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Bloom from A1

women — the women that came here and settled, the women that came here and helped make this a town,” said Linda Trombly of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

The parade's history has been on and off, taking place some years while occasionally being forgotten about or unable to fit into the schedule other years. But recently, the parade has gained some traction.

The Bloomers Parade also boasted its first-ever grand marshals, radio hosts Liz Kelly and Mary Reilly of 94.5 Mix FM.

“We are so honored to be down here and to have been asked to do this, to hopefully get it going year after year and to have more women putting on their bloomers, coming out and making this a pretty big stinkin' deal,” said Kelly.

“We're getting to learn about some of the early pioneer women in the



Liz Kelly and Mary Reilly of 94.5 Mix FM served as the official grand marshals of last Thursday's Bloomer Parade, which included more than two dozen participants and a float that made its way down Main Street to officially kick off this year's Bohemia Mining Days.

area, and we're getting to meet so many awesome people that normally we wouldn't get to meet unless they're up in Eugene or we're down in Cottage Grove — and it's just fantastic,” said Reilly.

Some parade participants carried signs or parasols, while others waved at people on the sidelines. The signs were decorated with color-

ful designs and had the names of pioneer women on them, such as Opal Whiteley.

The Bohemia Mining Days' bath house float accompanied the group for people who couldn't march. The time was also set back to 6:30 p.m. this year to allow more women the opportunity to participate.

The group cheered

— and was cheered on by onlookers — as they made their way to Bohemia City in Coiner Park. At the end of the parade, the women stopped for a photograph by the entrance to Bohemia City before dispersing.

“It sorta kicks off Bohemia Mining Days and it's fun to walk down Main Street in your bloomers,” said Trombly.

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique

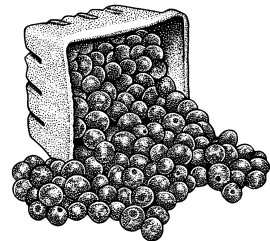
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