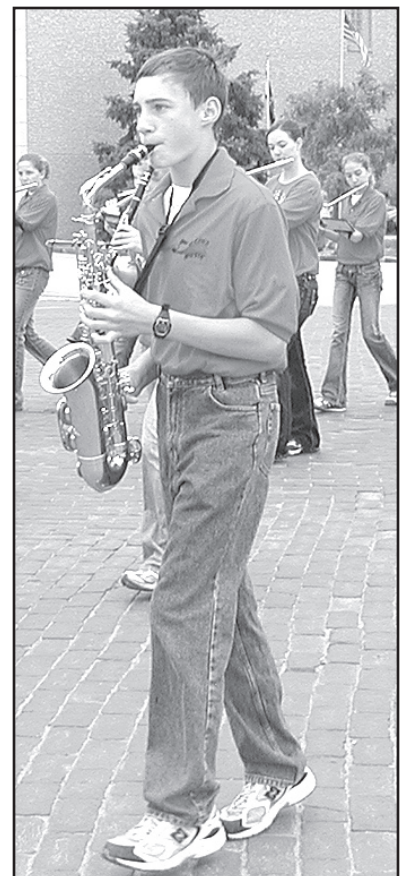




WITH AN OLD WASH TUB, Judy Cochran (above) demonstrated how hard it used to be to do the family washing on the R&M Service Center float during the museum parade Saturday morning. Caleb Koerperich (above right) played his

saxophone with the marching band. One of the floats included different wind models from a windmill (below) to the modern wind turbine.



Imaginations turned loose for parade

Imaginations were turned loose in preparation for the parade celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum Saturday morning.

Carolyn Burtis and Vickie Bailey, dressed as ballerinas in bright pink tutus, rode a banana yellow bicycle built for two; two floats held giant birthday cakes covered in paper, wind power changes were shown on one over the years and a stage coach from the museum impressed the crowd, as did small children dressed as pumpkins.

The Oberlin American Legion led the parade with the colors, followed by Dr. Robert and Nadine Simpson, who were the grand marshals of the parade.

In all, there were 50 floats, said Connie Grafel, who helped with the parade. Four or five of those entries showed up Saturday morning at the staging area at The Gateway.

Considering, she said, that there weren't a lot of entries at first, people really showed their support. And those who weren't in the parade were downtown enjoying it.

The street was lined with vehicles and people all the way from the museum up north to the Good Samaritan Center.

The parade left The Gateway parking lot around 10 a.m. and traveled east across U.S. 83, then east on Adams. They picked up several more entries at Reeves Seedhouse before turning south down Main Street.

Stan McEvoy, with Mobile Music Express, announced the entries while volunteers helped hand out trophies and ribbons for first, second and third place in each of the 14



STAN MCEVOY announced the parade entries for the Last Indian Raid Museum's 50th Anniversary.

categories. The first place winners included The Bank in the business/commercial category, Warren C. Bainter for professional/services, the Decatur Community High School marching band for band/musical, the Methodist Church for churches, Melvin Smallberger for antique cars/machinery, Kari Ketterl for political, Megan's pumpkin patch for children/youth/student groups, Good Samaritan Center for senior citizens, Modern Woodmen for civic organizations, Charles Godwin for motorized vehicles/all-terrain vehicles/golf carts, Lawrence Wendelin for horses and horse-drawn units, Jessica Bremer for miscellaneous/individuals, Art Shelton for antique machinery and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the Curator's Cup, including government boards. The American Legion Color Guard also won a first place trophy.

The parade, which was sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, was put together by a volunteer committee which included Ms. Grafel, Gary Walter, Sid Metcalf, Carrie Morford and Judy Scott.



SEATED IN THE BACK of a convertible, Dr. Robert and Nadine Simpson (above left) were the grand marshals of the parade. Vickie Bailey and Carolyn Burtis (above) rode a bicycle built for two as the bicycling ballerinas while Connie Miller (left) and her sister Marilyn Gamblin rode on the back of the Oberlin Lions float.

