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CHRISTMAS IN DECATUR

Santa's snowmaker brings holiday wonder to youths

By Paul Huggins

There was no mistaking what the Boston children loved most during the Decatur Christmas Parade, though they had to wait during a chilly night to enjoy it.

"The snow!" 9-year-old Heaven Boston exclaimed over her younger siblings. "I loved Santa and the snow the most."

The snow the Decatur children referred to was the fresh white flakes spewing from a giant candy cane trailing Santa's new sleigh, which made its second successful run after debuting Thursday in Arab.



"I loved it," said Heaven's mother, Nijel Boston. "It snowed, and Santa spoke to us. And it made the kids happy, running around trying to catch the snow."

The temperature had already dropped to 30 before the parade started at 6 p.m., and a steady cold wind out of the northwest made it feel even colder. The parade, sponsored by the Decatur Jaycees, followed its traditional route down Second Avenue Southeast onto Lee Street and finishing at the end of Bank Street.

Donna Hill her and clan of nine children and grandchildren — which included Parkers, Clarkes and Hayeses — were bundled up in jackets, gloves, caps and blankets at Second Avenue and Gordon Drive at the parade start. They also has hot chocolate and hot popcorn to keep them warm.

"We're here to see Santa," Carol Parker said. "It's a tradition, We do this every year, for 15 years now. And when I was young, my mom used to take me with her to see it. My husband asked we how much longer I'm going to do this, and I said, 'I've got great grandkids after this to take.' "

Other parade-goers found the best way to stay warm was to huddle around the Epic Church tent on Second Avenue between Grant and Johnston streets. The church handed out free cookies, hot chocolate and Starbucks coffee.



Santa Claus waves to crowds during the Decatur Christmas Parade on Monday.

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