

Message Of The Season Is In The Wonderment

How many words are a picture worth? Look. See the state queen saluting her subjects. And see the children's faces. Ohmyyes, the kids' faces! In their wonderment is written the story of Mooreville's Nov. 24 Christmas parade. See the mothers sharing the holiday cornucopia of sight and sound. The Tuesday afternoon weather couldn't have been finer in this corner of Carolina. Rock Pickard, parade co-chair for the sponsoring Mooreville Jaycees, said the 148 units covered the 1.5-mile Main Street route from McNeely to Lowrance avenues on time and without a major glitch. And the man who ought to know, Santa Claus of the North Pole (AKA Phillip Bean of Mount Mourne, 23 years a Santa and five years THE Mooreville parade Santa) described attendance and public response as "excellent."



Photos by Larry Sullivan



'Most Hated' Do-It-Yourself Jobs: Plumbing, Auto Repairs

Plumbing and automobile repairs are the do-it-yourself projects Americans hate most, according to a nationwide survey conducted for Dremel, a power-tool manufacturer. The survey polled 1,009 Americans over age 18 on what kind of household tasks they hated the most, made the biggest mess of, and which tasks they wished they actually could perform themselves. Plumbing topped the list, just edging automotive repairs for the top spot on the must-hated list. Combined, these two accounted for over 50 percent of all responses on the "hate list." Plumbing was the

project survey respondents made the biggest mess of, beating out remodeling and painting. Surprisingly, a full 41 percent of respondents claimed never to have messed up a do-it-yourself project. Remodeling is the type of home repair project Americans are most likely to look back on as something they wish they could have done themselves. In the survey, plumbing



MOD Pushes Gene Therapy

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has announced it will accelerate efforts in two major research areas in 1988, its 50th anniversary year. The March of Dimes will concentrate on gene therapy and the prevention of premature labor, two critical areas in saving the lives of thousands of babies, according to Beverly Sills, chairman of the March of Dimes 50th anniversary. Charles Massey, president of the foundation, noted that years of efforts in genetics research and in preventing premature delivery have laid the groundwork for the March of Dimes to focus on these vital areas for the future. March of Dimes serves this area through its Western Carolina Chapter office in Statesville. Bobby Brooks is chapter director.

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BITS 'n PIECES

* By NANCY FARMER

BACK TO BASICS

Dust off America, let's start again.
Dig her out from the immoral pollution;
Get her back to the old-fashioned basics,
Blot out the theory of evolution.

Bring back the Bible to the class room,
Honor the "THOU SHALT NOTS" again;
Take the road so seldom taken,
Wash her hands of dishonest gain.

Inject in her the time-honored lessons
As taught by statesmen of yore;
That each one owes a debt to society
Of honesty, gratitude and a few things more.

America, once the respectable and respected
Envy of every far-off nation;
Pride of homesteader and shopman alike
As each laid a brick in the future's foundation.

Her boundaries, now weakened, were broken through
And her precious air became polluted;
Someone stole her golden vessels
And, quickly, her traditions were uprooted.

So, let's dust off America and start again,
Dig her out from the immoral pollution;
Get her back to the old-fashioned basics,
Choose the right way over revolution.

This Man Proves Basketball Is Fun To Talk About, Too

Dick Vitale has never seen a basketball game he didn't like. ESPN's basketball analyst views his occupation with a "work-is-fun" philosophy.

"Basketball is fun, and by being involved with it, you get swept away from life's real problems," said Vitale.

One problem, in particular, is the reality of an automobile accident. Earlier this year, Vitale and his family were involved in a head-on collision, which he called "the scariest experience I've ever had."

While his wife and two daughters suffered relatively minor injuries, Vitale sustained several injuries including a shattered right eye pocket, an obvious source of concern since he is legally blind in his left eye.

Several days after the accident, doctors determined his vision would not be impaired.

The normally active commentator was sidelined for several weeks, forcing him to miss the U.S. Olympic Festival in North Carolina, the first time he missed working an ESPN assignment.

Even though the accident is behind him, and his recovery is nearly complete, Vitale continues to be reflective about the incident. "I'm very fortunate to be back at work this season," said Vitale. "You don't realize how important your life and family are until something like this happens."

"The accident really puts things in perspective," Vitale continued. "Even though I've been involved

with the sport for years, the bottom line is basketball is nothing but a game. During my rehabilitation, I saw handicapped people who were working to take the first steps of their lives. It was really beautiful watching them strive for something that is really important. In the game of life, winning and losing basketball games is not important at all.

That's why, as a broadcaster, I've always tried to emphasize the fun aspects of college basketball."

"College basketball is the greatest game there is," said Vitale. "Let's face it, it's an art form with great emotion, bodies flying through the air in a togetherness no other sport has."

"It's also a great setting for the television cameras," said Vitale. "There is a pagantry to the game because it is played indoors with the players, fans and coaches which are all part of the overall feel of the game."

"It's all part of the passion I have for college basketball. I treat every game it's for the NCAA championship."

Certainly, no one can doubt his enthusiasm for the game. Sometimes Vitale will sound almost apologetic for being paid to talk college hoops.

And who does Vitale think this season's best teams and premier players will be?

"This year, I like Michigan as my number one team," continued Vitale. "My next of my 'Dazzling Dozen,' as I've called it, are Kentucky, Indiana, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Purdue, North Carolina, Missouri, Kansas, Temple, Iowa and Arizona."

"My first-team All-America list, my 'Colossal Collegians,' are Danny Manning of Kansas at power forward, Dennis Dombos of Wyoming at small forward, J.R. Reid of North Carolina at center, David Rivers of North Carolina at point guard with Gary Grant of Michigan as my scoring guard."

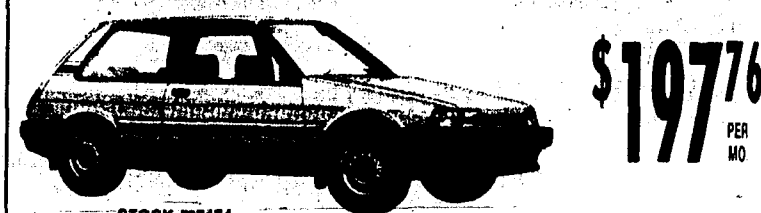
Two things seem quite certain listening to Vitale: he is well and having fun again.

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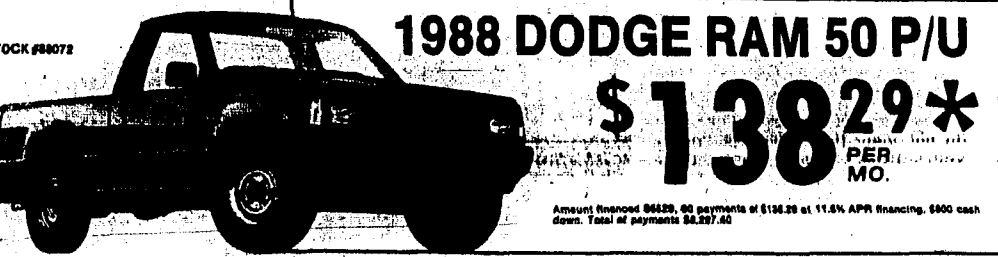


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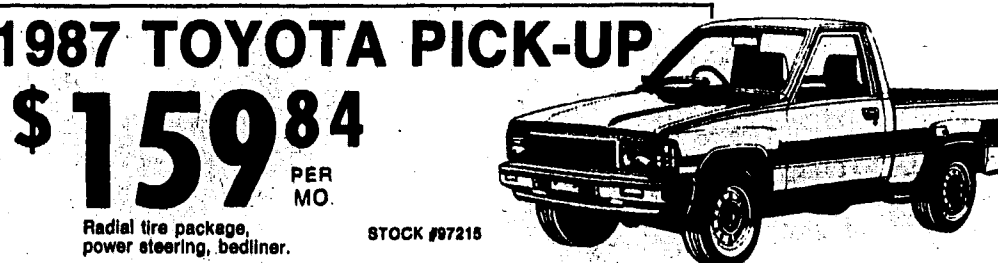


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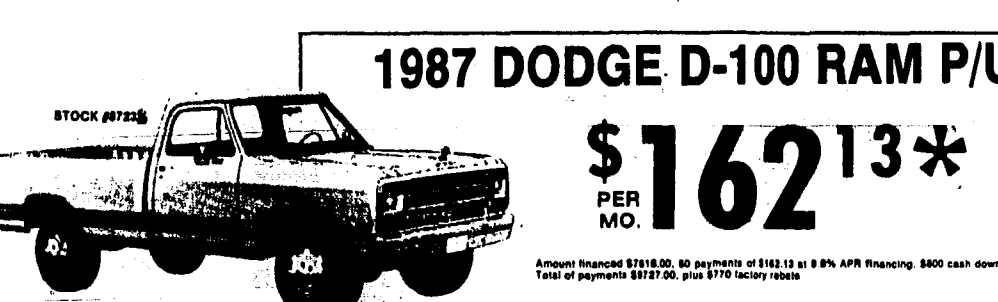
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