

That big little parade

By KEITH MURAOKA
Sentinel Staff Writer

APTOS — Ralph Sanson stood alongside Soquel Drive watching Friday's 25th rendition of the World's Shortest Parade. Suddenly, he went running into the road, directly in front of the path of an antique automobile in the procession.

"What's your name? What's your name?" he shouted, clipboard in hand and pencil at the ready.

So goes a judge's job in one of the most strange — but quaint — local traditions. Judges of the parade re-

sort to running into the road, stopping the parade, to get names of possible winners. Unlike other parades, Aptos' requires no entry forms or sign-ups. Participants need only to show up and start marching.

Sanson, a former supervisor in the Second (Aptos) District, has been a judge in the World's Shortest Parade off and on since 1967. He was aided this year by Candy Bernstein and Ed Penniman.

Penniman involuntarily became a parade participant when he got caught in traffic and arrived late. He simply joined the procession, driving

his car until he reached the judging area.

This year's silver anniversary rendition was held before an estimated 12,000 sun-splashed spectators who got into the red, white and blue spirit to celebrate the Fourth of July.

The parade lasted 55 minutes, but is in no danger of losing its "shortest" title, according to parade mistress Lucile Aldrich of the sponsoring Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society. She said the parade is named after its short route, not by how long it takes to run.

This parade would have been

longer than most even if only the Statue of Liberty copycats were judged. In honor of the statue's 100th birthday, there were Statue of Liberty's walking, riding and standing. There was a Statue of Liberty riding a scooter and another in a boat. There was even a family of Statue of Liberty's — mom, dad and a little torch.

Three different statue entrants were honored for best costume by the judges. They included Dianne McCorkel, April Noren and the Gross family.

Grand marshal was Tim Welch, president of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. Welch is the local manager for Conference Associates, which is owned by Ry Kelly, who is proposing the controversial Wingspread Beach performing arts complex on 66 acres in Aptos.

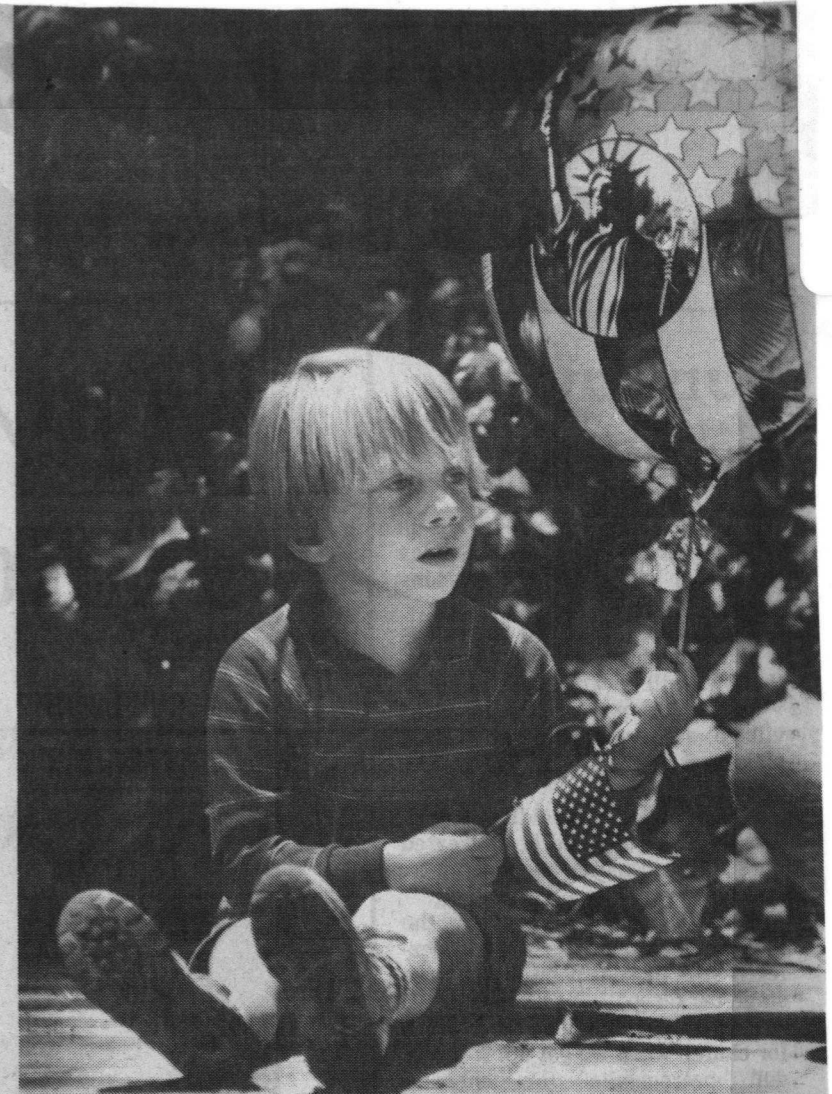
Also included in the parade was a large contingent with placards protesting Wingspread. They walked alongside a boat chanting, "Good-bye, Ry."

Politics aside, Skipper Kendall of Kendall and Potter Realtors, received royal treatment as the "mystery" lady in the limousine. Kendall has been in charge of finding parade judges for the past 15 years.

Kendall said it's sometimes a difficult task "because the judges get so emotionally involved, they want to give everyone an award."

Among the winners this time was 92-year-old Ciro Milizzo, who was pushed along the route in a wheelchair. He was among three winners in the float category along with the Unusual Ensemble Band and Chernobyl Acres.

The band was made up of some 20 musicians on a flat bed truck. A sign on the back read, "Squeals on Wheels." Chernobyl Acres featured



Christopher Gomes, 4, of Capitola takes in the parade.

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— Skipper Kendall



Starting out at the World's Shortest Parade.

REFERENCE

7695 Soquel Drive
Aptos, California 95003

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
July 6, 1986

APTOS BRANCH LIBRARY
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**Photos by
Ron Cockerille**

an actual-size fake cow, sitting upside-down in the rear of a truck.

Making its third consecutive appearance was the Flea Patrol, which drew laughs all along the way. Members of the patrol periodically went running into the crowd, shaking talcum powder on people with flea problems.

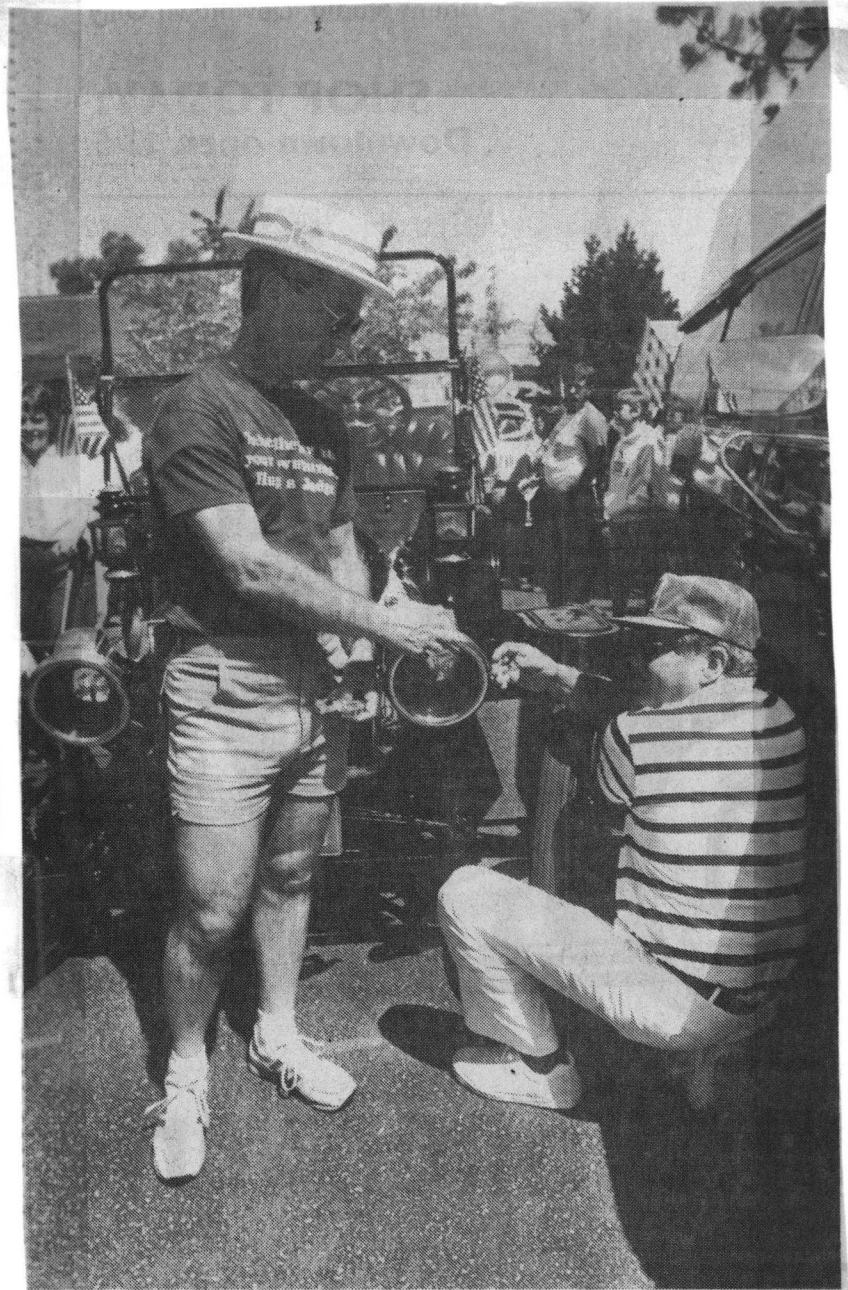
Other unusual sights included Santa Claus standing in a convertible playing the national anthem on a trumpet, a group of persons dressed as M & M candies and a dog that kept jumping through a hoop held by a bunch of clowns. The latter was another traditional entry, Three Generations of Clowns, which won an award in the pet category.

Of course, there was also your usual array of fancy antique auto-

mobiles, cowboys and cowgirls on horses and kids on bicycles.

Other winners not already mentioned included:

GROUP — Indian Council for Children, Doug Thompson family and Emergicare; HORSE — Daryl Lund and the King girls; ANTIQUE CAR — 1933 buick by Valong, 1911 EMF by Thompson and a 1906 Cadillac by Mogan; PET — R. Swanson, Molly and Captain Crybaby,



State Supreme Court Justice Ed Panelli gives friend Gene Ravizza a hand in decorating his car.