

# Snow slows parade, but not enthusiasm

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Of The Examiner

Start a good tradition and, before you know it, the whole world wants to join in.

What once was boasted as the world's smallest St. Patrick's Day parade, in downtown Blue Springs, today became a veritable throng of, oh, 30 or 40 people.

The customary holiday celebration — a walk across Main Street — ballooned way beyond its original scope of a three-man event in what appeared to be an act of purely spontaneous revelry.

Children and adults alike found themselves falling in line, singing and cheering their way across the street behind the three main par-

ticipants in the mini-event.

Today's festivities, the 11th running of the parade, also were marked by the first float ever to participate — a wooden trailer decorated in green with about a dozen children riding inside.

It was a heated competition, but the kids, students from St. John La Lande School, won trophies for best float and for best-decorated float.

The parade's grand marshal this year was City Administrator Fred Siems, who walked arm-in-arm along the parade route with the two founding fathers of the parade, retired businessman Joe Walker and Board of Education President Pat Meyer.

The city administrator wore his



Before the parade begins, Walker (center) shows Whitley (left) and Meyer (right) the trophies for best float and best-decorated float.

best grand marshal attire, a gold glittered top hat and a green plastic bowtie.

Before the parade, one could

sense that something big was about to happen, by the number of people

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