



## People power

Despite loss of electricity, huge crowd attends Grover parade

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
Staff Writer

With the icy weather of the last week, many people lost their electricity, including much of Grover. Despite the conditions and the lack of electricity on Saturday, many people came out to watch the annual Grover Christmas parade.

"We had lots of people lined up on the street to watch," said Evelyn Willis, chair of the Grover Area Women's Club, which runs the parade.

Willis estimated that approximately 200 people came to watch the parade. However, fewer people participated in the parade this year because of the loss of electricity, said Willis.

"There were only 45 entries, but it kept the tradition going. The electricity was out here at the time. I had several calls from people saying they couldn't participate because of that," said Willis.

Even with a shorter parade, people seemed to enjoy what they saw. The Grand Marshal, Fain Hambright, joined several others in a very spirited parade. Participants included the Kings Mountain High School band, Grover Elementary School, the mayor of Blacksburg, SC, the Lions Club, many area businesses, and several churches, including St. Peter's Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, said Willis.

One of the most popular items in the parade was an antique piece of farm equipment driven by Tommy Berry, said Willis.

"Everyone was so interested in that old piece of equipment," said Willis.

Also several fire departments drove fire trucks, and other local people drove antique cars, said Willis. Of course, the parade ended with the arrival of Santa Claus, who waved to all of the children and threw candy.

"I was pleased with the turnout considering the weather and everything. Thank you to the 45 who showed up," said Willis. "I thought it turned out rather well for the conditions and all."



Photos by Abigail Wolford

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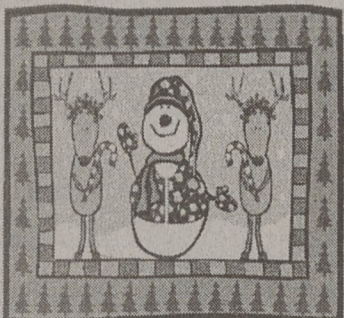
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