

# POLICE ARE HOSTS TO THE CITY'S POOR

## Thousands of Children Receive Presents and Food in Most of the Stations.

### MANY GIFTS FOR SOLDIERS

#### War Camp Community Service and Other Agencies Arranging En- tertainments for Them.

Thousands of children were entertained at Christmas tree celebrations yesterday by members of the Police Department at station houses throughout the city, as well as by workers in community and settlement houses, churches, schools, and other institutions observing the custom of brightening the season for families who lack means of observing the season themselves. From many of the police stations packages of food and clothing also were distributed among the needy.

A little girl standing at the Christmas tree in West Sixty-eighth Street station expressed her joy at the generosity of the police by confiding to a Sergeant that her mother had told her to pray for a doll, and added her surprise that her prayer had been answered. This was typical of many children who viewed the police invitation to a party with some suspicion. In the West Sixty-eighth Street Station Captain Frank Tierney took the part of Santa Claus to the joy of some 5,000 children. The first group came at 10 o'clock and the entertainment in their honor was given at intervals until a very tired Santa Claus made an entry on the "blotter" and went home last night. As the children entered they were confronted with a great tree fairly loaded down with presents and ornaments. While the children were still looking an orchestra began to play, and later theatrical folk fairly kept the small guests screaming with laughter.

#### In Other Police Stations.

The police of the East Fifty-first Street Station were hosts to 2,200 children. Captain William Duggan, dressed as Santa Claus, was waiting to welcome each little visitor, with an entertainment committee of policemen. Each child got a "Christmas bundle," and in some cases the bundle was almost too much for the child to lug away.

Captain Maurice Hannon played Santa Claus to 2,250 children in the Elizabeth Street Station house. Here there were not only toys, but the police also sent out substantial gifts of food to poor families in the precinct. Rear Admiral Usher and Commander F. D. Burns of the Third Naval District, and Deputy Police Commissioner Frederick A. Wallis, were present and helped to entertain the children. At the West 135th Street Station about 830 children were made happy. Basket dinners were also given away to the needy. Captain P. Day of the West 152d Street Station estimated last night after the tree lights had been put out and the entertainers had gone that about 600 children had been entertained and sent away carrying gifts.

At the East Eighty-eighth Street Station, in charge of Captain Patrick J. Cray, about 2,500 children were entertained. The searcher for pure joy could have ended his search at the East Sixty-seventh Street Station, where Lieutenant John Tinker cut short his vacation to play Santa Claus. He took up the rôle at the unanimous request of every man in the station house, and he gave presents to 1,000 small guests who were afterward allowed to dance and disport themselves in defiance of every station house rule. Captain James Wall headed the Reception Committee.

At the Morrisania Station, in the Bronx, about 400 children were present, and 200 mothers received the "fixings" of a holiday dinner from Captain John J. Lantry. About 200 children attended an entertainment in the Red Cross rooms at the Kingsbridge Police Station. Captain Matthew McKeon distributed presents. Two jazz bands provided music in the East 126th Street Station and every one danced.

#### Other Entertainments.

Besides police entertainments, there were plenty of other chances for the children of the city to enjoy Christmas. There was fun in plenty all day in the house of the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association, 45 West Street. At least 1,200 children visited there during the day and 250 baskets of food were sent out to families. The children were admitted by age groups, this having been provided for by issuing colored tickets. Each received several presents from the tree and there was singing and other entertainment. Albert Rucus, President of the Boy's Club, and Joseph Zalloom, relayed in the part of St. Nick. The association, through the co-operation of the Women's Apparel Association, was able to send out 500 packages of clothing.

The Christmas celebration of the Social Service Bureau of Bellevue Hospital, of which Miss Mary E. Wadley is the head began its Christmas season yesterday and will continue it throughout the week. Twenty children, ten boys and ten girls, representing the most needy cases found in the work of the Social Service Bureau, were entertained by Mrs. William Adams Delano of 131 East Thirty-sixth Street. There was a real Christmas dinner for the children and plenty of gifts. The doctors, nurses, and social service workers of Bellevue Medical Clinic entertained 100 children at their clubhouse at 421 East Twenty-fifth Street. All the children received gifts.

More than 12,000 families received supplies for Christmas dinner yesterday from the Christmas Fund of the New York American. The distribution was made at the Armory of the 69th Regiment, in Lexington Avenue at Twenty-fifth Street. The Fireman's and the Letter Carrier's Bands furnished music during the day. About 250 children also were entertained by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Presents were distributed, and the guests were entertained by volunteer actors from theatres here.

#### Program for Soldiers.

An elaborate Christmas program for soldiers and sailors was begun by the War Camp Community Service yesterday. Its plans for the entertainment of men in uniform will be continued until after New Year's Day, and there is not an hour in the week that soldiers, sailors, and marines cannot find entertainment somewhere. A feature of the entertainment provided for uniformed men is the Christmas tree parties, homelike gatherings where the men may make merry. This feature especially appeals to men from small towns. One party of this kind was held in St. Thomas's Church Club, at 8 West Fifty-third Street.

The Cardinal Farley Soldiers' and Sailors' Service Club, at 15 East Thirtieth Street, entertained 200 soldiers and sailors last night. Arrangements have been made to furnish three meals today, including a turkey dinner, to 500 or 600 service men. There will be no charge for the meals. The club has a dormitory with 200 beds, a writing room, reading room, billiard room, bowling alley, and a canteen.

The Pershing Club, for officers of the United States and allied nations, was opened in the old St. Bartholomew's Church, at Forty-fourth Street and Madison Avenue, and Christmas Day there will be celebrated by an "open house" for men in uniform. There will be a continuous vaudeville show, starting at 10 o'clock in the morning and lasting until 11 o'clock at night. There will

also be dancing in the afternoon and evening, and refreshments will be served. After 5 o'clock in the afternoon the club will be open only to officers. Another event of the day was the opening of the Debarcation Hostess House, at Forty-first Street and Lexington Avenue, by the Young Women's Christian Association. Here in the afternoon some of the soldiers from out of town met women relatives.

Christmas celebrations in Wall Street yesterday were hampered by the steady rain, and there was an absence of the usual skylarking of brokers on the different exchanges in the last sessions before Christmas. On the Consolidated Stock Exchange a brass band appeared about 1 o'clock and business was suspended when the national anthem was being played. From then on until the close of business an hour later the band played patriotic and popular music, and the Consolidated brokers paid little attention to buying and selling.

After 3 o'clock the trading floor was thrown open to visitors and dancing and merrymaking continued until 4 o'clock.

One of the bright spots in the financial district was the Wall Street Navy Canteen, which is run for the benefit of navy men and women below the Curb Market in Broad Street. Captain H. Renwick Eagle and her volunteer workers, aided by yeowomen and yeomen, saw to it that a big Christmas tree in the canteen was decorated.

Rain prevented the carnival arranged for last night at the Tree of Light in Madison Square, but the tree will be illuminated regardless of the weather. The allied children who were to have been the hosts have postponed their carnival to Thursday night at 8 o'clock. It will continue until 9 o'clock. The Tree of Light is under the auspices of the anonymous group of persons who have decorated it for several years. The tree at the Battery put up by the War Camp Community Service will also be illuminated every night this week.

Rain also prevented the out-of-doors program at the dedication of New Temple Place, Schermerhorn Street and Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, last night. Services were held in the Central Y. W. C. A. The Christmas tree that has been put up by the Central Y. W. C. A. was lighted up.

A striking Christmas Eve celebration took place on Swinburne Island. The wounded sailors from the Naval Hospital erected on the lonely island a Tree of Light as a Christmas beacon to the incoming ships. One of the wounded boys was asked why they had put up the tree, covered with many colored lights, far away from any city, and he replied:

"Those boys coming in will be glad to know some one has remembered them, and that they are going to have friends and stockings when they land. It is Christmas on the water the same as it is on land."

#### Many Entertainments Today.

Many and elaborate are the programs for the celebration today. The activities of the Salvation Army will include Christmas celebration in Madison Square, the Christmas tree at the Forty-first Street Hotel, and the entertainment at its huts at Camp Dix. There will be a dinner for 1,500 army men by the Rocky Mountain Club at the Astor at 1 P. M.

The Women's Apparel Association will give a Christmas party at 4 o'clock in the Bush Terminal Sales Building, 130 West Forty-second Street. The guests will be the children of men in the service and needy children who have been recommended by social workers. At the Brace Memorial Newsboys Home, 244 William Street, there will be a Christmas dinner at 5 P. M. This is an annual event given by Thomas W. Lamont in memory of Evert Jansen Wendell. At night there will be a tree and the distribution of gifts. The Welfare Department of Public School 62 will act as host to forty children. It will distribute useful gifts.

The Seamen's Church Institute, 35 South Street, will keep open house today for seamen and ship officers who are at this port. The Stage Women's War Relief will present eleven programs to camps and base hospitals today, including the first entertainment to be given at the Grand Central Palace Hospital.

Fifty crippled children from Bellevue Hospital will be entertained at a Christmas tree party by Mrs. Stowe Phelps at her home, 161 East Seventy-fourth Street. The children will be taken to the party by Miss Yvonne Gourd, who has furnished a tree and gifts for the 300 children at Bellevue. The Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense will entertain 100 children at the Strand Theatre today. There will be a Christmas tree at the Wall Street Navy Canteen, 35 Broad Street.