

2017 PARADE REPORT

July 4, 2017 dawned bright and clear, carrying the day with perfect weather. With 53 units, in a nonelection year, the parade was just incredible!! There were 10 animals entered, a huge increase over last year. The exciting animal entry this year had to be the Clydesdale jousting horse! The craft area had 15 booths again. And the crowds seemed to be larger than ever. Our Kids Zone and the craft area were swamped. The 4H food stand had increased their quantities, and ran out of dogs, the first time ever. This year we prepared 600 bags to hand out to the children, 100 more than last year, and most are gone. It appears this was a banner year.

The free pony rides always draws a large group of kids with a constant stream of riders, and they plan to be back again next year. They also provided the bounce house, eliminating one vendor. The Kids Zone was updated to try to draw the tween crowd, and may have done that. In the saw dust we had "jewels", rings, polished stones and plastic coins with an organza draw string bag to put the treasures into. The Howell Nature Center and the 4H petting zoo are always popular. Two disappointments, however, were the cotton candy machine and the much anticipated Photo Booth. The cotton candy machine just did not work properly, and we have been promised a refund. The Photo Booth vendor encountered a glitch somewhere between the computer and printer. He could not resolve it so he just closed up and went home. We could try again next year, at a nice discount.

Again our silent auction was a great success. It brought in over \$800, the final tally still being collected. (Last year we collected just under \$500.) It benefited **Meals on Wheels** and they, and we were quite excited for the outcome! It was amazing! We thank everyone for all the wonderful items to auction off. Somehow, we manage to collect enough in the end to make for an exciting auction.

We had new volunteers at the check in area who were quick studies. It appears all went smoothly, with no problems, and considering the increase in entries, that was super!

Monetary donations totaled \$500, down by \$100 from last year. We thank Arrow Storage, Hunter's Ridge Golf, Armstrong Masonry, and Lott Elevator for their continued support. We also received the usual prize donations from Howell Western Wear and the Fowlerville Fair Board.

Volunteers are still hard to come by, sometimes pulling in a familiar face off the street at the last minute. We always need more. But all in all, it was another good day in Cohoctah.