



Parade ushers in Christmas season

Pretty girls...pretty floats...pretty cars...pretty horses...high-stepping bands...and, of course, Santa Claus...

All were part of one of Kings Mountain's biggest and best Christmas parades Saturday afternoon.

With a real Christmas chill in the air, 120 units participated in the one hour and 20 minute spectacle which officially ushered in the Christmas season for Kings Mountain.

Over 2,000 spectators lined East King and Battleground Avenues for the annual event sponsored by the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department.

Most children - and many adults - went home with a pocket full of candy thrown by the parade participants, who ranged from youth league football players and cheerleaders to politicians and local business men and women.

The hit of the show, of course, was Santa Claus, but very close behind him in popularity were the Kings Mountain High School, Livingstone College and Shriners Steel bands, whose music was upbeat and very entertaining.

"From all accounts we've had, everything has been real upbeat," said Recreation Director David Hancock. "We are very pleased. Things went pretty well, without a hitch."

Hancock said his only concern was that the parade, which started at 4 p.m., might finish in the dark. "It moved a little slowly, but we beat the darkness. It was just getting dusky dark when we finished at about 5:20."

The Recreation Department worked especially hard this year to line up bands, which Hancock says is a big problem on Sundays. That's one of the reasons Kings Mountain switched to a Saturday date this year.

"The Livingstone College band put on a real good show," he said. "I think the folks enjoyed their music as well as the show they put on. They also got a lot of enjoyment from The Oasis Steel Drum Band, which was sponsored by Groves Industries; and, of course, our own Kings Mountain High School band did a real good job, as usual."

Hancock said the department staff will evaluate this year's parade in the coming weeks and make a recommendation for the date for next year's parade at the January City Council meeting.

"We were very pleased," Hancock noted. "Everything went real well."

Photos by Gary Stewart

