

B E F A N A

January 6, the day of the Epiphany when the Kings brought their gifts to the Child born under the star, is celebrated mainly in Rome and in South Italy where it is known as the day of the "Befana" - the old woman on a broomstick who comes down from chimney-shaft bringing gifts to good children and coal to bad ones.

Old Befana doesn't forget either traffic cops whose raised platforms at Rome's principal intersections are piled high with bottles of liquor, cartons of soft drinks and cigarettes, packages of all shapes and sizes, potted plants and bouquets of flowers, everything eatable and drinkable.

Besides being "The Day Cops Made Off With the Loot" it has been a real "festa" for everybody, and of course also for kids of the large Incom's family.

Piazza Navona was jam-packed long after midnight with parents milling about the great square and picking up the odds and ends which their children expect from the hundreds of stalls.

At the Supercinema, Home Minister Scelba, together with Gen. Galli, distributes the Police Befana.

Similar ceremonies were celebrated at the main office of the popular "Roma" football team, and at the Automobil Club oddly the only place where midget cars weren't presented to wide-eyed children.
