



Above—Jack Dugger (l), Nowata Lions President and Lion Richard Hilleary (r), city manager, are shown with members of the Nowata High School Clown Troupe prior to a very cold Christmas parade.



Left—Members of the troupe demonstrate their ability to mold balloon animals, a favorite feature of their performance.

Below—Bobby Crupper displays his expertise in the art of juggling. The troupe performs for civic groups, nursing homes, schools and community projects, and each year assists with the Lions White Cane Drive.



Bureau, half time at football games, senior citizens groups, the Bankers Awards dinner, county teachers association and at a variety show.

"The versatility of the group is amazing," Mrs. Patton said. "We have been very fortunate in having kids who can juggle, ride unicycles, are gymnasts and can pantomime. We have one girl who is very adept at picking up the pieces when someone goofs and making it look like it was part of the act."

Although she has a background in performing, Mrs. Patton has never personally been a clown. "I've never had clown make-up on, but my kids don't know that," she said. "I am strictly a coach. I think being a clown serves some very

useful purposes. Not only do they entertain others, but it is the one place a teenager can really act silly and not be in trouble with his peers or the adults. It works wonders in overcoming stage fright. When you put that make-up on you can become anyone you want to be. Each clown designs his own make-up and costume. The props, tricks, make-up and other things are paid for by the Lions. The only expense the clown is out is the costume."

Mrs. Patton belongs to the National Clowns of America. By so doing she receives a magazine which contains information on clowning, skits and props.

"We found out the old vaudeville type skits work best," she said. "Those that are short and simple nearly always get a laugh."

The group averages 15 shows a year. "I keep a list of which acts are performed at each show so we won't do the same things if we go back again. Even though I see the acts over and over I still laugh at them," Mrs. Patton said. "People ask me how I can laugh at the same things over and over, but they are funny and they don't always turn out the same. Sometimes it's the anticipation of what they are going to do that makes me laugh. Sometimes the goofs can be really funny."

Another feature of many of their performances is balloon sculpture.

"We buy the professional balloons for this," Mrs. Patton said. "They are very hard to blow up so we have a balloon blower-upper, but you can do more with them that you can with the non-professional balloons. The kids make animals out of them. This really goes over big with the younger audiences, but the older ones also seem to enjoy it."

In addition to performing at the Nowata Elementary School several times a year the troupe was asked to go to a neighboring town and perform at a special assembly at that elementary school.

"I think they saw something about us in the paper and just wanted to see what we could do," Mrs. Patton said.

Hours of practice and hard work are evident when the clowns head out for a performance. All props and equipment are loaded on the school bus with little lost motion and the same efficiency shows up in the amount of time it takes them to set up and disband before and after the show.

"They are a great bunch of youngsters and I thoroughly enjoy them," Mrs. Patton said. "Each year we lose some I don't see how we can ever replace, but the new ones come in with their talent and they are good, too."

"They have been a big help in many ways, particularly with the White Cane Drive," Clark said. "They're a nice, polite bunch of kids."

KEEP 'EM LAUGHING

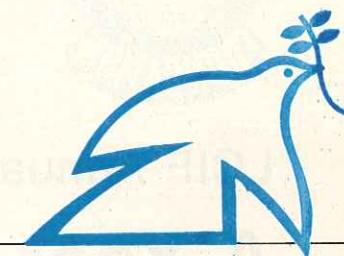
each station. The clowns ask people going to the bank and grocery stores for donations. They are very nice and polite, and last year they collected over \$100 in that two hours. We went over \$1,000 total for the drive. There just aren't many people can turn down Amanda (Amanda Clay, clown mascot) — she is so cute when she asks them."

Another of the civic activities in which the clowns participate routinely is entertaining nursing home residents. There are three nursing homes in Nowata, two for the elderly and one for mentally-retarded adults. In addition to putting on planned shows at these locations, any time they have been performing for someone else, they drop by to visit with the patients who can't leave their rooms.

The clowns also participate in all Nowata parades and the Coffeyville, Kansas, Christmas parade. As they progress down the parade route they dispense candy to the crowd and visit with the people along the route. Some of them ride the Lions Club float.

They put on at least two shows a year for the Lions Club, but also perform for other civic clubs, Extension Homemakers, churches, company parties, the Farm

GROWING TOGETHER AS PEOPLE AT PEACE



Every Lion who sponsors a new member during this program is eligible to receive this clutch pin. District Governors are responsible for ordering pins for the deserving Lions in their Districts.



Dear Fellow Lion:

In the spirit of Lionism, I ask each one of you to consider the importance of our January-February-March District Membership Growth Program. This time provides the perfect opportunity for every Lion to help boost our membership towards the 1.5 million mark, thus furthering the number of caring hearts and ready hands that so characterize Lionism in every community in every part of the world.

We are truly "People At Peace" because we share the same spirit of Lionism...the same dedication in service to others. We must reach out to share this same unique feeling of fellowship and the joy that comes from helping the less fortunate. By reaching out to other civic-minded

men in our communities, we'll be strengthening both the Association and our ties with our fellow-man through our mutual bond of Lionism.

Nearly 65 years ago, our founders made a commitment to themselves and to posterity. They promised to care.

And we, as today's proud Lions and citizens of the world, have also vowed to serve humanity with love, assistance and concern.

During our January-February-March District Membership Growth Program, there are several things we may do to make other civic-minded men aware of Lionism:

*Ask current Club members to provide a list of at least two men whom they believe would be an asset to your Lions Club.

*Contact "dropped" members to learn if they would like to become active, involved Lions once more.

*Welcome new businessmen to your town, and offer them the chance of real community involvement through Lionism.

Each Lion who sponsors a new member during this three-month period will receive a special membership pin, designed to serve as a symbol of his commitment to Lionism by

sharing it with others. This specially-designed clutch-back pin emphasizes my belief that we Lions are indeed, "People At Peace." I strongly believe that it is not impossible for every Lion to bring into our Association a new member who is a friend, relative or co-worker during this important year.

Please help us increase our strength to be ever-ready to meet all challenges of life. As the needs of mankind grow, we must grow, also, for we have committed ourselves wholeheartedly to service to others.

Yours in peace,

Kaoru "Kay" Murakami
International President

