

JUST WHO THIS SANTA PERSON IS



SANTA IN HIS WORKSHOP

WHO is this grand old man, adored by every one and where was he born? The answer is not easy, for Santa Claus was born ages ago and he has been so busy ever since that he never has taken the time to study his family tree. One thing he knows, and that is he has many names. American children call him Santa Claus, the little Dutch folk St. Nicholas, the French Pere Noel, and the Germans Prince Ruprecht or Kriss Kringle, but they all mean the same thing. The story of his birth is told in medieval legend. This Italian story says that his name was St. Nicholas and he was a bishop in the fourth century. He had a great deal of money, but he was so good to poor people, and especially to children, that he gave it away as fast as he got it. There are many tales about his good deeds, but perhaps the most interesting one is how he brought back to life three children who had been killed.

In Italy he was known as a tall man, dressed in white robes and wearing a crown. But the happy Dutch did not think of this kind man that way. To the Dutch people he always appeared as short-legged and pot-bellied and well wrapped in furs. He was accompanied by a black slave, who carried a bag full of sweets and presents. St. Nicholas carried a birch rod with him and asked the children who had been good and who had been bad. If they were good he gave them nuts, crackers and candies, but if they had been bad they got a flogging. The children put their wooden sabots in the open fireplace so he could put some more presents in these on going out.

In Russia he was worshiped the same way, but he always appeared as a tall person wearing the vestments of a bishop, with miter and crown. His companion was a bearded man wearing a fur coat, carrying a stick and a basket full of presents. There are many interesting legends associated with the name of St. Nicholas or Santa Claus in England. One is that he was put in prison for some offense, but managed to escape. This is told in "An Hue and Cry After Christmas" and it tells of the arraignment, conviction and imprisonment of Christmas, and how he "broke out of prison in the holidays and got away, only leaving his hoary hair and gray beard sticking between two iron bars of a window."

In Germany he was at first considered as an advance courier for the Christkindlein, distributing part of the angel child's gifts and promising a visit of the Christkindlein on Christmas eve when he heard that the children were good. In some of the small places he appeared grotesquely—sometimes in goatskin and dancing like a goat, again in a white sheet with a stick and two lights in his mouth. The legend says that Claus, Nicholas, Necht Ruprecht, or whatever his name is, "comes in wearing a white sheet and holding a stick in his hand." He tells the children to pray, and if they disobey he flogs them, but if they obey he gives them plenty of nuts and apples.

The Italian children also believed in their patron saint, but they worshiped his wife instead. Her name is La Befana and they pay as much homage to her as the other children do to the saint. She is not good looking, for she is supposed to be more than 2,000 years old. The legend says that when the three wise men were about to pass her window she refused to go to the window and salute them. She saw her mistake when it was too late, and has tried to repent by making the children of Italy happy.

The holly, the mistletoe, the wassail bowl, the Yule log, and the Christmas tree are remnants of old customs that have become amalgamated and modified into the usage of modern civilization. The Druids of Great Britain, when the Romans discovered them, were a priesthood ruling the people by cruel witchcraft. They worshipped the oak, the mistletoe, and the holly. Their altars on their feast days were decorated with the branches of white and red berries.

ORIGIN IN PAGAN RITES

Many Old Christmas Customs Have Been Handed Down From Ancient Times. It is interesting to note that many of the Christmas customs which have endeared themselves to the people scattered all over the world have their origin in many cases among those ancient men and women who worshipped strange gods before they heard the message of peace brought to them by the early Christian faith.

Dark Horse in Diplomacy. Old Uncle Jack, who closely resembled Old Black Joe in that he ain't got no hair where the hair used to grow, has lived for several generations—he does not know exactly how many—in the service of a Virginia family. Last summer there were two babies in the house, and Uncle Jack, deserting for the moment the diplomacy and finesse which had always characterized him, committed the fatal blunder of saying that one child was prattler than the other. The aggrav-



SANTA IN HIS AIRPLANE

on her birthday, which is the sixth of January. She is supposed to be Santa Claus' wife, and when she is not busy helping him she is in Italy getting ready for her yearly celebration, which takes place on the sixth of January, when she gives the children toys, fruits, candies, etc.

She is also known in Russia and a great many children believe in Mrs. instead of Mr. Santa Claus. There she is called Babouska, and the story tells that she is so kind because she is repenting of her sins. When the Dutch came to America they brought their stories of their patron saint and their Christmas celebrations. And the children commenced to hang up their stockings instead of putting wooden shoes into the open fireplace. Their saint was the same kind, jovial man, excepting that he came with reindeer instead of driving horses as in Holland. The German children told their stories of the Christ child, who sent Prince Ruprecht as his servant to inquire into their behavior and to distribute their presents. They did not see a great deal of difference in the stories and so took the twenty-fifth of December as the day for Santa Claus' appearance.

In France it was the angel child who came every year to bless the children and to remember them with some small gift. Afterward he had so much to do he sent his servant, Pere Noel, which is the Santa Claus of the French and Dutch children, to help him distribute his gifts and to tell them that he will come to bless them before the New Year.

Though Santa Claus has a large sleigh and two splendid horses or reindeer, according to the countries he visits, he has such long distances to cover that he cannot appear in all countries on the same day. Santa Claus was born in Holland, or rather it took the Dutch children to find him. But he is a great traveler and goes to all countries, where he has many shops and thousands of men and women working for him. He goes to all the forests of Germany, especially to the wonderful "Black Forest," and gets thousands and thousands of trees.

But even the great forests of Germany cannot give him all the trees he needs, so he hurries to Russia and even to Sweden and Norway until he gets all he wants. He has many shops in London, Paris, Chicago, New York, and in many other cities. His great factories are in Nuremberg and in Switzerland, in the Bernese Oberland. Here he has many of the dolls, wood-on-toys and miniature watches made that go to all countries of the world.

By the time he reaches Germany the Christmas markets are emptied of their trees, which are always dressed awaiting his coming. Then he takes a fast steamer to America, and by the time he lands in New York he is pretty well tired out. He always brings one or more servants with him and he has so many homes to visit that only a few of the children get to see him. He hurries in and out of the chimneys just as fast as he can.

asked mother hunted up the old man and asked him what he meant by his remark. "Lemme see your baby again," said Jack, evidently much disturbed. This privilege was given him, and he stood for a long time silent and thoughtful before the child whom he had so grossly slandered. Finally he said, in a slow, critical manner: "Well, I tell you, do rather one is a little fatter den dis one, but dis here one is a little stouter."—Popular Magazine.

He catches another steamer bound for France, where the children are awaiting their Pere Noel. Sometimes he is so late that the children have to celebrate their Christmas and New Year together. But his journey is not yet ended, for he goes back once more to Russia, especially into the interior, where he has not yet been. But he is the friend of all children and must therefore extend his journey into farthest Norway, and even into Iceland.

While he is busy with the children of the north his wife is looking after the children in the south, in Italy, Spain and Greece. At dark on the eve of Epiphany the Befana begins. The open squares are crowded with trees of all sizes, wax figures of the Christ child, candies and toys, while the air resounds with the sounds of whistles, horns and carols.

When these celebrations are finished Santa Claus and his wife go off for a short holiday, nobody knows exactly where. It is said that they have been seen in the high mountains of Switzerland enjoying the winter sports. Wherever they enjoy their holiday it is short, for as soon as they are rested they commence their work for the coming year.

This is only a part of the real Christmas legend, for Christmas would not be nearly as beautiful as it is were it not for the splendid evergreen trees, shimmering with their many brilliant candles and gay trimmings. The Dutch may boast that Santa Claus was born in Holland. Who knows? Perhaps he was. But Germany is the home of the Christmas tree, for it was the first country that used the evergreen tree in Christmas celebration, and it supplies more than one-half of the trees that are used by Santa Claus.

There are many beautiful stories associated with the origin of the first Christmas tree. One legend says that on the holy night all nature, even the animals and the trees, were rejoicing and that the cedars, instead of pointing their branches upward as pointed, slender trees, spread their branches wide to protect the mother and her new-born child. Though it was mid-winter the thorn commenced to blossom and its white flowers made a cover for the child's cradle. The olive poured forth oil for the new-born child. All were happy except the small pine, which had nothing to offer, and year by year it grew taller. Still it never forgot that holy night and the wind sweeping through its branches moans because the pine is still unhappy because it had nothing to give.

YE CHRISTMAS FEAST.

Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke, And Christmas logs are burning; Their ovens they with baked meats choke, And all their spits are turning. Without the door let sorrow lie, And if by cold it hap to die, We'll bury't in a Christmas pie, And evermore be merry.

Last Days of the Ranches. The day of large ranches in Texas is passing away, but there are still four with an area of over one million acres each and quite a large number of over 500,000 acres. Much of this land is bought as low as 20 cents per acre, and is now worth \$4 to \$7 per acre. These ranches are being continually divided up into large farms. Last year over one million acres of ranch lands were sold to small settlers for general farming purposes.

Excellent Super Baits. In the production of comb-honey there will always be on hand a large number of left-over, unfinished sections, and these make excellent baits in the supers for the late flow, and should be judiciously distributed through the supers that can now be put over the strong colonies.

Feeding Poultry. At the high price of grain the man who has to buy all of his feed must figure very closely and make the most of every pound of it in feeding his poultry, else he will come out at the little end of the horn in the spring.

Little Details Pay. Do not forget that the careful observance of all the little details in poultry raising is what brings in the end the big returns. Every neglect is a cog removed from the perfect wheel of success in poultry raising.

Lisa's Trouble. "You don't seem in a very good temper today, Lisa." "No, my servant is ill, and poor mother has had to do all the work herself."—Ulk.

At Both Ends. Marie—I think Chollie is a delightful dancer; he's so light on his feet. Lillian—When you're better acquainted you'll discover that he is light at both ends.—The Pathfinder.

PROBLEM OF MOST PROFITABLE BREED OF SWINE IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE

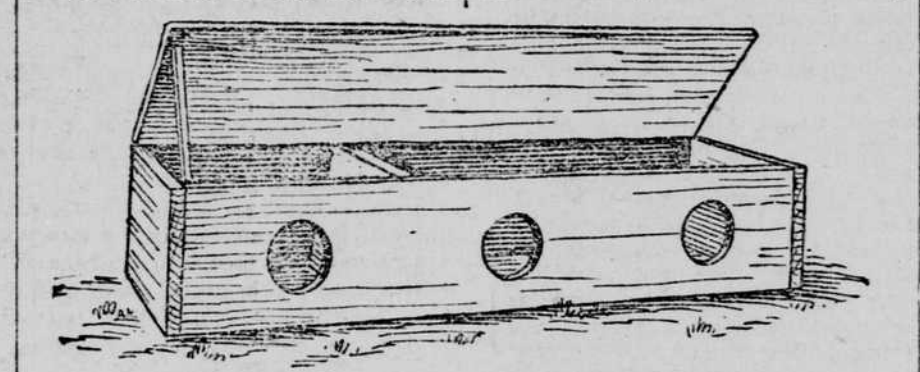
Many People Say, "Raise the Breed You Like Best, and You Will Be Successful," but That Is Not Always the Case—Experience of Maryland Hog Raiser May Help Others.

The question of which breed of hogs to raise in order to obtain the biggest profit, has proven a very serious one with many farmers. Some people say, "raise the breed you like best, and you will be successful," but that is not always the case. The following experience of a Maryland man may help other swine breeders.

From an experience of over 30 years in hog raising during which time I have tried almost all of the popular breeds I have settled upon the Berkshires and their crosses as the most profitable hog for me. Thirty-one years ago I broke away from the razor-back, and invested in a pair of pure-bred Essex pigs but soon found that they were too small for profit. I then tried the Chester Whites, but I found that in our climate I generally succeeded in raising a larger crop of mange than I did of hogs and when I

my best grade Poland China sows, and today I have an ideal hog for profit, a pig that is always ready for the market from a month old, always fat, a rapid grower and one that has dressed for the past three years that I have been raising them, all the way from 150 to 230 pounds at from seven to eight months old, and which I think is the most profitable age to kill them.

I do not care to winter any pigs over so I sell all the fall litters and have my spring pigs come about the first of April. All of my sows are then in pens and as soon as the pigs begin to run about I raise the doors high enough to let them in and out on the lot, where I teach them to eat a mixture of skim milk and mill feed till they are six weeks old, when I shut them in the pens and turn out the sows. They are kept in pens till they are butchered, their feed consisting



Box for Feeding Alfalfa Hay to Small Hogs. Such a Box Prevents Waste by Trampling.

did raise a hog from them it was all fat and had to be made into lard.

Next I tried Jersey Reds and I found them a very coarse hog and very hard to clean on account of the thick coat of wool they invariably had underneath the hair. So I discarded them to take up the Berkshires, and was so well pleased with them that I stuck to them until the popularity of the Poland-China became so great that I was induced to try them. I found them a fine hog, with one exception. While they made a large hog when matured, they would not take on fat like the Berkshire while young and growing rapidly and I had to make the hog first and fatten him afterwards.

Just here I concluded that I could make a cross that would give me the hog I wanted, for while I liked the early-maturing, easy-fattening points in the Berkshire, I wanted a large hog, so I bought a pure-bred Berkshire boar and crossed with some of

most entirely of the skim milk and mill feed until I can cut my earliest painted sugar corn, which I plant every two weeks from May 1 to July 15, to be fed to them, stalk and all. This I give them once a day all they will eat in addition to their other feed until late in October, when I put them on a feed of new whole corn for about two or three weeks to harden them. I also give them at intervals during the summer all the charcoal and wood ashes they will eat and once or twice I treat them to a dose of cholera specific, in which I have always been a great believer.

With this hog and this course of feeding I killed two lots last winter. The first at eight months old, made an average of 199 1/2 pounds and the last at five days less than seven months old, made an average of 178 1/2 pounds of beautiful pork, nicely streaked with lean and a perfect Berkshire ham. I still stick to this breed as the most profitable for me.

SUPERIOR POINTS ON DAIRY FEEDS

Relative Qualities of the Different Rations for Milk Cows.

Alfalfa meal, more convenient to handle than hay, much easier to distribute, price usually excessive, rich in protein.

Beet pulp, soaked up, a good substitute for silage or roots but higher priced.

Bran (wheat), light, bulky, appetizing, high in mineral matter, high in crude fibre. Relatively expensive at present prices.

Buckwheat, low in protein, usually pays to sell it and buy back the middlings.

Buckwheat middlings, heavy usually economical source of protein, tend to make soft, oily butter.

Bulky feed, bran, gluten feed, ajax flakes, distillers' grains, corn and cob meal.

Constituting, cottonseed meal, corn fodder and hay.

Corn, easily digested, usually cheapest source of energy. Pays to grind. Corn and cob meal, bulky, considerable crude fibre, nearly equal to corn meal in ration because of bulky nature. Grind fine.

Cottonseed meal, high in protein, heavy, should be fed with something else, makes for hard butter, relatively cheap source of protein, ordinarily should not constitute more than one-third of the mixture.

Distillers' dried grains, rich in protein, very variable in composition, bulky, must be fed with other feeds.

Dried brewers' corn grains, light, bulky, high in protein, not readily eaten alone.

FEEDING CATTLE FOR FIRST TIME

Profit Depends on Steady, Consistent Gains From Rations.

Those who are feeding cattle for the first time this season should remember that getting a bunch of steers on full feed is a matter that requires about a month's time. High-pressure feeding is an entirely different proposition from ordinary rations and the animal must gradually get accustomed to the change if he is to continue to make consistent gains throughout the feeding period. Most feeders prefer to start their cattle on grass, giving a few stalks of fodder corn a day to each steer and gradually increasing. The change is then made to snappet corn fed in the bunks, the final change then being made to husked corn or whatever form the ration is fed in. Every time the ration is changed such changes should be made gradually. This applies especially to the first few weeks in which the feeding is started and to the latter period of the feeding operation, when there is the more danger of getting the stock off feed. And remember, the profit in feeding cattle depends on steady, consistent gains, meaning good returns for the feed consumed, every time they get off feed meaning just so much lost time.

Making Smithfield Hams.

After the hogs have been killed and the meat thoroughly cooled the fresh surface is sprinkled with fine salt peter until the meat is white, says the Farm Magazine. About three or four pounds of salt peter is used to 1,000 pounds of hams. Fine salt is then rubbed over the entire surface and the hams are packed in bulk not deeper than three feet. In ordinary weather they should remain thus for several days, at least three. Then break the bulk and resalt with fine salt and again pack. Each ham should remain in bulk at least one day for each pound of weight. The hams are then hung up and gradually smoked for 30 or 40 days with hickory or red oak bark. When the smoking is complete they should be re-peppered and placed in canvas bags to guard against vermin. The Smithfield hams cured as indicated improve with age, and are considered about perfect.

Feeding Roughage.

Feed roughage to the stock before giving them grain, as it invigorates and excites the digestive apparatus to action.

Wealth of American Farmers.

The American farmer has \$40,000,000 invested in his business and produces an average of \$25,000,000 of new wealth every day.

World's Sugar.

The United States and its dependencies produce one-tenth of the world's sugar.

Alaskan Forests.

The forests of the Alaskan coast yield about 27,000,000 board feet of lumber a year.

NEW MEAT SUPPLY

Washington Officials Say Reindeer Will Supplant Cattle.

Declare That in Less Than Twenty Years There Will Be 2,000,000 Animals Grazing in Alaska and Flesh Will Be Cheaper.

Washington.—Uncle Sam has undertaken many big problems of late in an effort to solve the mystery of the continued rise in the cost of food. But it is doubtful if any of them will have a greater effect on this vital question than the experiment to find a new meat supply. Every one agrees that the meat problem is the greatest of all. It was for this reason the government first undertook the experiment of raising reindeer on the barren slopes of Alaska. The scheme has now progressed far beyond the experimental stage, and the men who have charge of it say that reindeer beef will cut a big figure in the future supply of America.

Officials at Washington say that in less than 20 years, if the increase continues at the present rate, there will be more than 2,000,000 prime reindeer in Alaska, upon which the people of America can depend for much of their flesh diet in the future.

Reindeer meat is now considered a delicacy by epicures, and is only sold at leading hotels and restaurants. In flavor the meat is a cross between mutton and beef, but is even more palatable than either. Reindeer can be raised for the market much more cheaply than cattle, because they will thrive on wastes so barren that even goats would starve to death. Their principal food is the moss which grows only in the far north. There are more than 40,000 square miles of frozen tundra, or moss-covered ground, in Alaska now fit for nothing, but if



Monarch of Reindeer Herd.

the latest scheme of Uncle Sam's pans out as expected this immense territory will be available for reindeer ranches and can provide abundant pasturage for 10,000,000 or more of the animals.

About ten years ago Uncle Sam started his experiment of raising reindeer in Alaska with a herd of 1,200 animals. Now there are more than 30,000 in the same herd. At that time it was the hope of the authorities at Washington to aid the Eskimo and the native Indians of the north to become self-supporting citizens. That was and still is the basic idea of the whole experiment.

MAN HALTS RUNAWAY TRAIN

Fireman Braves Death to Stop Passenger After Engineer Is Overcome by Steam.

New Brunswick, N. J.—A fast train on eastern line was a "runaway" for a few moments when, on the way from New York to Philadelphia, the engineer lay scalded and senseless in his cab from escaping steam, and there was no controlling hand and the throttles. The presence of mind and pluck of the fireman, Joseph Garrett, averted a probable wreck of the train, running sixty miles an hour and crowded with passengers.

Beyond this city one of the driving shafts snapped and part of the rod was hurled through a boiler section. There was a rush of steam and Engineer Frank Barber was enveloped and overcome before he could put his hand to the throttle.

Garrett, with the train speeding madly on, climbed over to the engineer's side of the cab and, although nearly blinded, managed to get to the throttle. The train was brought to a halt quickly then, near monmouth Junction, where Barber was cared for. His condition is serious.

None of the passengers on the train had known any danger threatened.

IS CAUGHT BY THUMB PRINT

Man Who Killed Girl in Germany Is Put Under Arrest After a Long Search.

Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany.—The bloody imprint of a thumb upon the body of a girl stabbed to death has led to the detection and confession of the murderer here. Joseph Rupp was arrested for fighting in a saloon. Ever since the murder of the girl the police have examined the thumb prints of anyone arrested. Over 400 were on hand, but when Rupp's thumb print was taken it was quickly recognized as identical with that on the body of the girl. Confronted with it, he confessed. He had robbed the house and killed the girl to prevent alarm.

WAR BOOSTS COST OF EGGS

Price is Already \$4 a Case Higher in Austria and May Increase More.

Vienna.—As a result of the Balkan war there is an egg famine in Vienna. Many cities in Austria and Germany get their supplies of eggs from Bulgaria and Serbia. This source being cut off now, eggs have already jumped \$4 a case and will go higher.

Loss of Power

and vital force follow loss of flesh or emaciation. These come from impure, acid blood.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery

calms a torpid liver—enriches the blood—stops the waste of strength and tissue and builds up healthy flesh—to the proper body weight. As an appetizing, restorative tonic, it sets to work all the processes of digestion and nutrition, rouses every organ into natural action, and brings back health and strength.

Can anything else be "just as good" to take?

ECZEMA Pimples and other skin blemishes relieved by SULFENOL

ITCHING STOPPED IMMEDIATELY. A recent discovery already tried by hundreds of physicians now offered for first time direct to sufferers. Write for particulars. The Illinois Laboratories, 115 So. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois.

To man the most fascinating woman in the world is the one he almost, but not quite, won.

Gloomy Outlook. "It's going to be a hard winter." "How can you tell?" "By the size of the salary I'm getting."

FREE BOX OF BISCUITS. Every reader of this paper can secure absolutely free a box of assorted biscuits by simply cutting out the coupon from their ad appearing in another part of this paper and mailing it to Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co., Omaha, Neb. The firm is thoroughly reliable. Take advantage of this liberal offer and write them today.

One Fisherman's Idea. First Angler—Look, this fish was almost caught before; see the broken hook in its mouth. Second Angler—It should have had sense enough to steer clear of hooks after that. First Angler—Oh, come, you can't expect a fish to exhibit more sense than a human being.

Good Job. "Now, Johnny," said the teacher after he had explained the meaning of the word, "I wish you would write a sentence containing defeat." After a struggle which lasted for about twenty minutes Johnny announced that he was ready to be heard. "Please read your composition," the teacher directed. "When you get shoes dat's too tee." Johnny read, "it's hard on de feet."

Maec-to-Order Kind. "My wife is always bringing home so much tooth powder," complained a man the other day to a friend. "It's a waste of money. As for me I just take the bathtub cleanser and scrub my teeth." The pair were walking down Chestnut street and his companion stopped in amazement. "What! Doesn't it hurt your teeth and gums, too?" he exclaimed almost in horror. "No," came back the surprising reply. "You see they're the kind you buy at the dentist's."

STEP FARTHER.



Mr. Rastus—'Ze muzzled de dog. An' no 'wain' waitin'." Mr. Acker—For what? Mr. Rastus—To see if dey's gwinter de res' o' de way an' see to de puiction o' us human bein's. Ef dey'll 'fix up some way 'o' muzzlin' er hin' feet' o' er mule, de'll sholly stop er heap o' damage.

NEVER TIRES OF THE FOOD THAT RESTORED HER TO HEALTH.

"Something was making me ill and I didn't know the cause," writes a Colo. young lady; "For two years I was thin and sickly, suffering from indigestion and inflammatory rheumatism. I had tried different kinds of diet, and many of the remedies recommended, but got no better. Finally, Mother suggested that I try Grape-Nuts, and I began at once, eating it with a little cream or milk. A change for the better began at once. To-day I am well and am gaining weight and strength all the time. I've gained 10 lbs. in the last five weeks and do not suffer any more from indigestion, and the rheumatism is all gone. I know it is to Grape-Nuts alone that I owe my restored health. I still eat the food twice a day and never tire of it." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

The favour of Grape-Nuts is peculiar to itself. It is neutral, not too sweet and has an agreeable, healthful quality that never grows tiresome. One of the sources of rheumatism is from overloading the system with acid material, the result of imperfect digestion and assimilation. As soon as improper food is abandoned and Grape-Nuts is taken regularly, digestion is made strong, the organs do their work of building up good red blood cells and of carrying away the excess of disease-making material from the system. The result is a certain and steady return to normal health and mental activity. "There's a reason." Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest. Adv.