Remembering sacrifice

Memorial Day rites to return

STAT Waires

Bands, B-25 bombers, batons
. bet on it. Balloons, Boy
Scouts, baby buggies . . better
believeit.
After all, this is the annual
Farmington Memorial Day we're
talking about here.
Welly Christensen will be
there, too. Then again, he's always there.

Wally Christenson will be there, too. Then again, he's always there.

The Farmington resident heard "missed a Memorial Day parade in 33 years as a member of the American Legion. Since 1963, you could say the event has hinged on the big guy with the handlebar moustache.

"I've kind of inherited it," said Christenson.

Christensen.
As usual, the chairman of the

As usual, the chairman of the Memorial Day venth has been working on this year's parade since the day after last year's. The parade will eart down Grand River Avenue at 10 am. Monday, May 31. A B-25 bomber piloted by Air Force Colonel Clenn Lamont will fly over the route, which starts in front of Lake Way and proceeds west to Oakland.

The Farmington High School

■ 'In the community of Farmington, you can name the oldtimers on the back of your hand who make sure there's a Memorial Day parade.

Wally Christensen Farmington Memorial Day activities

Band, the Golden Wings and the Redford High School JROTC Drill Team are scheduled to ap-

Redford High School JROTC
Drill Team are scheduled to appear.
This year, the U.S. Marine
Corps is the honoree. Marine
Capt. Emily Elder will give the
Memorial Day address.
Sergeant Cathrine Kroft, a
Livonia Clarenceville graduate,
will be recognized as "Outstanding Marine Reservist" and Corp.
Stacey Ford will receive "Active
Marine of the Year" honors.
The parade is sponsored by
VFW Post No. 2259 and American Legion posts No. 346 and No.
190.
Afterward, there will be a special ceremony 5:30 p.m. at North
Farmington Cometery.
Those are the facts. Christen
sen has an ample supply of sentiments.

"That's the day we all have to get off our dead duffs and support and show our children the great heritage of our nation," said Christensen, 59, who is a Korean

nentage of our hatton, san Christensen, 59, who is a Korean War veteran. Memorial Day parades are special to Christensen. He remembers as a child growing up in Farmington seeing the parade down Grand River and then riding on his bike to another one on Eight Mile Road. On Memorial Day, people hon or those who've died in wars. Festivities of the parade celebrate a sense of comunity and freedom, which people died in battle to preserve.

For that reason, Memorial Day parades are not trivial pomp and pageantry. Each year, the task gets more challenging. Things have changed since the days of

two Memorial Day parades. Christensen remembers only seven years when three to four low-flying jets would shake the olm trees. Defense cutbacks makes such flyovers impossible now.

Also, there's a natural peacetime apathy to contend with.

"In the community of Farmington, you can name the oldtimers on the back of your hand who make sure there's a Memorial Day parade," Christensen said.
"It gets touchy a little bit nowadays. The age bracket in the millitary organizations has a gap in it that needs to be filled."
Christensen and his wife, Lorraine, work on the parade along with other volunteers. Both Farmington and Farmington Hills city governments donate such things as podiums and P.A. systems. Also, two anonymous donors chip in.
Christensen said the parade is brought in for \$1,000.
"Let's put it this way. There's only a small group of people in any community who seem to care and put forth an effort to making and the parade."



Called to colors: Parade organizer Wally Christiansen salutes the colors during a recent Memorial Day parade in Farmington.

Hills sets hearing on proposed tax hike

Because Farmington Hills plans to raise property taxes by 1988 mill, there will be a truth-in-taxation hearing on June 7. The city council voted 6-0, with council members Ben Marks and Jonne Smith absent, to increase the city's budget, as recommend-d by City Manager Bill Costick, by 5.14 percent. The city's state

Shapette

equalized valuation increased, but because of the city has to roll back the 1952 hase tax rate, the city will have to increase taxes by 1938 mill just to keep up with minor improvements and adjustments."

The proposed increase translates into about 20 cents in new taxes for each \$1,000 in assessed

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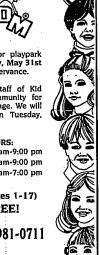
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