

Enotah Garden Club 65th anniversary

The Enotah Garden Club of Young Harris will celebrate their 65th anniversary with a luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 16th. Pictured are chartered members of the club

that was organized on April 5, 1941. The club was federated on February 8, 1943, and is a participating member in the Garden Club of Georgia. There were 43 members at

the time of federation and the club projects were the beautification of the Old Union Cemetery and the grammar school grounds.

The club has invited

relatives of the original members to be their guest at the luncheon to be held at Moschetto's in Young Harris. We are looking forward to meeting and sharing memoirs with the families. Mrs. S. G. Miller was the first president of the club and her daughter, Mrs. Jane Miller Ross, is the current vice president. Jane and Jo Bearse have been very helpful in bringing the history of the club and the invited guests together. "These women have given of their love, time and talents to ensure that future generations of members may come to know the joys of gardening."

Current members of the Enotah Garden Club are continuing in the tradition of community service established by the original members. Active projects are the "Keeping Young Harris Beautiful Program", planning and maintaining the flower barrels on Main Street that have been funded by the city, the upkeep of plants around the city hall and Cupid Falls. The club assists with the Tree City Project and has a forty-year history of coordinating the Lighting of the Christmas Tree Program in Young Harris.

The garden club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the city hall. New members and guests are welcome. You may direct inquiries about the history or membership to Janice Schultz (706) 379-6690. NT(Dec1.M1)SH

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Hightower Creek Clydesdales and the Georgia Mountain Fair, along with other local organizations and businesses lined the streets, lighting up the evening with their carefully arranged Christmas lights. Most float riders tossed out candy to the children along the streets, watching the festivities in awe.

Heading up the rear of the parade was the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus. The children watching the parade screamed and waved as he passed. Santa's presence marked the end of the Thanksgiving holiday and the beginning of the Christmas season.

Prior to the parade, Sheriff Clinton and his deputies collected toys from parade entrants, as they continue to try to bridge the gap between those local children who have, and those who don't.

Part of the benefit of the parade is what entrants brought to the event. Parade participants brought new, unwrapped toys for the Annual Empty Stocking Fund toy drive. The Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund is de-

signed to assist underprivileged and needy children in the Towns County community.

"We are in dire need of help this year providing toys for the children," Sheriff Clinton said.

The fund benefits children from newborn to 12 years old. The true benefits are putting a smile on a child's face at Christmas that might otherwise go without. The sheriff and his helpers picked up a trunk full of toys from parade participants, a big help for those in need this holiday season.

"We're getting a lot of calls about donations," Sheriff Clinton said. "We're getting some checks in and we're proud to get each and every one."

The Sheriff's Office also is sponsoring an *Adopt-A-Child* program, another community effort to bring Christmas Day smiles to less fortunate children.

The Empty Stocking Fund and *Adopt-A-Child* campaigns attempt to help at least the same number of children as in years past by taking the edge off of an

otherwise dismal holiday season.

Sheriff Clinton understands that times are hard and that economically, businesses and residents have struggled to stay above water, in terms of fiscal matters.

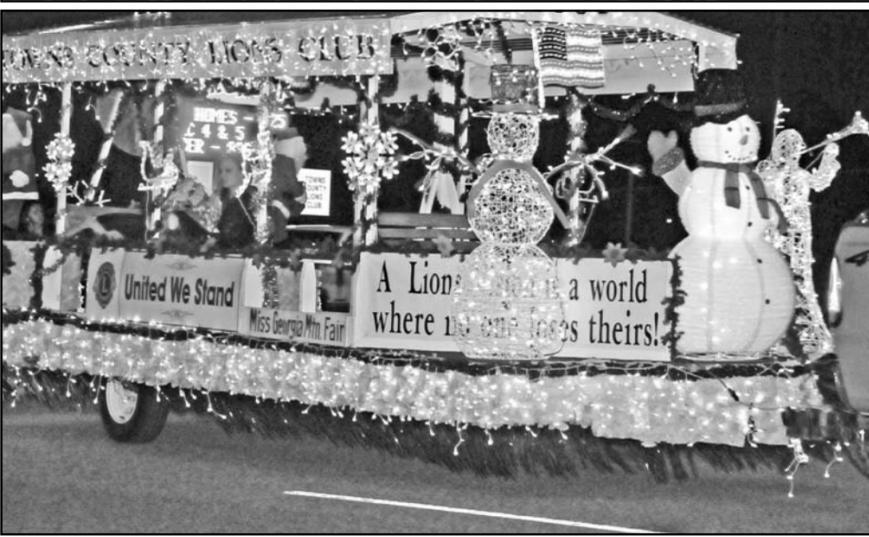
He also understands that rough economic waters also make for tough times for small children who don't quite understand that the economy isn't doing too well.

"We hope the giving spirit of the people of Towns County will be able to help and assist us as we continue in this endeavor," Sheriff Clinton said.

Michael Wooten, 42, of Blairsville, wouldn't have missed the parade for anything in the world. He brought his 6-year-old daughter Micana with him to witness the parade.

"She's never seen anything like this before so she's real excited," he said. "She's anxious to see Santa Claus."

In short, the event was a hit with both children and adults, kicking off the Christmas season with a myriad of floats and candy, along with a bit of Christmas cheer.



From the children of McConnell Baptist Church to Miss Georgia Mountain Fair to the Towns County Lions Club to Michael and Micana Wooten, a good time was had by all at Sheriff Chris Clinton's Annual Christmas Parade in Hiwassee. Photos by Lowell Nicholson and James Reese