

Rainy day welcome for Santa



Merry as ever, the dear old man from the North Pole made it down for the 1:30 afternoon start of the Georgetown parade Saturday. The key guest in the annual event has been coming down for 52 years now, never missing a parade and always jolly no matter the weather. This year Santa Claus got a kick out of the Georgetown event, when his

float hit a speed bump at the Market Place. Dear Old Santa and his faithful reindeer were sent flying and a silver parcel came rolling down from his sleigh, a few weeks too early. Laughing merrily and waving warm hellos to his little friends, Santa continued the parade route, feet firmly on the float.



Umbrellas and rain jackets were a necessity for spectators out to catch a glimpse of Santa and hear the marching bands. The dismal gray day didn't dampen spirits, nevertheless. There was an expectant excited air among the collected crowds at the Georgetown Market Place and Main Street downtown area. Fire and

ambulance sirens whined and buglers and pipe bands entertained with Christmas music.



Wanna make a deal, sweetheart? Hearts, I'm yours. The Queen of Hearts spread the good cheer, wand in hand, among the hundreds of youngsters and adults along the Georgetown parade route.



Mysterious packages gave hints of things to come, on this float. A large number of groups entered floats this year and prizes were awarded, as in the past, to the most original float, the best commercial float, the best overall, the best theme and the best service club entry.



Lollipops for little girls, from a nice bee carrying a bag of sweets. Daddy's shoulder sometimes got a little sore and fire hydrants did the trick. Hundreds of Georgetown children turned up for the Lions Club Santa Claus parade. Besides special guest Santa were many old favorites like the Acton and Georgetown fire brigades, the Acton



Citizens' Band, the Elkettes majorettes, the Georgetown Fireflies, the Kinsmen, the Halton Hills Jills, the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, the Newfoundland Club, the Georgetown Figure Skating Club, the Rotary Club, the Jaycees, the Gemini hockey club, the Lionettes and the Erin Mills Drum and Bugle Corps and Air Cadet Band.



Without a squawk, the Optimists Chicken let himself be led along the parade route Saturday, accompanied by his Chicken Club pals. The Chicken Club is promoted by the Optimists service club to discourage children from experimenting with harmful drugs. It says it's all right to say "no" to the drug scene.

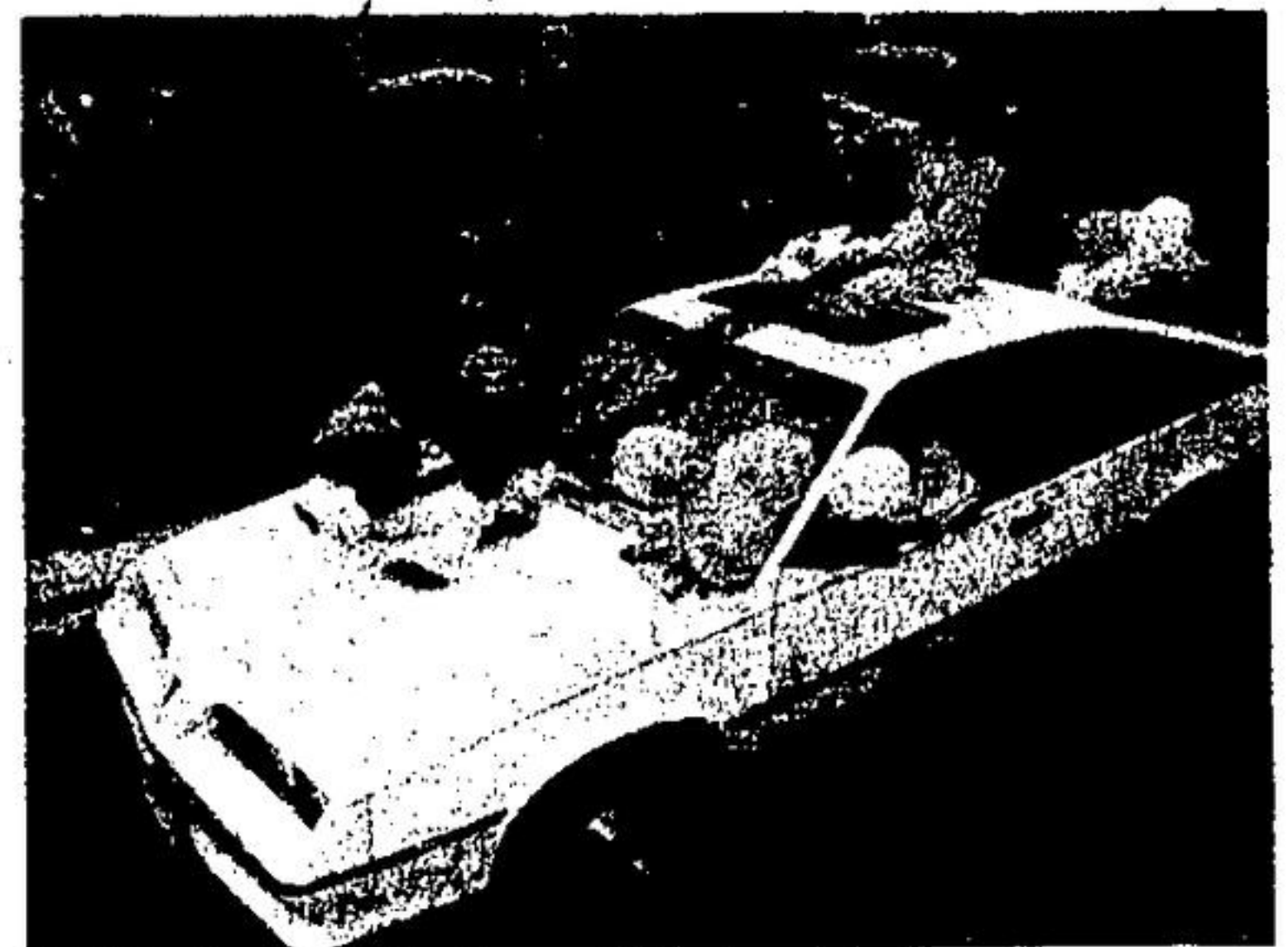


This year's parade route began at the Georgetown Market Place. From there, marchers and floats proceeded down Guelph Street west to Maple Avenue. Halton regional police were out blocking roads in advance of the parade. From Maple Avenue, the event

continued up Main Street to James Street where it ended. The shopping plaza where it all started was packed with cars anticipating the arrival of Santa, and after Santa's float passed, a traffic jam followed as mommys and daddys tried to go home all at the same time.

Herald photos by Ani Pederian

It's a wonder this snazzy car wasn't up in the air floating above the parade. There were so many balloons decorating it. Colorful decorations like these gave a festive air to the event.



Don't forget! Acton Y's Men's SANTA CLAUS PARADE This Saturday, 1:30 p.m.



The Acton Citizen Band trumpeted clear a path for following floats. Their bright red uniforms added

cheery color to a rather gray day, and their Christmas carols sipped up spirits among the bystanders.



Garfield the famous cat and his dwarf friends endured the drizzle quite nobly on the float prepared by the Georgetown Fireflies Association. This was Garfield's first year on the trail and he's promised to make a come-back next year, rain or sun.



Trucks along with the rest of the parade were members of the Acton based Friends-IN-Deed group, their dogs and children. The friendly and well packed van got lots of waves returned from well-wishers along the route.