

More Negro Recruits for Police Force

Miami, Fla. — Miami's national campaign to recruit more Negroes into its police department is reaping responses from Manhattan to the Rockies.

Since City Manager M. L. Reese announced the start of "Operation Badge" at a press conference Nov. 13, prospect-

ive candidates from various states including New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Utah have written C ity Hall to indicate their interest in becoming police officers.

"Operation Badge" began picking up steam after WKAT a Miami radio station, fed

the story to the CBS network, which then carried it on 270 stations across the country.

There are presently 69 Negro police officers on the 670 man department. The city hired its first Negro officer in 1944. He's Ralph White, of the criminal investigations division.

"Operation Badge" is a two

pronged effort. One centers on a vast publicity program and the second focuses on recruitment among Negro servicemen at military bases throughout Florida.

The publicity campaign is concentrating on advertising and public s ervice announcements on radio and television, as well as stories in both local and state newspapers.

The Great Miami Urban League and The Miami Times, a highly respected newspaper in the Negro community, have

joined forces with the City to promote "Operation Badge."

Garth Reeves, managing editor of The Times, is regularly publishing stories, in which Negro Miami police officers point out the advantages of a law enforcement career.

One of the better advantages is the pay. Beginning on Dec. 25, a rookie Miami officer will earn a starting salary of \$7,230 per year.

An applicant must be between 20 - 33 years old, have graduated high school and pass a physical examination and character investigation.

St. Nicholas was a favorite among the early Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam, and they named their first church in the New World in his honor.

Gradually, they Americanized his name from "Sint Niklas" to "Santa Nikalaus" and to "Santa Nikolaus" and then to "Santa Klaus". At the same time, they transferred their gift - giving to Christmas.

In those days, Dutch children customarily placed their wooden sabots before the fireplace to dry when they went to bed. A short time later, though, in the early hours of

Old-Fashioned CHRISTMAS

Christmas Morn, they would gleefully find their sturdy shoes filled with all manner of delightful presents from their generous St. Nick.

With other colonial children, who, understandably, quickly adopted the joyful custom of Santa Claus as their own, theirs was a problem of having no wooden shoes to

lay out invitingly. The answer? Stockings were hung instead, from the fireplace mantel, thus beginning one of our happy Christmas traditions.

By 1809, Washington Irving was describing Santa as a jolly, rosy-cheeked Dutch citizen. He invented, as well, the famous reindeer - drawn sleigh.

Later, in 1823, The Troy Sentinel featured "A Visit from St. Nicolas" — the children's classic — by Dr. Clement C. Moore. Children have squealed with delight since that time, over the eight reindeer drawing a sleigh with its plump, dimpled driver.

Thomas Nast, a famous cartoonist of the Civil War period, helped to popularize not only the figure of Santa Claus but also many of the other practices with which he is associated: building the toys in his North Pole workshop, keeping the records of good and bad children, receiving and answering letters, and driving his reindeer.

Nast is also credited with establishing Santa's red coat, the result of a character cartoon during the Civil War in which he practically arrayed Santa in red, white and blue.

December 25, 1492 Christopher Columbus and his crew celebrated the first Christmas in the New World in 1492. They were dinner guests of an Indian chief, ruler of the island of Haiti.

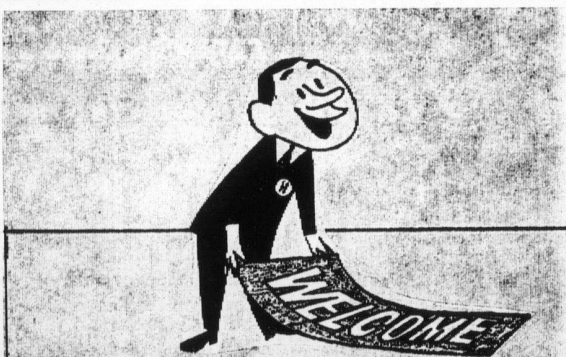
Nagged the wife to the hubby: "You certainly made a fool of yourself at that party! I just hope nobody realized you were sober!"



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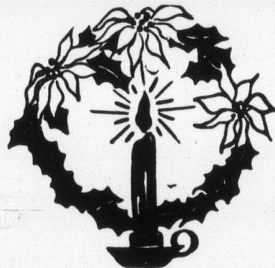
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