

Girl Scouts gather bouquet of knowledge at Rose Parade

HOT PINK PRINCESS roses have thorns, but hot neon pink roses do not!

That's just one lesson a group of Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts learned while volunteering time to work on a float for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

The girls, all from San Ramon, helped the Girl Scouts of the San Fernando Valley Council, who had agreed to provide some of the labor for floats built by the companies Rainbird and Lowes.

Girls and adults from three troops traveled to Pasadena for the New Year's Day parade, including **Andi Berner, Alanna Casey, Allison Strupp and Sarah Quincy**, and Troop Leader **Kathy Berner**, from Troop 277; **Nicole Brannock and Monica Gunther**, and Troop Leader **Elizabeth Brannock**, from Troop 789; and **Emilia Haya** from Troop 525.

The scouts helped with flower preparation, cutting the roses to a specified length and putting them in tiny water vials to be installed on the floats.

Berner said the scouts observed that their role in the float-making was like working in a factory. "We were doing part of a process, but did not know how our portion of the process was going to be used or why following the prescribed length requirements for the stems was so important. They didn't even know what the final product was going to look like."

The girls did get to tour some of the floats and see how the floats folded down to get under the overpass at the end of the parade.

"We also discovered that the



MONICA LANDER
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floats were covered in more than flowers," Berner said. "The floats could be covered in anything that was once growing — freeze-dried and shaved carrots, sliced potatoes, seeds of all kinds and various tree barks. The float designers used just about everything to decorate these floats. They also had to plan well in advance to place the orders (for the flowers) and guarantee everything would arrive at the decorating site at just the right time."

RAIN DIDN'T MATTER TO THIS PARADE: The San Ramon Holiday Parade was a "splashing" success, according to **Kathi Heimann**, program manager with the city's parks and community services department, as she announced the first-place Santa Trophy winners.

Despite the downpour that soaked parade participants and onlookers in early December, everyone seemed to have a good time.

Trophies were awarded to Kid's Country for the small business float; Chefs from Candy Mountain for the amateur youth float; California High School for the high school marching band, senior drum major and senior tall flags; Chinese Christian School for the community color guard, the community drill team, and junior tall flags; the Las Trampas Girl Scout Association for

the youth walking group and Cub Scout Pack 201 for the combined walking group.

The Valley Water Management Antique Trash Truck was awarded a trophy for the classic car; **Larry Cauble**, for a decorated vehicle; and the San Ramon Police Department in the "other" category.

California High School's varsity cheerleaders won in the miscellaneous category; Oakland A's mascot, Stomper, won the clowns and characters category; Brownie Troop 2663 was the Mayor's Choice Award winner; and the Girl Scout Association of San Ramon was the Sweepstakes winner.

ORTHODONTIST GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY: San Ramon resident and orthodontist **Sandy Bigman** was to be recognized by the San Ramon City Council's meeting last night for his outstanding community involvement. The council periodically recognizes individuals in the community for their contributions.

For the past 14 years, Bigman has given generously back to the community by participating in charity fund-raisers and by sponsoring several local

schools and sports teams. He also encourages his many patients to participate as well.

Each fall, Bigman hosts a talent show, now in its seventh year, featuring patients and their friends. While a great deal of fun, this event is also an opportunity to collect food for the Contra Costa Food Bank. The event is free with the donation of at least one food item per person.

Last year, 556 pounds of food were collected. Bigman matched that with a \$556 donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. In the spring, the orthodontist (and his office) became a Daffodil Days representative for the annual American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days fund-raiser. His office takes orders for daffodil arrangements and he donates \$1 for every order taken. Last year, \$1,812 was raised through this event.

His patients surely know all about his Halloween candy buy-back, a fund-raiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Patients bring in the candy and he buys it back for \$2 a pound. One dollar per pound goes to the foundation and the patient gets \$1 per pound. Patients

may choose to donate their proceeds as well. This past Halloween, the buy-back generated \$324 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The candy is donated to the Tri City Homeless Coalition in Fremont.

In addition to the many fund-raisers, Bigman hosts an ice skating party and a water-slide party each year for his patients and their families. He also sponsors soccer, baseball and football teams and sup-

ports local ice skating and hockey competitions.

Bigman and his staff volunteer to speak at local schools and provide orthodontic emergency kits to the school nurses.

Going to the orthodontist was never this fun!

Call Monica Lander at 925-743-2205, write to her c/o San Ramon Valley Times, P.O. Box 68, Danville, CA 94526 or send a fax to 925-837-4334. Her column runs every Wednesday.