

'World's Shortest Parade' gets just a little bit longer

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APTOS — The longest-ever "World's Shortest Parade" spewed its red, white and blue flag-waving spirit here Thursday before what was estimated to be the largest crowd ever — some 12,000.

Meanwhile, in Santa Cruz and Capitola, thousands more enjoyed festivities at Harvey West and Jade Street parks, respectively. Crowds danced to the likes of the Joe Sharino Band and the Cool Jerks. At the fairgrounds in Watsonville, Lacy J. Dalton and a fireworks spectacular delighted a large audience.

The 70-minute-long Aptos parade lasted five minutes longer than last year. Many a comment could be heard in the crowd, such as, "This sure is long for a short parade."

Parade mistress Lucile Aldrich of

the sponsoring Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society said the parade was in no danger of losing its "world's shortest" billing, however, since its shortness is measured in the parade route and not time. This was the 24th annual parade.

Only in Aptos could a group of dancing, costumed Indians mix with a Flea Patrol and nary an eyebrow would be raised. The Flea Patrol, as is their custom, rummaged through the crowd running their fingers through people's hair and beards in search of fleas.

The White Hawk Indians won the group category, with the Flea Patrol in third. Second place went to the Aptos Library, which featured some 25 mothers and children carrying huge cardboard books.

Even the beloved Santa Cruz County tourist took it on the chin. A group on foot, riding in a make-believe tour bus and dressed as tourists, kept stopping along the route to take pictures of the crowd. They carried placards, stating, "Dead men don't wear plaid, but tourists do."

Other parade winners included:

□ **FLOATS:** The United Brotherhood of Carpenters truck, first; Lance Little Plumbing, second; and the Cabrillo Republican Women, third.

□ **BANDS:** Aptos Jazz Band, first; Bay View Hotel Jazz Band, second; Redwood Village Band, third.

□ **PETS:** Wonderdog and the Starr family, first; Bo and Peggy, second; and Satin, Daphne and the Phillips family, third.

□ **CARS:** 1906 Cadillac, first; 1911 Ford by the Ayers, second; and a 1933 Buick by the Valory family, third.