



WHAT DOES SANTA SMOKE?

DOES SANTA SMOKE A CIGAR OR A PIPE?

by Minda Stephens

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by Minda Stephens ©MindaStephens2007/2008

PART I –

There is a debate raging among cigar and pipe aficionados as to whether Santa smokes a cigar or a pipe. That's right, the world is being held in suspense. Does Santa, (a.k.a., the Big Man, The Head Dude of the North Pole, the Commander in Chief of Elves and All They Survey, the Master of the Reindeer Games, the Commodore of All That Is Naughty and All That Is Nice, among many other titles) smoke a pipe or a cigar? The debate has the country divided and the opposing parties (pipes vs. cigars) are at odds grappling over the issue of pipe vs. cigar.

The pipe faction believes that, encouraged by the poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas" by Clement Moore, Santa smokes "The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath." The Pro-pipe group remarks that Santa would be better off smoking a pipe, and that the original illustration for the Clement Moore poem indicates a pipe designed like the Royal Dublin Double Red. They submit the idea that if Santa were a cigar smoker, he would leave ashes and cigar butts in homes when he takes his breaks to eat all those cookies that are left out for him. They also insist that Santa only stops for a cookie break every three thousand miles, when he changes the reindeer harnesses and gives them some of the carrots that children leave out for them.

The cigar faction reasons that, because of the compact nature of a fine cigar, Santa, being a practical yet sophisticated man would definitely enjoy a good stogie. Imagine, they argue the changing of reindeer harnesses while wielding a pipe! No, that image calls for a fine cigar like a Winston Churchill 10, these are cigars designed for a working man who is intent on

getting the job done. Besides, they say, cigars are biodegradable and easy to stow away on a long sleigh ride.

So, after our staff called the North Pole and interviewed elves who occupy key positions in Santa's workshop and warehouses, the findings were inconclusive. The elves agreed that only Santa and Mrs. Claus know what he prefers, though they *did* allude to the fact that Mrs. Claus shops online and was seen surfing an online purveyor of fine cigars *and* pipes.

The debate was finally resolved by a visit to the Council of Retired Senior Elves (the C.R.S.E.) and Santa's worldwide agents. They took a vote, and here was their conclusion. Santa actually smokes cigars from Miami southward and pipes at locations north of Texas and Florida and all latitudinal points aligned with those locations. Santa smokes pipes when he travels north, with few exceptions, these are: England, where he often smokes Churchill 10's, and California, where he smokes anything he darn well pleases. So have a jolly holiday! Oh, and leave out some carrots for the reindeer.

PART II - UPDATE: SANTA, CIGARS, AND WINSTON CHURCHILL

This year news sources revealed that Santa smokes both cigars and pipes. Findings concluded that Santa actually smokes cigars from Miami southward and pipes at locations north of Texas and Florida and all latitudinal points aligned with those locations. Santa smokes pipes when he travels north, with a few exceptions, these are: England, where he often smokes Churchill 10's and California, where he smokes anything he wishes and has been known to share a cigar with Hollywood celebrities who donate their resources to charity. Of course those are times when said celebs do not know they are smoking with *the real* Santa Claus.

The reason for the exception in England is because; it is well-known over in Jolly Old England and the rest of the U.K. that Santa (whom they call “Father Christmas”) and Winston Churchill were actually friends. What’s more, Santa’s agents claim that Father Christmas actually presented Sir Winston with his first Churchill cigar.

Santa knows that great men require great cigars and exquisite pipe tobacco. What’s more, great women, like Mrs. Claus, know what cigars and pipe tobacco to give their men. One senior elf let it slip that Mrs. Claus has actually been known to take time out from cookie baking to take puff on a cigar herself.

We will not address anything else about the personal habits of Santa and Mrs. Claus because, well, you know what Santa says about keeping secrets.

The elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and the entire population of the North Pole send you the best holiday season ever and bid you a Happy New Year!