



CEDAR GROVE'S GOSPEL CHOIR belts out spirituals and Christmas songs from its "singing float."



SHALLOTTE SENIOR CITIZENS on parade included Johnny Gore (with sombrero and pruning shears), Maggie McNeill, Annie Warren, Mary Smith, Eva Gray and "Smokey," Millie Ferlanto, Alene Hankins, Howard Jenrette, Troy Keaton, Lloyd Evans and Leroy Warren.

Blue Skies, Smiling Faces Make Parade The Best Ever

Smiling faces lined the streets of Shallotte Saturday morning as several thousand area residents crowded into town for the annual holiday parade, an event that signals Christmas is only days away.

Clear, cool weather and blue skies overhead put the crowd in the mood for celebrating. They also provided the ideal backdrop for floats decorated in holiday finery and a bevy of beauty queens bundled in coats and furs.

From the parade units, participants waved back at familiar faces in the crowds and in some cases, tossed hard candy or gum their way.

Little Meredith Andrews, daughter of Kim and Earl Andrews of Ocean Isle, gurgled and pointed from her stroller as colorful balloons wafted by, and became even more excited when she saw her big sister Amanda in the parade.

Nearby, Lauren Taylor and Dorothy Johnson of Wilmington, Little Miss and Junior Miss N.C.

Christmas respectively, watched other units go by as Lauren's mother, Susan Taylor, adjusted their crowns. Both were enjoying the parade, they said.

Parade-goers crowded along the route in larger numbers than last year by Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall's estimation. Instead of small groups scattered along the route, he said, spectators were crowded close together.

"Traffic was bumper to bumper along U.S. 17 after the parade 'for quite a while,'" he added.

Like other bystanders asked casually for reactions, Stovall said he thought this year's parade was better and that people seemed to enjoy it a lot more.

"The individual entries seemed to be better," he said, citing the enlarged JROTC color guard from West Brunswick High School as just one example.

"It's the best ever," one young girl told a reporter as she ran toward a hotdog stand for lunch.

While this year's parade had slightly more units than last year, one addition brought lots of reactions from the crowd—jauntily costumed pets entered in a contest sponsored by the Brunswick County Animal Welfare League.

Afterwards, one goat and a lot of dogs waited not so patiently in the north-end Hill's Shopping Center for the results. Spring Mintz took first place with her dalmatian. Other award winners included Jessica Hudson's pekinese, second; Kim Schick's terri-poo, third. Sharing fourth place were Angela Hollbrook's cocker spaniel; Kelly Hughes' pomeranian, Mark Everette's mixed breed dog and Molly Watkins' pekinese. Receiving honorable mentions were Tasha Miller's goat Tiny and John Kopp and Kim Bell's samoyans.

(More parade pictures will appear in next week's Brunswick Beacon.)



JAKEISHA BOWENS, nine-year-old daughter of Jeffrey and Carolyn Bowns of Ash, joined hundreds of other youngsters in sharing Christmas wishes with Santa Claus after the Shallotte Christmas. Santa had 400 pounds of candies to share.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRONCK

DOGS OF ALL BREEDS and sizes turn out with their owners for a pet costume contest sponsored by the Brunswick County Animal Welfare League.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

TINY THE NUBIAN GOAT was more than a tiny bit afraid during Saturday's festivities. She and her owner, Tasha Miller of Winnabow, earned an honorable mention in the Animal Welfare League's pet costume contest.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE President Teddi Neal cuddles Lucy, a mixed-breed dog up for adoption.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

AT THE CAMP UNITED Methodist Men's Club booth, Adam Babson of Shallotte fixes up a 'dog for his stepfather, Herman Myers.



STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SALATI

ALL BUNDLED UP and not looking too happy about it all was this face in the Shallotte Christmas parade.