

Festive Parade Welcomes Santa Claus to Columbia

26 Dec

11/30/43

Thousands of excited and thrilled young Columbians welcomed Santa Claus at his first official appearance of the 1943 Christmas season in Columbia's annual parade, sponsored by the Columbia Merchants association. The parade, which marched from Richland street to the State House, contained a large number of attractive entries, both unit and individual.

Led by the Home Defense Forces band under the direction of Warrant Officer Walter Alcorn, the parade lasted approximately an hour. At the end, prizes were awarded at the State House steps. Units winning prizes were Ursuline high school, first prize of \$25; St. Andrews school, \$15, and Melrose playground, \$10. Individuals awarded prizes were Buster Rhame, \$15; Jimmie and Ray Doughty, \$10; and Nip Preston and fiddler, \$5. Judges, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Sarah Truesdale, were Mrs. Louis Rankin, J. W. Duncan, Mrs. R. C. Bolic and Mrs. Clement Collett.

Units entries in the parade were made by Shandon park, Ursuline high school, Gonzales Gardens, Andrew Jackson homes, Carolina Orphan home, Sims playground, St. Andrews school, Taylor playground, Valley park, Irwin park,

Melrose playground, Girl Reserves, Earlewood park, Salvation Army, Heathwood park, Arsenal Hill playground, Columbia city school band and Boy Scouts.

Winners in the Negro units were Booker Washington unit, \$25; Old Howard playground, \$15; and Allen-Benedict court, \$10. Individual winners were the Three Wise men from Old Howard, \$15; Constance Clarkson from Waverly, \$10; and Thelma Green from Booker Washington, \$5. Judges were Chairman Vivian Pempey, Rebecca Vivian Beard, R. E. Spurlock, Marion Thompson and E. C. Johnson.

Units entries were made by Old Howard playground, Benedict college, St. Anne's playground, Waverly school, Allen-Benedict court, Girl Scouts, University terrace, Progressive club, Booker Washington band and Booker Washington unit.