

MEET SANTA CLAUS



Santa at Suters

CHILD ASKED SANTA 'CAN I SEE YOUR REINDEERS?'

SANTA CLAUS. Children look for him at local bazaars and in toy shops. Generally he is a burly figure, with a white flowing beard, a red cloak, and beaming geniality and good fellowship.

The Santa at Messrs. Suters, Uxbridge, has been busy these few days before Christmas.

Youngsters between six months and 14 years have queued before his throne to take their pick in one of the lucky dips by his side.

Unobtrusively parents pay a shilling and with appropriate words, according to the age of the children, Santa greets them.

"Younger ones really believe that I am Santa Claus," he said, "and ask me all sorts of questions. 'Where's your sleigh?', or 'Can I see your reindeers?' they ask.

"Six-year-olds are a bit dubious and the 12-year-olds have no doubt at all."

"When I welcomed one six-months-old child she opened her arms to come to me and quite contentedly sat in my lap. Some of the children are nervous, looking me over with awe and keeping their distance."

ONLY SIX LEFT

"Do you ever run short of toys?" he was asked.

"Yes," he replied, "one day last week-end I finished up with only six gifts. I hesitate to think of what the children would have said if I had no toys to give them."

As might be expected, Santa has his own postal delivery. Majority of children ask for mechanical toys, cycles, prams, and the girls particularly, walkie-talkie dolls.

"I received a pathetic letter from a seven-year-old girl at Hayes this week," he said. "She wrote that her father had died recently and as she could not ask him to tell Santa what she wanted, she had decided to write herself. How badly she needed one of those dolls!"

TOY FAIR

The Santa at Uxbridge High-street Co-operative Stores awaits his youthful visitors at the "toy fair," where there are a wide variety of toys, for which this year, he says, there has been a greater demand than ever.

"I can't complain of lack of customers," he said. "I get children of all ages. They bring me their shilling ticket and I talk to them to try and find out what toy they want and generally they are satisfied."

With the ticket a "Toyland telegram" is handed to the children. It is addressed to "Father Christmas" and there is space for the child to write what toys are wanted at Christmas. It is posted in the pillar box in "toyland."

Santa acknowledges the "telegram," saying he has made a note of the presents asked for and will do his best to see that they are delivered on Christmas morning.

As if they did not know before the parents are acquainted with the contents of the telegram!

Both Santas anticipate a hectic week-end.

KEEP OLDER EMPLOYEES ON

Appeal to employers

After an appeal to employers by the Hayes, West Drayton and Uxbridge local employment committee at its meeting in Hayes last Thursday, to keep their older employees on if they wished to stay, mention was made of foreign labour coming into the country.

Councillor B. E. Cooper, backing the appeal, said most people opposed foreign labour coming into home industries.

"Most of them are Italians," he claimed. "They have to be taught the language, taught to operate new types of machinery, and hostels have to be found for them. I think it is an uneconomic arrangement."

Lots of people in the engineering industry over the age of 65 would like to keep on working if their employers would keep them on, concluded Mr. Cooper.

The Secretary reported that employment remains at a high level in all industries in the districts, and local offices rely almost entirely on turnover for their placing material.

JOBS FOUND

The majority of the 300 part-time women workers who registered in September, 1951, have been placed in employment, and those who remain are elderly and not suitable for factory work.

Councillor Cooper was appointed vice-chairman in place of Mr. C. Isaacs, Personnel Manager of E.M.I. who died recently. The meeting observed one minute's silence for Mr. Isaacs.

Figures given were:
Hayes: Insured population, 24,500; insured unemployed, 107; jobs vacant, 973.

Uxbridge: Insured population, 14,500; insured unemployed, 202; jobs vacant, 646.

West Drayton: Insured population, 7,300; insured unemployed, 90; jobs vacant, 168.

HANDKERCHIEF GIFT FOR THE LADIES

Auctioneers, surveyors, valuers and estate agents from West Middlesex and South Bucks held a Ladies' Night at the Golden Lion, Hillingdon, on Friday, at which over 80 guests were entertained.

Evening dress was worn and each lady received a decorated silk handkerchief.

Proposing the toast to the Association, Mr. Reginald Johnson stressed the importance of registered estate agents. It was imperative, he said, that all agents should be registered in order to keep up the standard of service.