# A Merry Christmas

#### Mrs. Santa Claus

Last Christmas our local jew-elry store added two new de-partments we never had carried before. One was a top counter, where a selection of movie dolla was featured. The other—an op-tical department—catered to the trade who could not afford glasses unless they could arrange to pay for them on credit.

fore Christmas, I watched a tiny little girl . . I'm sure she couldn't have been more than six
. . . standing before the already sadly depleted doll counter. Her eyes were big as she looked up at the one doll still unseld, and there was a child's longing in them as she tugged at the tat-tered overall jacket of her father, busy talking to the optometrist. "Daddy," she called, her voice hrill with excitement, "look! Isn't it the darlingest thing? Do

you think Santa will bring it to

The man's tired face turned toward her, and a hurt expression flushed across it settling hope-lessly in the gray eyes. "'Fraid not, Mary," he answered. "I saw Santa in a store down the street a while ago, and he said that e'd be about out of everything by the time he reached our house Reckon he might have some sweets, or maybe a rag doll though. And he's promised for sure to bring those glasses." "Oh!" Tears were in her eyes, but she fought them back brave-ly, and her worn coat sleeve wiped the last trace of then

away. trist called, taking the little girl by the hand.

The optometrist turned to the father. "I'll make a special effort to finish them tonight," he said. He was back soon, a slip in his hand. "I've fixed it with the a dollar a month until the balance of five dollars is paid."

Mary had returned for a final look at the toy. "Don't you think, Daddy, that the glasses could come as a birthday present, and badly! But ... but I won't cry."

Her father hadn't heard. He was busy feeling in his pockets for the dollar needed for the down paymert. He found a lean wallet, and from it pulled a quar-ter and seven dimes. He counted over twice, a scared look on his face, then began a renewed search. Triumphantly, he finally produced an eighth dime, and handed the silver to the op-

As the man in overalls and his elfin daughter started toward the door, the girl behind the doll counter looked at the optometrist, then at me, a tear in her eye. Then she ran after the pair. "Wait a moment - isn't your name Mary?" she asked.
"Uh-huh?" the little girl an-

"Then I guess Santa meant you. He was here just a few minutes ago, and said he had a doll for a little girl named Mary, but he was afraid he wouldn't have the time to deliver it. Then he remembered that the little girl's father said he was coming here, so he asked me if I'd keep the doll and give it to you. That's it, up on the counter. Take it and run away, because I'm so busy I haven't time to talk.

Shyly, Mary reached up for the proffered treasure, and hugged it close.

Mary was speechless while her benefactor busied herself behind the counter. Suddenly the girl felt a tug at her skirt, and Mary was at her side, looking up at her. "I believe you're Mrs. Santa Claus," the child whispered, awe

As the door closed behind the pair, the girl took her purse from her bag and looked inside. "Mrs. Santa Claus, indeed!" I heard her mutter. "Lucky for wouldn't eat tomorrow.'

Although their usually elabor-

The Chinese Pay



## Peace on Earth Good-Will to Men

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said; "For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then peeled the bells more loud and "God is not dead; nor doth He sleep! The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to

-Longfellow "Christmas Bells"

SERVICE CONTRACTOR

Some Traditions

riding in a sleigh drawn by

deer is said to have origins

supposed to make his rou

Woden's (god of the el and harvest) horse. His chi

sliding propensities may be

to the cld English custo

cleaning the chimneys at t

ton for the entry of g

As a receptacle for

Claus' gifts, the stocking w

obvious roomy advantag

the European child and place

the hearth, signifying the

Scandinavia the children

hidden away in unexpected

while in many districts o

and Italy gifts are distrib

the children at elaborat

veloped from the shoe

into the home.

Holland where St. Nicho

Of Christmas



WADIAN SOLDIERS WATCH FOR HUNS

ight of German armored vehicles. Infantry were about along the road on the right toward German positions on in the background. Germans were also in position among

quantity of paper avail-h Britain is about one-fifth

ALE STOPPED

#### Have You Heard

The famous Dnieper dam has been blown up again. But this A baker with a horse and va time the explosives were fired by the Germans, as they publicly was delivering bread in the avenue. A woman hurrying homewards from her shopping stopped

abandoned hope of holding their Dnieper River line. It would be

Twice-Blasted

"Well, yesterday's wasn't!"

Hubby: "You never tell me

voice in the buying?"
Wifey: "Certainly, darling! You get the Invoice."

"What's your trade in the Air

Porce?" asked the sergeant.
"I'm a turner," replied the AC.

turn in, and just as I'm about

turn over, somebody turns up and says: "Turn out; it's your turn to turn over those kites."

ought to take a lesson from Office Boy: "I did, sir: 1

was out late last night with

my honey."

driven back into Italy"."

" replied the AC, "at night,

difficult to find a more fitting war on the Eastern European How Can 1??

headway among the Ukrainians.

The original destruction of the Dnieper dam meant relinquish-ing the greatest single monument of the Soviet's new industrialization program. Its second demo-lition represents a German con-fession that millions of lives had been squandered on a conquest that could not be made to stick.

Modern Etiquette She: "tI says here, 'Germans He: "Well, that's good news. By Roberta Lee She: "It's a downright shame.

their costly retreat across the Ukraine. The necessity for that act was a bitter blow, not merely because they were inordinately proud of the structure, but because the defences of the Ukraine.

cause the defences of the Ukrain

had not proved as strong as they had supposed. It is now commonly agreed that although no real quislings were found anywhere in Russia, Nazi propaganda did at the beginning make some

did at the beginning make some

Why don't they make them walk? "So that's your new overcoat! It's rather loud, len't "Yes; but I Intend to wear a

the office, who are his equals? 3. Is it obligatory that honorary pall-bearers wear special Attorney: "Where was the de ning suits? ndant milking the cow?" Witness: "It's hard to describe udge, but if you'll bring in a cow 'Il show you the exact place."

-o-Rich Old Husband: "Would yeu care if I left you?" Sweet Young Bride: "Not If

> Answers 1. Yes. Of course a man is entitled to be comfortable at Dnieper Dam home, with his family, but when there are guests he should wear

By Anne Ashley

on fruit shelves.

Q. What is a good way to water house plants during the winter?

A. Place them in the bathtub once in a while and turn the shower on gently, so that they may get moisture through their leaves as well as their roots.

Q. How can I make sash cords last longer?

A. Before installing the new sash cords, soak them in boiled linseed oil then allow them to

CLASSIFIED

1. Isn't it poor taste for a man

o come to the table in his shirt 2. Would it be all right for one to send Christmas greeting cards to the other employees in

4. What should a girl do if she is visiting friends in a strange city, and there is no one at the station to meet her? 5. How should shrimps be eaten, when served whole in their

6. When should the "thank you" notes for Christmas gifts be written?

his coat. 2. Yes. 3. No; any dark business suit is appropriate. 4. Telephone to the home you are going to visit or ask the assist-ance of a policeman. 5. They may be separated, peeled, and conveyed to the mouth with the fingers. 6. Within a few days after Christmas.

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several days.

Q. How can I blanch almonds?

A. By placing them in boiling water for a few minutes. Remove skins, dry and brown in heated butter on top of stove, stirring constantly. Remove from fire when they are very light brown, then drain on brown

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## Christmas Eve, 1943

"This is the night-the night I've always lived for, year in and year out.

"This one is sure different, though. Instead of sleighbells, we've got tank tracks clanking over the rocks. Instead of stockings over the fireplace we've got Army socks drying on the bushes. Instead of a treeful of presents, Jerry lobs over 155's.

"See that star over there? Looks like a Christmas star all right. It's shining down on our house right now, I bet ... on Dad and Mom and the kids and Mary.

ful. And there'll be a big fire in the fireplace and the stuff on the tree will be sparkling like diamonds.

me. I'm all right. And, if everything goes okay, I'll be home for next Christmas." Let us not fail the boy who waits tonight on a

"They'll be singing carols and it'll sound wonder-

wind-swept hill. Let us try to match his job with ours. Let us work harder in mine and field and

factory. Let us buy more and more Victory Bonds and War Savings Certificates. Let us resolve now to bring him home before another Christmas comes.

And after a while they'll hang up the stockings. And

finally they'll all go to bed and the kids'll dream

"Merry Christmas, Dad and Mom! Merry Christmas,

kids! Merry Christmas, Mary! Don't worry about

of Santa Claus all night long, like I used to.

THE HOUSE OF SEAGRAM

# CHRISTMAS

all his bills at Christmas time, so he may begin the New Year debtiess, if penniless. Bills At Christmas

Christmas celebrati. ns are particularly widespread in Chung-king, the capital, for General Chiang Kai-shek is a Methodist atchough their usually elaborate holiday feasts are somewhat simpler these days, the Chinese still exchange gifts. In fact, the soldiers thereabouts found gift-giving is a national weakness. And every Chinese tries to pay and a large percentage of the Chinese are Christians. Soldiers in India will have an

On Christmas Day

There is a Scottish belief that

to be born on Christmas is to

have the power to see spirits and

even to command them. Sir Wal-

ter Scott says that the Spaniards

attributed the haggard and down-cast looks of Philip II to the ter-

rible visions he was able to see

babies born on Christmas have

the gift of prophecy.
In Silesia a baby born on

Christmas will become either

In middle Europe it is said that if a baby is born at sermon

English mothers used to take

time Christmas Eve. someone in

sick babies to the goor Christmas

Eve midnight. Mary was expected to pass with the Christ Child. If

the baby recovered, it was a sign that it had been touched by

Christ, with healing fingers, and if it died, the Christ Child had

called the bab, to be His play-

MERRY

lawyer or a thief.

mate in heaven.

If You Are Born

ical surroundings. Most of the Christian population is English and there are Christmas trees, church services, nativity page-ants and huge Christmas dinners

Christmas greetings—one and all—Young and old, big and small.

Greetings to the busy mother

Loved by big and I'il brother.

Greetings to the Daddy who

Finds these days so much to do.

Greetings to the teacher tired,

Grandest sound of all the year!

And lots to eat and lots of fun!

Yes-greetings to you everyone-

Where there is a saddened heart,

Where the tears are quick to start;

Where a mother hides her grief

Knowing tears are scant relief.

Where an ear is luned to hear

Rumblings of unspoken fear;

Carries on, despite suspense.

Where a father, proud and tense,

And the children so inspired With the noise of Christmas cheer—

-just like home. December is derived from "decem," meaning ten. In the old Roman calendar the year began



#### Peace, Good-W.

"It isn't the giving, or

the Christmas-time But rather the peace that

heart holds and then The honest good-will that Show unto men."

Of gifts that has brough

alone

And at the end-O let us pray-"Bring Peace, dear Lord, NEXT Christmas

CARCARACTER CARCACTER CARCACTER CARCACTER CONTRACT

CHRISTMAS

in the second

MESSAGE

Where a chair must vacant be

Or else a boy in khaki clad-

Since 'Our Tom" put out to sea;

Perchance again an airforce lad-

And let me say-"I understand!"

Where such things be-oh take my hand,

A Day will come-we know not when

The bells will ring with clarion call

But come it must. And then-yes then-

Good Will on Earth and Peace to all . . .

Til that time comes our way is clear-

At Christmas and throughout the year;

To work; to cheer; to give our aid-

This Christmas-in the good old way.

Tireless; boundless; unafraid!

Then let us celebrate this Day-