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After lunch the youngsters were treated to entertainment in the center theater, decorated in gay holiday trappings. There were two cartoons and live music by a Corpsmen musical group.

"The kids just loved it," one official said.

But the real treat of the day came with the arrival of Santa Claus. He evoked smiles of delight and a few quizzical glances from the younger children. Santa, in the person of automotive instructor Tom Bostaph, gave out presents to each of the children as Corpsmen, recruited as Santa's helpers especially for the occasion, passed out candy.

The day came to an end, much too soon for the children, with Corpsmen passing out food baskets, including a Christmas turkey, to each family unit. The foodstuffs and toys were purchased from \$1,300 in donations raised at the center, more than half contributed by Corpsmen themselves.

"Heart of Parks" was the brainchild of Byron Caldwell, head of counseling at Parks. The youngsters were recruited by various social welfare agencies and other charitable and religious groups. They came from San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Hayward, Brentwood, Pittsburg, Pleasanton and Livermore.