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STATE BANK BLDG. Weston St. LOMITA**THE ORIGIN OF SANTA CLAUS**

For good boys and girls of this community we have a message. It's about the origin of Santa Claus—or good old Saint Nicholas—who soon will be here spreading his message of Love.

Saint Nicholas was one of the dignitaries of the early Christian Church. Of his personal history hardly anything is known, but he is supposed to have been Bishop of

Myra, in Lycia, a long time ago. How long ago cannot be definitely stated, but certain it is that he lived prior to the reign of the Roman Emperor, Justinian. The popular account has it that Saint Nicholas was a confessor of the faith in time of the last persecution of the Christians, and later sat in the great assembly known as the Council of Nice in the year 325 A. D.

This would make Saint Nicholas

upwards of 1700 years old, but he still lives—for the good never die.

In England in ancient times the "Feast of St. Nicholas" was celebrated with great solemnity in the public schools. It is still observed in some countries.

In Germany on the vigil of the feast Saint Nicholas or some duly accredited representative of his, costumed as a bishop, assembles the children of the family or school and distributes to the good children gilded nuts, sweet-meats and other little gifts, as a reward of good conduct. The not-so-good boys and girls, as a punishment, get the switch, or "Klaubauf."

Soon Saint Nicholas, or "Santa Claus," or "Kris Kringle," whichever you've a mind to call him—for he's one and the same person—will visit us again, same as in grandfather's day, same as he's been doing once a year these thousand years, spreading joy and love, and will ever continue to do so long as babies keep coming into the world.

But this is a progressive age. Once he traveled in a sled and whisked from place to place with the speed of the light, drawn by his magic reindeer, nations have grown so big and so many children in 'em as to have made it absolutely necessary for the good St. Nick to engage hired help in the distribution of Christmas cheer.

We have a very great number of calls to make in the next little while, so be happy when you see a Christmas package wrapped in paper from one of our stores.

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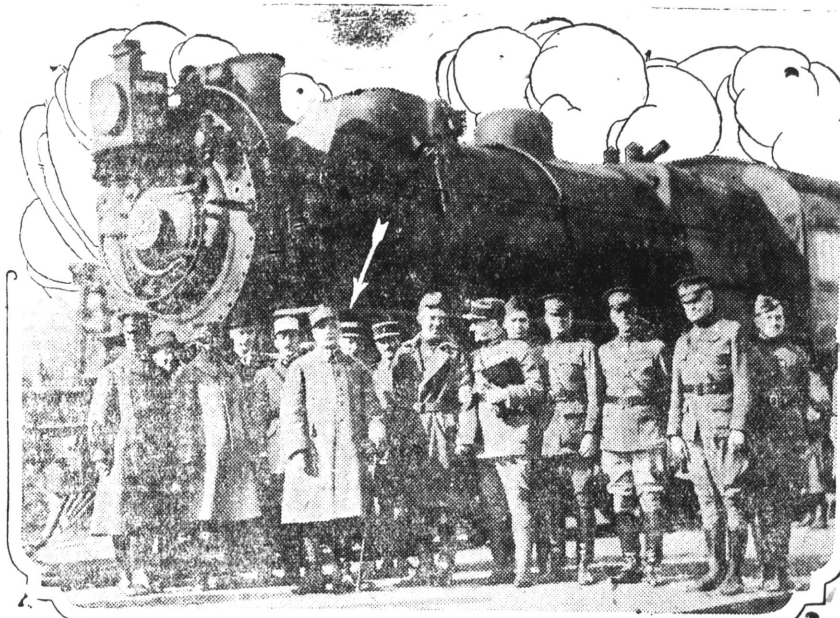
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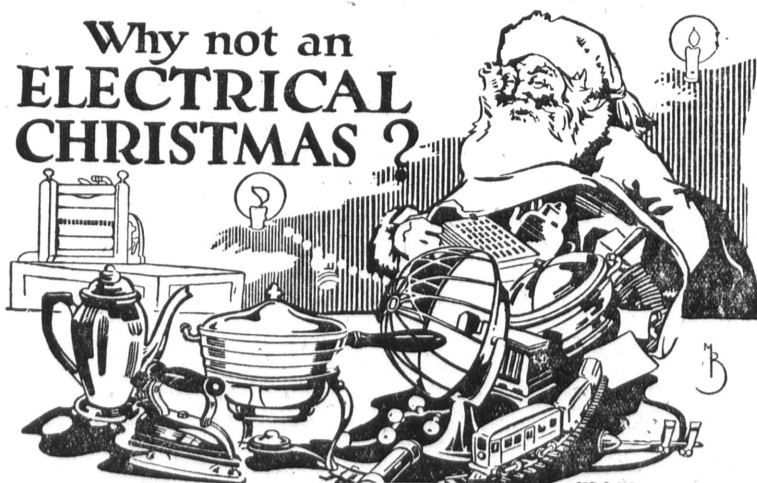
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A professor was once entertaining his class in geology by displaying a number of specimens of different stones, saying as he laid each one down: "This is a piece of agate," etc., etc. A mischievous fellow, thinking to frustrate the professor, slipped a bit of brick on the table. As the professor picked it up he looked at it a moment, then said as he laid it down: "This is a piece of impudence!" The young man wilted, but the talk went on.

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