



**DOUBLE MESSAGE** — While the prevailing theme of this float was concerning Christmas, members of the newly-

organized TOPS Club took advantage of the opportunity to present their message: **Take Off Pounds Sensibly.**



**HOME-GROWN FAVORITE** — No local parade of any kind would be complete without a performance by the Perquimans County Marching Unit. Members, dressed

in red Christmas outfits, were among this year's participants and took first place in the band division of less than 60 members.

## Christmas Season Is Ushered In

Staff Photos By Kathy M. Newbern

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

The Holiday Season was ushered in Friday when the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade was held. This year's record-breaking parade included 65 units and variety to suit every taste.

Sponsoring the holiday event was the Perquimans County Jaycee chapter assisted by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

A special feature of this year's parade was welcomed by those unable to be in Hertford to view the spectacle. WCDJ radio station of Edenton provided a live broadcast, reviewing the entries as they passed by the downtown judges' stand.

Serving as judges this year were Ms. Faye Ellen Murray, Ms. Carroll Baker, Allan Asbell, Ed Brown and Terry Jones. Providing commentary was Ray

Ward, president of the local Jaycee chapter. Co-chairmen for the Jaycee-sponsored event were Bobby Harrell and Parker Newbern.

An estimated crowd of over 4,000 viewed the parade as it meandered along the route of 15 blocks.

The parade included floats of every size and description carrying out the theme, "Christmas Is..." Several marching units provided musical touches while clowns entertained the crowd. Also present were several dignitaries: Hertford Mayor Bill Cox, Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell, North Carolina Jaycee President John Fletcher, State Representative Vernon James, State Senator Melvin Daniels, and members of the two local governing bodies, the Hertford Town Council and Perquimans County Board of Commissioners. Variety was added with fire trucks,

antique cars and trucks, cheerleaders, scouts, homecoming and fire department queens, the rescue squad, Smokey the Bear, church groups, and horses. And last, but long-awaited for, was Old Saint Nick himself.

When the parade reached the downtown area, Santa

stepped off his sleigh accepting eager children ready to whisper dreams in his listening ears. Each year, the Christmas Parade marks the official beginning of the Holiday Season for Hertford and Perquimans County. This year was no exception as the Christmas lights on

downtown streets were turned on and the spirit of Christmas was bountiful.

Immediately following the parade, the Hertford Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Club held their tree-lighting ceremony illuminating the live cedar tree on the courthouse lawn laden with 500 lights pur-

chased by county residents in memory and honor of loved ones.

Yes, Christmas is in the air.



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