

Nothing Explains Santa Claus Better than a 100 Year Old Editorial to a Little Girl

This letter to the editor of *The New York Sun* from eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon first appeared in December of 1897. The letter and the reply penned by Frances P. Church have been reprinted thousands of times. No one has come up with a better answer to the Santa Claus question than Church. The words "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" have become a part of Christmas lore.

Church was considered a sardonic man. He was the son of a Baptist minister and had covered the Civil War. Church was usually assigned to write editorial opinion on controversial subjects and those dealing with theology. He would probably be surprised to know that his reply to Virginia has become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.

Church married shortly after he answered Virginia's letter. He died in April of 1906. He had no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died in May of 1971, at the age of 81. She graduated from Hunter College and received her Master's from Columbia. She taught school in New York City for 47 years. In the final years of her career, she was assistant principal and teacher at a special school for chronically ill children in hospitals.

Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter. For her, the editorial was an inspiration in her life. She believed that Frances Church was the one who should be remembered. It was from his pen that flowed the philosophy of hope and love that was the heart of the editorial answer to Virginia's simple question.

Here is the letter from Virginia and Church's answer to her. I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Signed: Virginia O'Hanlon.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be man's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but this is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor fairies can see. Did you ever see a man, dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a well covering the unseen world which not the



strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is

nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus. Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Blood Drive January 2nd

We often take important things for granted - our family, our home and our good health. January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month to honor the thousands of people who are enough to help the sick and injured by making sure blood is there when it's needed. Central Kentucky Blood Center, together with Rockcastle County Hospital urges all Rockcastle County residents to give blood on Wednesday, January 2nd from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The community is welcome to attend.

There is no substitute for blood. When the ill and injured require transfusions, only another human being can provide this unique gift. The thousands of Kentuckians who donate blood each year are responding to a continuous and vital need for adequate blood supplies in hospitals throughout our area, such as Rockcastle County Hospital. Don't wait for an emergency. Give blood on Wednesday, January 2nd! For more information call Loretta Robinson at (606)679-7413.

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT AND SUMMARY OF BOND ORDER MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF BROADHEAD, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITY OF BROADHEAD, KENTUCKY HEALTHCARE REVENUE BONDS (ROCKCASTLE HOSPITAL PROJECT), SERIES 2002, DATED THE DATE OF DELIVERY, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000.

As required by KRS 83A.06(9), I hereby certify that an Order bearing the above title was read (by summary) and enacted by the City Council of the City of Broadhead, Kentucky and duly convened meeting held on December 10, 2001, and that the following is a Summary of such Order prepared by Charles S. Munson, of the firm of Rubin & Hays, Attorneys at Law, Louisville, Kentucky.

SUMMARY OF ORDER

Said Order: A. Authorizes the City of Broadhead, Kentucky (the "City") to issue \$1,500,000 principal amount of its City of Broadhead, Kentucky Healthcare Revenue Bonds (Rockcastle Hospital Project) Series 2002 (the "Series 2002 Bonds"), on behalf of the Rockcastle Hospital (the "Hospital") pursuant to the provisions of KRS 103.200 to 103.286, for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction and equipping of an office facility for use by the Borrower as part of its existing healthcare facilities (the "Project").

B. Authorizes the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a Loan Agreement by and between the City and the Borrower and to execute all necessary documents, instruments and obligations of the City in order to aid the Borrower in the acquisition, construction and equipping of the Project.

C. Authorizes the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a Trust Indenture (the "Indenture") by and between the City and the trustee named therein (the "Trustee"). D. Authorizes the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a Bond Purchase Agreement (the "Bond Purchase Agreement") among the City, Citizens Bank, and Community Trust Bank (collectively the "Purchaser") providing for the sale of the Bonds to the Purchaser at the aggregate price at the interest rate stated therein.

A copy of the full text of said Order is available for public inspection during the hours between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, Rebecca S. Bussell, City Clerk, Broadhead, Kentucky.

I, Charles S. Munson, I hereby certify that I am an Attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, that I am a member of the firm of Rubin & Hays, Kentucky Home Trust Building, 450 South Third Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, that I prepared the foregoing Notice of Enactment and Summary of Bond Order pursuant to KRS 83A.06(9) of the City of Broadhead, Kentucky, and that I certify the foregoing Summary to be a true and accurate summary of the contents of said Bond Order. (Signed) Charles S. Munson.

Holidays can still be happy without alcohol

Alcohol is often a welcome guest at holiday gatherings, but isn't always cause to celebrate. Holidays can be especially dangerous because people often celebrate by over-drinking, making themselves susceptible to alcohol-related troubles such as

drunken driving and ruined family celebrations.

Impaired driving can occur with very low blood alcohol percentages. At least 50 percent of all holiday traffic fatalities nationally involve alcohol, according to Mothers Against

Drunk Driving. Kentucky State Police statistics from the 2000 Christmas holidays show that 50 individuals were injured and one killed in automobile crashes where alcohol was a factor.

According to Healthy Kentuckians 2010, a health prevention report compiled by the Cabinet for Health Services, underage drinking kills six times more young people every year than all other causes combined.

There is an alcohol-related traffic fatality every 32 minutes and an alcohol-related traffic injury every two minutes in the United States, according to Western Insurance Information Service. Two out of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash during their lifetimes. And, contrary to popular belief, 87 percent of drivers with a high blood alcohol content in fatal crashes have had no alcohol convictions during the past three years.

"Most people realize alcohol doesn't make a party. Overindulgence can really put a damper on the celebration, especially with the recent change in the DUI law which says that a blood alcohol level of .08 indicates illegal intoxication," according to Mike Townsend, director of the Division of Substance Abuse in the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

So, having a safe and sober holiday may be the best gift of all. Parties can be festive without alcoholic beverages. Hosts can serve alternatives such as non-alcoholic beer, punch, soft drinks or flavored coffee and tea.

Creating other holiday traditions such as caroling, cooking special dishes, playing favorite games and other entertainment prevent people from overindulging. Establishing traditions that don't center on alcohol with children early in life may help keep them away from a dangerous pattern as they grow into adulthood.

"Guests shouldn't feel embarrassed by refusing a drink and hosts shouldn't feel obligated to serve alcohol. People who are drinking, taking medications, recovering alcoholics, pregnant or young should not drink alcohol period," said Townsend.

Townsend said that people tend to forget that alcohol is a drug, a depressant. It can affect people in a variety of ways and serves as an antihistamine that may lead people to say or do things they normally would not if sober. Drinking alcohol can lead to irresponsible behavior and unwise choices such as unsafe sex or getting into fights.

The following tips can help partygoers reduce the risk of alcohol use, if they choose to drink:

- * Drink slowly and avoid gulping an alcoholic beverage. On the average, the body can only metabolize one drink an hour.

- * Eat food with your alcoholic beverage to slow consumption

- * Realize that alcohol metabolism is based on the size of the individual. For example, a 200-pound person will be less affected than a 110-pound person who

consumes the same quantity of alcohol over the same period of time.

- * Remember that wine coolers are not soft drinks. They have as high an alcoholic content as beer.

- * Don't drink and drive or even ride with someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- * If you have a problem with alcohol or are a recovering alcoholic, decide how to handle the temptation to drink before going to a party.

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol, help is available by calling 1-888-729-4028, a toll free prevention hotline sponsored by the Division of Substance Abuse or by contacting your community mental health center.

Mobile Home For Sale: Beautifully set on flat 1+ acre corner lot with country side view in Broadhead 16x80 Morris home like new, 1994 Model, 3 bedroom, 2 Bath with Garden Bathtub and shower. All upgrades including: Cathedral ceilings, solid oak cabinets throughout, central air conditioning/heating, glass door, washer/dryer hookups, plush wall to wall carpet. Call (502)243-7056. 46w

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Information used by such independent rating services comes from each insurance company's financial statements. Such ratings are not a warranty of an insurer's ability to meet its contractual obligations.

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HELPING YOU is what we do best!

Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals and Monuments



This Christmas, as we tell the Story of Jesus and share the wonder of his love, we pray that your heart will be filled with Joy and Gladness.

