

Santa Making Mercy Flight To E. Kildonan

Santa Claus is making a special trip to town, probably within the next week or 10 days. But most Greater Winnipeg kiddies won't see him until his regular visit the night of Dec. 24.

His special trip, at the request of the East Kildonan Kiwanis club, is to see three-year-old Gary Turnbull, 480 Washington avenue. Gary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Turnbull are afraid the little fellow won't be here at Christmas.

Gary has just returned from the Mayo clinic, at Rochester, New York, where doctors said he would die from cirrhosis of the liver within weeks or months—maybe even days.

"We appreciate very much the Free Press bringing the Turnbull tragedy to our attention. We couldn't think of letting little Gary miss Christmas and are arranging a 'dandy' for him," said Jack Willis, president of the East Kildonan Kiwanis club.

If Gary were old enough to understand, he would appreciate not only his early Christmas party but the fact the Kiwanis club is going to supply his friend, 17-year-old Billy Palmer, with a new, specially-constructed wheel chair.

Gary's next-door-neighbor, Billy has been a spastic paralytic since birth. His mother says little Gary's visits provide just about the only "bright spot" in her son's life.

Mr. Willis said Gary's Christmas party will be complete with a brilliantly decorated tree, bundles of gifts and all the trimmings. Doubtless Billy Palmer will be there, too.

Gary Turnbull Dies Two Days After Yule Party

Santa Claus came to see three-year-old Gary Turnbull, 482 Washington aveune, East Kildonan, Monday afternoon. His advance visit was none too soon.



Stricken with a fatal disease, the child, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Turnbull, was

Gary Turnbull given an early Christmas party because it was feared he would not live until Dec. 25.

Gary had a good time at his Christmas party. He was surrounded by toys, the gifts of many people who had heard of his illness. All day Tuesday Gary was a very sick boy. Tuesday night he became worse.

At 5.30 a.m. Wednesday he lapsed into a coma.

At 8.20 a.m. he was dead.

"It only took about five minutes," his father said. "He went very peacefully."

Although Gary's parents and friends had known for some time the boy could not live, it did not lessen the final shock.

"Even at the last it was hard to believe he had to go," Mr. Turnbull said. "That was the hard part."

Barker's funeral home is in charge. Funeral arrangements are not yet completed.