

A little post-parade speech-making

We were so excited on parade day, what with our friend Jim Helms' getting that car and the weather being so crisp and cool and the holidays sneaking up on us like they are.

Leanne Powell at Open Door General Store came to our rescue at the last possible second as we cruised by and got curb service delivery of a shiny silver tiara with hot pink marabou trim.

We felt like a princess. So of course that calls for a little speech.

First of all, thank you, Leanne, for the tiara. It really set the tone for our parade experience.

Thanks to Jennifer Lancaster, the world's foremost graphic designer for driving, and not running over any small children – or anyone for that matter. Bonus points for that!

We beg your forgiveness if you were one of the several dozen mothers or grandmothers with adorable babies that we ordered you to place in our car during Saturday's parade.

It was a fun way to pass the time, and we hope you were complimented by the fact that we (briefly) wanted your baby.

To that one lady whose baby we at first wanted, then decided it was too big, it's absolutely no reflection on your baby.

We just don't like them as much when they get big and ambulatory. We don't like chasing them. They're still every bit as cute to look at, so please don't be offended.

To all those whose popcorn or cotton candy we demanded, we were disappointed that none of you actually wanted to share.



snapshots with Beth Feedback



Jim Helms was given a car, for goodness' sake.

Our readers and friends wouldn't even share a kernel of popcorn. That one kid whose pizza we called out for – he's forgiven. He looked legitimately hungry.

To all those whose puppies and small dogs we wanted, we were just kidding. Please don't leave any puppies or dogs on our doorstep. We were really just kidding.

To Dr. Pat London – this is really weird. We've never met your daughter, but we've seen so many pictures of her and her adorable dog in your office, that we feel like we know her.

Well she and her fuzzy little bichon frise make such a striking pair that we recognized them immediately when we saw them watching the parade from the side of the road.

We called out, "Is that Dr. London's grand-dog?"

And your puzzled daughter, who told us her name is Lauren Shuping, answered yes, wondering how we knew.

To Larry Brayboy, who never wears long pants according to his friend on Church Street, we wish you 10 extra degrees Fahrenheit on parade day next year.

To Lawrence "Pete" Reynolds, thanks again for letting us use your car. Don't worry, we didn't eat any popcorn or pizza in it or anything. Also, we didn't transport any loose babies or dogs.

Sandy, Mitch and Ryan McLean – you three looked cute and cozy in your varying shades of pink sleeping bags and throws in the back

of your pick-up truck. Check out your picture on page 21 today.

To the little girl with the Drama Queen sash, your picture came out blurry. BUMMER!

We really wanted to make you a star.

To Jenny Burkhart, the world's foremost English teacher and newspaper proofreader, thanks for riding with us!

Happy birthday Nov. 27 and happy retirement from Central Cabarrus High School! Your picture is on page 21 too. (She's the one in the back seat with Santa.)

Thanks to all her sweet students who gave her a shout-out on parade day.

Here's one from us too: "Miz BURK-Haaaaart!!!"



Photo by Beth Feedback

Lauren Shuping, her canine companion and human friends check out the parade. More photos on page 21.