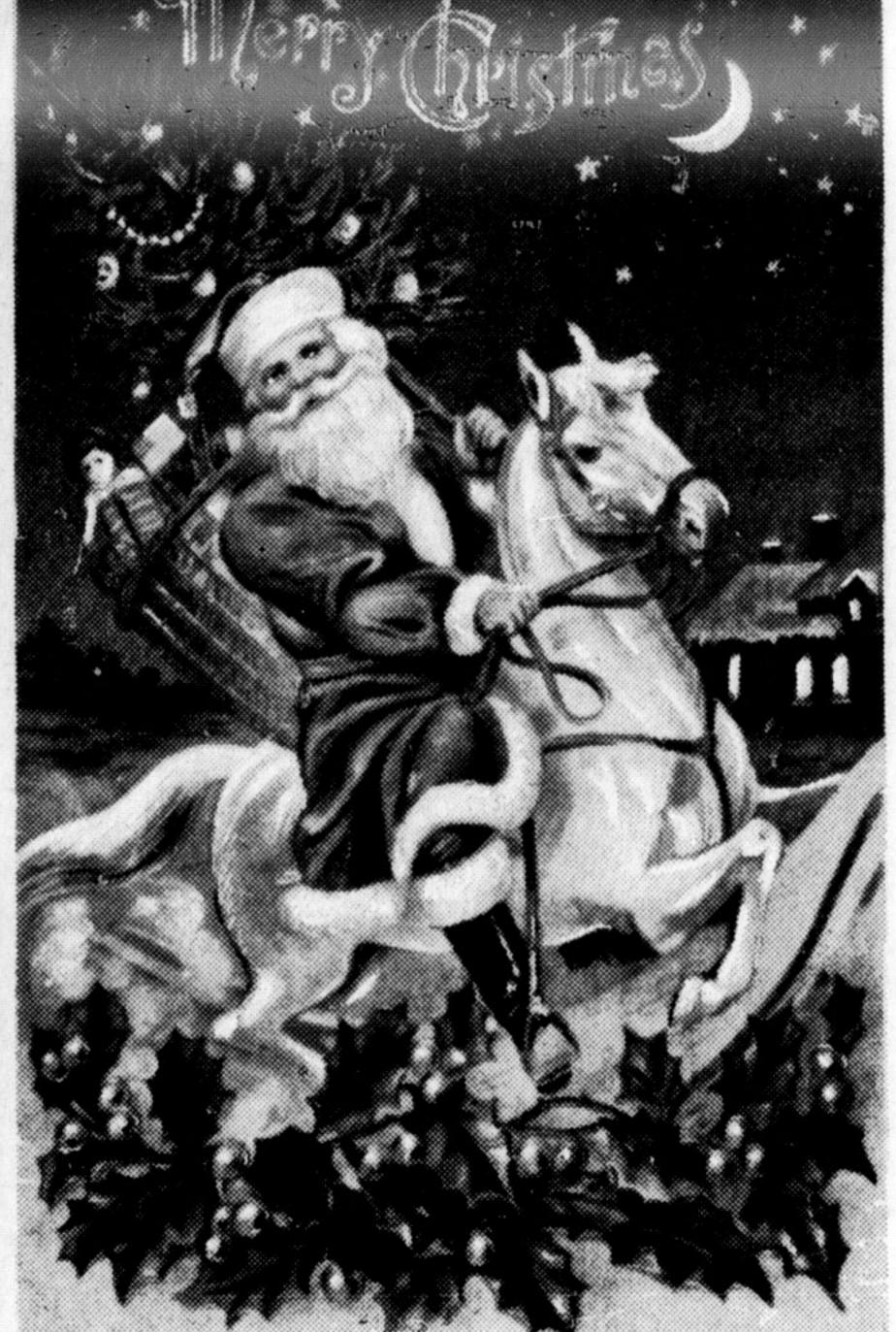
In more recent years, St. Nicholas in his new guise as known of gift givers.



ST. NICHOLAS, who preceded Santa as a Christmas gift giver, was pictured on an 1870 greeting card as a monk-like figure.



tury greeting card.



METAMORPHOSIS OF SANTA CLAUS, FROM St. Nicholas in a monk's blue robe, to jolly St. Nick in a bright red suit, can be traced in the history of Christmas greeting cards - witness this 1909 card. The gift giver here, who looks somewhat like the modern Santa Claus, wears a red jacket, but his trousers, like St. Nicholas' robe, are still blue, and he is mounted on a hobby horse rather than a reindeer-drawn sleigh — the historical result of the intro-Santa Claus has journeyed FATHER CHRISTMAS, a rather duction into American folklore, by early Dutch settlers, of St. to many parts of the world, stern resident of the North Pole, Nicholas on a horse. The 1909 Santa carries his gifts in a straw becoming the most widely appears on this turn-of-the-cen- basket, which later became the Christmas sack of toys. Cards shown are from the Norcross Historical Collection.

Distinguished scholar had doubts about poem

"Twas the night before Christmas when all through the Not a creature was stirring not

even a mouse." familiar poem: "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Today, this poem is a treasured part of the lore of Christmas, often quoted and published at the Yuletide season.

Surprisingly, the poet who created it was far from proud of his work.

A distinguished Biblical scholar and professor of divinity, poem.

Dr. Clement Clark Moore wrote the poem for the amusement of his children at Christmas in 1822. A visitor in the home at the time copied it and had it With these lines begins the published a year later in the

Troy, N. Y., Sentinel. The poem appeared anonymously, because Dr. Moore felt that he, as a professor of divinity, should not be associated with such

'undignified' work. For more than 20 years, he refused to take credit for the



health, tranquility of mind, happiness of spirit. Have a Merry Christmas!

THOS. DEAR SHOES

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The Council of the Town of Milton



Extends its grateful appreciation to the members of the various municipal groups that contribute to the welfare of the town. Many hours of personal effort and interest are extended by these public spirited citizens who serve on the Boards and Committees and it is only fitting at the year end that this contribution to the Municipality be publicly recognized.

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A special word of "Welcome" goes to all taxpayers and residents in those areas which will be annexed to the Town of Milton as of January 1st,

WE EXTEND A VOTE OF THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL STAFF FOR A JOB WELL DONE

PRESENTANTAL SERENTARE ENGREENERS CONTRACTOR

Council expresses its

sincere appreciation

to all participating

individuals, groups

and organizations

who have assisted

in making 1968 such

a successful year.

THE COUNCIL TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING ONE AND ALL THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

AND A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 1969

the following th