

A Look Back at our 1968 Homecoming Parade

I was searching **Cathy Avery's** Facebook wall, looking for a photograph she had shared before, when I came across some amazing video of our 1968 Homecoming Parade. The video credit is a Tim Ryan, but I am unsure of his association with the class of 1968. The video is mislabeled as Class of 1969, but it is definitely Class of 1968. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXRLUZeJJBM&sns=fb>

Here are the scenes as best as I can identify them. If you recognize anyone, or you were one of the people in the parade, let me know and I'll update this on our site.

Scene 1: Red convertible, driver unknown - Homecoming Queen –**Nan Fuerste (Smith)**

Scene 2: Sky Blue Mustang, driver unknown, owner **Dave Howell** – Attendant **Cathy Avery (St Jean)**.

Scene 3: Dark blue convertible, driver unknown – Attendant **Kathy Sweeney (Reilly)**. She is a life-long friend, and I had the good fortune to be her escort at the homecoming game.

Scene 4: Float – “Blast the Hawks.” I don't recognize anyone.

Scene 5: Float – “Stew the Hawks.” This float won the Best Float for the parade, and I have a story. There were a bunch of us who wanted to build a float for the parade, but had no affiliation (like French Club, etc.) to enter the parade. We formed a group and called ourselves “The Troop,” much like the “Hut” guys who were one year our senior.

If memory serves me well, which it doesn't so well lately, **Greg Sauser** was able to line up a hay rack, and a barn/storage area on a farm where we could build the float. That building was slated for demolition to make way for what is now Hempstead High School.

The Troopers I remember (I think) were Sauser, **Dave Grimes**, **Ken Cruise**. Sorry, I don't remember the rest. Email me if you were one. We spent a couple of nights in the barn working on the float. And of course, being Dubuquers, beer was involved. So we kept the door slightly ajar to watch for unknown headlights. Sure enough we saw headlights, and someone yelled, “Cops!” Since I didn't drink beer at the time, I was “elected” to be the spokesperson for the group. The rest of the group scrambled to hide the beer while I spoke with the officer. He was polite and wanted to know what we were doing, and if we had permission to be on the property. I assured him we had permission, and opened the door far enough so he could see our progress. He didn't enter, wished us well and left. I'm sure he knew beer was involved, but cops really are good people.

Regardless, we won. The float was a witch's shack at the rear made of cornstalks. In front we had a fake fire with a large cast iron pot suspended over it. I'm not certain who was stewing the pot, but we had dry ice in the water to make it look real. In front was a small picnic table with two lettermen awaiting their first taste of Little Hawk stew.

So pause the video if you get the chance and see how really cool the float was. Thanks to all the “Troopers” who made the float a success.

Scene 6: Float – Blue Football Player – Can't see the title or identify anyone.

Scene 7: Float – “Fry the Hawks.” Can't identify anyone.

Scene 8: Float – The yellow tank – Can't see the title or identify anyone.

Scene 9: Float – “And the Beat Goes On.” Can’t identify anyone.

Scene 10: Yellow Convertible - Cheerleaders - Can’t identify anyone.

Scene 11: Yellow Convertible – Cheerleaders – Dark Hair is **Suzy Farber**, and maybe **Kathy Hodges**?

Scene 12: Pedestrians – House of Cards – Can’t identify anyone.

Scene 13: Red convertible towing engineless car with live ram. Can’t identify anyone.

Scene 14: Float – “Little Hawks have Fleas” – Can’t identify anyone.

Scene 15: Bicycles – Can’t identify anyone

Scene 16: White Convertible – Driver, rider unknown. Attendant **Patty Boylan (Devens)**

Scene 17: Convertible – Driver unknown. Attendant **Beverly Gourley**.

Scene 18: VW Convertible – Driver **Dana Owen (Boleyn)**, (I think), Cheerleader **Diane Mihal (Whitehead)** (I think).

A BIG THANK YOU to **Cathy Avery (St Jean)** for finding and posting this video.