

How did Santa get hooked on cookies and milk?

By Kylie Mohr, NPR

You know the Christmas routine: decorate the tree, wrap gifts and leave out treats for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Marketers and Hollywood reinforce that cookie tradition for us year after year.

This year, in Reddi-Wip's "I Am Not Your Dad" commercial, a father is caught by his son nibbling cookies. In *The Santa Clause*, a Tim Allen Santa tells a little girl that he can't eat fattening treats and then returns the next year to find soymilk instead. Macaulay Culkin, as Kevin in *Home Alone*, leaves out milk and cookies without his parents around to prompt him.

Clint Black even wrote a Christmas song titled "Until Santa's Gone (Milk And Cookies)."

But cowboy crooners aside, we got to wondering: How did cookies and milk come to be Santa's refreshments of choice in the U.S., and around the world?

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