Any Old Box Can Be Used For A Chariot To Enter In St. Martinville's '60 Parade

ST. MARTINVILLE — The children of the surrounding communities and invited by the St. Martinville Club Civique to see and to take part in the Annual Children's Chariot Parade.

Many ask the questions, "What is a chariot? How did the custom of making chariots originate? How long has it been going on?"

We who live at St. Martinville and who, as children, were taught by our parents to make chariots believe that once a long, long time ago, a little boy from here, the bright stars the glowing fireflies, many ask the questions. "What is a chariot? How did the custom of making chariots originate? How long has it been going on?"

The Chariot Parade will be held just at dusk, about 6:30 on Thursday, Sept. 15, and all contestants are asked to meet in front of the Catholic Church, which is in the center of town. There the children will get numbers pinned to their sleeves and will receive general instructions. The parade route is to be the sidewalks around the church green, as in past years. All children from the neighboring communities are invited to join in the fun. There is no admission charge of contestants or spectators.

By Leon Martin Guirard

The secret of what each chariot will represent is carefully kept by the parents and their children who work together planning and making it, until the night of the parade when its small proud owner will march by. It's only music is the sound of exclamation of delight from the spectators and whispers of caution and encouragement from proud parents as their little ones march by. It is the only candle-lit parade in existence, and certainly it is the only parade in which the spectators stand in the streets to watch the parade go by on the sidewalks. The children in the parade advertise nothing except the fact that they are little children, acting like little children and thus adding to the mystery and beauty of the night.

The Children's Chariot Parade differs from an ordinary parade in many ways. A Chariot Parade has no theme... anything goes. It's only music is the sound of cardboard being dragged over cement sidewalks, spiked with exclamations of delight from the spectators and whispers of caution and encouragement from proud parents as their little ones march by. It is the only candle-lit parade in existence, and certainly it is the only parade in which the spectators stand in the streets to watch the parade go by on the sidewalks. The children in the parade advertise nothing except the fact that they are little children, acting like little children and thus adding to the mystery and beauty of the night.

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