

Local Folks Celebrate Spartan Victory at State

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Hats, horns and "Hallelujah, we won"!

It wasn't a St. Patrick's Day Parade, a Mardi Gras dance or even a small town centennial celebration. But the activities on the local scene Saturday resembled all three and then some. Participants were exhilarant with victory and they heartily demonstrated their tribute to the Spartan basketball team, winners of the Class B State Basketball Tournament.

Residents marched in the streets, hailing a toast with a glass full of beer, or paraded in cars, buses, trucks, tractors and a variety of other conceivable (some might say inconceivable) vehicles that crawled circuitously through McFarland late Saturday afternoon. The holiday song was "Spartans are great, we took state". Hundreds of youngsters, waving the victory sign from passing buses, sang their theme for

the world to hear.

Celebrants continued their festivities late into the night, fulfilling a recently adopted village board resolution urging all residents to celebrate Saturday, March 17, in a carnival like spirit with "loud noises, cheering, horn beeping . . . which will last as long as those participating may wish it to."

The note to begin the festivities in McFarland sounded at the corner of Highway 51 and Terminal Road when screaming fire trucks and squad cars, screaming rescue squads, school buses packed with the cheering students and a mile long string of approximately 250 cars complete with horn honking drivers entered McFarland. The parade wound through Edwards Park, the north part of the Town of Dunn, into southeast McFarland and finally to McFarland High School where a brief pep rally was held.

Sunday was a day of recuperation for some residents. But the victory celebrations continued Monday at 9 a.m. when a pep rally for the students and interested residents was held in the McFarland High School gym. School Board President Al Pfeiffer and Village President Frank

Dresen addressed pep rally participants and congratulated Spartan players and coaches.

With a background of trophies from regional, sectional and state championships, Superintendent Patrick Kennedy and Principal David Rock presented their congratulations. Coach William Rice reminded students and parents that McFarland also supported a state championship wrestler, Bob Trapino.

The highlight of the morning rally was the introduction of Spartan team members. They are Jim McFall, Bob Reisinger, Tom Sawyer, Ray Kirch, Doug DeLacy, Roger Fuchs, Bill Pearson, Lew Harrison, Greg Zeman, Keith Helgerson, Joe Blanchar, Tim Dunston, Kevin Smith and Myron Sherry. All players, but Myron Sherry and Greg Zeman, are expected to return to McFarland High School for the 1973-74 year.

In rare Irish form, Superintendent Kennedy commented, "Winning the state tournament on St. Patrick's Day was more than anyone could have asked for." (The *Community Life* staff happily endorses that statement.)