

# How St. Nick's mail bag overflows

Dear Santa: I have only once gotten a toy from you. But I'm not sure it came from you. I am also not sure I believe in you. But anyways, here are the things I would like for Christmas—two pair of boxing gloves, a power passer race set, a baseball and mitt, and some army men. Love Jeff.

Dear Santa Claus: I sent a letter to you the 7th of November. And I like to know more about you and your place please. How small are your elves and some people don't believe in you. Thank You Mike.

Dear Santa: Is there any X-Mas stores up there? For X-Mas will you

bring me a Raggedy Ann and a vacuum cleaner that really works. Please bring a toy dolly for baby sister. From Cindy.

With no intention to crush your childhood fantasies, it's a known fact among most adults that the Big Claus does employ a little help during the holidays to sort through all his cards and letters—and they are not elves. (Sorry.) In fact, there is one woman you might call a Santa's helper of sorts.

Arlene Chors, secretary to the director of finance of the Detroit Post Office, is responsible for sorting through about 3,000 letters to Santa, beginning as early as July.

THE LETTERS ARE ADDRESSED in a variety of ways, she says, either to Santa Claus, or Claws, Clouse and Santa Klau. The envelopes have listed his address as North America, Reindeer Lane, South Pole, Christmas Lane, 123 Snowtrails, Big Castle, Christmas Town, and even to the care of J.L. Hudson Toy Shop.

Mrs. Chors reads all of the letters

and sets aside those she determines are from needy families. Then she passes those along to individuals and companies that have contacted her and are interested in donating presents and clothing.

She describes her role as that of a go-between the door and the families.

"It's really amazing but those who really help by providing toys, clothes, baskets and even trees, say their, 'Christmas has been made more worthwhile because of they're helping them,'" she says.

One of the letters she received this year is from a young boy who writes: Dear Santa: I want something for Christmas and my father is poor he got a little job and he can't buy nothing for Christmas. And I sad because that is a special day. I have three brother yong then me. My name is manuel my age 11.

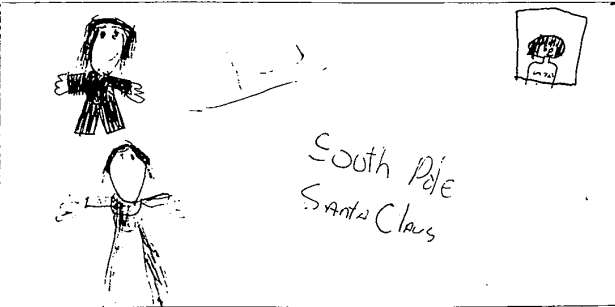
He continues to say he and his brother Miguel want pocket calculators. His brother Eddie wants a real cassette recorder for fun and Edgar wants a James Bond walkie talker.

ANOTHER LETTER is from a woman who describes herself as an A.D.C. mother with five children, two of which are undergoing post-operative treatment for cancer. They are boys between the ages of five and 18. She asks for any help in any way.

"Food, clothes or toys will be greatly appreciated," she writes. Mrs. Chors says the practice of the post office responding to needy families' requests began some years ago on the Johnny Carson Show, when it was broadcast from New York. He read several cute and clever letters to Santa on his program and also included a few from needy families. The response was great. Carson then suggested that anyone interested in sending a present to one of these children should contact the postmaster.

If anyone would like to send a present to one of the above mentioned families, contact the Observer for further information.

Dear santa, I have only onee gotten a toy from you. But I am not sure it came from you. I am also not sure I Beleave in you. But anyway here are the things I woud like for Christmas, 2 pair Boxing gloves, a powerpasser race set, a Baseball and m.t.t, and some army men.



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