

There really is a Santa, but he's low on cash

THE SITUATION LOOKED grim. Kris Kringle, at a hearing that would rule on his sanity, had just admitted to the New York State Supreme Court that he believed himself to be Santa Claus.

The judge coughed. "I believe Mr. Kringle may have misunderstood the question. I'm sure he meant that he played Santa Claus," the judge said, looking at the round, white-bearded man on the witness stand.

Kringle's lawyer went on the offensive.

"Mr. Kringle is said not to be sane because he believes himself to be Santa Claus. Now, that would be logical if you (the judge) or I or the district attorney here thought we

were Santa Claus. But if he is the person he believes himself to be, then he's just as sane as we are."

MOST OF YOU grown-ups out there probably would agree with the district attorney in "Miracle on 34th Street." No one in his right mind would declare himself to be Santa.

The rest of you probably think of Santa with the pseudo-sophistication of young Susan Walker. "It's just like my mother said. You're a nice old man with whiskers."

Well, you're all wrong. There really is a Santa Claus and I can prove it.

He calls himself Gene "Santa" Reeves, and he lives in Westland,

Sandra Armbruster

not the North Pole. This guy really thinks he's Santa, and if you could hear him laugh, you'd think so, too.

LIKE KRIS Kringle in the movie, this Santa used a sleigh for his traditional Thanksgiving Day parade, 1935-45, for Hudson's in Detroit, then moved on to Grinnell's and Pontiac.

For the last 20 years, Santa's appearances have been strictly for charity. Now, however, he's traded in his sleigh for a white Santamo-

bile, which he decorates with the names of all the elves who help him gather gifts for children and foster grandparents throughout the year.

Santa began his appearances this year with the annual tree lighting in Westland. But his favorite stops include the 3-6-year-olds at Dorsey Community Center and the retarded youngsters at Bryant Junior High in Livonia and the Rose Kennedy Respite Center in Westland.

"They come up to Santa, and he has a pocket full of Kleenex. They

sit on my lap and I wipe their faces and their snotty noses," he said, adding a jolly "Ho, ho, ho! That's it. Oh geez, that's it."

AND IF THAT'S not enough to convince you, I have authoritative proof that Gene really is Santa — the very same proof offered in "Miracle on 34th Street."

You see, Santa depends on donations for his workshop, and things have been a "little slow this year." Santa said he is so far \$1,500 in the red.

Donations can be made to Santa's Christmas Fund, 37789 Hix-

ford, Apartment F-12, Westland 48105.

"All you have to do to address it to Gene 'Santa' Reeves, Westland, Michigan and I'll get it. Did you know that, sweetheart?"

Well, if so, let an agency than the post office of the U.S. federal government recognize Gene as Santa, who are we to doubt?

Gene's mother had some good advice for non-believers.

"You must believe, you must have faith. Just because things don't turn out the way you want you still have to believe in people."

FINE PAINTINGS, GRAPHICS, SILVER AND DECORATIVE ARTS

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Friday, December 13, 1985 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AUCTION

Friday, December 13, 1985 - 7 p.m., precisely
Saturday, December 14, 1985 - 11 a.m., precisely
Sunday, December 15, 1985 - 12 noon, precisely
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