

Rudoulph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
By Glenn Vasbinder

In 1939, an employee in the advertising department of Montgomery Ward & Company was assign the task of developing a Christmas "animal story" which could be distributed by the branches of his firm as a "give away" during the Christmas season. Robert May, an experienced advertising man, under took to write a Christmas story for children as part of his daily work. He decided to organize his story around the "ugly duckling" motif.

After ample consideration of possible animals, he decided to use the reindeer, because the creature was ready connected with the traditional Moore story "A Visit From St. Nicholas." He decided to give the reindeer some trait which would cause his to be shunned, yet would be of great value to Santa Claus. The fact that Santa travelled at night suggested that Rudoulph might be given large, shiney eyes which could see in the dark. However, he decided against it because it was not sufficient cause for ridicule.

Finally, he decided upon a large nose, which had long been considered a legitimate subject of ridicule in Western culture. Many youngsters, like Rudolph have some distinguished weakness which might subject them to teasing from their playmates.

So popular was May's story that over 2,400,000 copies of the first "give away" edition were distributed that year. The story was not to appear again until 1946 and in 1947 it was brought out on a commercial basis. In 1949, a song entitled "Rudoulph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was composed by Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law. The recording, sung be Gene Autry, was the reason it gained in popularity.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. But with this comes the beginning of a new millenium ! Christmas too is just around corner with all the joy it brings and the new year brings its new challenges for us to overcome.

In a few months our annual stamp show will be held and as will several others in the surrounded cities and states. As in years past we will near people to help out with our show. If you can help please let any club officer know! So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

Election

The election for officers was held November 25. The election committee was chairmaned by Bill Cadwell. The other members were Kevin Baker, Angie Baker, Emmett Sullivan, and Deloris Foust. All the races were uncontested and after the votes were counted the slate of candidates were elected. A list of the new officers can be found in column to the right. To all the new officers congradulations !

Nashville Stamp Show 2001

Next year our annual stamp show will be held at the Governors House Hotel and Conference Center. It is located at 737 Harding Place. This is near the I-65 Harding Place exit at the corner of Trousdale and Harding. The space provided will be larger than last years show. As last year committees have been appointed to run the show smoothly as was last year. Also we need people to help before, during, and after the show. So if you would like to be on one of the committees, please contact the Chairperson. Also I must thank everyone who helped out this year. You did a great job !!! Thanks.

Murfreesboro Stamp Club

A stamp club has been formed in Murfreesboro. Meeting have been held monthly with 6 to 10 people attending each.

New Members

Preston Crotty
Doug Old

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Ed Saunders, Jr.
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Marie Farmer
Tom Tribke

Matt Benward	President
Tony Ramirez	First Vice-President
David Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Preston Crotty	Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke	Secretary
Bob Picirilli	Treasurer
Marie Farmer	Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting a 6:45 p.m., and Program at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

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My Adventure with Santa Claus
by Edward Saunders Jr.

Seasons Greetings to you all! I pray that this Newsletter finds all who read it in good spirits and health! Christmas has always been a very special time for me. I was in line at the mall one day to get presents wrapped and a little girl of about 5 or 6 years was giving her mother a hard time. She wanted to go to Toys'R US! She seemed to get more and more difficult and finally she capitulated and left line to go to a near by Santa who was at the moment not occupied..

The power of Santa Claus that struck me was immediately this child turned into a veritable angel and I found it very hard to remember that she was so difficult not ten minutes before! Her mother's demeanor changed for the better as well as her daughter was wonderfully compliant and even helpful! I have always marveled at the power of the Santa Claus story.

My next adventure with Santa Claus brings me to the Internet and the search for the origins to Santa Claus. It is extremely compelling and amazing. I never realized that Santa Claus could be controversial. To me, he is an embodiment of Christmas from Modern Man's viewpoint, yet this legend goes back away in time!

Now dear Reader, you know that Philatelic members are very well read and knowledgeable on many different subjects. I would like to challenge some of the Stamp Club members to put an exhibit together featuring Santa Claus on stamps, covers, etc. I am going to leave hard copy of the information with Matt for anybody who is interested. At the end of this article, I will try and list the web addresses.

My conclusion for this topic is that Santa Claus is in all of our hearts throughout the world in many diferent guises. He is a very good being and should be treated as such. I don't think that he was ever meant to replace God as a religious being/deity. Never underestimate the power of invoking the Santa Claus legend, you better be good or Santa will not come by and give you any gifts!

It always worked on me and my brother!

God Bless you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Edward Saunders Jr.

websites:

Thomas Nast bio: <http://www.nastsantas.com/history.html>

USPS article on Santa stamp: <http://www.usps.com/images/stamps/2001/>

Santa Claus FAQ: <http://members.sonetcom.com/ishider/xmas/-san.htm>

Baptist Pastor's POV: <http://www.biblebelievers.com/harmon7.html>

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