

Boots and Saddles Club shares Christmas spirit

BY SALLY BAIR
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PARADISE — The spirit of Christmas is giving and loving, and there was an outpouring of both when the Boots and Saddles 4-H Club visited the Christ Home for Children in Paradise last week.

It is the fourth year that the 4-H Club has provided some Christmas cheer for the 22 children who live there, but this was by far the biggest year in terms of quantity. Members, parents and leaders arrived in a caravan, which included one van filled with 4-H'ers and one van filled with donations plus assorted pick-up trucks and cars, all carrying part of the total Christmas gift for the Home.

There was plenty of used clothing and toys and many boxes of canned goods for the kitchen. There were even a sofa and a new loveseat among the items delivered. In fact, the bags and boxes filled a huge living room. The children watched in awe as the 4-H members and parents carried armful after armful into the Home.

But more exciting for the children were the special gifts for each one of them. A surprise treat was the appearance of Santa Claus, in the person of Mike Cooper, a Sperry New Holland employee, who distributed the gifts. The children were clearly impressed, and quickly encircled Santa, stroking his beard and hugging his wide girth. When he sat down he was surrounded by all the children, each one of whom wanted to be as close as possible.

The 4-H'ers had made an all-out effort to collect donations, including gifts of money which was used to provide an individual gift for each child, including such things as batons, dolls and trucks.

Each child also received a personalized bag which contained a new hairbrush and comb, a new toothbrush and toothpaste and other goodies. There was a small crocheted stocking which contained lifesavers. Both these items were prepared by Ruby Mentzer, a friend of the club. Santa's wife had made a larger stocking for each child containing an apple, an orange and a candy cane.

Club members had also purchased numerous "house gifts" with the money they received. The children were thrilled with the opening of camera equipment, electric popcorn popper, electronic games and hair dryers.

The smiles of appreciation from the children made one know that all the effort of the 4-H'ers had been worthwhile. There were shouts of "Look what I got," and "How can I ever thank you?" and

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Here is a friend! Santa receives a cordial welcome from the children at Christ Home for Children.



Gifts are terrific, but hardly anything beats refreshments at a party. Here the children dig into the cake and cookies provided by the Boots and Saddles 4-H club.



Valerie High renews her acquaintence with Connie, a very outgoing youngster who seemed to remember many 4-H'ers from the previous year.



This van was filled, from top to bottom, with donated items for the Christ Home for Children in Paradise. Eager 4-H'ers reach out to help deliver the goods into the Home itself to the waiting young residents, who range in age from 9 months to 13 years.



Shane and friend talk over this business of Christmas gifts, apparently to the satisfaction of each.



They squeezed as close as they could, to be near that jolly old soul who brought them many surprises.