

The Cold War, 1945-1989

After World War II, there were many changes in day to day life for Americans. New inventions and television were introduced and for some, life was better than it had ever been before. At the same time, the Cold War between America and the Soviet Union (Russia) was a constant threat.

1948 Rose Festival & Rose Queen

After World War II, Thomasville was ready to for some fun. In 1948, Thomasville added a new event to the Rose Show: a parade. Thousands of people lined the streets to see floats from Boston, Pavo, Ochlocknee, Thomasville, and other local towns as well as to hear the marching bands play.

Floats received prizes for their creativity. One float from Meigs had a farm family including models of a wagon and horse! The WKTG radio station broadcast the parade with commenters describing the what they saw.

For the first time a Rose Queen was crowned to reign over the Festival. Thomasville High School student Doris Gothard was crowned the first queen. Her dress that she wore in the parade is on display at the History Center.



Design a Float

If you got to have a float in the parade, what would it look like? Draw your design below.

Host a Parade

Make your own roses! Using craft paper, scissors, tape, and a little creativity, you can make your own special rose bouquet to recreate the Rose Show at home! See our “How-To: Paper Roses” at thomasvillehistory.org/athome for the full tutorial. Once you’ve made your roses, get a grown-up’s permission and help to decorate your family car, your bicycle, or scooter and have a family parade through your neighborhood.