WHO KNOWS the origin of "Ti Bonhomme Janvier," the little man of January who used to bring gifts of fruits and nuts and occasionally firecrackers on New Year’s Eve and fill the stockings? That’s the query of Gladys Calhoun Case of New Iberia. Said she:

"In the very early days it seems the French people celebrated Christmas with a great feast and much visiting among relatives, but no gift-giving. This was reserved for New Year’s Day, or rather New Year’s Eve when Ti Bonhomme Janvier appeared. Oldtimers tell that in France they left the stockings conveniently for the little old man.

"Could it be that this is where the gift-giving of Christmas got mixed up with the habits of Ti Bonhomme Janvier, and now it is just one big celebration?"