**Christmas and Money**

**The boss sings to his employees: “Oh, you better not shout, you better not cry. You better not pout, I’m telling you why. There is no Christmas bonus this year!” *(Art Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**There’s nothing like the Christmas season to put a little bounce in your checks. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**Someone has just dreamed up a new kind of Christmas Club: You save up enough money to pay for past year’s gifts. *(Great Northern Goat)***

**Mom: “Heart Lamar, you are not to use my credit card to make online purchases!” Heart: “I'm sorry, Mom, but isn't that the doll you always wanted when you were a kid? I thought if you finally got her, you'd find your Christmas spirit.” Mom: “Yeah, the true meaning of Christmas, buying things with money that we don't have. Thanks for reminding me.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

**Each year comes rich December, with gifts we trim the tree.  
Poor Dad, who pays, remember -- most trimmed of all is he. (Joys of Life)**

**A parent decreed one Christmas that she was no longer going to remind her children of their thank-you-note duties. As a result, their grandmother never received acknowledgments of the generous checks she had given. The next year things were different, however. "The children came over in person to thank me," the grandparent told a friend triumphantly. “How wonderful!” the friend exclaimed. “What do you think caused the change in behavior?” “Oh, that's easy,” the grandmother replied. “This year I didn't sign the checks.” (June Bruno, in Reader's Digest)**

**The holiday season is supposed to be full of “Ho, ho, ho...” Why does it end up being “Owe, owe, owe”? (Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)**

**Son: “Dad, can I have some money to buy you a Christmas present?” Dad sighs as he gives his son ten dollars. Son: “Ten dollars? I can’t buy you anything nice for ten dollars!” Dad: “Just do your best, Son.” Son: “Man, what a cheapskate!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**One man received a Christmas card from the savings and loan association where he had his mortgage: “Merry Christmas from our house to our house.” (Charlie Hanson)**

**Once upon a time, banks all over the country issued their own currency. Even after the National Bank Act of 1863 imposed a 10 percent tax on such notes, many banks continued to make their own money. By 1935, the national banks had transferred this power to the Federal Reserve. Yet throughout most of this nation's history, bank-issued currency, now relegated to myriad numismatic collections, was as legal a tender as any. The banks issued every denomination of paper money now in circulation, plus one: the three-dollar bill. Specific designs varied from bank to bank. But one design was used more than any other. That preeminent picture was, as on current currency, of someone. Someone you've known all your life. He appeared on the three-dollar bills issued by the Howard Banking Company of Boston and the Central Bank of Troy and the Pittsfield Bank and the White Mountain Bank--and by one Manhattan bank bearing the name of the man on the three-dollar bill: the Saint Nicholas Bank of New York City. And yes, I do mean to tell you that the person whose image was once absolutely lawfully engraved on the dead-serious 100 percent legitimate three-dollar bill -- was Santa Claus . (Paul Aurandt, in Destiny & 102 Other Real Life Mysteries , p. 89)**

**Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it. *(Dick Lamm, former Colorado Governor)***

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