Tragic accidents in the home take a sharp swing upwards during the Christmas season warns Mrs. A. A. Boucher, chairman of the Home and Family Section of the British Columbia Safety Council.

LOTUS CAFE

S. Claus now changed man

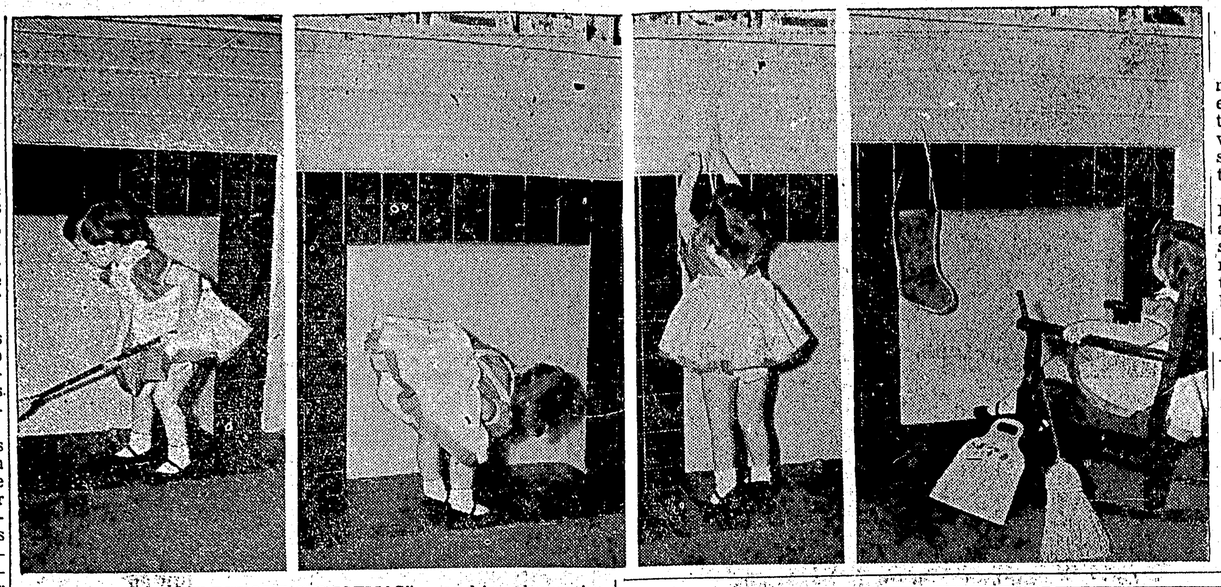
Santa Claus has undergone quite a metamorphosis in his time. Before Dr. Clement Moore, Santa's appearance was a problem left mostly to individual discretion and personal taste. He might be short or tall, plump or thin, merry or solemn.

The European St. Nicholas was pictured as a tall, thin man who rode a gray horse. In 1809, Washington Irving described Santa as a jolly fellow who wore a wide-brimmed hat.

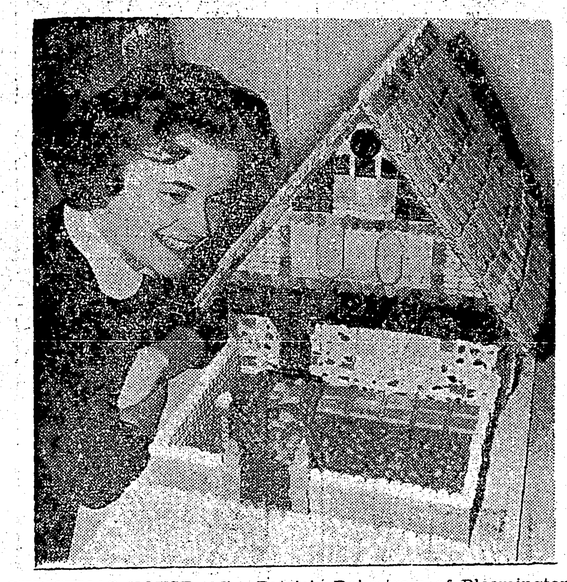
After Dr. Moore wrote "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," in 1823, St. Nick acquired definite external characteristics. Ever after, children "knew in a moment it must be St. Nick" by his well-fed, merry appearance — twinkling eyes and a rosy face— and his sleigh and reindeers for transportation.

The image of Santa was affirmed in 1869 when Thomas Nast's cartoon was published, picturing Santa in his now-familiar red garb, smoking a pipe. Like all famous men, Santa today finds it difficult to travel anywhere incognito.

Germans brought the Christmas tree custom to America. The Irish contributed the ancient Gaelic custom of putting lights in the windows.



"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" — and in a house in Tulsa, Okla., visions of sugar plums were all but crowded out of the busy little head of Susan Huey by more pressing problems as she got ready for a visit from that jolly old elf. "A boy plays from sun to sun, a girl's play is never done. There, he won't find any cinders on my hearth. Hm, looks awfully small up there — Well, I'll just hang up my stocking . . . Now, I'll just sit here and wait in case he gets stuck." But before you could say "Saint Nick", a sleepy head was tucked all snug in her bed. And she didn't even hear him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight: "Merry Christmas to All, and to all a Good Night".



CHRISTMAS HOUSE: Miss Patricia Rakestraw of Bloomington, Ill., a nurse, smiles with satisfaction on the holiday house she created from $11 worth of cookies, wafers and candies. The house is cardboard with the candies and cookies fastened to it with a glue made from confectioners sugar and water. It weighs 15 pounds and took 13 hours to complete. Miss Rakestraw plans to display it this Christmas in the children's ward of Brokaw Hospital where she works.

Legends tell about hymn

Stories and legends surround most of the modern ways of celebrating Christmas — and sometimes there is more than one version of a story — such as the story of "Silent Night" and how the song came to be written.

Joseph Mohr, village priest of Hallein, Austria, wrote the words, and his organist wrote the music, probably adapted from a melody by Michael Haydn. On this point, most sources seem to be agreed.

What inspired Father Mohr to write the words is another story —or another two stories.

One version, say researchers for the Book of Knowledge, is that Father Mohr was called out into the snow on Christmas Eve of 1818, to bless a newly born baby in the home of one of his poorest parishioners.

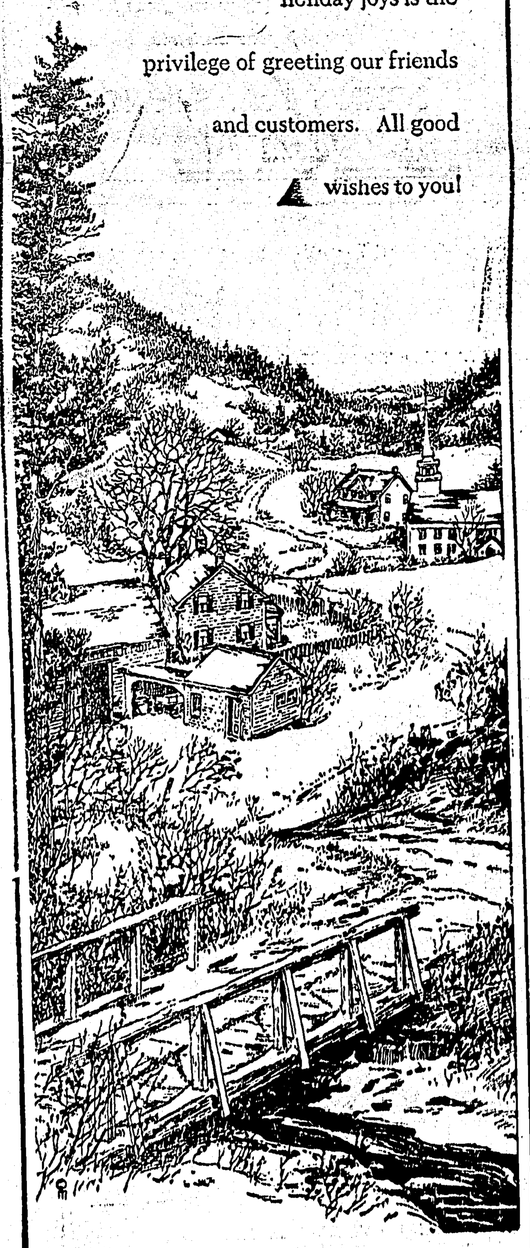
He was so filled with the spirit of the season and the simple beauty of the mother and infant that when he returned to his study he wrote the poem, "Silent Night." Before Christmas Day was over, his organist had written the music.

Other versions have it that the church organ had broken down (impaired by mice, one story says), and the people were saddened because there would be no music for Christmas Day. Shortly before Christmas, Father Mohr wrote his poem and organist Gruber the music.

At midnight mass, the people sang "Silent Night"— with a guitar accompaniment.

GREETINGS

High on our list of holiday joys is the privilege of greeting our friends and customers. All good wishes to you!



HOTEL ASSOCIATION
of Prince Rupert
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Commercial Hotel – Belmont Hotel
Prince Rupert Hotel
New Royal Hotel
Oceanview Hotel

At Christmas
May your heart reflect the joy of the true Christmas spirit.
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MANAGEMENT and STAFF

Civic Centre Association

The Electrician & Wilford Electrical Works
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And a world of
-y to you and yours.
Canadian Legion
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GREETINGS of the CHRISTMAS Season
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