

# THE GOLDEN RULE

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**T**his child was no bully! It is none other than Charles W. Howard who was born on his family farm west of Albion in 1896. My guess is this picture was taken around the year 1900. He was destined to become our very own world-famous Santa Claus. He established his noted Santa Claus School in 1937 out of the family home and in the early 1950s transferred his property into Christmas Park.



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doubt something he learned in his Methodist Sunday School as a very young and perceptive boy.

Recently a friend of mine told that, in talking with a group of children, he was shocked to learn that they didn't know the Golden

Rule. Does it come than as any surprise that bullying is a current problem! From boyhood Charles Howard set his sights on his mission for life's accomplishments by the light of the Golden Rule. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have

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known him were touched by the essence of the true spirit of the holiday season with peace on earth, good will to all. We saw a gentleman endowed with a personification of qualities which endeared him to the magical delights of children. His imagination and his utmost integrity earned him admiration and esteem from everyone. He set an example that was based on a very simple precept: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Be a good neighbor and have a happy holiday season.