

A Peek Into the Heart Of Childhood

By Lillian McLaughlin.
On a warm day in June, a youngster stretched on tiptoe to drop into a Sioux City mailbox a letter.

Its address: Santa Claus, North Pole, U. S. A.

The most important part of Iowa's annual tide of Christmas mail—the Santa Claus letters—had begun to roll.

This week the flood of Polar-bound mail had reached its crest in Des Moines.

Some 250 envelopes (including that of the Sioux City early bird, signed only Donnie Ann), each holding from one to 15 notes, had channeled through the main post office and more were arriving each day.

"Some postmasters out in the state take care of their own Santa Claus letters," said Postmaster Edith Johnson, "but eventually most of them turn up here."

Uncle Sam Permits a Peek

Now Uncle Sam is mighty strict about his mail, but once a year, in the Christmas season, he softens, and permits a peek at Santa's mail, en route to the North Pole.

It is a glimpse into the heart of childhood, a holiday tonic for a world that sometimes forgets to believe.

The notes, dropped in corner boxes in hundreds of Iowa neighborhoods, are penciled, crayoned, a few pecked by typewriter, on tablet paper, bridge score forms, letterheads (Hotels Commodore and Fort Des Moines, Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa, Quick magazine, Helzberg's collection department).

In the 1955 batch are notes scrawled on a motel registration card, a time card, a Cerro Gordo County township listing sheet, a scrap of paper toweling.

Enchanting Catalogue

The requests are an enchanting catalogue of young desires:—Cathleen Ann Gorla, 1968

Summit ave., wants "bal-lay slippers."

Sharon Kay Brown, 2820 Dean ave., "moccasins, size 13½"; Rosalie Gillotti, 917 Kirkwood ave., a little succasaw.

Charlene Cutforth, 826 Fortieth st., "some bluebird things, a puppy and a foam rubber pillow."

Georgie Swalwell at Maxwell, "a glockenspiel and a baton."

Diane Kay Hering, 3926 Fifty-seventh st., wants "a little tiny pen to draw and write letters with."

Johnny Gordon, 5720 Woodland ave., "a beagle puppy and a crystal set."

Sheriff Pasick of Menlo, "torador pants, turkiose blue."

Danny Steven Leeth, Norwalk, "a 10-gallon cowboy hat."

She's Pulling Santa's Leg

This year a teen-ager obviously trying to pull Santa's leg slipped a letter in the mail.

"I've been a very good girl," wrote she.

"Please send me for Christmas a 1956 powder blue Thunderbolt. Also I would like to sit first flute in the all-national band."

"Please send me someone to go steady with who is tall, dark, handsome, rich, athletic and popular and very fond of me . . ."

But the others are from those who believe, or at least who are trying hard to cling to their faith in the grand old magic man.

I'll Be Good From Now On

"P. S. I still believe in you," Ginger Burris, 723 Thornton ave., added to her letter. (Ginger is 10 and, her mother says, this may be



Can there be uranium out on Waterbury circle? If you're 6 years old like Jesse Lindsey, and you believe in a Santa Claus who may bring you a Geiger counter such as Jesse holds, anything's possible. So Jesse dictated a letter to his mother, Mrs. James Lindsey, 5816 Waterbury circle, and laboriously copied it off in his own hand-printing: "Dear Santa, I am trying to be a good boy if I am will you please bring me a Geiger counter, a Davvy Crocket set and machine gun. Thank you Love Jesse."

her last letter to Santa Claus.)

The letters from the faithful contain many grand promises: "I am going to be a good boy from now on," wrote Mike Von.

Declared another, "I still suck my thumb, but I'm going to quit tonight."

There is some apple-polishing.

"I am leaving a bottle of pop so you can drink it on the way going to other houses or drink it while you have a snake when you get home," wrote Jerry Pattison, 3305 E. Thirtieth st.

Some of the notes, like

the following two, are self-less:

"Dear Samta Claus, I write this letter to you because I like you. How is it up there I hope it's fun there. I believe in you, love, Edward Olson."

"Dear Santa, I wish you a Merry Christmas and I hope you can make it and I hope your dwarfs are okay, your friend, Michael Perry, 919 Park ave."

'Want This Real Bad'

Occasionally an inner anxiety shows through:

"I know I ben a bad girl but I ask the Lord to forgive me. This is what I want for Christmas, a walking doll with close and two pairs long socks and two pairs of mittens, with all my love and a kiss from Rebecca Lee Wilcoits."

Or urgency: "Dear Santa, Tape recorder, I want this real bad. A real watch, I want this bad. Real cowboy boots, I want these real bad. I've been pretty good. Love, Greg Dufford."

Duane Allen Norris, 1312 Park ave., must be a militant young man.

He wrote: "I want the U. S. S. Nautilus, atom submarine and I also want the U. S. S. battleship Missouri, also p. l. torpedoboot, B-29 Boeing superfort, a two-gun holster."

And Eloise Tracy, a little girl with her eye on a star: "I live at 1337 Eighth st. I want a ballerina doll and she toe dances and kicks high and she does the splits and she really walks on her toes and she dances as you hold her hand. You can wash, comb and curl her hair and my sister Susan wants one too. May we have two. Love . . ."

'To Horns On the Front'

A letter from Ricky G., 69 Thayer st., is brief, to the point: "Dear Santa, Please bring me a half size Bike with a mud flap and to horns on the front."

A red-blooded little patriot writes: "From Larry Stumbo.

Do you think you will be able to get clean over here to Japan? I sure hope so. I will have some cookies and milk waiting for you. Here is a picture of a Geisha Girl Love



One of Santa's letters, routed through Des Moines, came from Camp Youngmans, Japan, was decorated with pictures of a Geisha girl and two-story house. Artist-writer of letter was Candace Wroe, 6, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. D. M. Wroe, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Collins, 1300 Elder lane, and Mrs. Margie Wroe, 745 Thirtieth st.

Dear Santa, May I have a B-B gun, a crane with a magnet for my train, a United States flag with a flag pole.

"My address is 3315 Sixth ave. My pledge in Cub Scout is I promise to do my best to God and my country and to be square. Ahd to obey the law of the pack."

Many of the writers are artists and what they draw is grand to behold. Linda Munson sent a colored Santa Claus, every stroke well within the lines, and cotton glued on a blue-eyed Santa for his beard and ermine-trimmed suit.

"It has been rush, rush here in Des Moines," chattered wrote Linda. "Here is a nice song I found in a book . . . Christmas Eve is coming soon. Now you dear old man, whisper what you'll bring to me, Tell me if you can."

This year Santa even got some overseas mail addressed via Des Moines.

Candace Wroe, who spent the last two Christmases in Des Moines with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Collins, 1300 Elder Lane, and Mrs. Margie Wroe, 745 Thirtieth st., wrote from Japan. Her father, Capt. D. M. Wroe, is stationed at Camp Youngmans.

"Dear Santa," wrote Candy, "Please will you give me a doll in a suitcase with a lot of clothes . . . some paper dolls that the clothes stuck on. I am six years old and am in first grade. I sure would like a chalk board."

"Do you think you will be able to get clear over here to Japan? I sure hope so. I will have some cookies and milk waiting for you. Here is a picture of a Geisha Girl, Love Candace Susan Wroe."

And there it was, a red-lipped, black-haired creature, wearing a red and purple kimono and standing beneath a yellow rising sun.



This is picture of Candace Wroe in her own Geisha-girl costume. "Candy" spent past two Christmases in Des Moines while her father was in Korea.

The Tribune's Daily Magazine
Homemaking and Family Life
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1955. 17

The Lyons Den

By Leonard Lyons

The Gerstwin music cut from the original production of "Porgy and Bess" will be restored for the performances in Russia—where the orchestra will be large enough to play it all.

Jan. 3 will mark Lily Pons' silver anniversary at the Met Opera. She'll get the President's Gold Medal from Hunter College that day.

Jackie Gleason resumed filming his "Honeymooners" TV series this week. He had to shed 10 pounds to look the same as he did in the earlier films.

The sponsors of "The \$64,000 Question" show gave quizmaster Hal March a stock bonus.

Marlon Brando visited the United Nations last week, and had a long talk there with Ralph Bunche. It was an odd session. The film star insisted on discussing the problems of



LILY PONS.

technical assistance, while the Nobel Prize winner insisted on discussing Marlon's new movie, "Guys and Dolls."

It happened during the Boston tryout of "Pipe Dream." A man in the orchestra coughed and talked through the first act—and sighed and grunted whenever the audience laughed at any of the comedy lines.

When the intermission came, his neighbor tapped him and said: "My name is John Steinbeck. If you don't come back for the second act, I'll give you a refund."

Anna Magnani was unable to attend Monday's premier of her movie, "The Rose Tattoo." She had to stay in Rome because her son was operated on.

Those two posters still are in town. They were at Al Cooper's where they saw



MARLON BRANDO.

Nanette Sets A Return to Caesar Hour

By Jack O'Brian

NEW YORK, N. Y. (INS)—Nanette Fabray has been pronounced O. K. to render to Sid Caesar's hour again next Monday.

Barring, of course, any complication arising from the recent backstage accident in which she was knocked unconscious.

Show will feature a musical sketch based on the holiday spirit.

Patti Page's Christmas show's gift to sore ears: No commercials (atta gal).

June Valli, who helped prettify the Hit Parade a few songs ago, returns to TV via Perry Como's hour Saturday night.

Lots of shows consider their past Christmas shows classics of sorts, so "December Bride" will repeat its one from last year about trucking refrigerated snow to Los Angeles.

The lassie Jack Webb will woo in future Dramatics is Marjorie Miller, who was the object of Ray Bolger's similar TV affections over ABC.

The top 10 shows in the new Pulse ratings are notable because of the absence of Godfrey & Berle.

Mickey Mouse Club still clobbers all the daytimers.

Vote to Keep Whistle Guy

MILWAUKEE, WIS. (AP)—Folks living near a tannery here have cast an overwhelming vote to keep the firm's whistle blowing.

Several months ago Board Chairman Charles Vogel got the idea that some of the company's neighbors might not like the whistle.

He sent out 215 self-addressed post cards asking two questions: Keep blowing? Stop blowing?

The results: 138 keep blowing, four stop blowing.

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Eartha Kitt got her star spot as "Salome" on this Sunday's "OmniBus" simply by calling up the producer and asking for the job.

ON YOUR SCREEN TONIGHT

GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. Christmas party of circus performers at winter quarters in Sarasota, Fla., featuring Emmett Kelly, world-famous clown, and top circus performers. KRNT at 7.

OZZIE AND HARRIET. Ozzie decides that the whole family should watch a lunar eclipse at 2:30 a. m. WOI at 7.

CROSSROADS. Courageous minister brings about downfall of gang of racketeers in "Chinese Checkers," starring Richard Denning. WOI at 7:30.

STAGE STAR. Stephen McNally and Phyllis Kirk co-star in "Foreign Wife," an authentic drama of enemy agents and intrigue with thrilling spy hunt in Washington, D. C. WHO at 8:30.

BOXING. 10-round lightweight bout between Ralph Dupas and Ludwig Light-

burn at Madison Square Garden. WHO at 9.

PERSON TO PERSON. Actress Kim Novak and Columnist Leonard Lyons re-visited by Edward R. Murrow. KRNT at 9:30.

Movies and Ratings. (Ratings by TV Key Service.)

"Alina." Gina Lollobrigida and Denis Dowling. A beautiful girl replaces her ill husband in smuggling goods from Italy to France. (Fair.) WOI at 10:30.

"Fallen Idol." (1944.) Ralph Richardson. The young son of a foreign ambassador in London stumbles on to love affair between embassy butler and pretty typist. When butler's hated wife dies violently, the boy is involved. (Fair.) KRNT at 10:30.

"Time to Kill." (1942.) Lloyd Nolan, Heather Angel and Doris Merrick. Michael Shayne, detective, comes upon several murderers while attempting to recover a valuable coin stolen from rich recluse. (Fair.) WHO at 11:15.

Swindles City Paying His Fine

LONG BEACH, CAL. (AP)—Among those traffic violators who paid fines here Thursday there lurks a swindler.

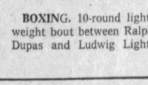
Clerk A. A. Williams, counting the receipts from fines, came across a \$11 bill among the \$10 bills. He hadn't spotted it right away because, at the corners, it looked like a 10-spot.

The culprit, said Williams, had snipped one corner off of each of four \$10 bills and pasted them on corresponding corners of the \$11 bill.

Waitress Refuses To Dish Out Cash LOUISVILLE, KY. (AP)—Mrs. Winnie Caroland, 32, doesn't figure her job as a waitress includes dishing out cash to holdup men.

So when a bandit entered the Dinette Grill and demanded the money in the cash register, she told him: "Get it yourself." He did, making off with \$25.

It's an Idea By John Waldron



Boy, 4, Cuts Down Tree for Christmas COLUMBUS, OHIO (AP)—The "do-it-yourself" craze apparently knows no bounds.

When 4-year-old Billy Hawkins thought his father a little slow showing up with a promised Christmas tree the other day, Billy took his small saw and cut down a young cedar tree in the Hawkins' yard.

The Word Game

SKELETON (SKELETON: SKEL-e-tun. The bones, collectively, of a human being).

Average mark 33 words. Time limit 25 minutes. Can you find 36 or more dictionary words in "Skeleton"? The list will be published tomorrow.

Rules of the game: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words must all be in the same form as the word in use. 3. Proper nouns are not used.

Words to find: jade gate glad lead aged date delta duet jute gate glade lead tale date dual judge glad late tale deait duel jugat geld late adult teal jugate g'lue lade ague tule

Hour-by-hour programs on Page 15.

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You can still treat your whole house to a festive tree even if you're cramped for space. Place a miniature tree on a stand or console table in the corner. Trim with clusters of artificial fruit.