

Uncle Santa Claus

By Christopher G. Hazard

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TELL us a story, Uncle Peter," said the children, as they climbed over their kindly relative one Christmas eve. "A story!" repeated Uncle Peter, affecting surprise, but willing to draw upon his inexhaustible stock; "well, have you ever heard of Uncle Santa Claus?" "Oh, you mean Uncle Santa Claus!" exclaimed Jack. "No, I don't," said Uncle Peter; "I mean the old man with the plug hat, the blue swallowtail coat, the striped breeches; the old man with eyes like stars and a smile that never comes off excepting when somebody is trending on somebody else; the old man with the striped flag, whose headquarters is up in Alaska; the biggest Santa Claus there is."

"Well," said Uncle Peter, "he has his hands full just now and is doing all he can to fill the hands of others. The air is so noisy with wireless cries and clamors, there are so many hands reaching out over the seas, that he is almost distracted. Ever since he got back from the great war he has been repairing its damage and renewing the prosperity that it spoiled. And long before that he was in the Christmas business. He surprised China by refusing to accept the great sum of the Boxer indemnity. He let the Cubans have Cuba when he had made them free, and many thought that he had a right to take that fair island for himself. He is working hard at his task of making America truly American, a sober, industrious, enlightened, prosperous, happy, Christ-mas-y nation."

"I'm glad I'm one of his American children," said Agnes, when Uncle Peter had concluded; with which sentiment all the rest agreed. A little cloud of doubt had arisen on the Christmas sky, however, as



"I'm Glad I'm One," Said Agnes.

Uncle Peter had spoken of Uncle Santa's lavishness in far countries. Edith voiced it when she wanted to know if it would be of any use for them to expect anything that Christmas, whether or not they were to hang up their stockings. "You'll put your foot in it if you do," said George. "No, she won't," said Uncle Peter; "I have had a special delivery letter from Uncle Santa, saying that he has had his eye on this house for the last twelve months, and that this will be one of his stopping places because from it so much of service for others has been going out. He says that you are his gardeners, and that you have planted so many seeds of kindness that a lot of beautiful things will be sure to come up. That is always the way, he says; in fact, it is the way in which he got rich himself."

"This was a very pleasant assurance for the children. It made them think of a happy mistake that one of them had made when they were having war gardens all over the town. A certain Mr. Rose had been appointed by the mayor as inspector of gardens for the whole place, and one day Betty pointed him out to a friend with whom she was walking. "There goes Mr. Rose," she said; "he's an expecter of gardens."

When the children had been reminded of Mr. Rose they also remembered what Betty had done at their last Christmas party; stalking heavily and pompously down the room, she had said: "I'm Mr. Atlas, who holds up the world." So one of them stood on tiptoe, threw back her head and threw out her arms and said: "I'm Uncle Santa Claus, who holds up the world." "Well, do that!" cried Uncle Peter; "that's just it!"

There wasn't any disappointment in the house the next morning. "Did you get all that you wanted?" asked Uncle Peter. "Yes," said Mary. "Were you at all disappointed?" "No," said Mary. When Mary said "Goodness," her mother said, "You shouldn't say 'goodness,' Mary." "Gracious!" said Mary. But Mary was too excited to have a care for her expressions. In describing the situation afterwards she said: "I was in a perfect stupor of excitement."

Uncle Peter had a present, too. After all the rest had been made happy Agnes brought out a parcel, and when Uncle Peter opened it there were two big books, that told over again the story of all that America had stood for and accomplished. This made him very glad indeed, and he asked them to write his name on the fly leaf and to say that it was from his Young Americans. Then the Christmas party ended with a verse of our national anthem, heartily sung and followed by all the other verses, with a hurrah for Uncle Sam instead of an amen.

A huge Christmas tree adorned with vari-colored electric lights occupies the bank square. The tree was put up by the Lions club as a reminder of Yuletide.

The Professional Five Hundred club was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Berghelm Tuesday evening. Playing was preceded by a 6 o'clock dinner.

Peter Budek of Boyalton was discharged from St. Gabriel's hospital Sunday, after receiving treatment for injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

The King of the Hill

By Christopher G. Hazard

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THE long hill glistened in the winter moonlight like a frosted cake. The road that ran down it like a silver ribbon, reaching across the railroad track and on through the valley, lost itself in a shimmering haze of snowy whiteness. The wind, as if afraid of awakening the sleeping town, had hushed itself into stillness, waiting along the way and under the shadows of the quiet trees for the signal of dawn. The scene was an invitation to a sport now largely displaced by rushing motor cars, but then one of the chief delights of the Christmas season. The bobbed of those days and nights was the pride of owners and the prize winner of competitions. The annual of the Slater Hill race course registered triumph as real and momentous as those of any race track.

The moon had watched with an expectant eye until ten of the clock and was about to retire under a passing cloud in disappointment, when the clamor and shouting of an approaching crowd renewed its spirit. From a side street they came, merry lads and lasses, with those of later years who had not forgotten how to be young. Soon the head of the hill was crowded with competitors and the air rang with the bustling preparations for the first race.

The sleds of that time were no ordinary affairs. Large enough to hold from four to six passengers, they were steered into the roadside snow or left to take care of themselves as their riders rolled off, but "The King of the Hill" kept on, in seeming ignorance of the imminent collision. Not until the warning blasts of the engine whistle seemed to startle him into action did Atkins move to save himself and his load. Then, with a wrench of his steering gear and a sturdy leg-sweep, he brought his sled about, throwing it over upon its side and upon its frightened load as the train swept by, almost brushing them to its way.

It was what the barber called "a close shave," and what Atkins called "as good as a mile," but the boys called it a victory and rode Atkins home on "The King of the Hill" with their full indorsement of the title. The old hill is still there. It glitters yet in Christmas moonlight. But the boys and girls of the bobbed time have grown old, the later generation has new toys, and the glorious fun of Slater's Hill is but a memory. A pleasant memory it is, though, and that is a brave, bright spot in it that registers the night when Tom Atkins got a double score in beating both the racers and the train on his "King of the Hill."

Algot Johnson, clerk at the Kasper-ek clothing store, resumed work Monday, after an enforced lay-off of a week due to an injury sustained when he fell on the ice while skating.

The style show given at the high school Friday afternoon and evening by the home economics classes of the high school attracted a large number of people and they were highly pleased and in many instances surprised with the creditable work done by the pupils. The sewing exhibited included aprons, lingerie, embroidered towels, dresses, etc. Candy was sold by the pupils during the style show, the proceeds going toward the purchase of equipment for the department.

Buy Creamettes. The more tender - more delicious Macaroni Product. MORE MONEY. If You Ship Us Your HIDES - FURS. Write Us FIRST For Special Information. DEAL DIRECT WITH THE LARGEST AND OLDEST HOUSE IN THE WEST. D. BERGMAN & CO. ST. PAUL - MINN.

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SOILS SPOTS STAINS REMOVED.

STOP! Don't throw that garment away. We can remove that grease spot and your suit will be as good as new.

Corner East of Buckman Hotel. We pay Return Charges. LITTLE FALLS DRY CLEANERS. PHONE 491.

Come and Gone

Lloyd Harding, who is studying music and art in Minneapolis, is home for the holiday.

Miss Allison Hall, a student at the state university, came home Wednesday evening to spend the Christmas vacation. J. R. Decker, who has been the guest of Tim Ferry for some time, left Tuesday for Los Angeles, Calif. Charles Fortier, who is employed in Minneapolis, is here for a visit with his parents over Christmas. Mrs. Peter Doucette of Ft. Ripley left Tuesday for Quebec, Can., called by the illness of her father. Mrs. Roman J. Thielen went to Roy, Minn., to visit her mother, who was injured in a fall down a stairway. Miss Hildegard Kieher, who teaches school in Minneapolis, is home for the holidays. Robert Gibson, a student at Hamline university, is here for the Christmas vacation.

The bazaar and supper held at the Buckman hotel simple room Saturday by St. Catharine's Guild and St. Margaret's Society of the Episcopal church was very successful, over \$500 being taken in.

Ensign Howard Clark, who has been in command of a submarine with headquarters at Portsmouth, N. H., has been transferred to San Pedro, Calif., according to word received by relatives here.

Frank E. Hall, Jr., who is superintendent of schools at Veblen, S. D., has been elected commander of the Veblen post, American Legion, according to word received by relatives here.

She Was Worth Much to Him. Following the marriage ceremony the groom called the minister aside and inquired the price of the service. "Well," said the minister, "you may pay me whatever it's worth to you." "Be reasonable!" groaned the groom. "This woman inherits a million dollars on her twenty-first birthday."—California Pelican.

Englishman's Afternoon Tea. Writes an Englishwoman: "The Frenchman dines with mellowness and joy in living. The American thrills by doing something differently. The German expands under the influence of opera with ham sandwiches. The English love of formalism makes tea a regular institution, and then proceeds about it, except its everyday existence. Nor does this apply to any particular class. The cottage tea, with its big loaf and its thick black liquor, is just as much of an institution as is the cathedral tea, with a delicate blend from China and thin bread and butter. There is the same warm and generous feeling about it as in the crispness of the falling leaf and the pungent smell of its burning and the glow of its flames against the blue mist of the darkening afternoon."

American Legion Corner.

Three Messages for Legionnaires. Three outstanding figures in American life extended their hands in greeting to the American Legion last week when National Commander Alvin Owsley of the Legion visited them in Washburn. The President received the Legion chief at the White House and talked with him at length. The wife of the president sent a message from her sick bed and received the Legion Com-

USE HERALD WANT ADS

METROPOLITAN NEW YEAR'S WEEK. John Golden Will Present THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLAY. BRILLIANT CAST INCLUDES THOMAS JEFFERSON, BESSIE BACON, IDA ST. LEON—STAGED BY WINCHELL SMITH. MAIL ORDERS. Are best protection for out-of-town people. Prices: Nights, New Year's (Mon.) and Sat. Matinees, Orchestras, \$2.50; Balcony, 2nd 3 rows, \$2; next 5 rows, \$1.50; balcony, \$1; Wed. Mat., Orchestras, \$2; Balcony, 3 rows, \$1.50; balcony, \$1; Gallery (not reserved), 50c all perf. Add 10% tax to remittances and send self-addressed stamped envelope. Box office sale opens Dec. 25. NO OTHER ENGAGEMENTS IN MINNESOTA EXCEPT ST. PAUL, WEEK JAN. 14.

Sensible Gift Suggestions. The sensible gift is something that can be used—the oftener the better. There are scores of such gifts in our Hardware stock. Kitchen Ware for Christmas. A gift of aluminum or enameled ware will gladden any woman's heart. Nothing does more to make bright cheery kitchens — and every woman loves such a kitchen. Aluminum Gift Pieces 10c to \$5.00. Enameled Gift Pieces 10c to \$3.00. JULIUS JETKA LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA.

From President Harding

"You say to the American Legion and to the American boys that they should have what they expect from the Government and what they are entitled to as behind the hospitalization program and it will be pushed to speedy conclusion."

"I want you to say to the former service men that a friend of the American Legion has been ill, but she is much better now and will soon be on the job."

From Woodrow Wilson. "Say to them that they are real soldiers who fought for the liberty of the world. They were the crusaders for liberty."

A Disabled Veterans' Farm Settlement

The problem confronting the hundreds of rural-minded disabled veterans who are pursuing courses in Agriculture at the Veterans' Bureau, C. D. Hibbard, district manager, is a serious one. A majority of them own no land. As a rule they have little capital, and their future, if forced to become farm owners, is uncertain, employment seasonal, and living conditions not conducive to family life. Economic advancement is almost impossible.

The problem is, however, being solved in the Tenth District under Mr. Hibbard's direction. At Veteransville, Atkin county, about thirty men have bought forty or eighty acre tracts of cut-over land, through a local bank of McGrath, on long time terms. During their training period these men receive training pay ranging from \$100 to \$157.50 per month, from which they are to make their present payment of \$50.00 per month. After rehabilitation, they will convert any unpaid obligations for land acquisition into a Land Bank Loan, or some similar one with a long period of amortization.

The soil is a sandy, clay loam, easily worked even after rains, and of a consistency that precludes "baking." It has a clay sub-soil.

This land is on a State Highway and close to two railways. It is about eighty miles from Duluth—the market of the iron range.

An interesting feature is the educational one. These men were formerly students at the School of Agriculture in their wheel chair. At the home of Woodrow Wilson, the former commander-in-chief of our expeditionary forces welcomed the leader of the Legion. And these are the messages they sent through the Legion to all veterans of the great war.

market prices can be commended. This is a unique settlement in that all the men are disabled veterans. They constitute a majority of the veterans in the township and school district. The postmaster is also one of the veterans. They have all undergone similar experiences and they are working and planning as a community, just as they learned to act as a unit in the army. The result is the finest kind of community and co-operative spirit, often lacking in farmers. The positive plans of this group of men call for a consolidated school, a church, a community club, and other projects for the social well-being of the members.

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Boys' Shoes for Dress Wear. Good looking and serviceable. The low price for such foot wear proves they are real values. Gun metal with mat top, seamless vamp, tip, half double soles. Sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 \$2.49. Sizes 12 1/2 to 2 \$2.25.

Pom Pom Mocs For Women. Padded sole, spring heel, ribbon trimmed. Handsome mocs at \$1.29.

Gift Slippers For the Boys. Medium Oxford. Leather sole and heel. \$1.19.

Handkerchiefs Embroidered Corners Or fancy borders. Box of three, 49c.

Shoes for Small Children. Exceptionally Good Footwear. The little children's feet look cute in our button shoes. Plenty room for their growing toes. Black kid, whole quarter, patent tip, no heel. Sizes 1 to 6. 89c.

Men's Coats Sheepskin Lined Heavy mocskin shell Sheepskin collar. \$9.90.

Lisle Hosiery For Service. Hosiery of pure lisle thread for women misses and children. Made with heavy heel and toe—excellent value and wonderfully popular at pair, 25c.

Christmas Gifts For Everybody!

- Fancy Stationery, Toilet Sets, Cut Glass, Kodaks, Cigars, Smoking Stands, Candies, Ivory Articles, Manicure Sets, Flashlights, Razors, Shaving Stands, Perfume, Toilet Water, Pipes, Prayer Books, Rosaries, Golf Clubs, Phonographs, Books, Magazine Subscriptions, Xmas Greeting Cards, Eversharp Pencils, Pal Pencils, Fountain Pens, Leather Goods, Military Brushes, Ash Trays, Candle Sticks, Serving Trays, Pyrex Ovenware, Thermo Bottles, Carafes, Lunch Kits.

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