

DWIGHT NOTES

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Pontiac : Illinois

DR. WM. LOUIS RABE

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Telephone 72.

DWIGHT, ILLINOIS

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**How Little Jack
Guessed
A Christmas Secret**



It was the afternoon before Christmas, and the air was full of big, feathery snowflakes. Jack and Mary stood at the window watching them, and Baby Jane sat on the floor.

"See how pretty they are!" cried Jack, clapping his hands. "They're just like

fairies going to a Christmas party."

Mary clapped her hands, too, and Baby Jane thumped her rattle on the floor and crowded. But Mrs. Brown looked out of the window rather anxiously.

The store was a mile away, and the snow seemed to come thicker and faster every minute.

"How do you suppose Santa Claus can get here in such a storm?" asked Jack, at which Mary's face clouded.

"Perhaps this thought was troubling Mrs. Brown. She didn't answer for more than a minute, not until Jack spoke again.

"Pooh n' nonsense!" he said. "This isn't much of a snow. I could go in it myself well's not."


"Could you, dear?" asked his mother quickly. "I'm afraid it's a chance if papa gets home before tomorrow, the wood road will be so blocked, and I want some things from the store to-night. Do you suppose you can go with your sled, Jackie?"

"Why, yes!" cried Jack, delighted enough, and in a very few minutes he was ready to start.

"Give this note to Mr. Simpkins," said his mother, "and then you won't have anything to remember. And be careful, dear, and hurry home as fast as you can."

Mr. Simpkins' eyes twinkled when he read that note.

"I can't attend to you right away," he said to Jack, "and I wish you'd just



JACK STRUGGLED ON.

tud over to the house with a line to Mrs. Simpkins for me."

"Yes, sir," answered Ted.

Mr. Simpkins had the bundles tucked away in the sled box and covered with thick brown paper, that the snow couldn't get through, when Jack came back.

"Hard night for Santa Claus to get around," he said, pinching the boy's red cheek. "Do you suppose you'll see him at your house?"

"I hope he'll come," answered Jack politely, "but I don't guess I'll see him, sir."

"I saw him once," Mr. Simpkins said soberly, "when he was a little boy, about your size. He looked a great deal like you too."

When he got home mother had a plate of hot oatmeal pudding with sugar and real cream waiting for him, and she whisked the bundles out of the sled box and into the pantry in a hurry.

All this time the snow kept falling, falling, and the wind blew until the little house fairly shook. If it had been set on a hill there is no saying what might have happened. Jack felt a good deal troubled. He told his mother what Mr. Simpkins had said about Santa Claus when she was tucking him into bed for the night.

"I'm afraid he can't get here," said he, "and then Mary will be so disappointed."

But his mother laughed, stooping down for the good night kiss. "Don't worry, dear," she said. "Santa Claus won't mind this little storm."


And, sure enough, when morning came the three little stockings hanging beside the chimney were stuffed as full as they could hold.

"So Santa Claus did come," said Mrs. Brown, laughing at the children's antics.

Jack looked thoughtful a minute. His eyes danced. He put his lips close to his mother's ear.

"I do believe I know what Mr. Simpkins meant," he said, "but I shan't tell Mary. And it's lots of fun, just the same."

**How Doggie Puck
Played
Santa Claus**



It was the day before Christmas, and the sweetest smells were issuing from the kitchen, and packages were being left at the door every few minutes with loud ringings of the doorbell.

Puck had never in all his little doggie life been treated as he had been the last few days. Nobody had any time for him.

When Daisy, his little mistress, had gone out that morning, instead of taking her dog she had said: "I can't take you today, old fellow. I'll have too many packages to manage you."

Puck went to the kitchen, led there, no doubt, by the delightful odors.

"Get out of here!" said Bridget, and she flourished a broom at him. The insult!

It nearly broke Puck's heart.

Puck walked out of the kitchen up into the play room on the top floor.

He crawled under the curtain which adorned the bed of Frances, the last doll to arrive from Paris.

Puck grew drowsy, and the last thing his eyes rested upon before sinking into sleep was a large book out in the shape of Santa Claus and colored to look like him as well. The book contained the story beginning: "Twas the night before Christmas," and Puck had heard Daisy read that story only the night before. What was his surprise to see that book straighten itself until it looked like a soldier on parade, but of course it was not a soldier, only Santa Claus, the very being from whom he was trying to escape. Santa Claus began talking to him.

"Puck, I do not like to see you show such an ugly spirit this day before Christmas. Christmas is my day, you know, and I like every living thing to be happy when it comes around.

"If you want to get fun out of Christmas quit expecting a merry Christmas for yourself. Try to give it to some one else," went on Santa Claus.

"Mr. Santa Claus," said Puck, looking offended, "nobody will allow me to help in any way. All I can do is to keep out of the way until your day is over."

"Nonsense," replied Santa. "You are all wrong. The festival is in my honor, true enough, but that does not shut out other people from helping."

Puck was wide awake and polite enough to crawl out from beneath the bed and listen to his visitor.

"You know Daisy is to have a party tonight," said Santa. "There is to be a splendid tree with presents on it, and I have made that tree the handsomest I ever trimmed. I had planned to make my appearance myself to wish the boys and girls a merry Christmas, but I simply can't take the time. If you would like you can take my place. I'll dress you for the party. If you will allow me I shall look around and see what I can find in Miss Daisy's play room. Good, the very thing. We'll make a hit!" And Puck looked toward the wastebasket, where he saw a false face of Santa Claus with its long white beard and the remains of a glue pot warranted to mend or stick anything.

Santa Claus bent to the ears of Puck and whispered his plan as a secret. The secret seemed to meet with Puck's approval, for he wagged his tail and wriggled his body just as he did when Daisy fed him a bit of his favorite candy.

It grew dark very early, for a snow-storm was on the way. Sounds of arriving visitors came to Puck's ears as the bell pealed again and again. His absence was not noticed as beautifully dressed girls came into the next room to remove their wraps, while shouts of laughter and merry Christmas mases floated to Puck in his retreat beneath the doll's bed.

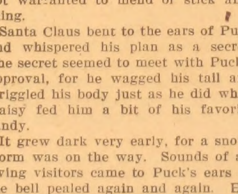
The voice of Daisy's father at last sounded, and as this was the cue Santa had given him to appear Puck crawled out, approached the wastebasket, knocked it over, rubbed his face in the slowly trickling glue and then stuck it into the Santa Claus false face lying conveniently near.

In a minute the queer Puck-Santa Claus ran down the stairs and into the room, arousing shrieks of laughter as one boy screamed, "Why, it's Santa Claus!"

"No, it is not!" shouted another. "Did you ever see a Santa Claus with four legs? It's a dog, that is what it is."

"It's my Puck," said Daisy, taking the queer specimen in her arms, "but how in the world did he ever get himself up in this clever fashion?"

Puck was not telling, but the fun this odd looking Santa started made the party a success.



HE RAN DOWNSTAIRS.

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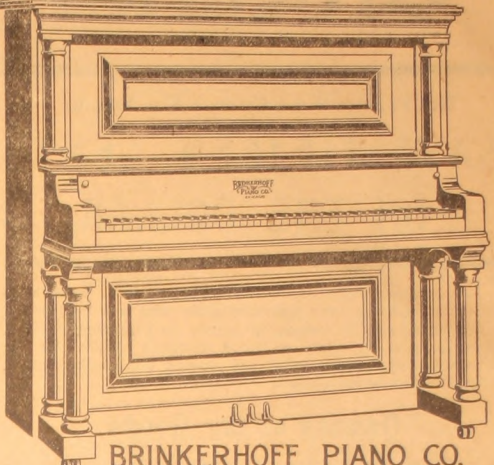
Street gas lamps were first used in London in 1807.

Effective Sunday, Sept. 15, 1912, and each Sunday thereafter, Chicago & Alton have \$1.00 excursion to Chicago, returning No. 76 at 7:45 a. m. Sundays; returning No. 77 and 5, same date, at 4:15 p. m. and 9 p. m. H. L. Drennen, ticket agent.—Adv.

Boosters! Attention!

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Boosters, get all your friends to make some sort of a guess and get their fifty free coupons. All guesses must be put in a sealed envelope and handed in by the person guessing before the lamp is lighted, which will be at 11:00 A. M. on Saturday, January 18. On each succeeding week day it will be lighted at 11:00 A. M. and extinguished at 2:30 P. M., but if there yet remains oil in the lamp on Saturday, January 25, it will be lighted at 9:00 A. M. and allowed to burn until it is out. What are the total number of hours, minutes and seconds that it will burn? The light is out when the wick ceases to blaze.

Who Will Win the Watch on Monday, January 6th

WE HOPE YOU HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THAT A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AWAITS YOU.

THE WORD CONTEST CLOSSES TO-NIGHT!!

Remember we are giving triple coupons on all purchases or on deposits of money next week and on all settlements of accounts next week. The word contest closes Saturday night. Have you gotten as many fifty coupons free as you can get?

Who will win the third watch, Monday, January 6.

Call and pay your accounts on our book and receive triple votes.

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She Knew Him.

"Good-by forever!" said the young man, coldly, as he prepared to depart. "I leave you now, never to return."

"Good-by," said the fair maid in the parlor scene. "But before you go let me remind you that you can telephone me in the morning ever so much cheaper than you can send a messenger, and you can buy me a box of chocolates with the difference."