

# "Christmas Spirit comes to our house"

...BILL SAVER



"Do you know what I want for Christmas?" asked Penny, our daughter, during a momentary lull in the conversation at the dinner table a few weeks ago. "I want a wrist watch and a ring," she informed us brightly. "And I'll be real good from now until Christmas so I'll be sure to get them."

"Hah!" scoffed Jack, the budding teen-age genius of the family. "A fat chance you have. You wouldn't have either one of them very long the way you're always breaking and losing things."

As Kitty, my wife, and I exchanged glances over the table, Penny warmed up to her campaign. "You had a watch, Jack, when you were my age, and I do, too, know how to take care of one. You have to be careful not to drop it, or bump it, and it has to be wound every morning before breakfast or it'll stop running!"

"Well," said Kitty, "you seem to know just what you want Santa Claus to bring you this year, but what makes you think you are deserving?"

### Penny Promises

"From now until Christmas," Penny excitedly exclaimed, "I'll be real good. I'll study hard and get good marks at school. I'll make my bed and pick up the things in my room every morning. I'll go to the store for you; I'll help with the dishes and the housework, too!"

"The Christmas spirit — it's wonderful," I observed. "Everybody seems to get it about this time of the year. People are more friendly and tolerant of the other fellow, but it's not enough."

"What do you mean 'it's not enough,'" Kitty retorted, "if Penny keeps all those wonderful promises, it will seem like heaven around here for the next few weeks."

"That's just it," I replied, "but only for a short time. Being cheerful, friendly, polite and willing to help should not be limited to the holiday season. It should be like that ring Penny asked for —without an end—it should go 'round and 'round through all the seasons of the year."

As soon as Jack could close his mouth, which had dropped open in astonishment during my speech, he opened it again to remonstrate: "Well, gosh, Dad, you weren't so cheerful when I left that cupboard door open the other day and you banged your head when you stood up. It was a good thing for me I disappeared in a hurry!"

"Yes, it was," I replied with a smile. "That brings out the point that none of us is perfect and anyone is apt to slip at any time. That's why at CTA we have a continuing program of reminding all employes that being courteous is one of the best ways of getting more people to ride on our buses, streetcars and elevated-subway trains."

### Everyone Benefits

"How about the people who ride," piped up Penny, "are they supposed to be polite and friendly, too?"

"It helps if they are," I answered. "The use of courtesy is not limited. It can be used to advantage by everyone.

"And we can all start right here at home," I continued, "by being considerate of each other throughout the year. By making an effort to do that, we'll naturally extend the same treatment to other people we meet during our lifetime. And if other families do the same thing, everyone would be much happier. In fact, the 'Christmas Spirit' would be with us all year instead of just a few weeks during the holiday season!"

"This is a good time to start," said Kitty. "Everybody give me a hand with the dishes and cleaning up the kitchen. Then we can all catch that early TV show we like so much."

11-15-54



83

Bill Saver



*Merry Christmas*

*and a  
Happy  
New Year  
to all*



Chicago Transit Authority