



Looks like Rusty the dog and three-year-old Ronald Chisholm are having their own little contest to see who is better at standing at attention. Ronald, whose home is on Burton St., is spending the day with his grandmother, Mary Chisholm, of 117 W. Park Ave. (Photo by Audrey Lodato)

Southern Christmas Show Ushers In Holiday Season

The holiday season opened here Wednesday night as it has for 18 years - The Southern Christmas Show rolled out its welcome mat, and, for the next week and a half, will spread good tidings and holiday cheer.

More than 1,000 eager visitors attended Wednesday night's Benefit Preview for the Charlotte Observer Empty Stocking Fund. Proceeds from the Benefit will help provide food, money and toys to needy families at Christmas time.

The show then re-opened at 10 a.m. Thursday and will continue through Sunday, November 24, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays; and 10-6 Sundays. As usual, visitors are coming from near and far—as far as Augusta, GA, and Petersburg, VA, to sample the treats and treasures of this holiday wonderland.

"This show is so well established it's like a household word," said exhibitor Ed Hearne. "When I think of the Southern Christmas Show, I think of the holiday buying season. It's part of the holiday spirit. It's just something you do every year. It's like, 'Oh, it's November—time to go to the Christmas Show!'"

Hearne and his wife, Mona, operate Lake Country Wildlife from their home on Lake Norman. Mona, the artist, paints wooden decoys and other wooden items, along with doing oil paintings, most of them depicting wildlife-outdoor themes.

The Hearnes will operate out a brightly colored tent in the Olde

Towne area of the show.

"I think the Lord had a part in getting us in the show," Mona said. "At the last minute, last year they called and said somebody had dropped out—did we want to come in? I was absolutely thrilled to get in."

"I've been working around the clock getting ready. It's so exciting and everyone has so much fun at the Christmas Show. It is, like Ed said, truly a part of Christmas."

The Hearnes are only one exhibitor from more than 300 who'll be selling unique handmade crafts—everything from wooden brooms to cornshuck dolls, to toy soldiers to wreaths and holiday decorations.

And many of the show's attractions will never make it out the front door—they'll be gobbled up by visitors with a taste for cookies and candy, smoked ham and turkey and fresh apple strudel. There will be cooking demonstrations throughout the show too, in the Holiday Magic Cooking Theatre, along with free recipes.

Tickets to the show are \$4, but visitors are reminded they can receive 50 cents off that price if they bring a can of food for WBTB's Food for Families program. Parents, also, should take advantage of three Kid Pix sessions sponsored by WBTB, WBT and WBCY. From 4-7 p.m., November 19-21, parents can have free laminated identification photos of their children taken.

They'll not want to miss the ABC Family Fun Fair, a brand new

exhibit sponsored by WSOC-TV, Pepsi, McDonald's and Southern Shows. Saturday morning cartoon characters such as Wicket and Ewok, Scooby Doo and Bugs Bunny will come to life on stage in this

unique and entertaining addition to the show.

For more information about the show, call Southern Shows at 704-376-6594; 800-334-0248 (U.S.), or 800-532-0189 (N.C.).

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Fight Against Hunger

WPEG is fighting against hunger.

The crusade, "Metrolina Fights Hunger," is directed towards the food situation here in the immediate area. Following on the heels of the successful Bobby Wornack show, WPEG is scheduling an area wide Talent Search and Show for De-

ember 6 at the Park Center. Admission is \$3 plus a canned item. In addition, WPEG is selling "Metrolina Fights Hunger" sweatshirts, buttons, and record albums. All proceeds, funds, and canned items are being channeled directly to the Metrolina Food Bank for distribution in Metrolina.

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