



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

36 °F / 2 °C

Rain

at 9:38 PM

Advisory!

[Click for Forecast](#)



Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006

Just another day in paradise

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

A truly unique shopping experience - Gifts for that special person! Friendly - Affordable

HERRING BAY MERCANTILE

<http://www.herringbaymercantile.com>

Located in beautiful downtown Seldovia - 275 Main St.



[Current Spotlight](#) | [Spotlight Archives](#) - click year : [2005](#) • [2006](#) •

Santa Claus - The Smiles Say it All

by Tom Glover



The original "Santa Claus" was named Nicholas and was born during the third century AD in Patara (a small village located on the current day southern coast of Turkey.) His parents raised him to be a devout Christian, but died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Nicholas followed Jesus' teaching and sold his entire inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known

The many faces of Santa

Jolly Old St. Nick

Father Christmas

Father Frost

Joulupukki

throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Nicholas was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. He died December 6, 343 AD in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church and the anniversary of his death became St. Nicholas Day.

A brief historical account of Santa in the USS . . .

1600's	The Puritans made it illegal to mention St. Nicolas' name and people were not allowed to exchange gifts, light a candle, or even sing Christmas carols.
1773	Santa first appeared in the media as St. A Claus.
1822	Clement Moore wrote a poem titled "An Account of a Visit from Saint Nicolas" , which later became known as "The Night before Christmas."
1841	A Philadelphia merchant, J.W. Parkinson, hired a man to dress up in a "Criscringle" outfit and climb the chimney of his store.
1897	"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" letter.
1920's	Santa's image of a bearded, over-weight, jolly man dressed in a red suit with white trim becomes a standard.
1931	An artist for The Coca-Cola™ Company drew a series of Santa images in their Christmas advertisements which continue to the present day.
1949	Johnny Marks wrote the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." The song was recorded by Gene Autry and became his all-time best seller. (Next to "White Christmas" it is the most popular song of all time.)

A time to remember more than Santa. . .

Santa Claus is an important part of Christmas today, but don't forget that he devoted his entire life to serving God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Christmas day is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Kris Kringle

Père Noël

Sabdiklos

Saint Nicolas

Sancte Claus

Sinter Klaas

Weihnachtsmann

Patron Saint in of children

Patron Saint of sailors

Patron Saint in Austria

Patron Saint in Belgium

Patron Saint in Germany

Patron Saint in Greece

Patron Saint in Italy

Patron Saint in Netherlands

Patron Saint in Russia

Patron Saint in Sicily

Patron Saint in Switzerland



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

If you want to track Santa through NORAD (North American Air Defense Command): [Click here](#)

Copyright © 2006 Seldovia.com, Inc. and Seldovia Gazette. All rights reserved. The Seldovia Gazette is published weekly by Seldovia.com, Inc. Contents of this publication may not be used or reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or manner without the express written permission of Seldovia.com, Inc. [Click here for additional details.](#)