



Whence The Wasp-Like Waisted Woman?

She has departed to that retreat of all passe styles. Style to the modern woman is a thing of the moment. She would as willingly appear in the style of the 'nineties' as the style of 1929... either is "de trop."

Here at Sam Levy's you may select gifts for Your Lady with every assurance of correct styles and color. Let us suggest a few below:



Gift Handkerchiefs

A truly wonderful assortment, nearly all imported. Exquisite Swiss and Pure Linen, in a thousand colorful designs. This is really a "big city" line.

Gift Boxes of Three
50c to \$1.50



Kayser and Holeproof Silk Hose

Full Fashion

True full fashioned Silk Hose of exceptional quality for this price. We have all colors, yes, indeed, any shade you can ask for.



Silk Robes and Pajamas

These will be a very popular gift this Christmas, and Sam Levy has an astonishingly large stock of the very newest designs.

KAYSER RAYON PAJAMAS \$1.95
SILK AND CREPE ROBES \$3.95 to \$12.75

SAM LEVY

1311-1313 Sartori Avenue, Torrance

Christmas Customs From Many Lands

(Continued from Page 7-B)

One of the loveliest of its legends tells that Martin Luther, walking over the snowy winter hills at night and observing the beauty of the glittering stars against the dark, set up for his children a tiny fir, with candles representing the stars.

Celebration in Egypt
Back so far as to the time of ancient Egypt is traced the origin of the custom of decking our homes with greens, for the branches of the date palm were hung in homes during the winter solstice, symbolic of "the triumph of the sun." The symbol that our Christmas greens today interpret.

It was during the reign of Queen Victoria and her marriage to a German prince that the custom

of the Christmas tree was brought into England, and German emigrants brought it to America.

Carols had their beginning back to a few centuries after the birth of Christ when bishops sang them in the churches to their clergy. Not until the 16th century did they take the finish and form in which we hear them sung. They then became festal chants introduced by the Norman French into England, but repudiated by the Puritans along with Christmas.

The ballad form appeared about this time, and it was then that the "wails" made their rounds of the homes before dawn on Christmas morning, singing in payment for coins. The word carol comes from the Latin cantare (to sing) and rola (the interjection of joy)

SHOPPING by Gas Light and Cable Car

THE CHRISTMAS shopping days of the '90's they felt in an age as some wisecrack has remarked, "of more bustle than bustle," and we did our Christmas shopping later than we have been taught to do it now, quite close to Christmas day itself, in fact.

That is, we may have indulged our leisure and waited until the last minute to tardily and frantically load up on our actual gift-buying, but there was a certain portion of the shopping that had to do with our Christmas preparations that had to be done early—quite early.

These were the days when, by early October the lamps were lit and supper done and well out of the way by six o'clock, and when the family settled itself around a long evening of varied occupations. The boys and girls disposed themselves around the dining room table, cleared of its long white cloth and bare of covering, and beneath the hanging lamp or under the brand new electric chandelier busied themselves with lessons. Father took the newspaper and retreated to an easy rocking-chair and a quiet corner of the sitting room and was soon lost to all but the doings of the day in the world without.

Mother Starts Early
But Mother, who customarily concentrated on the perpetual pile of stockings with their perpetual need of darning, began by this season of the year to side-track so prosaic a task, and October would find her sitting on an evening in her low armchair, first beside her work table, surrounded by a sea of colored silks and satins and velvets, lengths of bright ribbons, skeins of embroidery silk and balls of yarn, wooden embroidery hoops, steel and wooden knitting needles, spools of Barbour's lace thread and "crochet cotton," reels of lace braid and steel crochet hooks and her tatting shuttles. For most of the Christmas presents were made at home and by hand four decades ago, and as the great day itself came nearer, even the children caught the contagious frenzy for gift-making, and hurried the school work through, and then set to work with wax and wishbone and bits of colored felt to fashion a few pen-wipers intended for one's aunts and teachers Christmas morning, and to grace their desks the new year through. Then next year's model in pen-wipers, perhaps a miniature glove or mitten of felt, would replace the wishbone, and the children whose voluminous skirts supplied provision for keeping clean the pens of steel or gold which penned the letters of the period which were of frequent writing and always hand-penned.

Conversion of Yarns
Mother's pile of bright materials took on size and increased in variety as November stretched into December, and when many skeins of yarn had been converted into fascinators or shoulder capes, afghans or "nice thick wool socks" for Father and Grandfather and the uncles, when the last of the mittens had been knitted and mysteriously whisked out of sight right under the noses of the very boys and girls for whom they were intended, when all the babies of the family and the neighborhood had been re-booted, reshoed and provided with knitted dollies, then the winter evening industry took the more frivolous turn.

Then came into play the silks and the satins, (or everything was daintily scented in those days), the fine linens and laces, and there were evolved such stock of cases for gloves and handkerchiefs, fine lace kerchiefs themselves, hand-hemstitched and full-trimmed with lace, dainty aprons of lawn and organdy or dimity, lunch cloths, dollies, pillow slips, towels, fine dainty dresses for dolls, delicate baby garments—and the like as would delight the heart of a day's gift shop proprietor. Today the gift shop dealing in these articles of hand work is substitute for the labor of the home and the ubiquitous church bazaar that every Christmas season demanded in the days of the '90's.

Dolls Dressed at Home
Dolls to be quite satisfying to particular little girls, were always dressed at home; but dolls fine enough to suit the young ladies could never be made at home, of course, so dolls were one of the important items of Christmas shopping that went down on the preparations list early in the autumn. It was a common practice, too, for Mother and the children to visit the photographer about this time of year, that Father might be surprised with a new photo of his family among his Christmas joys. And Mother might drop in at the jeweler's and select a watch chain, a locket or little ring, napkin rings of silver—things that would have to be engraved before their giving; and this meant early shopping.

But the great item of the real shopping—left until the last days close to Christmas day itself, was the toy counter. The bulk of the season's stock brought out for the small towns and the cities, large and small. The thrill that came once in a lifetime had its first inspiration every winter when the city papers carried their first announcements that Santa Claus had

come into the stores, and offered in evidence their advertisements of toys—dolls, drums, horns, blackboards, rocking horses, magic lanterns, steam engines, furniture for children and for dolls, and such delights that set a clamor the household with the scribbling of letters and lists for Santa Claus, and the eagerness to visit him and see for one's self all these alluring things.

Go to City to See Toys
So, some time in December, after Thanksgiving was over, they would come a Saturday when Mother and an aunt would get a little group of youngsters together and leave in the darkness of a cold morning for the village station and take the train to the city to "see the toys." And on the way home merely of the trip itself! The clang and clamor of the noisy streets, the brightness of the lights along the way if the day was a dark one and foggy, the glitter of the windows and the rapture of the nicks and counters of the toy houses, the merry little eyes almost uncomprehending of such magnificence! Few little fabled or apathetic interests there were to deal with then, for "boughten" toys were an item sacred to the Christmas season and seldom seen in between the holidays. The toy store had not come into being to make toy-buying an expected item of every trip downtown.

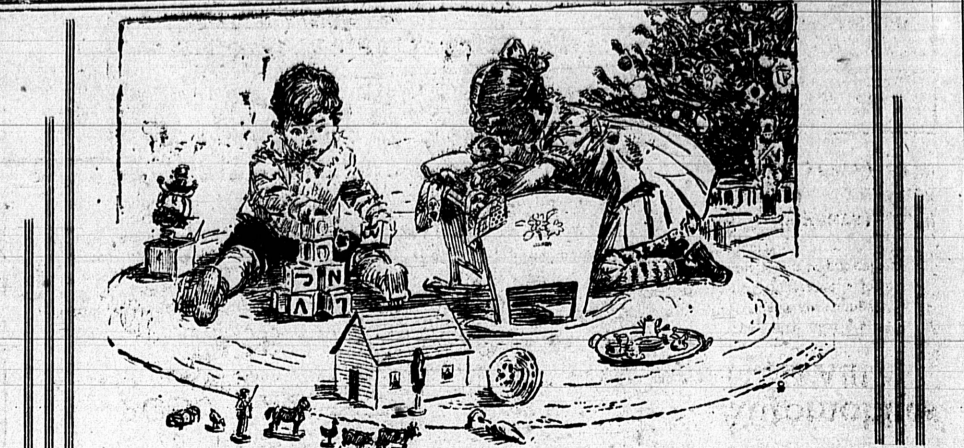
The early '90's scarcely knew the mechanical toy, for electricity was only beginning to be commonly employed in the household when the "Christmas toys" came about this time. Mother's ingenuity could evolve a gentleman from a stiff white cuff and bits of black velvet, and place a large marble inside him and give him impetus to send him some-where during the night when Santa Claus could deliver a ladder of tacks and a wooden Humpty-Dumpty that scuttled from tack to tack down the length of the ladder, but that was as near mechanical motion as the great bulk of Christmas toys of those days. Little girls were lost to the world when they surveyed the long rows of dolls of every size and sort, and every little boy wondered just what drum or jack knife Santa Claus would select for him.

Everybody Joins In
There were games, too. Games were so natural an accompaniment to long winter evenings after the holidays that every household had a store of them, and elders and youngsters joined in play with them. The younger generation of that day learned its first literary concepts from the game of Authors; it learned quick-thinking with its Lotto; its geography, much of it, was easier because one frequently put together a dissected map of the United States. Everybody had a parchees board and checkers, tiddle-dee-winks and a fish pond, its game of Old Maid and Peter Cuddle, and its crokinole board.

Then there were books—always a part of the children's Christmas—Little Lord Fauntleroy, the Prince and the Pauper, the Five Little Peppers, Elsie Dinsmore, the Horatio Alger stories, The Wide, Wide World, a new Mother Goose every Christmas, so long as there were little folks in the family, and the current annual issue of Chatferbox. A subscription to St. Nicholas always appeared at this season of the year, and one to The Youth's Companion.

But all the shopping was not done for the children, although the greater part of it was devoted to their Christmas. There were always those for whom the home-made gift never seemed quite elegant enough, or those for whom it was too elegant. So Mother browsed about the departments where there were gifts of china, for instance; cracker jars and chocolate pots ornamented and swank, cake plates or butter dishes, "sugars and creamers" or nickel dishes, cups and saucers in assortment (it was quite the thing to give a single set to either adults or children) including a mustache cup with its china barrier to keep Father's whiskers out of his coffee. Or Mother sought out the sections where the novelties were displayed—silver toilet and manure sets, everywhere at this time, handsome banquet lamps, sofa pillows, silk table scarves, linen table cloths and napkins, foot stools and the like.

The Rush Before Christmas
Shopping reached its height Christmas week, and although stores were kept open evenings for perhaps the entire month of December, the rush did not begin until there were just a few days left for shopping. Then there was an exhilaration which pervaded the air of festivity which hung around every aisle and counter where there was the least suggestion of Christmas. Friends came upon friends in the candy shops, at the toy counters, in the fruit stores and on the street, and exchanged the season's greetings joyously. It was a social indulgence, this Christmas shopping business, and while considerable bustle got into it at the last minute, there was none of the frenzy and distracted exhaustion that makes it a misery to many in this day of hectic hurry. Somehow it managed to be both the heyday of the merchant's year and the heyday of the customer's Christmas pleasure, and it brought to a merry Christmas some of its merriest hours.



REMEMBER 'WAY BACK WHEN YOU WERE A KID

CHRISTMAS probably gave you just as much of a thrill as it does the kiddies of today even if there weren't nearly so many kinds of toys. But things being as they are you want your boys and girls to have full advantage of the clever things that have been devised. That means a visit to the J. C. Penney Company Toy Department.

49c Toys

MECHANICAL TOYS including Autos, Dump Trucks, Wood Toys, one set includes engine, tender and three cars, others have airplanes trucks and autos. Noah's Ark contains lots of animals for the little ones. Games of many kinds, Tiddy Winks Rummy, Rollo Pollo, etc. Dish Sets for the helpful miss in cooking and for her little parties.

IRRESISTIBLE DOLLS
for very, very good little girls!
98c to \$7.90

DOLLS, Baby Dolls, Mama Dolls, Dolls that can walk and cry, Dolls you can't resist.
Priced right for an Ol' Fashioned Christmas

98c Toys

Graf Zeppelin, heavy construction, 22" long. Big Cabin Planes, Army Trucks, Dump Trucks, Busses, **MECHANICAL TRAINS**, Tractors, Fire Trucks, Autos, Airplanes, Sewing Machines like mother's, Sewing Sets, Dish Sets, Games, Football, Baseball, Travel Games, Games of Blocks and Building Games.

Healthful Fun for Little Boys!

"LITTLE JIM" ball bearing TUBULAR VELOCIPED
\$9.90

Just a touch on the rubber pedals and the 2 to 3-year-old is off hunting Indians! The 1 inch rubber tires, and staunch tubular frame were made for hard-riding, active children! Neat enamel finish and a truly remarkable price!

Equipped with Tool Bag, Bicycle Bell, Mud Guard!

Others from \$4.49 to \$11.75

All Steel Wagons

PENCO FLYER, Balloon type, 10-inch disc wheels roller bearing \$4.98

PENCO SPECIAL, disc wheels, roller bearing enameled green \$3.98

LITTLE JIM, smaller size plain bearing color red \$2.98

OTHERS, 98c and \$1.98 for the youngest

A "LITTLE JIM" POOL TABLE
Will be fun for Every Member of the Family
\$4.98

Winter evenings at home will be more enjoyable with a Pool Table in the house. This one has 16 balls, 2 cues triangle, chalk and a book of rules. It is 42 inches long, 25 inches high and 22 inches wide. Or you can choose a larger one at \$6.90 and \$9.90

Grant him his dearest wish!

Penco Footballs
are especially made for boys who demand the best!
98c to \$3.98

Penco Boxing Gloves
are worlds of fun! Strong, sturdy and exceedingly well made.
\$1.98 to \$3.98

"Little Jim" Automobiles in Styles to Please All!

These are sturdy, well-constructed all-steel toys which will give a world of pleasure to youngsters... and, because they are pedal-operated, a lot of healthful exercise. All are finished in bright colors. Bring the children in to see them!

Mack Dump Truck (3 to 6 years) \$8.90
Ford Roadster (1 to 4 years) \$4.98
Air-mail Airplane (1 1/2 to 4 years) \$9.90

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