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LARGEST TURNOUT

Parade sets record

Thousands of spectators lined Compton Boulevard Saturday to watch grand marshal Muhammed Ali and celebrities lead a host of drill teams, paraders and floats in Compton's Christmas Parade.

Ali, who was the grand marshal, was accompanied by several celebrity co-grand marshals.

Among them were Hal Williams, star of the television series "Private Benjamin"; Kim Fields, star of the "Facts of Life" television series; Al McKay, an entertainer; Don Mitchell of the "Ironside" television series; Michael Delorenzo of the television hit series "Fame"; and Pam Moore of Channel 2.

Political figures included Supervisor Deane Dana and Mary Gray, Dana's senior supervisor. Compton Mayor Walter Tucker and several city councilmembers and school board trustees participated.

The parade, which drew one of the largest crowds in its history, were enhanced by spectacular floats and performances by local and neighboring cities drill teams.

Cities such as Bellflower and Santa Monica participated.

The parade was divided into two divisions.

The first division was led by Ali; the other by Moore.

During the first division, Compton Parks and Recreation Drill Team led the way, carrying the parade's banner.

They were followed by Centennial High School's Naval Junior Reserve Officers Corp (NJROTC).

Other entries were: Centennial High's marching band and its Centennettes drill team.

Following Centennial were: Compton Council of Campfires, Inc. walking unit; the city's Christmas float; Sweet Steppers Jr. drill team; Compton Scorpions drill team and drum squad; Compton Hi Steppers drill team, consisting of King Football and Pop Wamer;

Others were: The Salvation Army Corp marching drill teams; Daisy Child Development Center's float; Enterprise Junior High School cheerleaders, marching band and drill team; Holmes Avenue drill team; Walton Junior High's drill team; Compton's float; Los Angeles Rhythmettes drill team and drum squad; Muharram Temple of Santa Monica mini cars and clown.

The Southwest Cougars drill team followed. Behind it were the Community Awareness Development auto; Brown Pest Control float; Compton senior high's band and drill team; the Latino Chamber of Commerce's queen; Ideal Black Gold, Compton Convalescent Hospital, and Martin Luther King Elementary School drill team.

An Olympic housing shortage?

Local businessman hopes to house visitors in 1984

By Ivan Crosbie, Staff Writer

Despite the fact that his proposal to provide temporary housing for tourists who plan to visit the Southland during the 1984 Olympics has been turned down by the Lynwood City Council, David Ristow, owner of a trailer rental business on Atlantic Avenue, said he is "not giving up."

Ristow plans to confront the Council again later this month. This time, though, he intends to present a more comprehensive proposal to the Council that focuses on the advantages the city would have from the implementation of his plan to provide trailer housing.

The Council had rejected his proposal Tuesday night during its regular session. The basis for the Council's action stemmed from the fact that the city's zoning code does not provide for "this type of temporary use," according to City Manager Charles Gomez.

Gomez said that if the Council were to pass an ordinance to allow this type of land use, it would have to allow the use through one or more zones.

In addition to the zone, he continued, the Council would have to make sure that the housing is "temporary," that "adequate sanitation facilities" are provided, that adequate "parking facilities" and other improvements are made.

Prior to the session, Ristow had told the city manager's office that "most of these areas of concern could be easily resolved" by his improving the site for the housing.

Shortly after the Council's action, however, Ristow said that he had reviewed his proposal and realized that he had not prepared himself or his proposal adequately.

"I was so excited about the idea that I rushed over to the City Council and got it on the agenda. I really didn't present the matter in its proper light," he explained.

In the revised proposal, he said he intends to show both the Council and the appropriate city officials how he would comply with all of the concerns they have indicated.

On the site, for instance, he plans

to set up approximately 50 recreational vehicles. These are portable mobile homes which can be towed by almost any automobile.

Adequate washers and dryers, toilets and showers, he said, will be installed. He believes that the tourists would be escorted by buses rather than individual automobiles.

Therefore, the need for parking, though available, would not be critical.

After the Olympics is over, he said, "We'll simply move the trailers off the property and sell them to the general public."

It was around January of this year when he first began to receive calls from the Norwegian Consul and different agencies who were looking for additional accommodations to house their foreign visitors during the 1984 Olympics.

"It seems that most of the hotels are already over-booked," he explained. "Most of them are charging a minimum of \$200 per day for one room. To reserve a room, you've got to deposit \$200 with no guarantee of getting it."

If he were to provide the temporary housing for the visitors, he contends, it would cost them about 50 percent less than what they would pay for hotel rooms.

He said that he has already spoken to the trailer manufacturer. And they are "very excited about the idea of providing him with all of the units he would request."

The company had performed a similar function for trailer dealers in Memphis during the Memphis World's Fair, he recalled.

Ristow has been renting and selling Viking Tent Trailers at the Lynwood location since 1977.

"Our customers come from all over the Southeast, from Orange County to the other side of the San Bernardino Mountains," he explained. "We even rent to people outside of the country who visit here."

Called "Eddy's Place," the site can be easily seen by people traveling in either direction on Atlantic Boulevard.

That particular site has been a trailer location since the 1950s.



—Ivan Crosbie photo

For rent — The kitchen area of one of the "Tent Recreational Vehicles" is displayed by David Ristow, owner of Eddy's Place, a trailer rental business on Atlantic Boulevard in Lynwood. Ristow is planning to use several of these Tent Mobile Homes to house tourists who will visit the Southland during the 1984 Olympics.

"Atlantic Avenue used to be the trailer home for a significant number of operations in the Southeast," he explained.

Then as a result of the gasoline shortages during the 1970s, most of the trailer dealers "just went out of business," he said. "They just couldn't handle the deal."

Currently, Ristow specializes in renting "tent" and "self contained" traveling trailers to the public.

A tent trailer generally tows approximately 10,000 pounds or less. It has low wind resistance, and

almost any small car can tow it, he explained.

Inside the trailer, there is a complete kitchen with an ice box, a stove, a sink, overhead lights, and sleeping facilities for six people.

"The difference between the two types," he explained, "is that in a full self-contained traveling trailer, we are talking in excess of 2,500 pounds plus you've got a shower, toilet, a refrigerator rather than an ice box, and sleeping facilities for more than six people."

"However, since it's more than 2,000 pounds, it makes it inconvenient for a small car to tow."