

Christmas Spirit Shines in Goldendale

*By Patricia Shamek
Brighter Goldendale
Christmas Committee*

On December 10, the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Parade completed its 14th year. The committee is already looking forward to next year, because it has become nearly a year-round project.

Each year brings new challenges and new hopes. The committee size has changed through the years. The present Brighter Goldendale Christmas Committee includes Julie Vance, Patti Allyn, Terry Crawford, Lanae Johnson, Grace Partlow and Patricia Shamek.

Besides the parade, the committee coordinates the decorating and lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on the courthouse lawn each year on the second Saturday of December. The tree was planted several years ago, and we all watch it continue to grow, which increases the need for another strand or two of lights. Once the lights come on, the Christmas tree remains lit until after New Year's.

Santa Claus was invited to the warm atmosphere of the Masonic Lodge, where the Eastern Star members served free soup, the Rebekahs provided hot chocolate, and the Klickitat Valley Health Services donated coffee and cookies for the last two years.

Terry and Lanae took pictures of each young visitor with Santa, in addition to each entry in the parade.

The route of the Candy Cane Lane Parade includes a loop around the Golden Terrace Assisted Living Center, where the Jaycees provided a lively commentary. This has become a popular event for the residents at the center.



Above, the Klickitat PUD entry in the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Parade. Below, Max Link and his pony took first place in the animals category of the parade.



The parade made its way on the traditional downtown route, where it was being broadcast live by KLCK radio from the balcony of the Masonic Lodge.

The floats, all decorated and shining with Christmas lights, were asked to park at the county parking lot for viewing after the parade, and to watch the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The evening was full of lively activities, spreading Christmas spirit throughout the crowd.

The committee hopes to see this nighttime parade rival a combina-

tion of the Starlight Parade in The Dalles and the Country Christmas Lighted Farm Implementation Parade in Sunnyside.

We have been encouraging local farmers and ranchers to include their farm machinery in the parade—fully lit of course—and we are still hoping for local loggers to decorate their

trucks and join in the parade next year.

The goal is for the Candy Cane Lane Parade to include a full representation of the area. The many school, 4-H and church groups are always a delight to see in the parade with their creative themes.

The committee has made strides in the last two years to provide music downtown. It will look to purchase a bigger amplifier, so the music can be heard the entire length of Main Street.

McCree Company has allowed us to house the current amplifier in their store.

The Candy Cane Lane Parade entries were judged in six categories: businesses, royalty, farm equipment, musical groups, animals and best overall lit entries.

The results in each category were:

Businesses: 1. Klickitat PUD; 2. Allyn's Building Center; 3. Andy Wesley Winter Fun.

Royalty: 1. Little Miss Rodeo Washington Jackielynn Miller; 2. Broken Spur Rodeo Queen Alyssa Christiansen; 3. Goldendale Junior