You had to be there

The first Aurorafest was held in September of 1974. It was prompted by both the approaching Bicentennial, with its focus on heritage, and the desire for a community party.

From the beginning, however, the Aurorafest Parade took off in a direction of its own.
It is like other parades in having a Grand Marshall - over time a Colonial Town Crier, Uncle Sam, a Jester and a Goddess with Cricket - fire departments, music, vehicles of many kinds and eager crowds.
There was always the Aurora pumper, and there were always animals.
Rich in variety and quirkiness, the Parade came to be defined by the epic float rivalry between Tudy Kenyon (entering under “Whitney Animal Labs”) and Stan Zabriskie.

The two teams worked in secrecy to craft expressions of the year’s theme. The results usually went in directions for which the word “original” is barely adequate.

Tudy kept meticulous photographic records of the parades and floats. Volume I of her collection is currently AWOL; Volume II covers 1990-2007. Without further explanation - because it’s just not possible - here are a few of the Floats of Yesteryear.
1991 Theme: “A Roar for Peace”
“To Peace and a Pod”
Judges’ Award
vs. "Five Easy Pieces"
1994, “A Roaring Good Time:” “Hell of a Theme” Most Original
Tudy’s floats on current Village topics became legendary.

1993, “Changing Times:”
“We Hates Change (Old Mill)”
Tied for 3rd Place

2005, “It’s in the Water:”
“Octopied”
Of course, there were always animals...


2002
“Why not take your dog for a walk?”
Tudy Kenyon’s self-written obituary, 2009
Or why not join the parade? Saturday, July 13th, 2013: “Come Together”

Entry forms available at the Market and online at auroranewyork.us

You have to be there — it won’t be as much fun without you

Linda Schwab, Village Historian, thanks Stan Zabriskie for loan of Tudy’s parade book.