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## CIRCUS

## County schools enjoy very special festival

**Let the show begin**

Ringmaster Rhenda Cameron gets "A Circus Fantasy" started in the Upchurch School Gym.

During the week of February 25-March 1, the Hoke County Exceptional Children's Program in cooperation with the National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped sponsored "Circus of the Stars," a very special Arts Festival.

Art sessions in tin punch, macrame cake decorating, mask making, metal tooling, candy making, woodburning, sign singing, decoupage, paper weaving, collage, face painting, button making, woodworking, dance and storytelling were held throughout the county at each school.

On February 28, "The Circus of the Stars" was held at Upchurch Jr. High School. Exceptional children performed skits, dances and songs in the auditorium.

Special guest Dr. Bob Nelson, accompanied by Ellen Heidenreich, sang and led group singing. Storyteller Cynthia Brady and several eighth grade band members also performed.

Eighth grade AG students carried out the circus theme by performing as clowns between other performances.

The Upchurch gym was decorated in a circus theme with one ring and a parachute extending from the ceiling as a "Big Top."

Demonstrations in sign singing were given by Leslie Moore and Upchurch students and in doggies by Linda Scott.

The Bill Cameron family presented "A Circus Fantasy."

Instructors of the week's art sessions were Dorothy Cameron, Betty Ann McNeill, Betty Freeman, Homer Tuttle, Jan Needham, Liz White, Susan Horne, Deborah Mellraith, Mrs. Sheriff, Gloria Butler, James E. Douglas, Irma Hodgson, Brenda Ramsey, Vickie Wright, Cheryl Malone, Vicky Woodell, Lee Hunt, Annie Gatta, Carol Wood, Carolyn Pagan, Hilary Blanton, Leslie Moore and others.

**Gifted performers**

These members of the eighth grade academically gifted class performed during the circus at Upchurch. The students are: Dawn Brock, Donna Brock, Jennifer Brock, Melissa Brock, Kim Colston, Kendra Dockery, Alex Gama, Marcus Merriman, Mary Anne Poole, Susan Ragsdale, Jeff Semones, Angelina Taylor and Will Wright.