



**MARY HAD A BABY** - A Christmas musical "Mary Had A Baby" was presented by St. Matthew's Pre-School Friday. Left to right, kneeling, are Dusty Hord, who portrayed Joseph; Wendy Neisler, who portrayed Mary; and back row, from left, the three wise men, Alan Gibson, Matt Patterson and Brad Bridges; and the angel, Jessica Lynn.

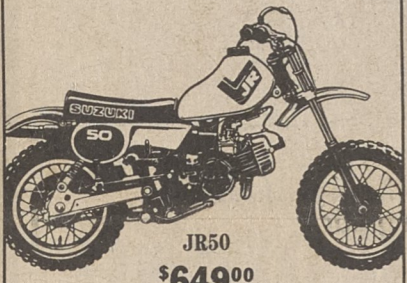


**ST. MATTHEW'S PLAY** - Pictured is the large cast of the church's Lutheran Church under the direction of Pastor Harold Smith and Mrs. Joe Smith.

Photos By  
Lynne Lynn

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## Mary Had A Baby Presented By Students

The annual Christmas musicale "Mary Had a Baby" was presented by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Pre-School Friday.

Performing in the pageant, which included carol singing by the choir of angels and the congregation, were Wendy Neisler as Mary, Dusty Hord as Joseph, Heid Beutel, Carrie Davenport, Anna Louise Faust, Jessica Lynn and A'me Mauney as the angels, Marylee Dilling, Jennifer Patterson and Caroline Pittman as shepherds; Brad Bridges, Alan Gibson and Matt Patterson as the wise

men; Mindy Belt, Christopher Bennett and Ashley Moss as the cows; Zachary George, Wade Randall and Shakara Young as the donkeys; Laura Bridges, Stacy Elgin, Joshua McDaniel, Carrie Stowe and Ashley Wilson as the sheep; and the angel choir, including Christopher Cagle, Spencer Cagle, Caleb Carroll, Jared Chapman, Justin Etters, Basit Gangoo, Adam Hall, Leah Hall, Chuck Loftin, Daniel Long, Bess McGinnis, Daniel Miller, David Miller, David Moschler, Drew Neisler and Lee Owensby.

## Music Adds Joy To Season

From Page 16-A

ing brightly. The pudding had been bound in a cloth and cooked in a clothes copper; now it was decorated with holly. Sixpence were hidden in the pudding, to be discovered amid much merriment during the eating of this festive dish.

The kissing ball, or kissing bunch, was also popular in Victorian times. It consisted of a bunch of evergreens and holly berries, with a cluster of mistletoe suspended from it. The mistletoe was all the permission needed for a lad to bestow a kiss upon a pretty maid. No wonder that the kissing ball was the center of festivities at holiday gatherings!

Games were equally popular. Dick-

ens described them in his "Christmas at Dingley Dell" with appreciation: "...Mr. Pickwick, blinded shortly afterwards with a silk handkerchief, falling up against the wall, and scrambling into corners, and going through all the mysteries of blind-man's buff with the utmost relish for the game, until at last he caught one of the poor relations, and then had to evade the blindman himself, which he did with a nimbleness and agility that elicited the admiration and applause of all beholders. The poor relations caught the people who they thought would like it, and when the game flagged, got caught themselves. When they were all tired of blind-man's buff, there was a great game at snapdragon, and when fingers enough were burned with that, and all the raisins were gone, they sat down by the huge fire of blazing logs to a substantial supper, and a mighty bowl of wassail."

Christmas crackers were also favored during Victoria's reign. The cracker was a twist of colored paper that gave off a small explosive sound when pulled. Within it were novelties such as puzzles, games, printed mottoes or riddles, toys and other surprises.

Customs such as these illustrate to us that during Victorian times, Christmas was a merry time indeed.

## Wreck Reported

Damages were slight and there were no injuries in a two car wreck Thursday on King Street, police reported.

A car operated by William Fowler of Cowpens, S.C. struck a 1971 Buick operated by Michael Anthony Cook of Lake Montonia Road. Damages totaled \$800.

Police also reported malicious damage done to a building at Kings Mountain High School by vandals throwing a brick through a window.

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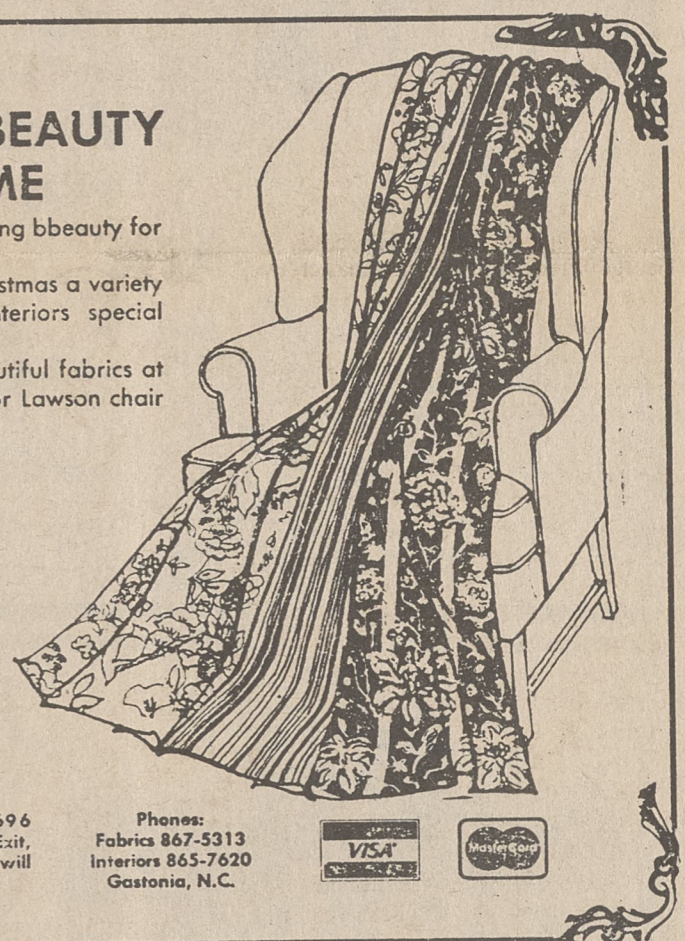
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