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Photos by David Prenatt

Several businesses, such as Miss Laura's at left, in Sherman supported the Lighted Tractor parade by decorating their shop windows. More than 50 participants took part in the Lighted Tractor Parade in Sherman on Friday, semi trucks, lawn mowers, a school bus and even the Grinch.

Tractor parade offers plenty of variety in Sherman

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It's lovely weather for a tractor ride together with you.

The first lighted tractor parade in Sherman was a tremendous success with more than 50 participants, coming from Erie, Ripley, Westfield, Jamestown and all around the area.

The parade began at 6 p.m. Saturday and followed the same route as the Sherman Day Parade, beginning at East Street and proceeding through the town. Cookies and cocoa were offered outside of Miss Laura's beginning at 5 o'clock, and before the parade even started, the second crock of cocoa was nearly empty.

Cookies were provided by Arlene's Kitchen, Miss Laura's, the Sherman Inn on Main Bed & Breakfast and several

members of the Chamber of Commerce, said Laura Swanson, Secretary of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce and proprietor of Miss Laura's.

"People are really excited," Swanson said. "We flooded Facebook with it. We're going to try to do it every year like they do in Linesville, and bring people into the town."

Swanson said she had steady business all day long. "I think the response has been great. People are glad to get back out, doing things, again," she said.

The idea to have a lighted tractor parade during the Christmas season was suggested by someone from the Cooler Cafe who was familiar with the one in Linesville, Pa., said Village Clerk Jeanette Ramm. "Our Chamber of Commerce originally decided to do the parade; we

actually had a whole week of activities, involving different groups, with the tractor parade as the culmination."

The parade was presented by the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, The Cooler Bar & Grille and the Village of Sherman. Several businesses supported the parade by decorating their windows with a tractor theme, said Swanson. "I've got my windows decorated with little pedal tractors," she said.

Ramm and Swanson noted that the parade was more than just tractors. "We had semi trucks, lawn mowers, and several horses," said Ramm. "There was a milk truck, 3're trucks, and school buses, all decorated, said Swanson.

Indeed, Main Street in Sherman was packed with eager people on both sides of the street. "I can't believe how crowded

it is," said one visitor from Findley Lake. "I've never seen Sherman this packed with people."

Terry Tallman of Sherman said she hadn't seen so many people on Main Street in years, even on Sherman Days. "I'm excited, that's why I'm here in this freezing weather," she said. "Seriously, I think we need things like this."

Jennifer Owens came from Mayville to see the tractor parade. "I think it's great having this at night," she said. "This is our first Sherman event and we're loving it."

Christie Smith of Sherman said that, even though it was cold, she was enjoying the parade. "I think it's great that the 're-men got together and brought out all their equipment for this, instead of just doing that on Sherman Days," she said.