



Santa Anderson wishes all at Prep love, peace, and a little bit of lasagna. For more about the real Santa, see interview below.

Harold Claus recalls Santa's road to fame

by Kenneth Freundlich

Last week I got an exclusive interview with Harold Claus, father of Santa, in which he told me how his son got started in the business.

Q: What business are you in, sir?

A: I was an advertising agent for Johnson, O'Reilly, and Claus. I'm retired now and live in Miami Beach.

Q: When did your boy first become interested in becoming a Christmas symbol?

A: I first noticed it when he was 17. He was a big kid for his age, around 200 pounds, and he always went around the house practicing his "Ho-Ho-Ho." His older brother Stanley tried to convince Santa to join him in his business.

Q: What business was that?

A: Hair styling.

Q: I imagine you weren't too pleased with Santa.

A: You're quite right. I told him "Santa, why don't you shave off that silly beard and lose some weight?" "Son", I said, "you're college material." But no, he wanted to be a big-shot toy man.

Q: When did he actually start his business?

A: He moved out of the house at 20 and flew to Rio de Janeiro to set up shop.

Q: Rio, sir?

A: Yup. That's where he recruited his elves.

Q: Where did he get the reindeer?

A: Saul's Exotic Animal Shop in Hackensack.

Q: What made him decide to move to the North Pole?

A: The real estate taxes were lower.

Q: Did Santa ever talk to you about retiring?

A: Only once. But then I reminded him that he wasn't covered by Social Security and he dropped the idea.

Q: One last question. Would you tell me, sir, what makes those reindeer fly?

A: You wouldn't want to have Santa busted, would you?

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RUTGERS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1975

Julian Schoicket elected president

Julian Schoicket won the School Council presidency in last week's elections, winning about one-third of the vote. Tony Jones was elected vice-president. The new secretary is Doug Stahl, and Lynn Kosobucki won the close election for treasurer.

Julian Schoicket, running for president, stated, "Because I've been at Prep since kindergarten, I feel I know the school inside out." His announced goals were to develop more student unity and increase student participation on the Board of Trustees and on the Council.

As a candidate, Mary Ann Hatala said she felt she was qualified to be president because of her "initiative to complete things I start" and her "perpetual habit of organization." She said she likes the "easy learning atmosphere" at Prep.

Presidential candidate Bruce Baldinger said his ideas were to have seniors leave for lunch, set up a way to help students find summer jobs, amend the boys' dress code, and get students more involved in the school.

Annual elections held by Board of Trustees

The Corporation of Rutgers Preparatory School held its annual meeting last Wednesday evening. During the meeting, Mr. N. Walter Szymanski was elected President of the Corporation. The members of the Corporation also elected new members and officers of the Board of Trustees.

The officers elected were: President, Mr. Roy O'Brien; Vice President, Mr. Newton Chanin; Secretary, Mr. Richard Schatzman; and Treasurer, Mr. Harold Oertel.

Fourteen vacancies on the Board were filled by Mrs. Carol Kosobucki, Mr. Alton Dunn, Dr. David Kingsley, and Mr. Anthony Scialabba. Others elected were Dr. Vincent Galdi, Mr. John Kosci, Mr. Richard Schatzman, Mr. Irving Spiegel, Mr. Anthony Schobel, Mr. Robert Campbell, Mr. Mark Weitzen, Mr. Eugene Wolfson, Mr. Jay Krivitsky, and Dr. Kin Poon Tam.

New student Joel Baker ran for president to work for several changes in the school. They included a designated smoking area outdoors with plenty of garbage cans, a modified dress code "to keep up with the times," and seniors leaving for lunch.

Roman Bukachevsky wanted to be president because he "understands the school." He suggested creating a "student gripe box" to spark forum discussions, and favored the acquisition of a permanent stage for drama productions. He also wanted a relaxed dress code.

If elected vice-president, Tony Jones said he, too, would favor inviting other schools to Prep dances. He felt that dances are a good way to raise money.

Vice-presidential candidate Myra Frisch wanted to encourage

greater student involvement by having "special programs with outside groups," different types of dances, and perhaps a pep rally.

New student Maria Troncoso said that as vice-president she would plan dances with other schools and with a band. She said she likes Prep because she feels motivated to work here.

Doug Stahl ran unopposed "like other great leaders, such as George Washington and Jeff Schwartz," as Doug put it.

Lynne Kosobucki, running for treasurer, suggested Council white elephant sales and issuing student identification cards in order to get student discounts.

Walter H. Placzek said that as treasurer he would favor more dances. He felt he was responsible enough to carry out the job.

Career Day planning evolves into fruitful school experience

"Along with the forums, I think that Career Day has been the most successful innovation of the student council since I became president," said School Council President Janet Borrus. Career Day was not only a learning experience for many, but also an enjoyable one.

Although more people chose law as one of their six courses for the day, the lectures from the United States Army were the most effective to many people. According to freshman Walter Placzek, "In addition to being very humorous, the lectures tried to evoke emotions of ambition and of the desire for power in everyone. One of them said, 'If you never quit in the army, you are guaranteed to be able to boss a whole lot of people someday.'" Freshman John Streu was affected so greatly by their speeches that he has already requested several pamphlets and brochures on the Army.

Career Day was profitable for other reasons. According to Walter Placzek, "Career Day opened up to the students a wider variety of professions that the school could ever possibly offer. To Mr. Eugene Bratek, Director of Development and history teacher, Career Day had a humanizing effect. 'Every lawyer isn't like Petrocilli. Career Day helped remove from

our minds the stereotyped images of people of different professions which have been caused mainly by television."

Philip Kosnett, the student who conceived the idea for Career Day, at one point predicted that it would be "a day of anarchy," but Phil was pleasantly surprised that Career Day ran quite smoothly and that confusion was minimal. Some people, though, made minor mistakes. For example, Mr. Lee Anderson accidentally went to the wrong lecture. "Eventually I realized that this wasn't where I was supposed to be. But I was enjoying the lecture so much, I decided to stay anyway!"

Career Day had certain "kinks that had to be ironed out," said Janet Borrus. Janet, however, is quite certain that there will be another Career Day next year, and she hopes that it will become a perennial practice here at Rutgers Prep.

Mid-Year Exam Schedule 1976

Wednesday, January 14: Review Day—student attendance is optional
Thursday, January 15: English
Friday, January 16: Languages
Monday, January 19: History
Tuesday, January 20: Math
Wednesday, January 21: Science and Art History

Same old story — faculty 23, seniors 6

Seniors huddle around Joe Yurcin for pre-game planning . . .

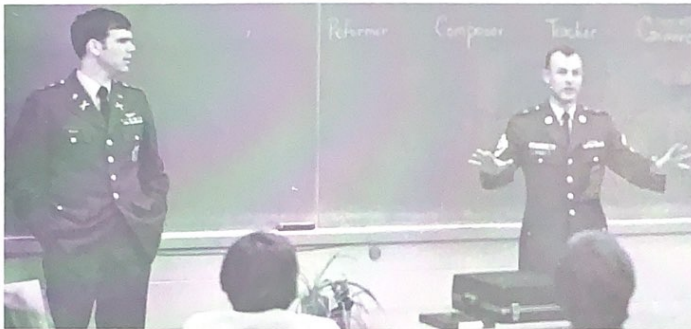


Dr. Frank Spurduto, Sol Kaim, and Victor Schwartz give it all they've got in mid-game scramble . . .



Referee Joel Baker and faithful teammates escort a wounded Howard Maltz in post-game despair.





Lieutenant Molin, on the left, and Sergeant Murray, on the right, both from the Somerville Recruiting Station, conduct class on army recruiting on Career Day, December 3. See story on page 1.

Christmas wrestling tournament to be one of three such events

The wrestling team, having opened its season, is looking towards an exciting Christmas vacation. Unlike years past, when the recess meant only longer practices to the wrestlers, this year's vacation will be spiced up with the excitement of a tournament. The Christmas tournament, to be held at New Brunswick High School, will feature mostly public schools from the central Jersey area. Wrestling in the tournament will give the wrestlers greater exposure competing against public school opponents. The competition in public school wrestling is generally considered to be fiercer than that in private schools.

The Christmas tournament is only one of three tournament type events the team is involved with this season. In addition to the Christmas tournament the team is wrestling in a quadrangular meet

and the private school state tournament which will once again be held at Prep this year. Coach Buddy Frezza feels the team should perform well in the tournaments: "We have four or five potential champions." Among these are co-captain and two-time state champion Paul Grippo, as well as Dave Yurcin, and Tony Jones who took 2nd and 4th in their respective weight classes at last year's state tournament.

The team may not be as strong in dual meet competition as in the tournaments. Two factors contributing to this are the bunching of weight class and injuries. Because some of the team's wrestlers weigh the same, some will have to wrestle in weight classes other than their natural one against much heavier opponents. Injuries have also been a problem. Those injured were hurt during the fall and were re-

injured early in the winter season.

Despite these two factors, Coach Frezza is confident. He feels that while much of the team's success depends on untested wrestlers, this should be no problem. In the past, similar situations have provided pleasant surprises. Coach Frezza cites the example of Jay Goldbaum, who last year, in his first varsity season, racked up a record of 10-4, of which 8 wins were pins. Two of this year's untested wrestlers are freshman Alex Wiley, a product of Prep's junior team in his first varsity season, and Senior Paul Daviet, who saw limited varsity action last year.

Swimmers develop young team

"This season is a rebuilding season," Coach Fenstermaker stated. Coach Fenstermaker, who has been running the team for the last fifteen years, feels it will be hard to fill the lack of depth which was created by the loss of several graduating seniors.

This year's team is led by Cap-

tain Charlie Daniel who says, "It is hard to tell what kind of season we're going to have. We lost many good swimmers last spring, but we have a lot of newcomers. It's pretty unpredictable. Members of this year's team are seniors Gary Brown, Tom Flynn, and newcomer Neal Shore. Juniors include Rick Zankel, who is the most improved swimmer, Bruce Baldinger, and Roman Bukachevsky. Bob Murray, a junior who swims two very difficult events, will not be present for the team's first three meets. He will be a big help to the team when he gets back from Montana.

The bulk of the team comes from the sophomore class. Returning are Phil Brenner, Jon Strassberg, Doug Stahl, Ken Schindler, and Paul Brown. Jeff Rutter and Kevin "Killer" Kane, both of whom played basketball last year, have switched to swimming this year. They should help the team a lot.

The girls, who have only been allowed to swim on the team since last year, are Jo-Ann Mandel and Anne Picker. The only freshman on the team is Billy Erbring.

The swim team practices at the Y.M.C.A. in New Brunswick. The swimmers encourage spectators to cheer them at home meets.

Basketball team composed of 'strongest front line' in years

Winning is a custom on Rutgers Prep athletic teams and this year's basketball team is expected to continue this custom. Coach O'Connell is optimistic and feels the team could be as good as any team in Somerset County.

"We probably have the best and strongest front line we have had since I started coaching at Prep 24 years ago." This is how Coach O'Connell describes the front line consisting of 6'7" senior co-captains Todd Milligan and Nate Mullins, 6'1" junior Tony Scialabba. Todd, who has scored 1063 points in two years of varsity play, will be starting at forward, while Nate, who has scored 902 points in as many years, will start at center. Tony Scialabba, last year's sixth man on the squad, will play the other forward spot. Coach O'Connell feels, "These boys can shoot, jump, and rebound as well as any trio I have ever had."

Starting in the back court are senior Mike Ballai and Johnny O'Connell. Neither of these two guards have had any real varsity experience, but Coach O'Connell thinks they can do the job. If there is any trouble in the back court, Todd could be moved back there, but Coach O'Connell would rather have him under the basket.

Reserve strength is this year's major weakness. Seniors Ken Fried and Peter Weprinsky, on the jayvee squad last year, will help the front court crew. Freshman Doug Braun as well as Peter will substitute at the guard position. The other reserves are seniors Russell Best, and Bob Campbell.

'Our Town' closes with a bang; Brecht is next

The fall production of *Our Town*, written by the late Thornton Wilder, was performed November 21 and 22. The performance was unique in that there was no scenery or props, and thus the realism conveyed in the play was suggested through pantomime and the actors' and audience's imagination. The future library in the Middle School provided for an ideal stage setting for this type of play.

Mr. Pierce is generally satisfied with the present theatre facilities. He feels they will be very suitable

for future productions, as long as the proposed library remains a theatre.

The spring play will be *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, by Bertolt Brecht, who was a political writer of the 1930's. This play, like many of Brecht's other known works such as *Three Penny Opera* and *Mother Courage and Her Children*, is a social criticism. In *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, Brecht satirizes the evils brought into society as a result of over-concern and obsession for money.

A major concern in choosing an appropriate play is the number of female and male parts. The coming play offers three major female parts and at least four major male parts, along with many minor roles. Mr. Pierce encourage both students and faculty to take parts in the play.

The play will be performed March 12 and 13, 1976. This presentation will be different from previous ones in that tickets will be printed and sold in advance.

Tryouts took place during the last week of school before Christmas vacation so that both students and faculty could begin to study their particular roles over the Christmas break.



"Our Town" folk look on as George Gibbs, sophomore Christopher Combest, and Emily Webb, junior Merle Witkin, are joined in wedlock.

Girls' volleyball shows strength

In spite of being a relatively young team, the girls' volleyball team has gotten their season off to a good start. The girls won their first two openers against East Brunswick Vo Tech on November 25 and December 2, and they also won their game on December 5 against Collegiate.

Although the team lacks experience in game-playing, Coach Tina Leone feels the girls have the enthusiasm and interest necessary to overcome their problems. Returning seniors Vicky Banko, Pam Csik, and Ieva Miesnieks are providing the leadership, skill, and techniques needed to help the younger members of the team improve in all aspects of the game.

Mrs. Leone thinks that the girls may lose a few games, but if they continue working hard and playing their best, the team will surely have a winning season.

**HAVE A
HAPPY HOLIDAY**



Santa bids farewell to Rutgers Prep with last tidings of good cheer.

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Editor-in-Chief

Elizabeth Pickar

Staff: Karen Klein, Richmond Cohen, Walter H. Placzek, Myra Frisch, Robert Weiss, Ieva Miesnieks, Merle Witkin, Janet Berkowitz, Chris Combest, Andy Golden, Kenneth Freundlich, Dave Yurcin, Kenneth Schindler

Photographers
Advisor

Janet Berkowitz, Cindy Berkowitz
Mr. Bratek