

We love a parade

By LOUIS B. PARKS

Houston Chronicle

Thanksgiving represents tradition and for many Houston families that means Foley's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The 41st annual edition starts at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 22, in downtown Houston.

A half-million spectators are expected to be on hand, with millions more watching on TV in 60 cities from New Hampshire to California.

Jerry Lewis serves as grand marshal for this year's celebrity-rich event, which includes Bronson Pinchot of *Perfect Strangers*, former teen-throb turned rocker David Cassidy, local Wimbledon finalist Zina Garrison, Broadway's Jennifer Holliday and *Growing Pains* star Alan Thicke as guest commentator.

This year's theme is *Celebrate the Children*.

There are eight major floats, all with animation, plus mini-floats.

Giant balloons include Casper and Felix the Cat. On the ground, Leonardo the Ninja Turtle will chase running pepperoni pizzas, amid 200 clowns, 500 costumed characters, 100 individual entries and the 140 members of the Foley's All-Star Marching Band, with band students from high schools in Texas and Arizona.

The parade starts at Smith and Texas streets at 10 a.m., moves east four blocks to Main, south 11 blocks to Pease, west one block to Travis, north eight blocks to Walker and west two blocks to finish at Louisiana about noon.

Local TV coverage begins at 9 a.m., with the parade featured on *Good Morning Houston*, followed by live coverage from 10-11 a.m., hosted by Thicke, Jan Glenn and Don Nelson.