

Smaller Star City Parade draws large Lincoln crowd

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everyone in attendance was invited to the Cornhusker Hotel for refreshments and an awards ceremony for the best of show in the parade.

The award for best overall entry in the parade went to the Santa float provided by Ameritas Life Insurance.

The float, which had a north pole setting with snow, reindeer and polar bears, carried Santa sitting in a sleigh waving to the crowds.

More than 80 Ameritas employees and their family members either rode on the float or marched alongside it.

Jill Davis, a manager of Ameritas, said employees were surprised and thrilled that their float, which has been in the parade for many years, took home the award.

When the winner of the special recognition award was announced, a huge scream from the recipients went up in the Cornhusker Hotel lobby.

The Trash Can Band, sponsored for the fourth year by the Lincoln Health Department, took home the honor.

The band consisted of more than 80 children from 20 Lancaster County schools.

The children made their instruments out of all recycled materials, which they pounded on as they marched down the street.

The Health Department also had about 40 children volunteer to pick up litter left by spectators at the event.

The group had a float in the parade made out of all recycled materials. The float, which was a star made out of tin cans, read, "Wish upon a star for a litter-free Lincoln."

Event coordinator Shugert said this year's parade allowed only 67 entrees, down from more than 90 last year.

She said this year's 74-minute-long parade was better for the children in attendance, who didn't have to sit through a two-hour event.

Austin Wenzl, a fourth-grader at Prescott Elementary School, said his favorites in the parade were the University of Nebraska marching band, the Garfield balloon and the cute girl he saw picking up trash on the street.

His older sister Tricia, a sixth-grader at Prescott, said, "I liked the Trash Can Band because two of my friends were in it."

Shugert said overall she thought the day was fabulous.

"We had a great crowd, and all the volunteers who helped out were absolute pros."

Mayor Young, who has been a clown in past parades, said, "The parade was a great, great event for Lincoln, Neb."

"It is one of the reasons Lincoln is the wonderful city it is."



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN
ELIZABETH FRY AND KELSEY MILLION await the start of the Star City Parade with their llamas Saturday morning. Both are participants in the Star City Llama 4H.

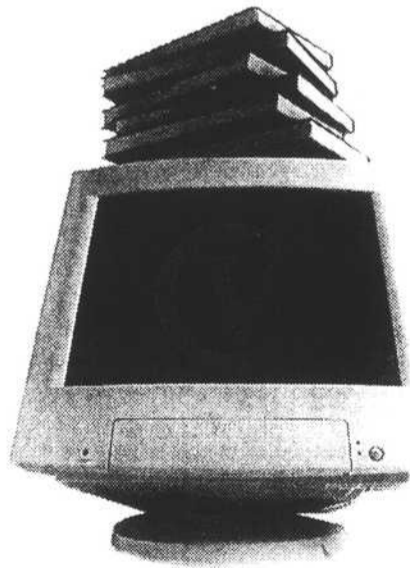


PHOTOS BY MATT MILLER/DN
ABOVE: NATE WHISENHONT, 15, waits for the Malcolm High School band to join the parade.



LEFT: THE SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL BAND added holiday cheer to their ensemble by uniformly sporting red Santa hats for the parade.

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