

Wednesday, June 25, 1969

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How Youth In Kendallwood I Learn History

Fourth of July is just around the corner and with it comes our nation's annual special display of patriotism.

To some patriotism is a waving of or salute to the flag. Or a recital of the pledge of allegiance. The symbolism becomes more important to some than the actual element of patriotism which Webster describes as "a love and loyal or zealous support of one's own country."

RESIDENTS OF Kendallwood I in Farmington Township share Webster's sentiments and have been displaying that type of patriotism since 1964.

1964 was the first observance of Kendallwood's July Fourth celebration which has earned prominence by its uniqueness. Most communities have July Fourth parades stressing bands, floats, horses and marchers. "But Kendallwood has a better idea," Kendallwood residents believe. July Fourth actually should be a reminder of the efforts and risks taken by our forefathers to win independence. And so each year's observance is given a theme, such as "Benjamin Franklin's contribution to American Independence" chosen in 1965.

Floats entered in the parade by children living in the subdivision must be related to the theme. As a result, children flock to the library to research the theme so they can enter the winning float.

Mrs. Mildred Droegge, Farmington District librarian, works with the Kendallwood Homeowners Association each year by providing a collection of research materials concerning the theme. After researching the theme, children enter their floats which sometimes contain historical information unknown to most adults.

THE PARADE is not, then, just a parade. It is a learning experience, a lesson in American history learned with fervor. And that lesson may help insure that our nation's heritage is remembered and appreciated.

A few years ago, a sidewalk survey was taken in Detroit on July 3 with young people being queried. The results were: of the 25 questioned, only five knew the next day was Independence Day and only a couple of those five could connect the holiday to our nation's break from British colonialism.

A similar survey held in Kendallwood would provide striking results. The annual observance is now in its fifth year and has, since 1967, included Colony Park residents also.

In addition to the parade, fireworks and games, an orator is invited each year to give a talk on that particular year's theme. Past speakers have included Judge William Beer, Congressman Jack McDonald and Sen. Philip Hart. This year's orator will be Judge William Beasley.

THE AIM of these celebrations is best stated in the 1967 souvenir report of that year's observance: "The people and events around 1776 bring upon a new nation with new and important principles will, hopefully, not be as dull to our children as the rest of their history studies. The Little Paul Revere, Ben Franklin and Sam Adamases will perk up when coming across those names, and 15 to 20 years from now will maybe help put across a Fourth of July celebration in the community in which they are then living."

Story By Emory Daniels
Photos By The Everts



FIREWORKS — Fireworks sponsored by Kendallwood I and Colony Park will begin at 8:30 p.m. July 4 at Woodale School.



DISPLAY — Each year a display of historical materials is arranged in Woodale Elementary. The above was prepared for the 1968 theme of Virginia's contribution to Independence.



PAUL'S THING — Paul Revere's main contribution to independence was his famous ride which started after the signal was given from the belfry of the Old North Church in Boston. The church was reconstructed for the 1968 parade which featured the contributions of John Hancock, John Adams and Paul Revere.



JOHNNY MARCHING HOME — These lads portray Revolutionary soldiers marching home after victory over the redcoats.



RÉPLICA SHOWN — A replica of the resolution by Sam Adams calling for a committee of correspondence was entered in 1966 in the Kendallwood July Fourth parade.

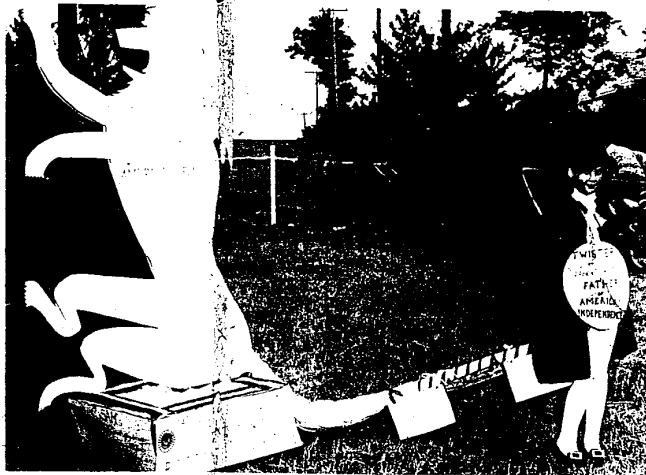


COMMERCIAL TWIST — This lad, adorned with signs promoting Maxwell House coffee, carries a sign reading "I'm with Sam Adams, throw all the tea into the sea."



SAM'S PUBLICITY STUNT — Kendallwood children relive the Boston Tea Party in 1966 when the theme was "The contributions to American independence of Sam Adams or the

Committees of Correspondence or the events at Boston." The entry below shows Sam Adams twisting the tail of the British Lion.



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