

Nursery Rhyme

...and the Terra del Sol, California Area Council

In El Cajon, California, a town just outside San Diego, the 62nd Annual Mother Goose Parade was recently held. It was a special day for sisters in Terra del Sol Area Council (TDSAC). For they had all participated in a float parading down Main street made by sisters in **Laureate Kappa Iota, Laureate Delta Rho, Preceptor Phi, Xi Beta Xi, Xi Chi Omicron**. And most importantly, the banner of Beta Sigma Phi proudly waved.



“Our purpose was to get the Beta Sigma Phi name out to the largest audience possible,” says Sally Williams of Laureate Kappa Iota. “Sisters walked among the crowd of more than 20,000, passing out BSP brochures with 500 embroidered bookmarks to women in the crowd. Sisters also set up a table on Main Street (the parade route) to pass out brochures with bookmarks, which were made by a Laureate Delta Rho sister.”

The Mother Goose Parade (www.mothergooseparade.org) is the largest parade in San Diego County and the largest of its type west of the Mississippi. Each year, the parade attracts thousands of spectators to the streets of El Cajon to view the parade on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The tradition of the parade is to unite friends and families on a day which marks the beginning of the Christmas holiday season; understanding the value of unity, family bonding, and social togetherness that are designed for all ages, races, and ethnicities. This elaborate parade features colorful inventive floats, magnificent huge balloons, musicians and bands, dance groups in spectacular costumes, equestrians, per-

forming artists, clowns and the list goes on.

The TDSAC was excited about the prospect of being involved in such a famed event. In June, Laureate Kappa Iota chaired the first planning meeting to develop a float for submission in the parade. The word went out to all chapters in TDSAC requesting their participation in making a Beta Sigma Phi float a reality.

“Our committee received an initial financial backing from TDSAC and we were off and running!” says Sally. “The theme of the float was



Time

selected from an approved list of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes. After deliberation it was decided to go with ‘Mary, Mary Quite Contrary How Does Your Garden Grow?’”

Committees were quickly formed and the float construction was completed on the patio of a sister’s home. Flowers and butterflies were handcrafted from recycled donated cardboard, hand-painted and mounted on green metal stakes fastened on a wooden base and mounted on large sheets of plywood painted green to simulate grass.

A borrowed trellis and garden table completed the scene for Mary’s garden. The nursery rhyme was piped through two loud speakers to the crowd. Legacy members represented Mary and two “human” flowers and rode on the float. Mary wore a white dress adorned with yellow ribbons and a straw hat crowned with yellow roses.



Float judging was based on workmanship, how well the group was identified, theme and design, and animation and sound. Categories for major awards were Sweepstakes, Governors, Mayor’s, Supervisor’s, Commercial, and Founder’s.

“Congratulations Beta Sigma Phi, we took third, the Mayor’s trophy for best non-professionally constructed float. This project was an amazing, out of the ordinary, sisterhood experience - sisters working together for an important cause, and promoting membership for an outstanding woman’s organization. And we won a trophy!”

