

A Play at Mountain Village...

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of the night?

DAD: Well, personally, I like a can of beer and some peanuts. But I doubt that his union would allow nipping on the job. Maybe you ought to leave some soup on the back of the stove and some crackers and peanut butter on the table for him.

MOM: Oh, no I won't! That old boy is a man, and he's probably just like any other man—wouldn't even think of cleaning up after himself. I'm not about to get up Christmas morning to spilled soup and cracker crumbs. What can we leave him that won't take any dishes to be washed?

DIANE: (the older sister): Gee, Mom, why don't you just fix him a sack lunch? That way he can take it home and mess up his own house.

JANET: Yeah! You can give him a sack of peanuts, an apple, and a baloney sandwich.

MOM: Roger! Good idea! I'll go fix it right now. Pretty soon we'll have supper, and then you kids plan to hit the sack early. He won't come if you're sitting around awake, you know. (Exit)

DAD: I think it's about sandwich time, myself. (Calls) Hey, Mom, make two of whatever you've got. (Exits)

JANET: Gee, I wonder if he'll come. Every year he comes to our place. Gee whiz, I wish we could go see him for a change.

DIANE: Yeah, I wonder what his house is like. I wonder what Mrs. Claus looks like. I wonder what he eats, and stuff like that. And what I'd really like to know is, how can a man make all those millions of toys in a year's time.

ENTER SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: Merry Christmas, Girls. I couldn't help overhearing you. I am Spirit of Christmas. (Shakes hands with girls. They introduce themselves.) It is my job to hear and observe all things being said and done about Christmas. It is my job to report those who hold Christmas irreverently or scornfully.

JANET (excitedly): Boy, you sound just like a spy! What happens to persons you report?

SPIRIT: Lots of times we punish them by withholding their NYC checks. Or sometimes NCA doesn't bring their mail in. Or the barge offloads their goods at the other end of town. But—How would you like to have me answer your questions with a quick little trip to the North Pole? You can see for yourself how Santa really lives and works.

DIANE: I think you're pulling our leg. How could we get that far so fast? The North Pole is thousands of miles away.

SPIRIT: No problem at all in this day and age, my dears. Since I'm hired by OEO, I can charter a jet any time. Takes us anywhere we want, if the weather is good, the plane isn't broken down, and if the pilot is willing and able to fly. Oh, once in a while there's a hitch. Like last year. I had some real nice kids from Montana, Milton and Dagmar were their names, all set to take the trip North, and then the old crate of a plane got stuck for a whole day in Aniak—mechanical. But I think we're all set to fly now. You want to?

JANET: Oh, boy! Do I want to!

DIANE: Is there something we need to take? I mean, we are going a long way. How long will we be gone? Shall I pack very much?

SPIRIT: Oh, no, this is just a quick trip. We'll plan to have you back by morning. You'll wear your warmest wraps, of course. And don't forget the important necessities for traveling in the Northland: you'll need an ax, a flashlight, some matches, dry sox, and candy bars. And maybe a sleeping bag. I mean—well—sometimes you do have to—sort of—wait mpw and then. Okay? Hustle. I'll wait.

(GIRLS scurry to collect gear as curtain closes.)

ACT II. Santa's place. It is very dark, as befits a Northern night. Suggested scenery: Behind the front curtain is a second curtain, which will open into Santa's house. There can be a replica of the Northern sky: Dipper, North Star, other stars. Affixed to the curtain is a drawn door, which will lead into Santa's house.

SOUND EFFECT OFFSTAGE: Snow machine stopping.

Enter DIANE, JANET, SPIRIT.

SPIRIT: Sorry that was such a bumpy Ski—Doo ride down from the airstrip, girls. Rural Development has been promising funds for a new road for three years now, and maybe by next construction season the money will be here.

JANET: I thought it was exciting! Gee, is this really the North Pole?

(Girls are carrying axes, sleeping bag, etc. SPIRIT takes them from the girls and sets them down carefully.)

SPIRIT: No, I don't know why everyone calls Santa's place the North Pole. The real North Pole is just an iceflow on the open sea, you know. Not even BIA would put buildings on that place. This is just a few dozen miles from Barrow.—Santa thought that this would be an out-of-the-way enough place.

DIANE: Why would anyone want to be out-of-the-way? I should think Santa would want to live close to stores and an airport and timber and things.

SPIRIT: Everyone thinks Santa is a jolly, Ho—ho—ho sort. But he really likes to be left alone. A few years back. He set up Headquarters at Little Diomed, but after he was weathered in for four years in a row, he decided he was being left alone too much. So he moved to this spot on the tundra.

Go ahead and knock.

KNOCK

VOICE INSIDE: Come in!

(The three enter as the inner curtain parts, revealing the interior of Santa's home. Santa himself is seated by a small table near the rear and to one side. Props: Wall map of Alaska; radio; assorted implements such as spears, etc. Furnished to resemble the quarters of a successful Eskimo

hunter. Forward are ten various dolls, dressed in Eskimo garb, who help Santa.)

JANET: Amazed): Holy cow! They're Eskimos!!

SPIRIT: Well, certainly, of course, nearly everyone in this part of the world is Eskimo.

(TEN ESKIMOS step forward. They bow and swirl as chorus sings "One little, two little, three little Eskimos" in Eskimo.) (As dolls finish song, they step aside, exiting.)

ONE DOLL (in Eskimo): Excuse us, we are still busy. Good-bye. (Exit)

SANTA has been sipping from a cup, as he is seated at the table. On the table is a plate of dry fish and a kettle (his brew pot).

ENTER MRS. CLAUS. She is dressed in akuspuk and boots. Throughout, she speaks only in Eskimo.

MRS. CLAUS: Old Man, you had better stay out of the brew pot. It is almost time for you to take your trip to see the school children.

SANTA (Throughout, he speaks only in Eskimo): I was just taking a little sip. I need a little bit before I see those noisy school kids. So how about a little grub, Mama? What do we have to eat today?

MRS. C: The boys just brought in some eels. There's some dry fish, right there. I made some aguduk for you, too. Do you have all the packages mailed out?

SANTA: Yep, Mama, The NYC boys have them all out, but some are still waiting at St. Marys. But the people who ordered early have their mail by now. Not my fault if people put things off until the last minute.

DIANE: I can't understand a word he's saying.

JANET: Does Santa Claus really make all the Christmas gifts?

SPIRIT: Let's see what he says about that. (Turns to Santa, speaks in Eskimo): Santa, these little girls have come to visit you from the Lower 48. They are Diane and Janet. They want to know where you get your Christmas presents.

SANTA (steps forward and says to girls): Wha—kah. I get my things from the same place everything these days comes: Made in Japan and Hong Kong.

SPIRIT: Santa says his toys are made in Japan, everything else in Hong Kong. Most things you see these days come from Japan, haven't you noticed? One man can't possibly make all the things all the kids get.

DIANE: When we write to Santa Claus, does he really read all our letters? If he doesn't speak English, how does he know what we want?

SPIRIT: (to Santa, in Eskimo) What do you do with letters the kids write you?

SANTA: Well, I just send them to Sears.

SPIRIT: Santa says he sends your letters to Sears. Then Sears sends your daddy the bill.

JANET: Holy cow, doesn't Santa have any toys here at all?

SPIRIT: Most of the gifts are mailed early to avoid the rush. But Santa keeps the ones he likes the best so that he has something for the NYC kids to play with these long winter nights.

(To Santa): Why don't you show the girls some of your best toys?

SANTA (to Mrs. C.): Mama, go get those little billy goats. (DIANE, JANET, SPIRIT seat themselves with Santa's hosting.)

(THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF and TROLL enter. Playlet.)

MRS. CLAUS: Let the gusaks see the little kittens.

SANTA: Oh, sure, Mama, let's see the kittens.

(MRS. C. exits; the THREE KITTENS and MAMA PUSSAK enter.) Playlet; Three Little Kittens.

DIANE: I always thought Santa had lots of helpers to do his work.

SPIRIT: I'll ask him if he still has helpers around. (To Santa, in Eskimo): Santa, where are those kids you had around here for your helpers?

SANTA: Let me see if they are asleep. They sleep more than they work. Easier for me to do it myself. (Calls) Helpers! HELPERS enter. They wear NYC placards. They line up and sing, in English:

*We live at Santa's palace at the cold North Pole,
Where aurora Borealis across the sky doth roll,
We are Santa's helpers, busy all year long,
Making toys for Santa with a song.*

*Fristy, frosty snowflakes and icicles,
We make dolls and we make bicycles.
And we come each Christmas to deliver
Fristy, frosty, fristy, frosty shiver.*

JANET: What do the helpers do?

HELPER 1: I mop the floors.

HELPER 2: I wash the pans.

HELPER 3: I check out library books.

HELPER 4: I monitor the radio.

HELPER 5: I take the mail to the post office.

ALL HELPERS: That's about all you can do in thirty hours a week. (HELPERS exit)

DIANE: Since Santa is in charge, I expect that his wife gets some pretty wonderful presents. Did you ever see what he gives her?

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS (to Mrs. Santa, in Eskimo): Would you like to tell the girls what you got for Christmas, Mrs. Claus?

STAGING AND CHORUS: "Twelve Days of Christmas."

*On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me
A ptarmigan in a willow tree.*

*On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me
Two fur seal skins.*

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me

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Anchorage to Hold Oil Lease Sales

The 21st competitive state oil and gas lease sale will be held in Anchorage on March 26, 1968, the Alaska Division of Lands, Department of Natural Resources, has announced.

The state will offer for competitive bidding approximately 350,000 acres of offshore lands in the Port Heiden—Port Moller areas of Bristol Bay. Formal notice of the sale will be made about Jan. 15, 1968. Details and lease maps covering the specific areas will be available at that time.

Announcement of the sale was made following meetings held in Juneau and Anchorage between representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game to coordinate matters of mutual concern and to insure compatibility between the protection of wildlife and fisheries resources and oil and gas exploration and development.

Sen Bartlett...

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specialist, later diagnosed the ailment as the inflammation of the heart lining. It is believed this was caused by a virus.

The Senator also suffered irregular heart beat at the initial stages but this has stabilized to normal.

Bartlett is continuing to improve and his convalescence is expected to be of shorter duration than if he had suffered actual heart attack.

Snow Storm...

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ation be declared a disaster area and a White House representative is now believed to be investigating the request.

Up till Wednesday, three persons were known dead directly attributable to the heavy storm.

Flagstaff in northeastern Arizona, is lying buried under 83 inches of snow. Eight deaths have been attributed to the snow storm in California.

Appropriation...

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the \$1.773 figure a week ago and also deleted the earmarking of funds so that OEO can spend where it believes the need is greatest.

The Administration first submitted its anti-poverty program to Congress in April when President Johnson asked for \$2.06 billion.

Extensive hearings were held and in September a \$5.5 billion anti-poverty bill was introduced into the Senate. It included \$2.26 billion to finance the programs of OEO and \$2.8 billion for an emergency job program.

On October 5, by a vote of 60-21, the largest majority in the Senate in the history of anti-poverty legislation, a two-year authorization for OEO was approved with \$2.258 billion for Fiscal 1968, and \$2.4 billion for Fiscal 1969.

The job program was dropped.

Debate on the House version of the bill began in early November and on November 15, the body voted 283-129 to approve the measure.

The margin of victory on final passage was the largest ever given the anti-poverty program by the House.