# Santa parade marks season

The J. L. Hudson Co.'s Santa Parade, elways held on Thanksgiving Day, marks the beginning of the Christmas season for many Detroiters, "The 1978 parade will be the Sdd sponsored by Hudson's. The first parade was staged in 1924. There were interruptions in 1941 and 1942 cause of a stortage of materials at the start of World Way II.

shortage of materials at the start or World War II.

This year, more than 2,000 people will march in the parade. Another 300 work behind the scenes on repair and reparation of floats and other chores. Employees begin setting up the parade at Hudson's Fort Street display studio at 3:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. At 4 a.m. a Detroit Police escort arrives to take the floats down to the parade starting point at Woodward and Putnam, Marchers arrive latter in the morning to be costumed, made up and the morning to be costumed. The made up and the morning to No dress rehearsal. The parade fiself is the first and only run through.

come 24 persons pulling a single float.

Cold weather caused another problem when metal-rimmed wheels froze to the street surface. This led to the use of mechanical floats. Hudson's 1978 floats are pulled by tractors obtained from Ford Motor Co.

Limitation on size and weight of floats pulled by horse and manpower

floats pulled by borse and manpower also hastened the use of motorized units. Early floets averaged 15 feet in length and swen feet in height.

Today, floats are as 50 is as 30 feet wide and 120 feet long. Until four years ago, float height was limited to 15 feet because of utility crosswires. Now, a manual device inside the floats allows the operator control so that parts of the fioat can ease under the wires and then rise as high as 40 feet.

PARADE FLOATS are built entirely be a crew of five full-time Hudson's employees working year-round. These personnel scale, construct and finish each unit, using a veriety of skills such as carpentry, welding and designing, A sixth employee oversees parade costumes.

## parade itself is the first and only run through. The first parade consisted of horse-drawn lumber and milk wagons, cov-ered with papier mache and other dec-orative materials. About 150 employ-ees participated in the event, which basited 10-12 floats. sixth employee oversees parage costumes. Oil base paint is used with wood and metal foundation material in the float construction. The forms are made with a material called Celastic, which is a fabric impregnated with a synthetic resin which becomes hard after Because of a runaway horse team during one of the early parades, man-power was used for many years, with

## **Telethon raises** \$2 million-plus

Metropolitan Detroit's record as a fund-raising community has produced another milestone.

Sparked by Meperade by Surver Brandcasting Co., area residents and businesses pedged a record Sci O. 207, 185 during the 22-hour Jerry Lewis Tele-ton over the Labor Day weekend, according to Muscular Dystrophy Association headquarters in New York.

Metro Detroit's contribution was No. 1 in the nation, slightly ahead of per-reside leader New York (x., end represented seven percent of the national pedge of \$25 (97.4 ws.

"It has been an increasingly gratlying experience to be a participant in the muscular dystrophy fundraising

campaign," declared WJBK-TV Vice President and General Manager Bob McBride. The station has been associ-ated with the telethon since 1975.

MORE THAN FIVE hours of the 1978 telethon were produced locally by WIBK-TV with TV2 news and and Joe Glover serving as master of ceremonies for each of 21 fifteen-minute local segments. The station cut way from the telethon only once, to present 2 news wrep-u serves were produced to the state of the serves were produced to the serves we

Glover has been master of ceremo-nies for the Metro Detroit segment during each of the four years the tele-thon has been on WJBK-TV, taking on the assignment shortly after moving to TV2 from California.

### Family Players plan children's production

"How the Penguin Got His Tuxedo," a children's play set in the style of the "Just So Stories" of Rudyard Kipling, will be presented by the Family Players

The performances will be given at Groves High School 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 2 and 9 and at 2 and 5 p.m. Dec.

Writer and producer of this one-act play is Sally Sawyer. The Community

Theater Association of Michigan selected "How the Penguin Got His Tuxedo" as its first prize winner, chil-dren's category, for 1977 in CTAM playwriting contest.

The production will be directed by Ron Merkin. He is the creator of Cen-ter Ring Productions, which produced the half-hour weekly children's series "Dedealdoors" for WXYZ-TV.



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SAT. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Do by Come of Department of the Come of t

being dipped in an activating agent. Celastic is the same material used in shoes and in patching cars and boats. Each year, Hudson's parade floats are either completely remodeled or reconstructed as a new float for the most parade. Annually, a special float, and the same parade as a new float for the most parade. Annually, a special float, and the same parade and the same parade. Detroit Public Schools are invited to short designs to a parel of judges at Hudson's, and the winning drawing is constructed as a float for the parade. Prizes are awarded to the top three suggested designs and 10 others receive honorable mention.

The 1978 winner is "Close Encounters" designed by 10-year-old William Bowden of Houghton Elementary School.

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vided by high school and community marching bands from various areas in the city, state and country. The bands are selected by size, dress, versatility and musical repertory. Additional music is supplied by a non-marching band located in front of Hudson's downlown store.

This year, there are 20 spectacular floats, 14 bands and some 2,000 marchers covering the 2½-mile route south

loads, 14 bands and some 2,000 marchers covering the 2½-mile route south on Woodward past Hudson's to Fort Street.

More than 500,000 people annually wise the parade along the route, and millions more see the festivities in color over national television. Hudson's credits much of the success of the annual parade to the cooperation of the Detroit Fire Department, the Detroit Fire Department and the Department of Public Works.

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