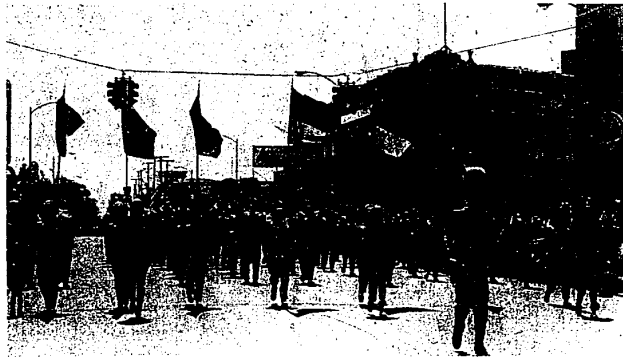




**NAVY BAND** — The 9th Naval District of Great Lakes, Ill., sent its marching band to Farmington to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday. This year was designated to

honor the U.S. Navy. Each year, the parade in Farmington pays tribute to a different military branch of service. (Evert photo)



**FIRST PLACE BAND** — First place winner in marching band competition in Monday's Farmington Memorial Day Parade were the

Harrison High School marchers led by Paul Barber. (Evert photo)



**MOUNTED PATROL** — Farmington Township Mounted Police made its annual appearance in the Farmington Memorial Day parade Monday with Sgt. Jim Boswell leading the riders. The police auxiliary riders will also be seen in the Founders Festival parade July 29. (Evert photo)



**INDIAN GUIDES** -- The Kickapoo Tribe of the Farmington Area YMCA Indian Guides program was one of the local organizations entering a float in Monday's Memorial Day parade. (Evert photo)



**ARMORED VEHICLE** -- Although the 1972 Memorial Day parade honored the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command was represented with this armored vehicle to make sure Army hardware was also put on display. (Evert photo)

## Scouts Take 30-Mile Trek On The Appalachian Trail

By CRAIG GAFFIELD

If anyone is wondering what kind of gear to take along on an Appalachian hike, just ask six scouts in Farmington Boy Scout Troop 230 at Orchard Methodist Church. They recently returned from a 30-mile trek through rain and snow on the Appalachian Trail bordering North Carolina and Tennessee.

The trail is the border between the states, and the boys, with one foot in each state, made the hike over five days, reaching an altitude of 5,460 feet at Newfound Gap, Tenn.

And the old "learn-through-experience" method held true for the young troopers, who planned the hike for many weeks.

THEY USED a gelatine-type fuel for cooking, but at the heights they were walking, found the fuel wouldn't burn as hot as it should have.

This resulted in Randy Niven, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Niven of 31220 Barryhill Rd., Farmington being a most popular fellow with his propane gas stove.

Randy said: "I was even heating water for other hikers on the trail that weren't in our group." Most back-packers carry freeze-dried food that requires hot water for a quick meal.

Another camper, Dale Thornton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Thornton of 23155 Violet, Farmington, was prepared with packets of food that merely had to be squeezed out onto crackers for a neat meal.

ACCORDING to the boys, the selection of foodstuffs for hikers is unlimited, and they agreed that just about any food on the shelf in the local grocery is available in freeze-dried form.

So the campers made it through their first crisis in good form and kept their motto, "Be Prepared" close to their stomachs.

Later up the trail, the six scouts and their two adult leaders came upon a provocative sign that must have been a concoction of forest ranger concern and voodoo justice.

It read, "If you with litter do disgrace and spoil the beauty of this place, may indigestion rack your chest and ants invade your pants and vest!"

When they found a permanent shelter enclosed with sturdy fencing, they were glad to know the friendly ranger was nearby and the bears (hopefully) weren't.

THE BOYS, said to be the youngest ever to take the trail in the early spring, claimed victory over another group of scouts, who just happened to be eagle scouts draped with years of merit badges, when they passed them on the trail and beat them to the next shelter. Dale thought that "was the best part of the whole hike."

The older Niven, who made the trip with scouts, was most impressed with the thirst-quenching, fresh spring water running in abundance along parts of the trail.

But he reminded the boys of the importance to make sure other hikers oblivious to its

drinking capabilities weren't "upstream." Niven was surely responsible for the extra incentive to stay ahead of other fellow trail-walkers.

The real trial came when two of the boys became separated from the group and ended on the wrong trail, heading most probably for Florida instead of toward the senior Thornton at the end of the trail.

But prior survival classes proved important as they back-tracked their way to the right trail and found the rest of the group anxiously waiting with the ranger department on alert and ready to begin a search for them.

It was then that the boys learned from the rangers that they were the youngest hikers ever to complete the trial.

The 12 and 13-year-olds each carried a 30-pound pack and split the weight of tents and food.

They apparently weren't discouraged by the physical exertion necessary for such a hike because they have since taken another 30-mile hike and have scheduled a canoe trip for northern Michigan.



**MILITARY TRUCK** — This military truck was one of the pieces of military equipment displayed during the Memorial Day Parade in Farmington. Thousands of spectators lined both sides of Grand River to view the parade which started at 10 a.m. Monday. (Evert photo)

## New Medical Program Gives Area Man Work

Medical procedures in Farmington such as house calls may not be things of the past if a new program pioneered in New England becomes contagious throughout the country.

House calls and other procedures such as hospital rounds twice daily, taking histories, doing physicals and simply developing rapport with patients can be undertaken by a trained physician's assistant, such as one Farmington man who recently graduated from the program.

CALLED A MEDEX, Richard Weston, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weston of Glen Cove, Farmington, recently graduated from the MEDEX program at Dartmouth College - Hitchcock Medical Center after more than a year of study and training.

Weston and his 22 classmates spent three months in the classroom followed by a year of practical training with a local physician called a preceptor.

The program utilizes Weston's two-year training

as a medical corpsman and experience with the special forces in Viet Nam. There, Weston served as a medical military aide to 40,000 persons with the assistance of only four native nurses, a midwife and a witch doctor for a period of eight months.

During that time, Weston estimates that his medical team saw about 3,000 persons a month, and performed such functions as delivering babies and some surgery, including amputations.

It was only after Weston completed his work at Eastern Michigan University that he discovered he lacked many prerequisite courses for medical school, and then decided to apply for the program.

AFTER NUMEROUS interviews and examinations, Weston and his classmates were selected from a field of 2,000 applicants.

Under the Medex program, which is supported with federal funds, Weston received \$450 a month plus an allowance for dependents.

Now Weston and his wife, who teaches school, will

remain in Concord to work with his preceptor, Dr. Webster F. Soule and his associates.

Although Weston's work will not be as extensive as it was in Vietnam, he hopes the program will become an epidemic spreading throughout the country as the "paramedical" concept grows. Eventually, he hopes, this will include using Medex nurses as physician's assistants and midwives.

In reviewing Weston's role as a Medex, Dr. Soule explained that Weston helps "keep medicine in the personal realm. More physicians ought to try it."

Dr. Soule also noted that Weston has developed good rapport with his teenage patients to the point that they often ask to see Weston.

Such benefits are in addition to the stated goals of Medex: increasing physicians' productivity, providing physicians' assistants who will increase the quality of medical care and delivering more efficient service.

Weston is a 1962 graduate of Farmington High School.