



Photo by Ed Andersen

Children's 'Nutcracker'

The sixth annual 'Nutcracker,' produced by the Davis Parks and Community Services Department, will feature John Horton, 12, as the Prince; Erika Warner, 11, as the Sugar Plum Fairy; and Jennifer

Teal, 11, as Clara. Tickets are \$3.50 general, \$2 for children under 12, to performances Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Theater, 203 E. 14th St.

Creative kids' show growing

By DEE LeCLAIR

It takes a special brand of courage and dedication to stage a show like "The Davis Children's Nutcracker," slated to open for a three-performance run in the Veteran's Memorial Theatre Friday night.

It also takes imagination, patience and, yes, probably a little bit of insanity too, to coordinate a show that will feature 165 children between the ages of 5 and 12.

Bob Bowen, a recreation supervisor for the city of Davis' Parks and Community Services Department, apparently has a generous quantity of all these qualities, as he developed the original concept of "Davis Children's Nutcracker" six years ago and has been expanding and improving it ever since.

The gem of an idea was born when the then-program supervisor for elementary-aged children decided he wanted to stage a children's show during the holiday season. The year was 1976, and the show was of the puppet-clown variety, featuring Santa Claus.

"It was neat, and turned out pretty well, so I decided to go one up the next year and put on a full-scale play," Bowen explains.

His original idea was to do something along the lines of "Hansel and Gretel," utilizing his own writing talents and theatrical background.

"Then I came across a script for a children's 'Nutcracker' — in a women's magazine of all places — and decided to take that idea and adapt it to our situation and our community.

"My philosophy was that anyone who showed up would be involved in the show in some capacity. We'd find a place for

