

IN ONE EAR . . .

On Santa Claus

by Sue Jones

Dear Santa Claus.

'Tis indeed a puzzlement to me. A few days ago I saw you standing in the street, and minutes later I heard you on radio, from a station 150 miles away. You must be giving those reindeer lots of vitamins this year if they were able to go from one place to another so quickly! Perhaps your reindeer can go faster than the speed of light, especially with Rudolph in the lead, but what about you? Now exactly how many of you are there?

Last weekend I was in New York. I saw you on every street corner, laughing and talking with the children. I saw you in Gimbel's window, talking to the people outside through a microphone, and I saw you and all your reindeer and friends in every department store. That was Saturday.

But I read in the Courier and Freeman that you were here in Potsdam last Saturday, and you arrived on a Fire Truck. Why a Fire truck? Are sleighs out of style? Were you here too? And what about Watertown and Ogdensburg, and California and Alaska, and Hong Kong, and Sydney, and Ghana and France — were you there, too?

And while we're on the subject of Potsdam, Robert Wynant, president of the Retail Merchants Association said that approximately 400 children visited you in Potsdam and you gave away 550 boxes of candy! What happened to the extra 150 boxes anyway? But I'm not really concerned about the candy, it's you that puzzles me . . . the magic of you Santa, what is your magic? . . .

Sunday's Syracuse Herald-American had a picture on the front page of almost 100 of your "helpers" on Time's Square; they had just graduated from "Santa Claus School." This picture was in many newspapers around the country. Children saw those pictures, and many of them probably heard their parents explaining how people were trained and dressed like you so that all children would be served by many of Santa's helpers.

In Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, you were on a float. You are everywhere in different forms, shapes and sizes, and yet children still believe in you. Many presents still bear the price tag or store label, and the label isn't the North Pole, and yet children still believe that you and your helpers made those presents in your workshop.

Here in Potsdam, one of the stores has a little stand where there are ready made letters from you. All that people have to do is to address and stamp those letters and they are sent out and postmarked from the unlikely town of Santa Claus, Indiana. The children see these stands, and yet they believe. What is it Santa, what is your magic?

Many children are taught quite early in life that you don't exist. "There is no such person or thing as Santa Claus!" And yet they still believe. Even the "older" children of six or seven who think it sophisticated not to believe (or whose older friends or brothers or sisters shame them into crying that you are not for real), still hold on tightly to their belief in you.

It's more than the children. A few weeks ago a letter postmarked Potsdam was delivered to you here in care of the Courier and Freeman. It was stamped with a red trading stamp, and yet it was delivered to the officials at the Post Office must know that you exist also. After all, what other letters get through the United States mail with a trading stamp?

The other morning I heard a human interest feature on a Syracuse radio station. "You were interviewing a little boy. You, of course, asked the traditional question: "And what do you want for Christmas?" "All I can get," the child eagerly replied. Maybe he was selfish, maybe he was spoiled, perhaps even deprived. Probably he was testing you to see if you really were all that you were said to be, but I'll bet that deep down he hoped and knew that you were for real, and I'm sure that getting just one present would have renewed his faith in you.

This is why I'm puzzled. Despite all the commercialism built up around your legend, despite how much everyone "knows", we all somehow believe in you because we hope and pray, and want so much for you to be real.

I read stories about you all

Yule Concert Set In Brasher Falls December 16

Brasher Falls — The music department of St. Lawrence School, Brasher Falls, will hold its annual Christmas Concert in the school auditorium on Monday evening, Dec. 16 at 8 p. m.

The program, under the direction of Mrs. Belva Eagles, will include numbers by the High School band, the Grade choruses as well as instrumental groups and soloists.

the time, and always there are articles which start out debunking you and end up with faith. Perhaps the most beautiful of the favorites is Clement C. Moore's, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Moore was a chemist, and a scholar. When he wrote the poem for a child who was ill, a neighbor wrote it down and asked Moore's permission to have it published. Moore refused.

The neighbor published it anyway under a nom de plume. Moore said the whole thing was foolish, and that it would look ridiculous for a great man of science to have written such gibberish. But many, many generations later, no one has even heard of Moore the chemist. Every child and being in the world knows about the visions of sugar plums however, and how you arrive down the chimney and about your belly shaking when you laugh like a bowl full of jelly.

And then there was "Virginia." Virginia O'Hanlon was a little girl in New York who had heard that there was no Santa Claus, so she wrote to Francis Church of the New York Sun, who wrote her answer in the famous editorial published in his newspaper in 1897, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus." Church's editorial, written by an old newspaperman, renewed the faith not only to Virginia and her friends, but to people all over the world. When last heard of, Miss O'Hanlon was a retired principal of an elementary school on New York's Lower East Side. No one except the students in the school knew her, or anything about her, but everyone knew the little girl "Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

This month, one of the women's magazines pulled a switch. They printed an article to you: "Yes Santa, There is a Virginia." In it, the editors reassured you that we, the inhabitants of the earth (and all the other planets for all we know), do still believe in you. Do you need reassuring Santa? I guess we humans aren't as easy to believe in as you are. Flying reindeer and sleighs full of toys are more believable than jets and nuclear bombs and fallout shelters and mass destruction.

But honestly, Santa Claus, we do believe in you. Each in his own way, we believe in you in some form or other. We have to believe in the magic of you, although, sometimes we do wish that all of us could have the magical faith and pure innocence of a child, to believe without doubts, just to know, that you simply are. Perhaps that's it—it's the magic of childhood and children everywhere that makes the magic of Santa Claus.

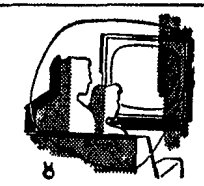
Well I better close now Santa Claus, and let you get back to work. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please give all your reindeer, even Rudolph, an extra lump of sugar for me tonight, and Santa, you don't have to make me anything for Christmas this year. This year, all I want from you is the gift of wonder and faith and trust in the world, in the people, and especially I'd like to always have the wonderful belief in you.

With Love,
SUSAN DORFMAN JONES

Education Television

Following are the programs of the St. Lawrence Valley Educational Television Council, as broadcast daily on WCNV-TV (Channel 7):

Monday, 9:05-9:25 Music 5-6, 9:35-9:55 Science for Grades K-2
Tuesday, 9:05-9:25 Science for Grade 5, Science for Grade 3;
Wednesday, 9:00-9:30 The Red Myth, 9:35-9:50 Children's Literature (Intermediate);
Thursday, 9:05-9:25 Science for Grade 6, 9:30-10:00 Parents and Dr. Spock;
Friday, 9:05-9:35 Frontiers of Science (Jr. High), 9:40-10:00 Science for Grade 4.



ENTERTAINMENT:

Art — Books — Features — Motion Pictures
Music — Radio — Stage — Television — Travel

Regional Arts Council Discussed By Area Residents

Canton — Sixteen North Country residents met in Canton on Nov. 14, to discuss the establishment of an regional fine arts program which could benefit all area cities and towns.

At the meeting, Mrs. Howard O. Clark of Massena and Dr. Samuel Spurbek of Potsdam reported on a conference of regional arts councils which they attended in Binghamton the previous week end.

Participants from Potsdam included Dr. Spurbek, a professor at SLU who is on the State Council on the Arts; William Jones, acting chairman of the Potsdam area council on the arts and editor of the Courier and Freeman; and Michael Knapp, vice president of the Potsdam Community Theatre and assistant publicity director at Clarkson College.

"Clearing House" Mrs. Clark and Dr. Spurbek discussed points brought out at the Binghamton meeting relative to the establishment and work of a regional arts council. Among the most basic of these are the fact that it must be a non-profit organization, and that it should serve as a central "clearing house" for information and action regarding area cultural events.

Such a group can also help to provide locations, scheduling, funds and publicity for dramatic and musical presentations, lectures and art and historical exhibits.

"The emphasis," said Mrs. Clark, "must always be on the community. The benefits to the community and participation by the community are essential to the work of an area arts council."

Problems To Consider Dr. Spurbek pointed out several problems connected with establishing a regional arts group. "Matters which must be given careful consideration," he said, "include organization, incorporation, and analysis of the situation. One of the points most strongly emphasized at the Binghamton meeting was that we mustn't try to do too much at once; we must organize carefully and expand our services only when we are well prepared to do so."

In order to provide the necessary inter-community liaison, it was suggested that a regional council, a monthly newsletter will be sent to persons from each community represented at the meeting, as well as to individuals in Ogdensburg and Gouverneur. Local representatives will be able to inform all communities, through the newsletter, of activities in their own areas, and will, in turn, pass along information to news media in their own communities.

Meetings Planned Hope was expressed at the meeting that the scope of the group's operation might eventually be extended as far as Cornwall, Brockville and Ottawa, Canada. Organizations in the Potsdam-Norwood-Madison area wishing to have their schedules

listed on the regional calendar, should contact Jones at the Courier and Freeman office, CO 7-9306. A meeting of persons in the Potsdam area who are interested in an arts council is being planned for late next April.

150 Adult Fiction Books On Rental At Public Library

Theodore Rands, Director of the Potsdam Public Library, has announced that over 150 adult fiction titles are available on a rental basis at the library. These adult fictions include light fiction, such as science fiction, romances, and westerns, best sellers, and other current standard fictions, illustrating life in different countries. Some of these on the Rental Shelf include:

"Wait For The New Grass", by Henry Birne, which enables the reader to live "with" the Mexicans and observe how their many small fears become united in a hatred of the Americans. "North From Tuesday" by Jon Cleary—With the search of Governor Rockefeller's son, this suspenseful story will be of interest, characterizing the lives of a few people, living in New Guinea. With good characterization, it gives the reader a fine understanding of the customs of the primitive native in this land.

"The House At Old Vine" by Norah Lofts creates for the reader, the richly colorful pageant of life in the 16th century England. The span of this historical novel is from 1490's to the 1670's. Characterization is the strong point of this narrative of the lives of six main characters. "The Last Exile", by James Aldridge tells of the brief, but bitter war that Egypt fought with England. "A Man In A Mirror", Richard Llewellyn, gives a good view of the dilemma of the young people who live in Africa today. These youths, while tribal wage, and partly in European-operated schools, have to adapt themselves to the 20th century living, while remaining true to their own heritage. The author's recreation of daily life on the Masai, where he lived, is very well done.

New Records As an added service to the public, the library has 33 1/2 phonograph records available from the North Country Library System. There are 24 in a group-12 of them are classical and 12 are semi-classical. These records are to take out, one to a patron for one week only, checked out as a one week rental book.

The patrons will be responsible for any damages of the records and will be checked as they are brought back for damages. These records will only be available to adults, since the number is limited and since the colleges have such a fine record collection. At the end of three months, the North Country System will call in the 24 phonograph records and issue 24 new ones.

Director Rands expressed his gratitude to John O'Brien and Russell Pattison in their assistance in changing the Young

Hospital Guild Nets \$1339 From Sale The Potsdam Hospital Guild, in one of its most successful Christmas Teas and Sales, received a total of \$1339 on Nov. 16, when it held its annual affair at the Civic Center.

The president of the Potsdam Hospital Guild, Mrs. Roland Cornish, today expressed appreciation for the work done by the tea committee, the candy committee, and the gift shop committee. She also extended thanks to all those who contributed time, money and articles to make the tea and sale a great success.

HOURS OF POTSDAM MUSEUM Civic Center
MON. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
TUES. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
THURS. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cultural Calendar

- Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2: CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, SUCCP & Clarkson College Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:45 p.m., Saturday, Snell Hall Festival Concert, 6:15-7 p.m., Saturday, Civic Center: Clarkson Glee Club, Choralaires
- Dec. 5-14: ART EXHIBIT — Painting and Sculptures Work of SUC-Plattsburgh faculty At State U. College Union
- Tuesday, Dec. 5: RECITAL — Students Vocal and instrumental solos 4 p.m., Crane Hall, SUCCP
- Wednesday, Dec. 6: CONCERT — Woodwinds and Singers Woodwind Ensemble, directed by Willard I. Musser, concert of original compositions; Clarinet Singers, directed by Brock McElheran, concert of 17th century music; Susan J. Aceto, accompanist; Joseph Rosen, clarinet soloist. 8:30 p.m., Crane Hall, SUCCP
- Sunday, Dec. 10: CONCERT — Crane Orchestra and Chorus 3 p.m., College Theatre, SUCCP
- Tuesday, Dec. 12: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT — Christmas Men's Glee Club 8:30 p.m., College Theatre, SUCCP
- Monday, Dec. 18: YULETIDE CONCERT St. Lawrence Central School 8 p.m., Auditorium Band, grade choruses, directed by Mrs. Belva Eagles
- Today, Nov. 30: LECTURE — "Japanese Drama" By Dr. Seth Ulman, Reed College Illustrated with slides 8 p.m., Student Union, SLU

Wind Ensemble, College Singers Set Concert Next Wednesday

The Crane Wind Ensemble and the Collegiate Singers will give a joint concert Wednesday night at the State University College at Potsdam.

All music to be played by the Wind Ensemble will be original compositions written for that group. Except for the "Royce Hall Suite," written in 1952, all other compositions have been written and published this year. The Ensemble is under the direction of Professor Willard I. Musser.

Featured in the program, which will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Crane hall, will be 17th century music sung by the Collegiate Singers. This music, seldom heard today, will include two numbers accompanied by harpsichord, cello and contrabass.

Stereo Effect In two numbers written for double chorus, the Collegiate Singers will divide into two groups on opposite sides of the stage in order to reproduce the "stereophonic" effect of certain large European cathedrals, where choirs were in different parts of the building.

Professor Brock McElheran is director of the Collegiate Singers. Susan J. Aceto is accompanist.

Playing a clarinet solo with the Wind Ensemble will be Rosen of Potsdam.

Barbershop Singing Success At Malone; Canton Concert Set Malone — Barbershop singing came to Malone Nov. 18 at which time the local branch of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. known as the Border Chapter put on a concert in the Franklin Free Academy High School.

The Malone Chorus is directed by Vincent Tutino. A chorus of 20 men under the direction of Richard Gilbert from Canton also participated. Canton is a new chapter which will hold their charter night Dec. 9, at the Canton High School.

Ice Carnival Is Scheduled For Feb. 1-4

The committee for the 1962 ice carnival of Clarkson College of Technology and the State University College at Potsdam have been appointed and already are working on plans for the festivities to be held here Feb. 1-4, 1962.

The members of the executive committee are co-chairmen, Miss May Simpson, Yonkers, and John O. Bertotti, Hamden, Conn.; secretary, Miss Joyce Platt, Monsey; and treasurer, Fred Kalherer, Saddle River, N. J. The coeds are SUCCP students, and the men are Clarkson students.

The other committees and their co-chairmen are ice show, Miss Carol E. Woytek, Potsdam, and James V. Memmott, Hartsdale; tickets, Robert Scheweller, Massapequa, and Gaylord F. Finley, Potsdam; coronation and decorations, Miss Katrina Rasbeck, Peekskill, and Robert C. Pomponio, Ronkonkoma; campaign and gifts, Miss Carol Brombacher, Malverne, and David Allen, Basking Ridge, N. J.; ice statues, Miss Roberta Abramson, Tuckahoe, and Ronald J. Gausakis, Binghamton; ski, Miss Lynne DeHollander, Schenectady, and Richard J. Holmberg, Potsdam.

Also, program, Miss Barbara Lario, Mineola, and Richard Simmons, Vernon Center; photo, Miss Claudia J. Gutowski, Amsterdam, and John Dalphin, Brooklyn; dance, Miss Dawn Tyler, Unadilla, and Kenneth R. Woytek, Potsdam; jazz concert, Miss Mary Schiano, Schenectady, and Barry B. Weintraub, Woodridge; election, Miss Judith McLean, Rushford, and Leon J. Santos, Bakers, Waukegan, Miss Patricia A. Clerkin, Roslyn Heights, and Robert A. Swanson, Jamestown; skating, Miss Martha Tallman, Buffalo, and Garry B. Morrow, Canton; and publicity, Miss Sandra Lawrence, Niagara Falls, and Gerald Biondi, Elmwood, Conn.

At the recent meeting held for the purpose of electing the new officers, James T. Thompson and Donald Thompson were elected to the positions of president and vice president, respectively.

The annual held in the School Auditorium night, Nov. 24

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rut and his home and will reside at Mrs. George's home at Ham

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The New Town Action

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According tion, there w on the froz The District ice pipes fro to the curb at The remaini curb stop, to paid by the The new tha \$5 per hour. A thawing mac From the dist:

Steve Fish Mrs. James I and Brian St and Mrs. G Hammond left ago Wednes where the pa the four men 4-H livestock The team will ternational li Chicago Nov. turn to the co St. hen's tri by the Purina Brians by H the Hammond gue and the Club.

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