

We wish you all a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

# THE GRYPHON

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Betsy Strandberg flashes a smile in the Merchant's Association Christmas Parade.

## Merchant's Association Holds Christmas Parade

The Merchant Association sponsored their annual Christmas Parade through downtown Rocky Mount, Saturday, November 23 at 9 a.m.

The Parade covered Church, Main, and Washington Streets. It consisted of five bands, Santa Claus, Sparky the Firedog and twelve floats. None of the floats were commercial, only floats rented from Durham by the Merchant Association were used. The sunny, warm weather was perfect for a parade. A huge crowd took advantage to the good weather to attend the parade and perhaps to start their Christmas shopping while they were in the festive mood. Over 600 people marched in the bands from Rocky Mount High School, R. M. Wilson Jr. High, Elm City High, Wilson's Patriots Drum and Bugle Corps and East Carteret High.

Children between the ages of five and seven, girls in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth were the ones selected by Mrs. H. B. Thorp and Mrs. R. D. Armstrong to ride on the floats.

Many girls from Rocky Mount High School rode on floats entitled: Frosty the Snowman, Toyland, 'Twas the Night Be-

fore Christmas, Deck the Halls, Little Drummer Boy, Silver Bells, March of the Christmas Toys, We Wish You the Merriest, Skaters Waltz, Winter Wonderland and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Girls from Rocky Mount that rode on the floats are Robin Bourne, Queenie Watson, Lynn Rose, Winnie Jo Bradley, Ennis Hicks, Cathy Pullen, Jo Dorsett, Chris Weatherly, Lavetta Joyner, Sally Betts, Kathryn Morgan, Sharon Barnes, Lynn Harris, Margie Yenney, Dale Stille, Gwen Sanders, Carol Dickens, Pam Longwell, Denise Morgan, Billie Vaughn, Betty Johnson, Berlie Wilhalf, Loraine Sharpe, Amanda Brantley, Becky Sheridan, Robin Bradley, Gary Mackenzie, Laura Hinton, Robin, Thorp, Sharon Henderson, Laura Allabrook, Gloria Holloway, Linda Thorne, Ruth Walker, Sherry Blaylock, Millie Shields, Dottie Hannon, Karen Denson, Nancy Ward, Nancy Referson, Stephanie Lucas, Kathy Dudley, Marsha Vick, Anne Watkins, Kathy Wright, Susan Pittman, Betsy Strandberg, Joyce Weldon, Phyllis Parker, Mary Whitaker, Laverne Dickens, Mary McWilliams, Norma Petway, Eloise Walker, Deborah Bulluck, Valda Hines, Shermae Corbette, Thelma Warner, Deborah Pender, Mary Bryant, Leslu Williams, Christine Beattie, Romaine Sharpe, Jackie Shaw, Hildeward Weston, Mary Grant.

## PTO Meeting

The first meeting of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the current school year was held Thursday night, December 10.

A short devotional period was held in the auditorium. Afterwards, parents were invited to follow their children's schedules in order to meet the teachers and see the new facilities of the school.

Students worked hard all week fixing schedules and trying to make the school more attractive.

## Upbeat Generation Is Interested In Society

(Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared in The Campus Corral, the student paper of San Angelo Central High School, San Angelo, Texas. It expresses the idea, as noted in the lead article of this Education Report, that the destructive few have tended to paint an unrealistic, unfair picture of today's younger generation.)

### THE UPBEAT GENERATION

Subway stabbings, student riots, high school dropouts, unwed mothers, teen-age drug addicts . . . Are we a generation of delinquents?

There are 85 million Americans under 30. Subtract the juvenile delinquents and you have the upbeat generation, well over 80,000,000 strong.

"Freedom lovers" scrounging for marijuana and decrying the state of the world have given a shabby reputation to other young people by being over-advertised to the world. Meanwhile, the uncelebrated "squares are hard at work--

wherever there is work to be done.

It is apparent that whatever we are called or call ourselves because of our commercial force, we are the most sought-after group in the population. The estimated 25 million teen-agers have about \$10 billion -- that's billions -- to spend every year, and competition for this bonanza is keen among the manufacturers of records, chewing gum, cosmetics, soft drinks and any other product in which young people might be interested. The teen-age market is growing constantly and the teen-ager is more independent than ever. He earns much of his own money and now he decides what to do with it.

Perhaps some of the good works of this new upbeat generation seem insignificant and even trivial. But when considered in their entirety, they provide a picture of industry and enthusiasm that is indeed more impressive than the subway stabbings, student riots and high school dropouts.

## Semester Exams Set For Jan. 20-22

First semester exams will start Wednesday, January 20, and will go through Friday, January 22. Wednesday, students will go to their first and second period classes. Thursday, third and fourth period exams will be held. Morning exams will meet from 8:30-10:30, and students will report at 8:25. Afternoon exams will be held from 11:00-1:00. Students must remain for a minimum of one hour in each class. Snacks will be served in the Student Commons and cafeteria from 9:30-until 10:50.

Students are asked to attend only during exam periods and not to visit other schools. No students will be exempt until second semester, when seniors with an "A" average may be exempt. All classes will meet with the exception of study halls and gym.

Monday, January 25 will be a holiday for all students. This is to allow teachers to grade exams, and to post average semester grades.

## FHA Helps Mental Patients In Operation Santa Claus

Christmas is a time to share with others.

The F.H.A., under the direction of Mrs. Safy, have shared their talents with area mental patients by making toys for Operation Santa Claus. Having no funds, these girls used scraps and odds and ends to create about three dozen stuffed lions and horses.

There are 15,000 patients and students in the retarded centers and state hospitals in North Carolina. A large number of these are housed at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, and Caswell Center in Kinston,

both serving our area.

Every Christmas the North Carolina Mental Health Association and its local chapters like the Rocky Mount Mental Health Association, conduct the Operation Santa Claus project. It is an effort to obtain at least one gift for each patient and student so they can enjoy their Yuletide as we do.

The Christmas spirit of good will toward men is being kept alive at RMSH by our F.H.A. Their gifts, along with the presents of many others, will bring joy and happiness to others less gifted.



Mrs. Bell of Homeroom 014 with the winning Thanksgiving entry.

## Contest Sponsored For Thanksgiving

During the week before Thanksgiving, the Kudos Club sponsored the Thanksgiving Basket Contest. The purpose of the contest was to provide for the needy citizens of Rocky Mount and to promote a feeling of unity among the students as they worked for a worthwhile cause.

The baskets were judged by Dr. Walter Parker, Mrs. Howard Andrews, and several members of the Kudos Club. They were judged on decorations, overall appearance, food content, and neatness.

First place winner was Mrs. Bell's Homeroom 014. This homeroom had a mannequin dressed as an Indian. The idea was very original and the basket contained a well balanced diet. Mrs. Armstrong's Homeroom 006 was second place. Third place went to the Future Homemakers of America, under the direction of Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Safy.

The Kudos Club would like to congratulate the winners and thank all participants who helped make this a happy Thanksgiving for some of the needy residents of Rocky Mount.