

# World's Shortest Parade the longest ever

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APTOS — Only in Aptos could there be a bandless parade featuring everything from cigar-smoking, costumed nuns to an actual wedding party.

It was all part of the 22nd annual World's Shortest Parade. An estimated 10,000 sun-splashed spectators got into the red white and blue spirit to celebrate the Fourth of July.

The real fireworks, however, were saved for Patti Douglass and Paul Wilson, both of Aptos, who were married immediately after the parade to the cheers of several hundred onlookers.

"It definitely was worth it," said Douglass, immediately after reciting vows in front of the Bay View Hotel. "It's the most wonderful experience of my life."

Added Wilson: "There were a few guys hooting along the parade route, but overall it was great."

The newlyweds were awarded a trip to Mexico, courtesy of the parade-sponsoring Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society and local merchants.

The World's Shortest Parade is so de-emphasized for its short route, according to parade mistress, Lucile Aldrich. Specifically, this was the longest-ever "shortest" parade, lasting one hour, or five minutes longer than last year.

As always, it was the parade participants mixing in with the good-natured crowd that made for a good time.

Three cigar-smoking nun-lookalikes crammed onto a motorcycle to draw laughs. There were walking firecrackers and beer cans, a basset hound in a five-piece bikini and polka dot horses.

Making their second consecutive appearance were the Unknown Patriot Electric Kazoo Marchers and the Flea Patrol. The Kazoo Players who placed second in the best group category, wore white costumes with paper bags over their heads.

The Flea Patrol were the largest contingent numbering about 50 "inspectors," who went into the crowd running their fingers through people's hair and beards in search of fleas.

Even the beloved Santa Cruz County tourist couldn't escape unscathed. Mr. and Mrs. Tourist marched complete with tourist regalia of plaid pants, wild shirts, and sunglasses. One carried a sign, "Dead men don't wear plaid, but tourists do."

There were also plenty of flag-waving bicyclists, pooped hot-wheelers (who were always saved by Mommy), gleaming antique cars and costumed horses.

Miss Santa Cruz County, Karen-Kay Eriksson, rode in a flat bed truck and supervisorial candidate Dave Tunno, who was well-represented with three truckloads of revelers, walked. Second (Aptos) District Supervisor Robley Levy rode on a horse, and Grand Marshal Josef Rivers waved from an antique car. Rivers was honored for his therapeutic horsemanship program for the handicapped.

"I've come to this parade for 10 years now," commented Charles Scollin of San Francisco. "We love the freedom of the whole thing, the old hometown celebration."

There was plenty of celebrating afterwards with food and game booths. Parade-winners included:

FLOAT — Bargetto Winery, first; Piggy Market, second, Bay View Hotel, third; and O.H. Hannegan's, honorable mention.

GROUP — Winnie the Pooh Party, first; Kazoo Marchers, second; Little Nixon Group, third; Civil War Association and Campfire Girls, honorable mention.

PET — Free Kittens, first; Webber, second; Robert the Duck, third; and Schanzenbach and Lama, honorable mention.

COSTUME — Lynn Nickol, first; Gabe Renee, second; Grant, third; Allison Perez, and the Stiltwalker, honorable mention.

VEHICLE — 1912 Rauch Lang, first; Wollson's Circus Wagon, second; 1911 RMS, third; and Edlemaier, 1927 and Little Piran, honorable mention.

HORSE — Sandy Derokilian, first; Polka Dot Horses, second; Marcia McCurn, third; and Ponycart and East Indian Girl, honorable mention.



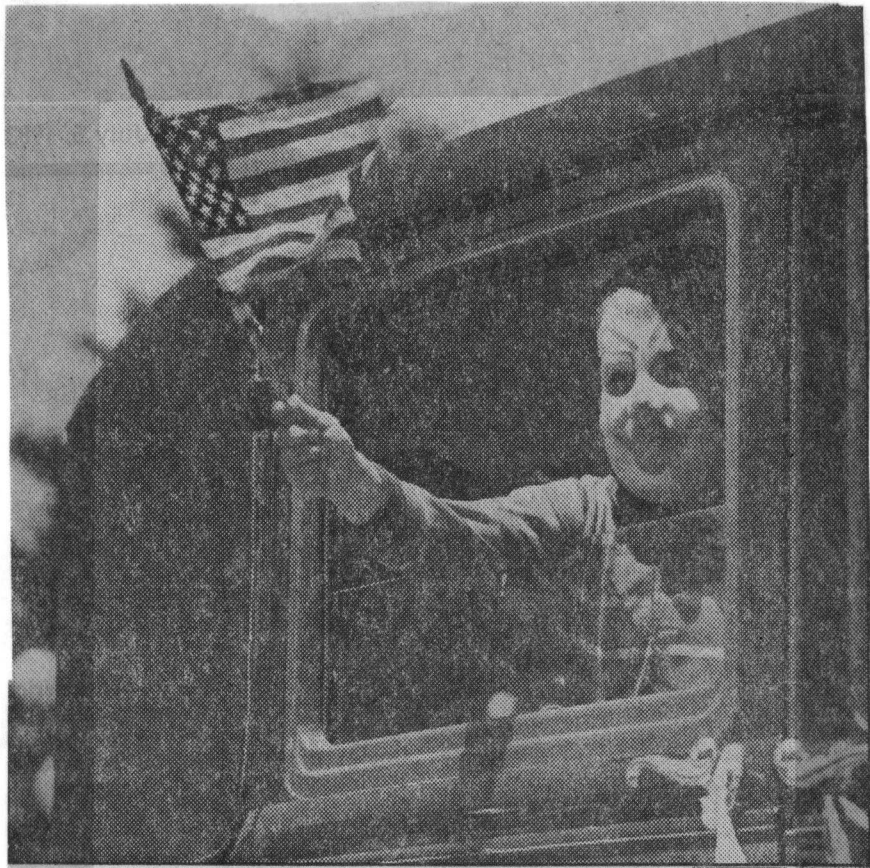
Aptos parade included bride Patti Douglass.

## Watermelon busting on parade

**APTOS** — The annual World's Shortest Parade has never been the world's most normal parade, and Monday was no exception. It featured a marriage and these two revelers who took turns breaking watermelons over each other's heads all along the parade route. For more photos of the parade, see Page A3.







Dan Coyro/Sentinel

*One of the younger parade participants in a patriotic mood.*



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