

AS SMALL CHURCH with lights sat on the United Methodist Church float (above), along with a sign “UMC Believes.” LaMoine Wolfram (below) drove a John Deere tractor pulling a Napa Auto Parts blow-up snow globe.



Parade of Lights opens holiday season

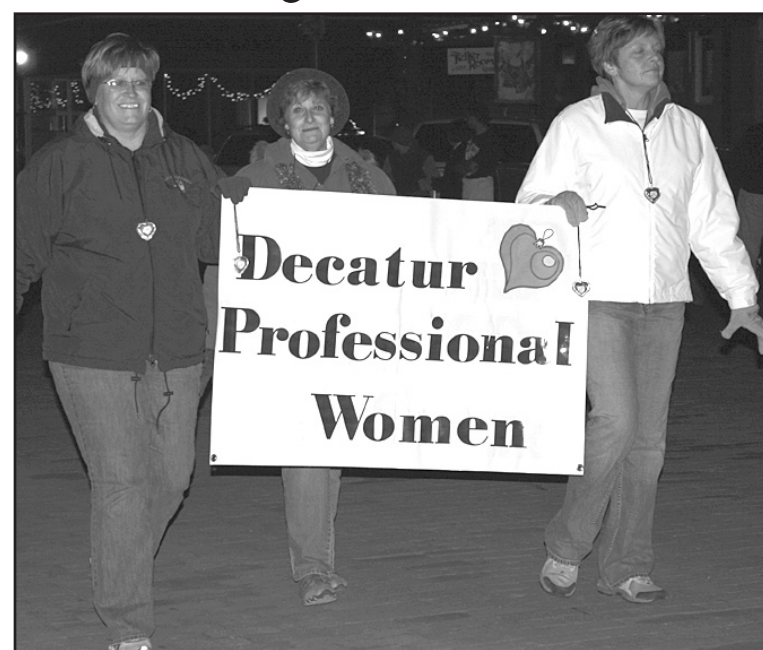
Floats, a motorcycle, blow-up displays, walkers and big trucks, all festooned with Christmas lights, paraded down Main Street on Friday in Oberlin’s traditional Christmas season opener, the annual Parade of Lights.

The parade drew 23 entries, which traveled north up Penn Avenue after dark with tiny white and colored lights.

One group, the Decatur Professional Women, walked down the street with pins on their coats that lit up in red and blue. Other entries had kids on floats while still others featured blow-up yard displays, including a motorcycle with Santa on it, a penguin and still more.

The parade, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, used the theme “Believe in the Spirit of Christmas.” That was dreamed up by the fourth-grade class of Sherri Ruf at Oberlin Elementary School.

The alliance gave out prizes for first, second and third place. Winners were Ward Drug with a reindeer and sleigh for first; the Bank with the theme, “Peace on Earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day,” which included scenes of family, angels,

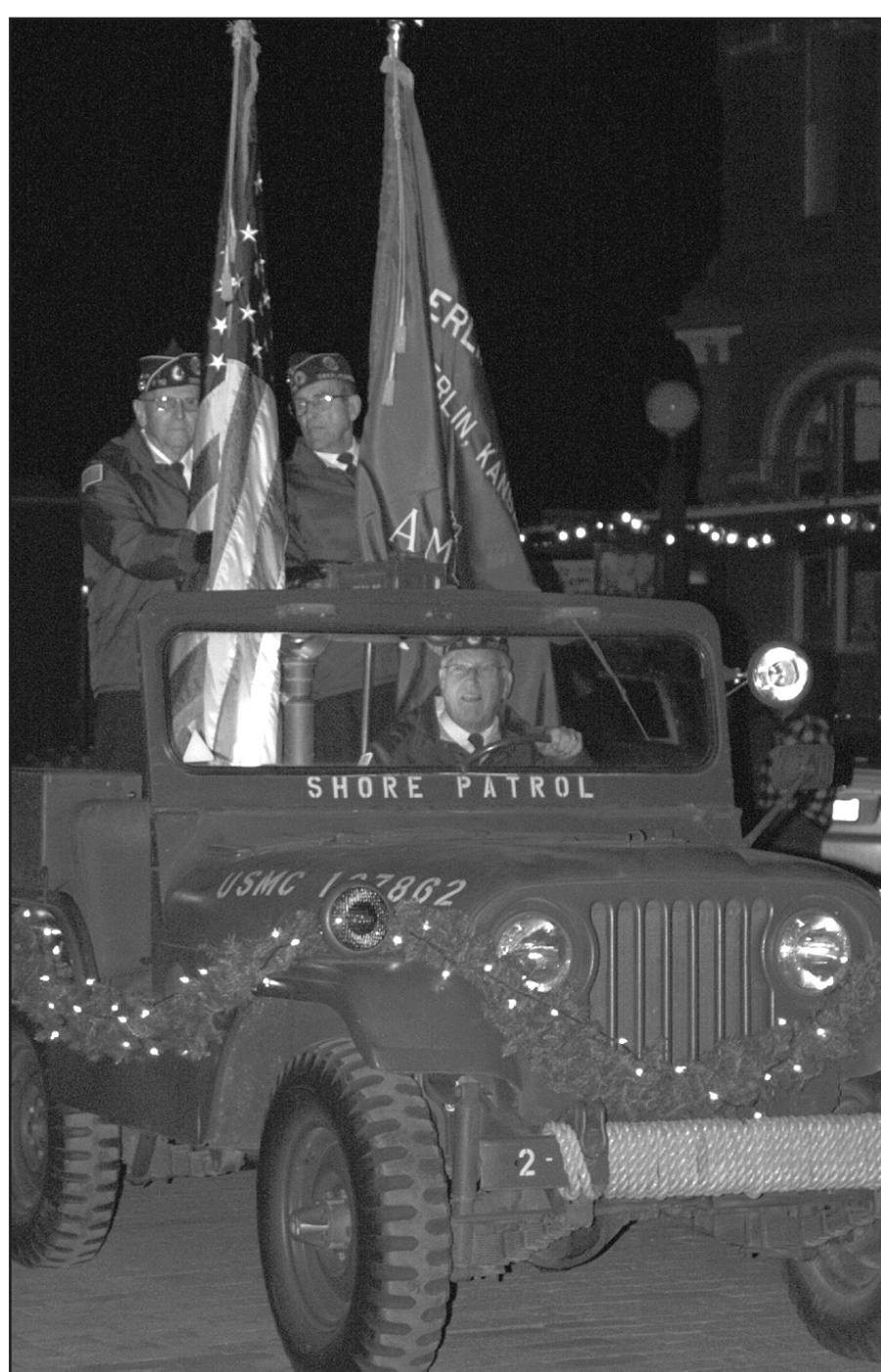


THREE CLUB MEMBERS, (from left) Diane Barrett, Cheryl Metcalf and Jody Votapka, carried a Decatur Professional Women sign in the Parade of Lights on Friday.

compassion, and the reason for the season, second and Rocking R and the Tripple Creek Riders with Santa on a horse for third.

The 2009 parade, said Gary Wal-

ter, who organized the event for the alliance, will be the 10th anniversary. It will be a big deal, he said, and people should start thinking about what they want to enter now.



IN A SHORE PATROL vehicle, veteran John Bremer was accompanied by two American Legion members (left) with the colors to start the parade. An Airstream trailer (below) belonging to Kelly Moore was decorated with lots of lights.

— Herald photos by Kim Davis