

Christmas Eve in the Kitchen

By ELEANOR E. KING.

IN THE kitchen of an apartment building in the city was seated a large, husky man with a little girl of about seven, on one knee, and a boy of perhaps six, on the other.

"But grandpa, I don't see why Santa Claus doesn't come," said little Doris. "We have waited so long out here in this old kitchen."

At this, Master Fred laboriously crawled down from his grandpa's knee and ran over to the kitchen door, and then to the window.

"Isn't it disgusting, grandpa? I can't even see him coming."

"Well, you know," said grandpa, as he climbed back upon his knee. "Santa Claus was a little boy once himself, and he knows how impatient little boys are. He has a hard time, though. Every year he has more boys and girls to bring toys to than he had the year before."

"But grandpa," said Doris, "I never saw Santa Claus was ever a little boy."

"Oh, yes," asserted grandpa firmly. "Once upon a time a group of fairies were playing around in an open place under some trees and they found a little baby asleep. They took the baby to their queen. The fairies loved the little baby, so they begged the queen to let them keep him and take care of him. The queen consented and the little boy 'Claus' thrived under the care of the fairies."

"S-h-h! Grandpa, I think he's coming, interrupted Doris as he again climbed down and ran to the window. "Nothing doing," he said with much disgust and gave a signal with his arm like the signman does when telling a train to stop.

Grandpa obeyed the signal and continued: "He lived under the care of the fairies until he grew to be quite a man. Then the queen ordered her busy workmen to build 'Claus' a hut, for he was a mortal and could not live with the fairies did, any longer. Claus had lots of time when he got to his new home and he occupied it by carving things. The fairies had taught him how to whittle and he became making all sorts of toys."

"There was a village some distance from his hut and every time he heard of a little boy or girl down in the village who was sick, he took them to his little toys. The children grew to like him ever so much. After a while he became acquainted with many children that he found it hard to get around and see them all so often. He decided that he would work all year making toys, and then go around and find out which of the children had been good, and leave them presents."

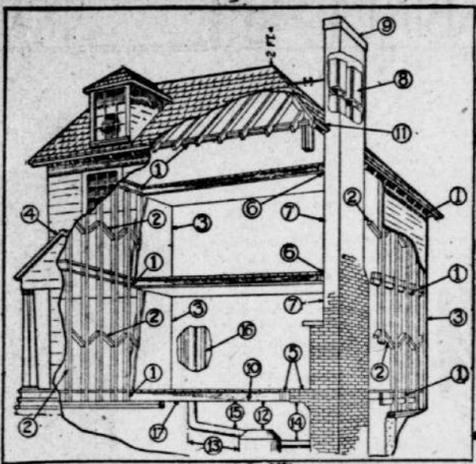
"When the fairies heard of this plan they were delighted and gave Santa Claus four reindeer and a sled to help him get to the children."

"After many years of this hard work Santa Claus began to show that he was growing old. The fairies realized that Santa Claus was a mortal and would die, so they decided to make him immortal."

"Santa Claus, as you know, some people shout from the front room."

"Hurry and get the grandpa."

Science Cuts Frame House Fire Risk In Half



Plan by N. L. M. A.

Sketch Illustrates New Features of Fire Resistant Construction.

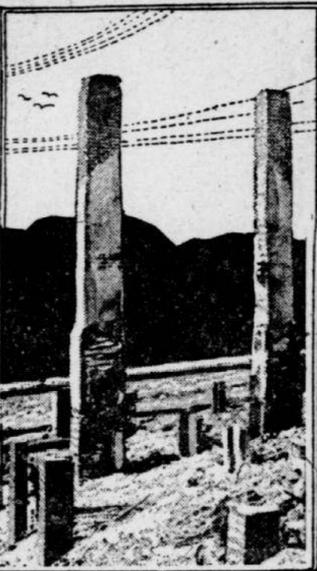
DANGER from fire in frame houses has been reduced fifty per cent through improvements in construction worked out by the most competent engineers in the lumber industry. This announcement has just been made after these engineers have been working upon improved designs in frame construction during the past year with a view to reducing the fire hazard for wood houses to a minimum.

Practically no change in appearance in houses constructed by the improved methods and very little, if any, additional cost is involved, but the methods recommended by the engineers give protective features making the frame house essentially resistant to fire.

Interposing of panels and short pieces within spaces that ordinarily serve as flues for rapid spread of fire, for instance, reduces danger from this cause. Other protective improvements prevent wooden parts catching fire from chimneys, fireplaces, heating plants and steam and hot water pipes.

While wood will burn and there is no such thing as a "fireproof" house within the reach of the ordinary pocketbook, the new protective measures devised by the lumber engineers offer an economical type of construction that is fire resistant and as nearly fireproof as frame construction as now developed can be made, according to their conclusions.

The methods conform strictly to the scientific codes of the most progressive cities and carry a minimum of fire risk because of the necessarily slow spread of combustion in houses following the new type of construction.



All That Was Left of a Frame Dwelling Built by Old Methods. (Numbers Correspond to Those on Sketch)

- (1) Fire stopping at all intersections of walls and partitions with floors, ceilings and roof.
- (2) Herring-bone fire stopping in partitions midway between floor levels.
- (3) Partition and wall corners framed solid.
- (4) Wall between porch attic, and house sheathed solid.
- (5) Header beams 20 inches from the fireplace breast. Incombustible hearth.
- (6) Wooden members 2 inches from chimney, space between filled with loose incombustible material.
- (7) Plaster applied directly to chimney breast.
- (8) Flue lining in chimneys.
- (9) Top of chimney 2 feet above peak of roof.
- (10) Protection over heating plant.
- (11) Roof framing 2 inches from chimney, flashed, permitting free movement of chimney.
- (12) Top of heating plant 15 inches from ceiling.
- (13) Furnace 8 feet from warm air riser.
- (14) Smoke pipe 1 1/2 times its diameter below the ceiling.
- (15) Heat pipes 6 inches below ceiling.
- (16) Doubled tin pipes, 1/2-inch air space between in partitions, kept 1 inch from all woodwork. Steam and hot water pipes 1 inch from woodwork.
- (17) Heat pipes running through floors, fire stopped with loose incombustible material.

What did they do?" queried Doris nervously.

"They gave Santa Claus everlasting life so that he could make little children happy always," finished grandpa.

"Oh, I am so glad," said both of the kiddies.

"Now, to see what Santa brought," said grandpa, and all three made a rush for the parlor.

According to the statement of a New York physician, shaving increases the liability of the individual to neuralgia and other nervous troubles of the face, and close shaving of the upper lip each day often has been credited with weakening the nerves that affect the eyes, causing acute eye trouble that disappeared when the mustache was permitted to grow.

English Cattle Importation. The importation of horned cattle from Ireland and Scotland to England was prohibited by law in 1663, but later the law was repealed and the importations were very large, but not until 1842 did England receive importations of cattle from foreign countries, and until 1846 levied a considerable tax on each animal imported.

DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS. Patience—Aren't you sorry now you didn't do your Christmas shopping early? Patrice—Why, I'm going to. I'm going out early this evening to do it.

Removing Pencil Marks. Indelible pencil marks may be removed by soaking for a few minutes in alcohol and then washing in the regular way. The alcohol is just as effective after the material thus stained has been washed and ironed.

First Tram. Street tramways drawn by horses were introduced into this country by Mr. Tram, an American, from whom they take their name. They were first run at Birkenhead in 1860, and in London the following year.—London Tit-Bits.



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for		up to \$5.00 and \$6.00, for
Children's Serge Dresses, \$2.00 value,	75c	Ladies' Flannel Checkered Coats; excellent values
for		up to \$5.00, for

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