



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Blanche Cassidy was recently named the 1977-78 "Woman of the Year" at First Baptist Church. She received the honor for her fund-raising efforts on behalf of the church and is seen on the left, above, receiving a plaque from Mrs. Ella Yarbo-

rough, who won last year. Mrs. Cassidy is the wife of William Cassidy and they have three children. She is a teacher at East Mecklenburg High School. Rev. J.B. Humphrey is the pastor at First Baptist, 1801 Oaklawn Ave.

March Of Dimes Chapters To Improve Health Care

March of Dimes chapters throughout the United States stepped up their efforts this past year to determine how the quality of local maternal and infant health care services can be improved. The 1977 Annual Report of The National Foundation-March of Dimes examines these programs and their involvement of other community agencies and leaders in perinatal health in fulfilling the Foundation's goal of preventing birth defects through protection of the unborn and the newborn.

When in December 1976, the Foundation held its fifth Volunteer Leadership Conference in New Orleans, more than 1,200 chapter representatives joined the officers of 50 major lay organizations and professional agencies to evaluate the ever-growing capacity to achieve such protection of the unborn and the newborn from birth defects.

"We united in commitment to increase that capacity in direct, urgent response to the critical need," says Harry E. Green, board chairman of The National Foundation. "The goal of assuring a healthy birth for all babies is central to our whole society. Especially in the year covered by this report, we have seen our mandate woven through the fabric of daily life - social, educational, political, econo-

mic and cultural." More than a quarter-million infants are born every year with birth defects. This figure includes some 80,000 babies whose markedly low birth-weight (4 lbs. 6 oz., or less) places them in peril of a healthy survival. Through programs of research, medical service, and education, the March of Dimes works nationwide to overcome the challenge of America's most serious child health problem.

The American people last year endorsed this goal by supporting 230 Medical Service Program grants for delivery of perinatal services to pregnant women and newborns. The National Foundation also continues to be the major source of support for genetic medicine. These services are being extended into local areas from major medical centers around the country. Other agencies, public and private, restrict their support primarily to genetic research.

During the period covered by this report, The Apgar Center opened at Columbia University in New York City. Officially named "The March of Dimes Center for Genetics, Nutrition and Human Development in honor of Dr. Virginia Apgar," it was created through a three-year \$900,000 grant from The National

Foundation. Dr. Apgar was senior vice president for medical affairs of the Foundation at the time of her death in 1974.

The March of Dimes also reports establishing a new category of research in the

Social and Behavioral Sciences. The focus of this program is on the cognitive development of low-birthweight babies.

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Our Way Of Saying

HAVE A... *Merry Christmas!*

From The Mothership Connection



Mrs. Christine Chisholm is seen above crowning Mrs. Stella Staton "1977 Fashion 220 Cosmetics Hostess." The occasion was an Appreciation Dinner at Mrs. Chisholm's home for all the hostesses. According to Mrs. Chisholm the award is given annually to the hostess who brings in

the most orders and added that this is the only fair way to select the "Hostess of the Year." The prize was Fashion 220 products and all the hostesses present received a gift. Mrs. Chisholm owns Fashion 220 Cosmetics at 2204 Beatties Ford Road.

Government Announces Christmas Holiday Schedule

Mecklenburg County Government agencies and offices will observe the following schedule for the Christmas and New Year's holidays:

County offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 26 and 27, for Christmas holidays and Monday, January 2, for New Year's Day. This includes the Tax Collector's Office, the Food Stamp Office, the Register of Deeds Office and all units of the Health Department.

Day Care Centers operated by the Department of Social Services will be closed the

entire week after Christmas, December 26 - 30, and will re-open Monday, January 2.

The County's two landfills, Harrisburg Park and Holbrook Road, will be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, but open as usual on Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31, at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The County Animal Shelter will remain open on Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24 - until 4 p.m. for the convenience of persons who want to buy a puppy for Christmas. The Shelter will be closed

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, December 25, 26, and 27 and Sunday and Monday, January 1 and 2, and the County Police will accept emergency calls for the shelter. The number to call is 374-2391.

The Sheriff's Office will be closed Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, and will re-open Tuesday, December 27. The office will be closed Monday, January 2.

All branches of the Public Library will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. They will also be closed Monday, January 2.

Children's Holiday Fashions: A Fairy Tale Come True for Them—and You

Does your favorite little girl believe petticoats are something munchkins have for lunch? Chances are she's been into jeans and T-shirts ever since she wore out the feet on her first pair of Dr. Denton's.

This holiday season, introduce your young one to the new fairy-tale fun in dress-up fashion. Twirling in her first prettily-embroidered dress, she'll be thrilled to discover she more closely resembles Snow White than one of the Seven Dwarfs.

Soft and fanciful, these fashions have been influenced by the popular "peasant look" first created for women by top designer Yves St. Laurent.

Many of the best styles are made in New York, where fashion experts from the United Infants and Children's Wear Association report, "Young girls and their mothers are expressing great enthusiasm for these new, more feminine holiday styles. They're both functional and fun, just what fashion for children was always meant to be."

What's more, these fashions require minimal care. Each of the dresses shown here is positively washable and wrinkle-free. (Translation for kids: "Scold-proof.") And while the garments may look like they'll require a course in coordina-



At right, a pleated one-piece "jumper dress" with white lace yoke. In red or turquoise, sizes 4-6X, by Lil-Airess, div. of Jack L. Honig, Inc. At left, another jumper dress, multi-print on black with white yoke and sleeves. Sizes 7-14, by Jack L. Honig, Inc. Bodice is elasticized.

At right, a 100% cotton red and white quilted one-piece "jumper dress" with dotted swiss blouse, by Youngland, sizes 7-14. At left a soft super-suede jumper, with patch pockets in beige, mauve or powder blue. Blouse in cream tone satin. Both by Bugaboo Girl, sizes 8-14.

ting separates for the "layered look," each is actually an all-in-one wardrobe wonder. Ties are attached to decorative blouses are attached to pleated jumpers—and on, and on. That means a major reduction in trauma and tears when it's time to dress for the big party. Shopping has never been such fun, and the new va-

riety of easy-care fabrics includes print challis, dotted swiss, shimmering satin and soft super-suede. Decorative trims lend a festive flair, with ruffles, patch pockets, soft ties and shawls. This year, it's out of the mud puddle and into the parlor for today's luck, little ladies!



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Styles available may vary from those pictured.

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SUPER SELECTION of the most wanted looks in easy-care woven textured polyester or denim. Fly front styling with belt and pocket detailing, some with elasticized waists, embroidery and "gold" trims. Black, Navy, Tan, Red, Blue-Green and Pink in sizes 5 - 15, 6 - 18, and 14 - 20.

Styles available may vary from those pictured.

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