

# PARADE

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who assembled inside Lowe's Rexall Drug Store, 1112 E. Main St., the starting point of the parade.

After downing coffee and green-iced donuts, the crowd moved outside for a round of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling."

Then, off they went, across the street to the Gridiron Lounge, 1123 E. Main St., where the parade ended and the adults imbibed in the traditional glass of green beer.

Inside, Walker said he and his fellow organizers did not really try to break their own record-low time of 14 seconds because today's inclement weather slowed the pace.

Besides, the crowd that trailed behind prolonged the event to upwards of 30 seconds.

One who remained strictly a spectator was 80-year-old Jennie Johnson, who lagged behind, leaning on her cane and smiling broadly while the others scampered across the street.

Dressed in her green sweater and jacket, Johnson later said she has missed watching the parade only once since its beginning in 1978. Last year, she said, she spent St. Patrick's Day in the hospital.

Johnson said she plans to be back next year, and she hopes the parade remains a small-scale celebration.

"I think this is wonderful."