



WITH HER EYES WIDE, Elizabeth Roberts observed at Santa as she sat on his lap Friday night in the Decatur County Courthouse.

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Santa hears wishes



HER TEDDY BEAR wrapped in her arms, Lara Zodrow (above) told Santa what she wanted for Christmas. Joe Dunham (right) listened intently to Santa.

**Story and photos
by Kimberly Brandt**



Kids young and old got bundled up in coats, hats and gloves to venture out Friday night to meet the man in the red suit.

Santa Claus arrived in an old Army Jeep driven by Gary Allen. Behind the Jeep was a trailer with a decorated Christmas tree.

After the parade, Santa met with kids in the Decatur County Courthouse.

The line trailed outside the door and down the sidewalk by the time the old gent had taken his seat.

Without missing a beat, Santa started greeting the kids. Each one

climbed onto his knee or stood beside him. The kids told Santa what they wanted to find under their Christmas trees on Dec. 25.

The list ranged from an electronic keyboard to sweat pants to dolls to televisions to a 2003 Harley Davidson. The last wish came from a 33-year-old kid who sat on Santa's right knee. Santa said he would see what he could do.

Each child received a bag of peanuts, gum, mints and candy from Santa, provided by the Oberlin Lions Club.

Jack Benton, with the club, said they gave out close to 110 bags of candy, and the club had a few left over.

A little after 8 p.m., Santa had seen all the kids in the line and returned to the North Pole.

Santa will be back in town from 1 to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, to see any kids who didn't get a chance to tell him their Christmas wish list. Santa also has a mailbox located in front of Stanley Hardware that will be put out this week.

All letters to Santa will be forwarded to his workshop and also published in *The Oberlin Herald*.