

SANTA VISITS SOME PEOPLE TWICE A YEAR

Nicholas' Day December 6 In Some Places This Date and Christmas Are Both Observed.

A DUTCH CUSTOM Saint Lived in Lycia in Fourth Century - Was Adopted By Russia As Patron.

Santa Claus comes but once a year, they say, but to some persons the good man comes twice. Santa Claus is the Dutch name given to St. Nicholas, who has long been known as a dispenser of gifts. St. Nicholas' Day is December 6, nineteen days before Christmas. It has become the custom to have St. Nicholas appear at Christmas with his gifts while his own feast is entirely neglected.

Some people, principally inhabitants of Southern Germany and small settlements in the United States, have him both times, the first appearance being a reminder to the children to be good. In Eastern Missouri and among the people throughout the state, St. Nicholas' Day is quite generally observed. Stockings are hung up, and the ceremony is held December 5, the evening before St. Nicholas' Day. Just after supper, the "jacket rings and fat, jovial St. Nick with his merry round face, cottony hair and beard, does not sneak in through the chimney, but boldly presents himself, bearing on his back a bag stuffed with stanzas both good and bad. He calls each child's name and asks for an account of his actions. If the child has been good, Santa is mightily pleased and gives him some fruit or cakes and promises further remuneration on Christmas Day.

St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, was made famous in America by the Dutch settlers as the guardian of children. Among the old Dutch burghers of New York, New Year's Eve was the date on which the fat and jolly St. Nick made his appearance, sometimes with his good-natured wife, Molly Grietje. The children would gather around the fireplace singing evening hymns in the good saint. Here is an example of the songs:

Santa Claus, good holy man! Go your way from Amsterdam, and bring the little children toys. Although the gifts were supposed to depend on the conduct of the child, it seldom happened that St. Nick risked his popularity by presenting his petitioner with nothing at all. It might lead to skepticism in the infant mind.

St. Nicholas lived during the early part of the fourth century A. D. and was archbishop of the church at Myra, in Lycia, Asia Minor. He was persecuted under Diocletian and suffered imprisonment. After his death in 326 A. D. his bones were preserved as relics at Myra until the end of the eleventh century, when certain merchants of Bari on the Adriatic, moved by pious indignation, made an expedition to Lycia and broke open the coffin containing the bones and carried them to Italy. On that day, it was said, thirty persons were cured of various distempers so that since then a celebration of his festival has been held there.

Today the nocturnal procession at Bari with the flashing torches, the rockets, deep-toned hymns, the hum and surge of people through the ancient archways, and the thousands of pilgrims, is characterized by deep earnestness. An old writer describes the scene: "The stars look down calm and solemn on their time-honored rite, and a deep hush to their litany rolls in from the waves of the Adriatic."

St. Nicholas attained an extended popularity as a saint and was adopted by Russia as its patron saint. In England there are 372 churches named in his honor. He is honored as the guardian of virgins, children, sailors and scholars.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Tom E. Wardell left Thursday for a visit to his home in Macon, D. L. Rathbun left for Kansas City Thursday for a short visit. Terrence Clark left Thursday for his home in Kansas City. Miss Jennie Jones of Kansas City is the week-end guest of Miss Ruth Spangberg, 1014 University. Miss Allene Smith and Miss Helen Bingham left yesterday morning for Hillsville.

Miss A. B. Sasse, who has been in Columbia addressing the heads of the various women's organizations, left Thursday for Brainerd. W. R. Wilkinson, who has been in Columbia the past week, left Thursday for St. Louis. Mr. Wilkinson is a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and was graduated from the University in 1874.

Mrs. C. W. Toel of Little Rock Ark. left Thursday for Savannah, Mo. Mrs. Toel, a former student of the University, has been visiting her sister, Miss Dorothy Limerick, at the Kappa Alpha Theta house.

The Linn County Club held a meeting in the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium Thursday evening. A program concerning the history of the county and the organization was given. A report of the club's activities in the Ad Club parade was heard. The next meeting of the club will be January 6.

The M. U. Gols Club at a smoker at the Y. M. C. A. Building last night made plans for a membership campaign to begin immediately. Arrangements for a series of social events were also made. A constitution has been adopted and by-laws have been prepared. This is the only organization of former navy men in the University and efforts will be made to include every former sailor on the muster sheet.

Mrs. J. W. Stuart left this morning to visit relatives at Montgomery City. Mrs. E. T. Kile and daughter left this morning for a visit at Browns Station. Mrs. L. Henry of Keosauqua, who has been visiting Mrs. O. D. Meyers, returned home today. Mrs. R. H. Gray went to Clarksville today to spend the week-end with Mrs. Milton Davall. Mrs. K. R. Peterson and baby left Friday for Tarkio where she will visit until over the Christmas holidays. Misses Helen and Francis Mitchell went to Kansas City Friday to visit friends.

Mrs. C. R. Berry, who has been visiting Mrs. J. C. Berry and Mrs. James Armstead, returned to her home in Chillicothe Friday. Miss Margaret Sanders, who has been visiting her sister, Miss Ruth Sanders, at Stephens College returned to her home in Breckenridge Friday.

TO ELECT A COMMANDER Major Ramsey May Lead the First Battalion.

Officers of the local National Guard, Battery B, First Missouri Field Artillery, will go to Sedalia tomorrow for the purpose of electing battalion commander for the First Battalion.

This battalion comprises two batteries in St. Louis and one in Sedalia and Columbia. Maj. Horace Ramsey of St. Louis formerly in command of First Battalion, 128 U. S. Field Artillery, Thirty-fifth Division, and who commanded this regiment during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, is the most probable candidate for battalion commander.

LONELY GRAVE MARKS END OF 1873 TRAGEDY

Judge James C. Gillespy Tells of Pitiable Death That Occurred Near Here 47 Years Ago.

A CROSS MARKS PLACE Smallpox Epidemic Swept Boone County—No Woman Could Be Found to Care for Sick Girl.

The white man and the negro picked up the dead body of the girl from the bed in a pathetic red shack along the right of way of the railroad, and carried it toward a small mound of newly dug earth on the east side of the tracks. In the lead walked the white man, the back of the girl's neck resting on his shoulder; the negro following him, supporting the body by holding the girl's ankles upon his shoulders. Neither the white man nor the negro spoke. Upon reaching the grave they laid the body in a pine box and lowered it until it rested on the bottom of the grave. Nothing was heard but the thud of earth upon wood. Soon the hole was filled and an oblong mound marked the bleak landscape along the Wabash tracks at Persinger, three and a half miles out of Columbia, where it can be seen today.

This burial took place in March, 1873, under the direction of Judge James C. Gillespy, then sheriff of Boone County. "Truth is pure, but sometimes it is cruel and sad, and the death of that poor girl and the circumstances surrounding it makes it the most forlorn happening I have experienced in all my life," said Judge Gillespy in speaking of the tragedy.

"I can well remember how that poor girl died. Wilson, the man whom I sent to care for her, told me all about it," continued the judge. "I was elected sheriff of Boone County October 6, 1865, and was sheriff when the smallpox scare came to Columbia in 1873. In those days folks were deathly afraid of the disease. They did not have scientific methods to fight it as they have now. Vaccination was unknown. With few exceptions, people who contracted smallpox died."

This is the story of the happenings which preceded the burial told of above as related by Judge Gillespy. A section hand named Noonan lived with his daughter, who was 17 years old, in a red cabin on the west bank of the Wabash tracks at Persinger. With him lived a young girl who kept his house and took care of his daughter. In the winter of 1873 Noonan's daughter became ill with smallpox and died. Noonan buried her at Antioch, three miles from Columbia on the Mexico road.

After Noonan buried his daughter, he disappeared. It is supposed that he left the country. News was brought to Sheriff Gillespy that the housekeeper in Noonan's cabin was alone, and to find a woman in the county who would go to the cabin and nurse the sick girl. There was no place to take her for there was no county hospital here then. However, he finally located a man named Wilson, who had had the smallpox. He consented to care for Noonan's housekeeper and was accepted as a last resort. Wilson went to the cabin and did all that he could for the girl until she died. After her death the sheriff bought a coffin and sent it out to Wilson in care of a negro named Rube Banyan. Banyan had

had the smallpox and was willing to help Wilson bury the girl. When the men had dug the grave on the east side of the railroad track they were unable to get a wagon to haul the body to it, so they carried her to her grave on their shoulders. After the burial the men burned their garments and put on new ones that the sheriff had sent to them. Then they came back to Columbia.

"When Wilson came back to Columbia, he told me that he had been through some fearful days in the cabin along the railroad right of way," said Judge Gillespy. He told me that the unfortunate girl was about to become a mother. "Through those long March nights and murky days I watched that poor girl suffer. I was powerless to do much for her. No one came near us. If the days had been sunshiny, it would not have been so bad. It is awful to die in March," Wilson said. He told me that he would not sit beside such another bed for anything.

"I am an old man now," the judge went on, "but whenever I ride the Wabash I always sit on the east side of the coach so that I can see the grave of that girl. For the first year nothing marked the grave but the mound of earth. Then, one day, I noticed a small cross at the head of it. Later someone built a little picket fence around it. "I have never been able to find out who placed the cross on the grave or who built the fence and I don't think anyone in the county knows."

CENTRALIA NOTES

The Verda Roberts Mission Circle met in the parlors of the Christian Church Thursday evening.

Mrs. H. E. Stone entertained the members of the Christian Endeavor Thursday evening.

Warren Yarrington of Colorado is visiting his parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. David Neale of Kirksville are visiting Mr. Neale's mother.

Carl Bodkin has returned to work as clerk in the Model Grocery store after a brief illness.

J. H. Ploesser entertained a number of friends at a party Thursday evening.

Miss Susie Seymour of Columbia is visiting her parents here.

Miss Essie Seymour entertained a friend from Oklahoma the first of the week.

The Centralia Panthers went to Wells-ville today to play the basketball team there.

LUMBER PRICES HAVE FALLEN

Dealers Accept Loss at Once Hoping to Reach Stable Basis Quickly.

"Prices are down," said a local lumber dealer. "The drop in the last ninety days has been from 30 to 50 per cent in many lines." Another dealer said that the great decline had come in the last thirty days. September was the high point in the lumber market, and since then there has been a rapid drop in prices. One lumber yard gave the following prices in comparing the present level with the recent high mark:

Table with 2 columns: Lumber type and price. Includes items like Single, Lath, Boards, Dimension lumber with prices for September and December.

The price has not dropped equally in all lines, some being affected only slightly, while others have been cut in half. One estimate of the change in lumber prices as a whole was 35 per cent. Another yard had reduced the price of shingles to one-half the September price. While the reductions on different items varied, in the yards investigated, the general decline is approximately the same. In spite of this drop in price little lumber is being used. December is generally a slack season in the lumber trade, but this year the amount of business is much less than in former years.

Local dealers say they do not believe that the price of lumber is delaying the construction of buildings, but, in their opinion, interest rates, tight money and the high wages demanded by labor are hampering building as well as other industries. Estimates on the cost of a six-room frame house in August showed that the lumber bill was less than 20 per cent of the total cost of the building. Now the cost of lumber is the same building would be about 15 per cent of the total. In a brick and concrete building the lumber cost is much less.

There is an acute shortage of houses all over the United States. Work on the new Christian College dormitory was stopped for a time this fall by the lack of steel. The house shortage has been especially severe in Columbia this year, because construction has not kept pace with the city's needs. The explanation given for the marked decline in lumber is that the mills and lumber industry in general have agreed to accept loss at once, hoping to reach a stable basis quickly on which they can build up. The present prices are only a little above the pre-war prices when the increase in freight rates and other incidental costs are deducted. Mills and wholesale lumbermen predict a recovery in prices in the spring, basing their opinion on the curtailed production.

TO PROMOTE FARMING Branch of Better Farming Association Established Here.

A branch of the Better Farming Association has recently been established here. The local office has its headquarters in the Elvira Building. Harvey R. Kruse, a former student of the University of Kansas, is in charge of the Columbia division. The purpose of the association is to promote farming and to assist the farmer in eliminating the large amount of money wasted each year on account of inefficient methods. Data is obtained by canvassing the country. This information is compiled and reviewed by leading agricultural experts. It is then published and distributed through agents.

Absent From Midway School. Three children have been reported for thirteen days continuous absence from the Midway school. All come from the same family. H. H. King, county attendance officer, is investigating.

CLOTH AND SILK BUTTONS Make the Best Trimmings for Dresses. We make them for you on the premises in all styles and sizes the same day you order. L. WOLFSON, Ladies' Tailor. Miller Building Phone 634

Johnston Bros. THE HOME OF WEDDING RING AND WISH-BONE PRODUCTS. Johnston Bros. Phone 375

XMAS SUGGESTION THE COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA Will Make An Ideal Xmas Gift SCOTT'S BOOK SHOP

Open to the World

Inspection of our plant and methods is invited ALWAYS. We like to have people ask to see our plant. No special time—come any time and see how we pasteurize milk; the churn that turns out a half ton of butter at a churning; the brine ice cream freezers; the hardening room, where the temperature gets 26 below zero.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME White Eagle Dairy Company

THE ONE SATISFACTORY FLOUR ATHENS MILLS HHP HIGH PATENT BOONE COUNTY MILLING & ELEVATOR CO. Every ounce of HP Flour is real flour—rich in food value and uniform in quality.

Robert Rogers Quality Store - Costs No More 9 North 9th Street Phone 179 A LITTLE GROCERY NEWS It's a fact, but it seems just like it can't snow, yet they say that prices are sliding down hill. With Christmas coming on and that determination to do your Christmas shopping early you've been wondering what you can give for presents. We've got a suggestion. Maybe you won't like it any too well and again maybe it's just the thing that you're looking for. Our suggestion is Chinaware. We have the largest stock of fine chinaware suitable for Christmas gifts in Boone County and we feel reasonably sure that we will have something that will please you. Beauty and service are the things that make this ware so attractive. We are always glad to have you come in and look it over. Now that Thanksgiving has passed and you are recovering from the effects of that dinner you should be about ready to eat again. A man can't go "McSwinnying" very long at a time and not feel the effects of it.

"Say It With Flowers" Columbia Floral Co.

Demand THE Best Are you securing the best bread obtainable? Do you request a known brand? In demanding Columbia Maid bread you are protected by our guarantee. It is made under perfect sanitary conditions, under our personal supervision. We cordially invite you to inspect our bakery. We know we will secure your confidence after going through our plant. All leading grocers handle Columbia Maid. Insist on this brand. Made by Columbia Baking Co. 19 North Ninth