

"The Rice Festival is definitely getting larger and better every year because more and more people from all around seem to be coming," said Jenny Shomber.

## Fun-Filled Weekend

The Rice Festival celebrated its 20th birthday the last weekend of April. The weekend was a chance for teens to spend time together enjoying events at the festival.

The students were dismissed from school at 1:00 pm to participate in Friday's carnival-like atmosphere on Main Street. The chorus performed a few scenes from their play *South Pacific*. It was the first year for all the downtown entertainment to take place in the city parking lot instead of in front of the waterfall.

A crowd gathered for the traditional firework show, followed by the street dance. The band

C5 played for the street dance Friday night. The street dance was a good reason to ask parents for a later curfew. Everyone danced and sang with the band.

People of all ages participated in the Rice Run which started at approximately 8:00 Saturday morning. Hundreds of people showed up for the parade on Jefferies Blvd. People spent their time Saturday afternoon browsing through the craft booths set up in the courtyard, watching the dog show, walking up and down Main Street, or watching the downtown entertainment.

The Rice Planters served as official hostesses for the Rice Festival. The Planters represented Walterboro High, Colleton Prep., and Ruffin High. They helped with events, the information booth, the parade, the Taste of Walterboro, and the Rice Run. Each girl volunteered her time to make the festival a success.

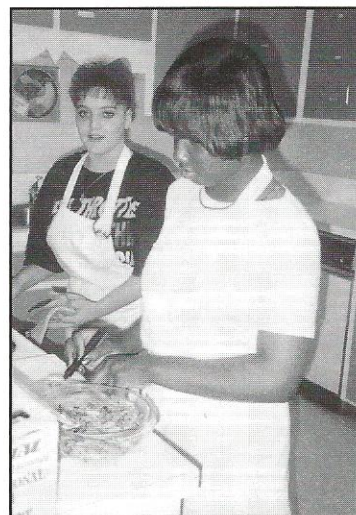
The Rice Festival was a good opportunity for groups to set up booths to raise money. The cheerleaders painted faces, and the chorus sold food and drinks. The girls worked hard on setting up, selling, and taking down.

— Stacy Davis



**Let's Get Started.** Sophomore Ashley Heaton and Junior Nicole Constantine take a moment to rest while waiting for the parade. This year was their second year serving as Rice Planters.

**Waving to Friends.** Alicia Heape, Marie Wilson, and Heather McLaine ride in the parade on the chorus float. The chorus put a lot of hard work into decorating the float to represent the play *South Pacific*.



**Working Hard.** Crystal Hill and Regina Manigo prepare a dish to be entered in the Rice Cooking Contest for the festival. This contest was judged by the Rice Festival Committee.