



The arrival of Santa Claus Brings Smiles To Guests and Children.



Optimistic children tell Santa their most secret wishes.

### TKE Gives Party For Children

On December 3, 1971, the Brothers of the Theta Beta Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity closed out their semester's activities by holding their Tenth Annual Children's Christmas Party. Each child received refreshments and gifts.

On the following day, the Brothers visited the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital in Gastonia and presented gifts to the hospitalized children. Because of the overwhelming success of this visit, the hospital has asked the fraternity to return again next year.

A chapter spokesman advised that the brothers were extremely grateful for the help extended by the Marine Corps Reserve through its Toys for Tots program, without which the party could not have been the success it was. They also appreciate the cooperation of the Woolco Department Stores, which provided a special price on the toys. The Brothers are indebted to both the Marines and Woolco for their participation.

## Crowders Mountain Saved

BY GEORGE BALL

Crowders Mountain is a small prominence in the southwestern corner of Gaston County. It is quite old geologically and of interest to scientists, hikers, and others. The mountain is privately owned, and the owners have, for the last half - century,



TKE Brothers presented each child a gift for Christmas.

made it available to anyone who wanted to use it for recreational purposes.

In July of 1970, exploratory drilling was begun on the mountain, and a strip - mining operation became a real possibility. The owners had leased the mountain to a large mining company. An option had also been given to this mining company through an intermediary.

A small group of citizens concerned by the possible destruction of this mountain, met in September, at the Schiele Museum of Natural History. They later met, several times informally; and on November 23, 1970, they established the Gaston County Conservation Society. Mr. Richard Cone was elected as first president.

Work was begun to save the mountain even before the

organization was formalized. A slide presentation showing rock formations, plants, animals, and other aspects of Crowders Mountain was prepared and widely shown throughout the county to clubs, organizations and schools, including Belmont Abbey College, where it was enthusiastically reviewed.

Petitions urging the Commissioners of Gaston County to zone the southwest corner of the county to protect it against mining operations were circulated. Several hundred names were secured on these petitions, including those of a large majority of land owners in that corner of the county. To date, however, this area has not been zoned.

During the winter of 1970 - 1971, work was begun to promote the area as a state park.

State officials were shown the slide program, and several visited the mountain. On July 31, 1971, the Board of Conservation and Development of the State of North Carolina passed a strongly - worded resolution that the state acquire Crowders and Kings Mountains for inclusion in the state park system.

Plans for this acquisition have recently begun. It is hoped that one day soon, Gaston county will have a new state park.

### Editor's Note -

Mr. George Ball is chairman of the Biology Department of Gaston College, a neighboring institution located a few miles west of the Abbey.

We are pleased with his contribution describing how the co - ordinated efforts of all sectors of the community can help towards the preservation of natural beauty.

## Grants Received

On November 12, 1971, Smith Bagley, President of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., announced that the Trustees of the Foundation granted to Belmont Abbey College \$25,000 for the purpose of maintaining and improving the existing faculty enrichment program.

The faculty enrichment program of the College involves a number of steps designed to contribute to the enhancement of the faculty. Included among these are: financial aid to complete doctoral work and to facilitate attendance at summer study, at work shops and seminars in one's academic discipline, and at professional meetings.

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