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- FOR PARENTS ONLY -

(By Nancy Cleaver)

WHAT ABOUT SANTA?

"Jolly old Saint Nicholas, Lean your ear this way! Don't you tell a single soul What I'm going to say;—

Christmas Eve is coming soon. Now, you dear old man, Whisper what you'll bring to me, Tell me if you can."

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas in many homes without songs about Saint Nicholas or the immortal poem "Twas the Night before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore. Small children look forward eagerly to hanging up their stockings on Christmas Eve — and finding them chuck full Christmas morning.

When Junior asks "Tell me about Santa Claus!" mother may be glad to know something about the legendary figure Saint Nicholas and the origin of the Santa Claus story.

Saint Nicholas was born in Asia Minor late in the third century. His parents were wealthy and he was left quite a fortune. He was very generous and loved to give little gifts to needy folk.

But he didn't give in order to be thanked, and so he tried to give his presents without anyone knowing who sent them. Often when it was dark, he would slip quietly into a poor home and leave a little surprise on the hearth.

One story about Saint Nicholas tells how he helped a poor nobleman who had lost both his wife and his fortune. This man had three daughters and he was worried about their finding husbands because he had no money to give them for a marriage dowry — In those days a girl without a dowry to set up housekeeping was just out of luck!

On three different nights, Saint Nicholas tossed a little bag of gold through the open window into the nobleman's living room. On the third time the nobleman was so quick that he ran and grasped the cloak of Saint Nicholas. "Kind Servant of God, why hide thy good deeds thus?" he cried. Then Nicholas, like many another quiet Christian, answered that he did not want anyone to know of his

liberality. In this twentieth century, when everyone seems to want credit for charity, (and income tax receipts for gifts!) it is well to remember Saint Nicholas. We know him as "The Children's Saint" because so often his presents were for little folk. But he was also called the patron saint of sailors and travelers. He became the Archbishop of a seaport town Myra. The date of his death was in the Christmas month, December 8th, 326 A.D.

Children are imaginative and they love poetry and rhythm. In "The Night Before Christmas," Santa is called "a jolly old elf." Never claim that he is a flesh and blood person.

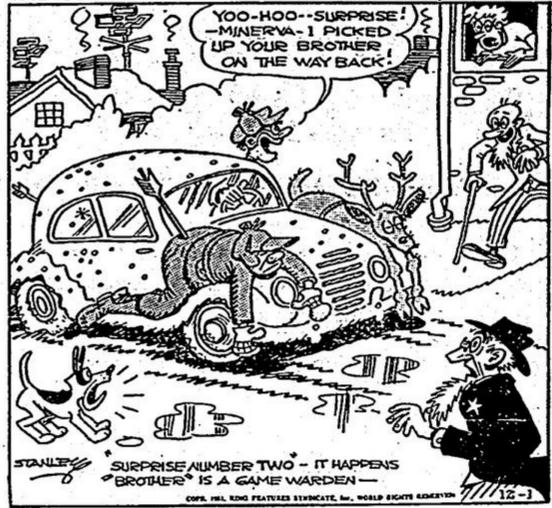
In a large city, the number of Santa Claus figures in different stores is confusing to a child. Explain that these merry gentlemen are just "playing Santa." Do let your child "play Santa" with an old pillow case full of toys — or better still, plan with your child to give a gift to a needy family like the Saint Nicholas of long ago.

Parents are sometimes alarmed when they hear Santa Claus being condemned as "telling a child a pack of lies." They are on safe ground when they picture for their child the Saint Nicholas, who really lived.

Some modern educators are trying to pour scorn on Santa and other folk condemn him as a pagan. But he keeps his place in the affections of the younger generation! Surely there is room in this last month of the year for both Saint Nicholas and the Baby Jesus. The legend of this old saint need take nothing away from the true meaning of Christmas as the Birthday of Jesus.

Our children should be taught when they are quite young that although Santa Claus is part of the fun of Christmas eve and morning, the real significance of December 25th, lies in the story of the coming of the Christ Child to earth. In His Son, God revealed his love for all mankind. In Christina G. Rossetti's beautiful words: "Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine, Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign." (copyright)

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



DAYS of YORE

From the Files of the Tribune 28 Years Ago

At a sale on the premises of Lownsbrough and Morden in Stouffville a 125 ton pile of coal was auctioned off to Mr. W. S. Cook for \$1.00 a ton. This low price was due to the fact that the entire amount was to be taken by one man and had to be removed in a week. Coal has been regularly selling from \$12.00 to \$14.00 a ton.

As Mr. and Mrs. H. Kirby of Ballantrae were preparing to come to town last Saturday they were suddenly startled by the crashing of a window in their home, and on investigation found that a partridge flew against the glass and landed in the room. The bird was no doubt welcomed to the family larder, although Mr. Kirby was not particularly elated over the way it made an entrance.

There are three vacancies on the board of school trustees this month, the retiring members being Messrs. Ab. Stouffer, M. Tait and Rev. McLeod.

From the Stouffville station there were shipped last week three car loads of hay by T. Caster of Claremont. So far this season Mr. Caster has purchased some 53 cars of baled hay, for shipment to the larger centres, and prices at present are from \$10 to \$12.50 per ton baled and loaded.

Last weekend the town meters in all the homes and business places were read for the first time since hydro lighting had been installed. With a light at your command any hour of the day or night, the users are naturally going to burn more juice and consequently the bills will be larger under the new system. This fact is realized by nearly all users notwithstanding the rate for current per hour is one third less than we paid under the old local plant.

An explosion of a coal oil stove was the cause of a fire which destroyed the house occupied by Reuben Lunau of Markham, and most of the contents. The house, a neat frame two-storey building was situated just north of the Mount Joy school house and was owned by Menno Raymer, and was rented and occupied by Mr. Lunau and his wife. Orville Heisey and Reuben Meyer made a canvass of the town people and neighbors on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Lunau, and had the pleasure of handing them a sum approaching \$400.

Prices at the Stouffville Market — calves, \$8.00 to \$10.00; ducks, 25c per lb.; oats, 40c to 45c per bushel; fall wheat, 98c per bu.; barley, 58c to 60c per bu.

18 Years Ago

Farmers are being pestered these days with hunters from the city roaming over their premises, shooting almost anything that looks like a bird. On Saturday, three of these wandering track shooters were taught a needed lesson when they were taken into custody on the farm of H. J. Jarvis, after shooting six wild ducks on the pond there. Mr. Jarvis whose premises are lot 30, con. 5, Markham, was attracted by shots when he saw three chaps with guns, and also six of his wild ducks lying dead on the ice. The hunters were evidently speculating on how to get the birds from out on the thin ice. The wild ducks have been kept by Mr. Jarvis for some years.

Mrs. C. G. Wideman has recently purchased the large residence formerly owned by the late Alfred Brillinger in Gormley West, and is making some extensive changes with the object of making this a home for elderly people, who may be left without material support and home. While Mrs. Wideman is taking the initiative in this benevolence, it is hoped, and expected that the Brethren in Christ Church in Canada will later assume the supervision and support this project as a church institution.

The Stouffville Junior Hockey team has been grouped by the O.H.A. with Newmarket, Bradford and Markham. Convener is Pete Reesor of Markham. The Altona Intermediates are grouped with Aurora, Uxbridge, Agincourt, Unionville, Beaverton and Sutton. Sam McKeown was down town on Wednesday morning last week for the first time since he was

knocked down and tramped on by a horse on Sept. 14th. He is now able to be around with the aid of a pair of crutches.

Householders are so pestered with agents and peddlers these days that several homes in the village are displaying signs which read: "No canvassers or peddlers please."

The Stouffville Park Commission has placed a strong fence around the baseball diamond at the park, to protect the field from being run over by automobiles and other vehicles.

The mild weather gave the road committee of the village council a splendid opportunity to give the pavement a much needed clean-up. This incidentally provided a job for our unemployed men who were asking for work.



Tops For Sports

Buses are the real thing when your school or club is playing a game or having a social evening out of town. They're handy for shows and other events too. If your crowd is large enough, you can make your own schedule with chartered buses.



FARES ARE LOW ROUND TRIP

(Subject to change)

Table with 2 columns: City and Fare. MONTREAL - \$16.15, TORONTO - 1.90, HAMILTON - 4.05, DETROIT - 13.35

Tickets and Information at STOUFFVILLE MOTORS PHONE 170



- OTTAWA LETTER -

By J. E. Smith, M.P.

I refrained from sending my Ottawa letter in recent weeks for two reasons. I appreciate that during a provincial election weekly newspaper publishers are hard pressed for valuable space, and I did not want to presume on the good nature of my fellow-publishers who are good enough to give regular space to these weekly reports. Secondly, a provincial election was being fought and I had no desire in any way to be open to the charge that my letters are in any way political. I have endeavoured to make these weekly reports informative rather than political and this will continue to be my policy.

However, the election now is over and I think we all should heed the words of Premier Frost who said the duty of all now is to unite and work for the good of the province and Canada.

The people of Ontario have elected a government and your government here at Ottawa accepts that verdict and will gladly work with your elected representatives in any matters pertaining to the province and Dominion.

Here in North York I extend congratulations to the elected representative Major Lex Mackenzie. In all matters pertaining to the good and welfare of North York I will be most happy to co-operate with him to the fullest extent in the future, as I have in the past.

Old Age Pensions

I receive many representations and complaints about the difficulties of many applicants for pension in providing proof of age.

In individual cases this concern is understandable, but I wish to assure everyone that every assistance will be given to those who do not have birth certificates or other proof of birth.

I know you will appreciate the position of the government charged with the responsibility of administering the Act. The government wants the new Act administered humanely, but it must insist too that it be efficiently administered.

Every precaution must be taken against fraud and I learned from the Department of Health and Welfare that already many hundred cases of attempted fraud have been discovered.

The government must insist on proof of age. Every help will be given by myself and the Department to those who may experience difficulty, and in time I am sure all cases can be solved satisfactorily. Every facility including our census records will be made available.

I am happy to report that already applications of 70% of eligible recipients have been approved, and I am confident that by year's end 95% of the applications will have been approved.

This is a very creditable record for the Department of National Health and Welfare which accom-

plished this very sizeable task with an addition of only 100 persons to the staff all across Canada.

To appreciate the size of the Department's task it must be remembered that it is estimated the old age assistance and universal pensions will benefit more than 800,000 Canadians next year.

Veterans' Pensions

An important item of business at this session concerns pensions for war veterans. For a long time it has been felt that due to the increase in the cost of living over the years there should be an increase in the basic rate of pensions.

The government was pleased to receive representation from Canadian Legion and from veterans in all parts of Canada and after careful consideration decided on one-third increase in basic pension rates. This means that a pensioner who is totally disabled as a result of his war service, received a 100 per cent pension, which at the present is \$94. monthly. This will be increased to \$125, which represents a thirty-three and one-third per cent increase.

From correspondence I have received I am pleased to conclude that this action by your government, which received support from all parties in the House, has met with the approval of veterans, and the people of Canada generally who want to see them get nothing short of a square deal.

The increase in the basic rates will be effective on January 1, 1952.

Governor General

There is quite a general feeling that the reason for the extension of the term of Governor-General Viscount Alexander is the desire of the government to have a Canadian appointed to this post.

Those who take this view overlook the fact that the present Governor-General has proven a most popular King's representative and that there is a very unanimous wish here to keep him in Canada as long as possible.

In regards to a choice of a successor there certainly is a large element of public support for the appointment of a Canadian. On the other hand many feel the high office would lose something of its color and significance should a Canadian be appointed.

Certainly no decision has been made on the subject and opinions expressed are pure speculation. Canadians may rest assured the matter will be given the most careful attention and consideration by the government. I have received many expressions of opinions from North York people on the subject and would be happy to hear from others.

If elected, I'll . . .

The Edmonton Journal says peace is like some highways — somebody is always working on it, but it's never ready.

NOTES and COMMENTS

Be Sure You Vote, and Vote for Four

When the ballots are counted next Monday evening, the only folks who can truthfully say that they lost their vote, will be the people who did not vote at all. Like many others, we were much impressed by a sermon delivered in one of our local churches last Sunday morning when the minister struck home at those who did not exercise their franchise. It was not subversive activity of which we should be so much afraid, as subversive inactivity, and how true this is, right down to our own municipal election in Stouffville. Four of the nine candidates offering themselves for council office will govern this community for the coming year. It is up to you to say which four it shall be, and it is your duty and privilege to vote for the four candidates whom you believe can best serve the community, regardless of personal feelings for any one of them. Those feelings have absolutely no place in the marking of your ballot. There is little wisdom or foresight displayed by the person who only votes for his personal friends, regardless of whether or not they would be the best parties to fill the position.

Polls will be open on Monday from 9 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. in each of the two polls. The point has already been raised by at least one candidate that the hours at which the polls close is too early, and we believe he has a good point, and one which should certainly be dealt with when the election bylaw is passed next fall.

Not many years ago, township polling places closed earlier than they do today, but gradually the hours were extended for the convenience of those who do not work in town. After all, one thought in an election, is to hold it at the time most suited to the greatest number of rate-payers, and if extending the hour until possibly 8 p.m. will allow more citizens to vote, then it should be done. While nothing can be done in time for the present election, it is hoped that those who are out of town will make a special effort to reach-home before the deadline.

We Owe It to Our Customers

A few years ago, Stouffville's Main St. was one of the brightest in the district with strings of colored lights giving a real gala appearance to the business section. Some time ago these were removed because of a change in the street light standards on the north side of the roadway. The new steel poles would not permit the attachment of light cords from the opposite side.

While the reasons for taking lights down at the time of the change are all quite true, there is no reason why they could not be put up again and attached to buildings along the street. It is not likely that any businessman would object. Each year the question of why no colored lights goes up and down the street, and this year when Stouffville has had the finest Santa Claus parade ever undertaken, there has been particularly lively comment over the absence of colored lights.

The lights can be operated at practically no cost whatever, as the local hydro lines are loaded with unused current during the night hours. Possibly the Business Men's Association will approach the 1952 council on the matter.

Stouffville enjoys the greatest trade of any community for its size in the district, and it behooves the merchants and town authorities to continue to make our town as attractive as possible and in every way encourage this trade. The return of the colored lights would help.

Why Boys Leave The Farm

In discussing agriculture with some young people the other day, a farmer stressed the difficulties with which the agriculturist has to contend in these days of labor scarcity. According to his version of the situation, farming was one profession the young folks of today should shun like the plague. It was, he claimed, all work and little profit.

We have on more than one occasion pointed out the fact that farmers do not magnify their own calling as they ought to do. It is hardly to be expected that ambitious boys and girls will stay on the farm if their fathers and mothers are always decrying the farm, its work and its living conditions, and if they allow only those members of the family who are going into some other vocation the privilege of a higher education.

It is essential, in farming as it is today, that the boys and girls who elect to remain on the farm have the same opportunities for education and self-improvement as those who are going into other lines of work. There are agricultural schools and colleges which provide the proper scientific training for a successful career in agriculture, and if more of the farm young people were encouraged to attend these, more of them would stick to farming. —Oshawa Times.

Some People Will Spurn The Old Age Pension

An official of the department of National Health and Welfare has expressed concern that 50,000 to 60,000 eligible persons, "for some reason or other," have not applied for the \$40 monthly old age pension which will be paid by the federal treasury to everyone reaching 70 years of age, commencing January 1 next. The department has been asking all who are eligible to make their applications as early as possible.

It is estimated there are 380,000 persons, not presently in receipt of old age pensions, eligible for them under the new universal coverage, and in this group more than 300,000 have already applied. In the remaining 50,000 to 60,000 it is probable that some have not yet heard the news of what's in store for them. In all likelihood there are others with substantial private incomes who feel that if they accepted the pension most of it would be recaptured by the Government in the income tax. The \$480 yearly pension is to be included in the taxpayer's earnings when computing his tax.

Doubtless there are Canadians who have no desire to become pensioners of the Dominion treasury even though the pension is to be paid of right and not because of need. These self-reliant people will probably spurn the concern of officials at their refusal to apply for the pension.