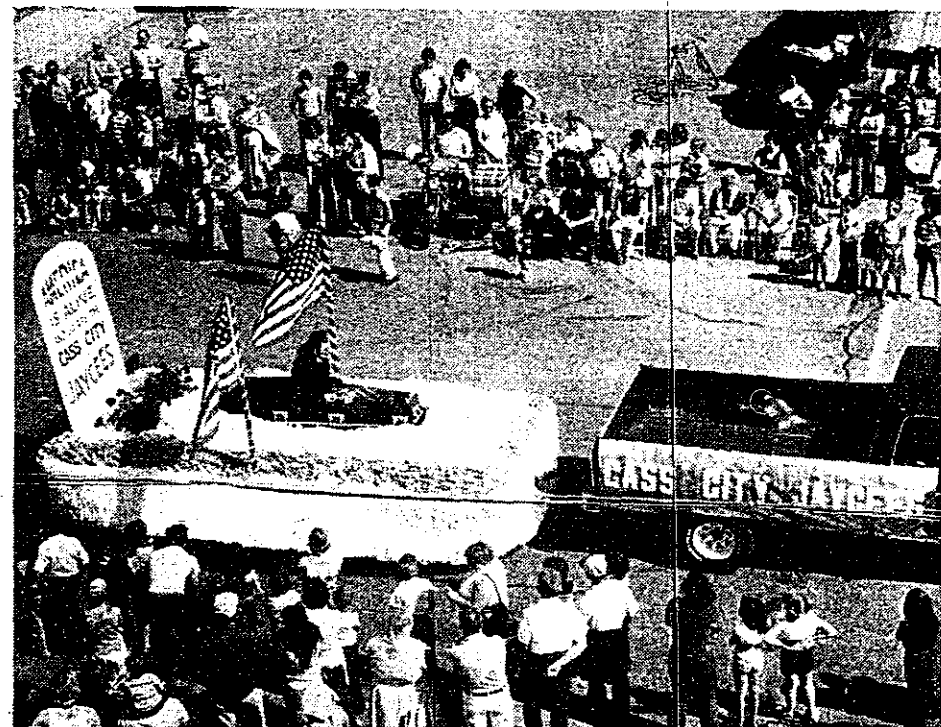
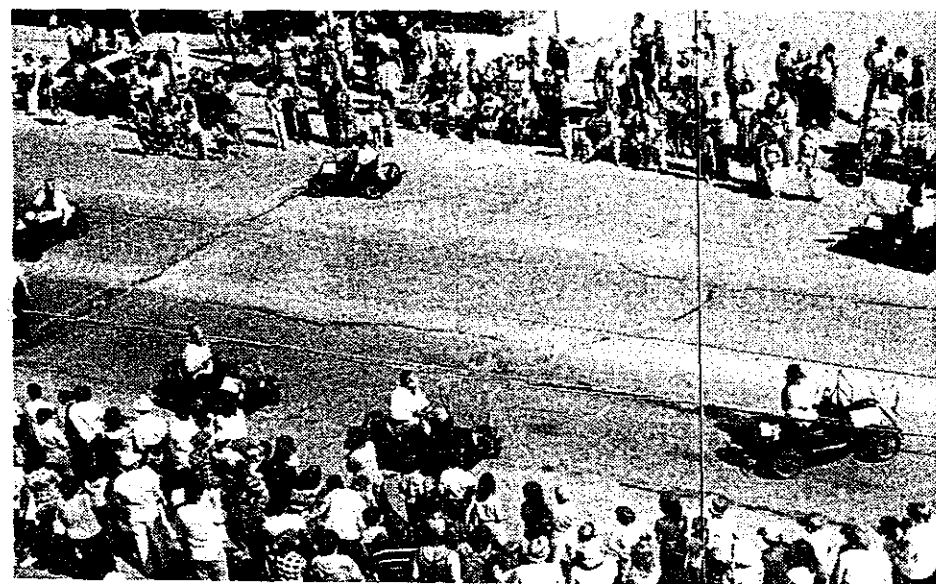


Do you remember?

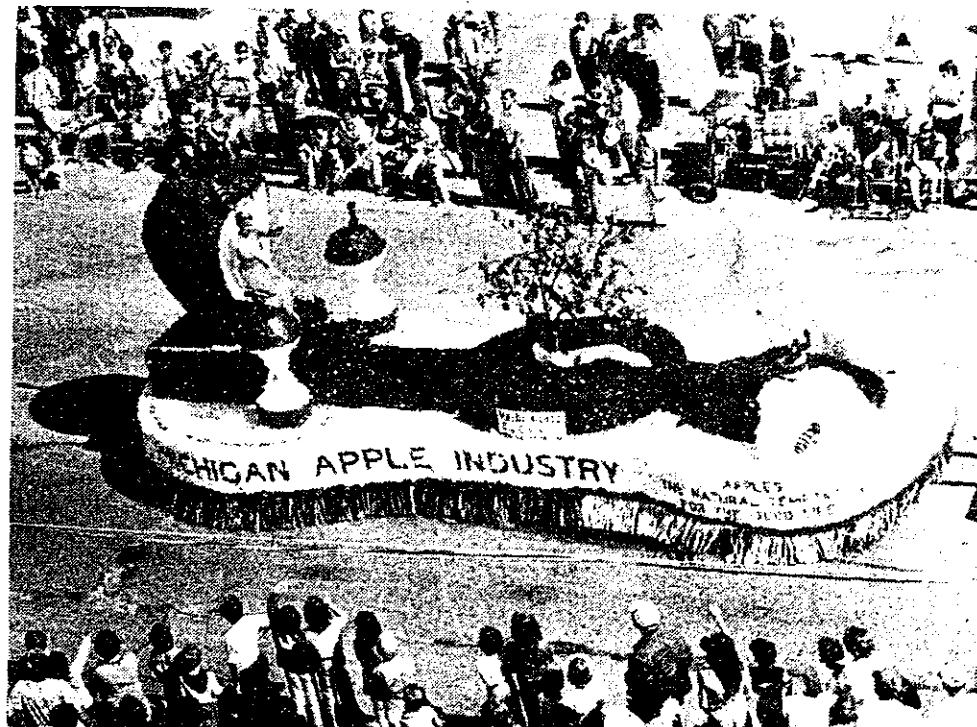
# Never before published highlights of 1979's highly successful parade



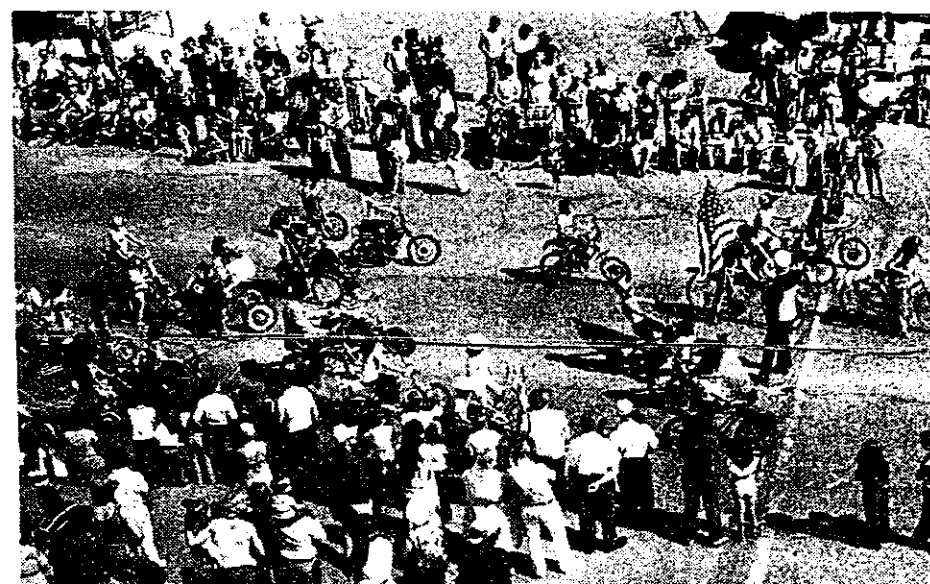
THE JAYCEES created a float that promoted their community involvement.



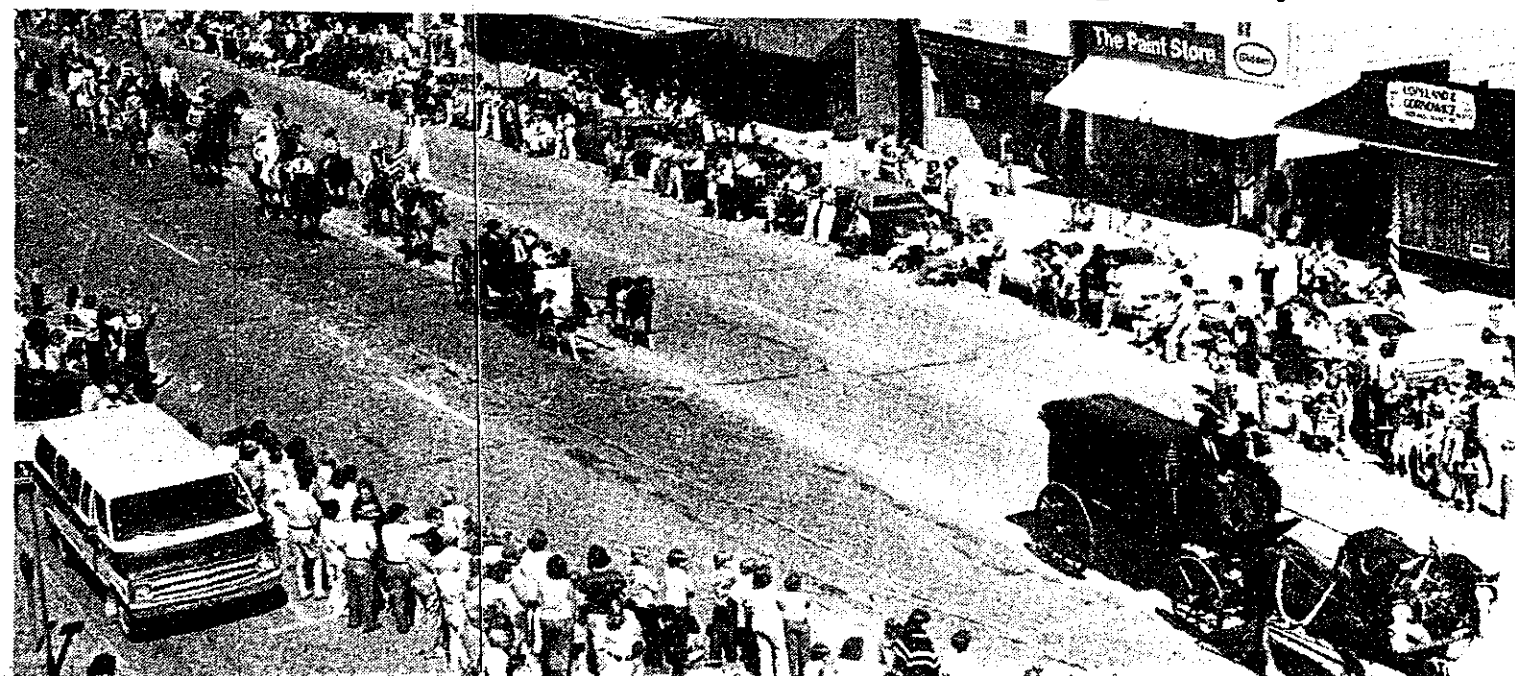
THE SHRINERS and their miniature cars will again be a part of the Fourth of July parade.



FLOATS FROM INDUSTRIES around the state as well as those locally made participated in the parade. This one was sponsored by the apple industry.



CHILDREN HAD A CHANCE to decorate their bikes and ride right along with everyone else.



# Parade shaping up — new entries promise diversified entertainment

Mike Weaver is trying to keep things different.

As co-chairman of the parade committee with Dale Deering, Weaver said he realizes parades tend to get stale when the same participants enter the things year after year.

"You always get a lot of local people who want to put their model A in the parade," he said.

Not that lots of antique

cars are bad, everyone likes them, but variety is the spice of parades as well as life.

So the parade committee tried to get some new acts, in addition to those returning, for this festival. And to a degree they have succeeded, Weaver said.

The second annual Fourth of July parade which starts at 10 a.m. and moves from the Charmont down Main Street to the park, is shaping up to be as good or better than the first one.

For one thing it is longer. Weaver said he has 80 units signed up to be in the parade this year compared to the 75 he had last year.

That includes everything from floats, antique cars and high school bands — the mainstays of most small town parades — to a national champion baton twirler from Grand Rapids.

One of the highlights of this year's festival will be the presence of 19-year-old Rory Hood who was recruited just last Thursday to participate in the parade after a European tour was cancelled.

Hood, who twirls two and three fire batons at a time while marching, is a featured performer with the "New Olympians," a baton

group.

In addition to the parade, Hood will put on a 15-minute display in the park following the parade.

Other highlights in the parade include the Flint Scottish Band, the Saginaw Eagles, a drum and bugle group, and the Tip-of-the-Thumb Square Dance club.

Fourteen floats are registered in three categories of competition.

There will be three winners from the categories which are church floats, civic group floats and a third group made up of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Provincial House.

Putting together a parade is not easy, nor is it inexpensive. Weaver gave much credit to Deering for his part in the parade planning. In an attempt to get an early start, Deering sent letters in December to all the participants of last year's parade.

The early start is necessary as many out-of-town participants are booked in other parades. Particularly since many towns have similar festivals on July 4.

Outside groups tend to cost money also, which places a limit on the parade. This year Weaver said the

committee spent \$750 so far in outside entertainment. To help pay for those groups some area businesses have made donations to the Chamber.

Even though they try to detail everything in advance, last minute alterations are always made, Weaver explained.

A group will cancel at the last minute and other people will show up wanting to be in the parade.

The changes are made to fit into the master plan drawn up by the committee.

Weaver explained each unit is given a number, printed on a sheet of cardboard. The organizers then circulate with their master lists lining everyone up.

Last year, the parade started at the Charmont and the numbers were painted on the road making it easy for entries to find where they belonged. This year it may be a little harder.

The parade forms in the General Cable parking lot and stretches down Doerr Road. Since the street is presently under construction it is impossible to paint the numbers this year.

Nevertheless, Weaver said he has 12 men ready to

help line the parade up and see that it runs smoothly.

Some complaints were heard through the grapevine last year over the judging of floats in the parade. It distressed Weaver that they complained without letting him know about it.

"I don't claim to make a perfect parade but let them tell me about the problem and maybe suggest ways to make it better," Weaver proclaimed.

Even though he has more musically oriented acts than last year, Weaver said the parade can use more. There are about 6-8 acts that can be termed "musical," he said. Other entries, including many of the floats have recorded music with them.

The Cass City parade is better than other small-town festival parades in two ways, he pointed out. It is longer than most and more diverse.

The influx of money from the chamber and other organizations and businesses has allowed the parade to be what it is, he said.

"You put a lot of time into a project and spice it up with some money and you're going to have a good thing," Weaver said.



DALE DEERING is co-chairman of the parade committee this year working to combine both new and returning entries.



MIKE WEAVER is in his second year as co-chairman of the 80-unit Fourth of July Parade.



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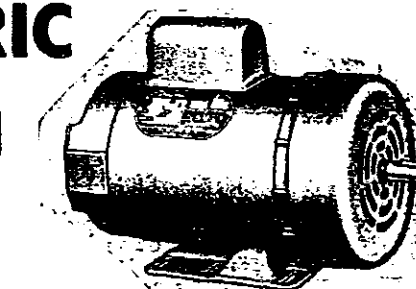
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