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“Chingay Parade of Dreams 16th Feb. 2008”

Chingay Parade 2008 Parade of Dreams was held in the downtown area this year. It encompassed Raffles Avenue, Connaught Drive, round the S'pore Cricket Club and City Hall. In other words, this route is part of the F1 racing track. The authorities are probably using this parade to evaluate crowd control and security measures when the F1 kicks off later this year.

We were asked to provide twelve Harleys, the perennial parade favourite, for Chingay. A request was also made to include lady bikers. We thought it was a good idea too and recruited Agnes, Doris and Barbara into our contingent. Of the three girls, only Agnes has done Chingay before.



Given short notice by the organizers, we could only plan a simple 4-column formation intersperse with a bit of criss-cross and u-turns at Connaught Drive. Nothing fanciful. We had a trial run at

an empty car park lot once, and another run just before the full dress rehearsal. And then the Big Day....

As part of the President of Singapore's entourage, we were assembled at Raffles Avenue, awaiting the President's arrival for the start of the parade. The entourage consisted of 3 floats, one of which carried the President, 12 Sport cars, 12 Vintage cars and 12 Harleys. The Harleys led the entourage. This entourage consisted entirely of local groups and organizations only. Performers in other segments came from Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Beijing, with a team of designers from Ireland. It was really vibrant; a riot of colours unifying with the cacophony of noise that filled the air. With the emcee spurring the crowd on, the whole of Raffles Avenue was transformed into a lively playground. Shuttle-bugs abound, and a couple of media personalities were mixing with the performers, providing even more glitter & glamour. It was a shuttle-bug's paradise.

The Parade kicked off just before 8pm. We rode at snail's pace and stopped frequently to “blow our pipes”. The Harley's appeal and its thunderous pipes never fail to impress. That is why it is such a parade favourite. But all this come at a cost though-overheating. Being an air-cool engine, engine seizure due to overheating is a real concern. But at that moment at Chingay, who cares!! “The louder, the better”, said the organiser, and so we were happily and recklessly revving our V-Twin as if there's no tomorrow.

As we moved along, emcees at different Performing Areas asked the spectators if they could spot the 3 Lady Bikers. Agnes went berserk when she heard that! With a big smile and waving madly at the crowd, she broke

formation and surged ahead of us. We are glad she had a lot of fun. After all, this is what it is all about. Having fun. She, with Jordan, even stayed behind to enjoy the street party after the parade.

Actually, the Red Bull F1 machine was the star of this year's Chingay, as Singapore prepares for the world's first F1 Night Race. It is a monumental undertaking, by any standard, to stage a race like that. But we are quietly confident that Singapore can do it.

At City Hall, where the President would disembark, TV's 'Live' coverage camera crew were standing-by with their peripherals. Also spotted were Mr. Goh and Mr. Mah, and several other VIPs who were waiting to welcome the President. For some reason, the camera crew only shot us from behind and from a distance as well. Aiyah! They concentrated more on the Vintage and Sport Cars.

All in all, it was a fun thing to do. Our routine this year was a lot less demanding than previous occasions and we didn't have to practice very hard. We all had a good time.

Team 27 thanks the following members and friends who have contributed to this event and is hosting a buffet on 27th Feb. at Handle Bar for them in appreciation of their effort:-

Agnes	Dyna Low Rider	San Chuan	Road King
Doris	Sportster	Sean	Road King
Barbara	Sportster	Zachary	Road King
Alex	Softail	Kevin	Deuce
Simon	Softail Heritage	Jordan	Deuce
Jack	Softail Heritage	Saito	Street Glide
Ronald	Traffic Management	Albert	Traffic Management
Colin	Traffic Management	Peter	Traffic Management



Dawn Yeo (model) couldn't keep her hands off our Saito.

Team 27 Committee ,Feb. 2008
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