

# 4th of July parade in Aptos saved

By KATHY SALAMON  
STAFF WRITER

A quarter-century of tradition almost marched out of existence this year.

The Aptos Fourth of July parade came close to being canceled because of difficulty getting liability insurance.

Lucile Aldrich, parade mistress of the Aptos Fourth of July parade for the past 24 years and the parade-mistress-to-be for the 25th year, said she found out last Monday that the liability insurance for the parade had not been approved yet, and there was the possibility that no insurance would come through.

That would have meant the Aptos Fourth of July parade would be canceled in its silver anniversary year.

But Wednesday afternoon, Aldrich received the phone call she had been waiting for. The insurance company decided to offer liability insurance for the parade because no one had ever filed a claim in the parade's 25-year history.

"I'm so relieved I can't see straight," Aldrich said. "There are tears in my eyes."

Aldrich, 67, has been the event's parade mistress since its inception by the Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society. She is the only member left in the area out of the original group.

"So many people would have been disappointed had the parade been canceled," she said, "but no one would have been more disappointed than me."

Aldrich said the bands, booths, and events had all been lined up for the parade and it never occurred to her that the liability insurance would snag this year's plans.

"How would I have notified all the people who come to this parade?" she asked. "We had 20,000 visitors last year and many were from out of the area. We may have been able to reach half of those people but what about the other 10,000 who would have shown up to see the parade?"

Although the insurance premium has been \$500 for the past six years, Aldrich said, she would have been "delighted if the insurance company raised the rate four or five times just so we can have the parade."

When the insurance came through last Wednesday, Aldrich was more than delighted to find the insurance premium had risen only to \$694.

"I think we never had a claim filed against us and got the insurance because this is just a mom and pop, community parade," Aldrich said.

In a ceremony planned for June 30, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Robley Levy will present Aldrich and other members of the Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society a special plaque of appreciation for 25 years of service with the parade.