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Golden Gate Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Dept. 25, Youville Street



# CHRISTMAS FUN FOR THE KIDDIES

By GRACE LEE DAVISON

A Christmas Tree Party

A FTER the family gifts and treasures are removed from the Christmas Tree, the boys and girls may give a very jolly party by redecorating the evergreen as a hobby tree or a joke tree and inviting their friends to gather around it

The idea is to prepare a package for each guest containing either a very simple gift, a joke, or something which suggests a hobby. Such a plan causes a lot of merriment.

On the outside of the package put the name of the person for whom it is intended and a verse or quotation.

For a little girl you might have a cooky doll and the verse:

"Take her up tenderly, Lift her with care, Fashioned so slenderly, Young, and so fair."

If a boy or girl has a pet cat, the present might be some dried catnip, picked in summer. A joke package prepared one Christmas for a cat called Tom Peter had this rhyme:

"Tom Peter is a gay old cat, He once was thin, but now is fat. His mistress brought

him from the East And now he nothing does but feast.

So here's some catnip for Tom Peter, That his life may be still sweeter."

For a person fond of poetry, cut some good verses from a magazine, put them into an envelope, and write on the outside:

"Since poetry is to your mind, send you the best

can find. With my compliments please take

I clipped it 'cause I couldn't make it."

With a snapshot the rhyme might be:

"This was boldly "snapped" of you.
'Twas a nervy thing to do.
If returned where it belongs,
Don't I blot out all your wrongs?"

Don't I blot out all your wrongs?"

Of course these are but samples showing how funny, foolish little rhymes can be written about almost any commonplace thing and used for the tree. To name the gifts that could be used would be impossible without knowing the boys and girls for whom they are intended, but in every group some boy or girl can be found to write the rhymes, and some one to select an appropriate gift.

After distributing and enjoying the jokes, play some of the games described below, and then serve refreshments.

The invitation to a Christmas Party might be written as follows:

"While high hangs the holly,

While high hangs the holly,

With its red berry,
Pray come and be merry
And jolly with me.
The real Christmas spirit, Do let us all share it With games and good wishes, Around the green tree."

mas Social.

4 Downs Street,

Xmas Day, at 8.30 p.m. Christmas Social.

#### A St. Nicholas Party

O those who have worn out all Christmastide inspiration long ago, the idea of a Dutch Christmas Party, embodying some pretty European customs connected with the feast of St. Nicholas, may be welcome.

Decorate the rooms with crepe paper in Dutch design or with pretty windmills and other figures cut out from paper and stiffened with cardboard. Cotton snow, silver bells, and silver tinsel make a charming setting for the event. The scenery will interest and amuse the children until all have arrived.

When all are present, some grown person, having gathered the children around her, sitting on the floor, relates in brief the legend of St. Nicholas, explaining how once a year in Belgium, Holland, and other parts of Europe, the children set out their wooden these parts. wooden shoes on the eve of his Feast and find them in the morning filled with gifts. Before they rise from the floor, let the children carry out the custom of the little

foreign children by shouting Nicholas to come and visit them. All the children shout simultaneously, "Come,

children shout simultaneously, "Come, St. Nicholas!"

Before the children arrive, hide whatever gifts you plan to give the little folk around the room. Puzzles are cheap, and likewise Japanese balloon balls, which can be obtained at any Oriental store.

Now count out the children, and as each child is counted out, let him leave the room, returning to hunt for a gift. When he has discovered the treasure, another child is counted out. If it is thought more exciting, hide but one gift at a time, and let the children who are in the room try to find a difficult place for it while the child for whom it is intended is outside.

The same party can be given with a little change in the programme by those who want Santa Claus to figure in person. When this is preferred, omit the gifts and let Santa Claus come in, ringing a bell and carrying a large pack on his shoulder. As each gift is delivered, the Saint, foreign fashion, gives a few words of good advice couched in terms to make the children have been recalled to the room from which they are sent in a body, that St. Nicholas has me an while descended and in some spot of the recalled to the room from which they are sent in a body, that St. Nicholas has me an while descended and in some spot of the recalled to the room from which they are sent in a body that St. Nicholas has me an while descended and in some spot of the recalled to the room from which they are sent in a body that

St. Nicholas has mean while descended and in some spot of the room has left a Little Dutch Doll. They are asked to stand near the spot where each thinks the doll was left by the Saint, and when the little ones have scampered into various nooks and corners, a doll dressed in full national Dutch costume is brought out and presented to the lucker.

tional Dutch costume is brought out and presented to the lucky guesser. When the children are very little tots, it is better to hide the doll in some nook and have the children search for it. Where the doll itself is not hidden, a piece of paper represents the spot chosen for it. The next half hour will pass delightfully with the puzzles and the Japanese balls which inflate themselves by being thrown in the air. A group of little folk playing ball with these brightly coloured toys is a pretty sight, and they never fail to fascinate the child-guests. Have the table trimmed with Dutch favours and other trifles, with a wooden shoe filled with candies or popcorn balls for the centrepiece; and for place cards use little Dutch calendars and write the name of the child who is to occupy that particular seat on each. Have snappercaps and bonbons with Dutch figures on them.

If ice cream is served, have it moulded

If ice cream is served, have it moulded in the shape of little Dutch maidens, or placed in paper cases made from Delft paper napkins. If ice cream would make paper hapkins. If ice cream would make the repast too expensive, make little baskets with crimpy edges from orange-skins, tie the handles with ribbon, and fill with gelatine and whipped cream, or with a sponge cake and whipped cream.

# Merrymaking for the Toddlers at Christmas

HEN very young children are entertained, the party is necessarily a mother's party also, as the mothers will be obliged to accompany the wee guests, so that something must be provided for their enjoyment also.

To begin with the little ones: when they

first arrive, try to have some music, for they all love that and will delight in playing ring-around-a-rosy, or other musical games, and in marching several times around the room if led by an older person. An older child or two can often direct the pastimes for the very little guests, and this will allow the mothers to relax and

enjoy themselves together.
Whoever becomes stage manager should group the tots in two rows facing each other and let them roll pretty red balls of paper back and forth. Afterward each is allowed to take a ball for his own and open it and to keep the paper favour it contains. If a paper hat or other such (Continued on page 53)

# In the Letter to Santa Claus



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