



Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450

Thursday, May 28, 1987 O&E

1913



Brian Sinar (left), 3, and his brother, Christopher, 6, have their flag poised to celebrate the Memorial Day parade. The brothers are from Farmington Hills.

In salute

Parade turns spotlight on fallen U.S. soldiers

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

A SHORT stretch of Grand River turned into "Main Street USA" Monday morning for Farmington's Memorial Day parade chairman, John Tobin. "It was the American spirit at its very best. It was the kind of picture Norman Rockwell would have painted," Tobin said.

There were 19 Memorial Day parades in the metro area and 12 parade chairmen scrambling for military units and state officials to be in their parade. The bottom line here is that we had a good parade."

Farmington's Memorial Day parades and services are chaired alternately by American Legion posts 346 and 190 and Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 2269. Tobin — a VFW member as a Korean Conflict veteran and a first-time parade marshal — put together 49 units for the hour-long procession.

Americans have gathered to pay homage to those who died in service to their country since 1788. Last week, 37 more were added to the list.

Black patches with white numbers were worn by 500 marchers and viewers in honor of the 37 Americans who died in the Iraqi warplane attack on the missile-guided frigate USS Stark in the Persian Gulf.

The round patches were made by Paula Jarrm, a member of the American Legion Post 346 Ladies Auxiliary.



With helium-filled balloons in hand, Brownie Troop 3166 makes it way up Grand River.

THE PARADE was led by Brigadier Gen. Stanley Wilk and a Michigan Army National Guard color guard, which won the Best Unit Award. Farmington Hills Harrison High School's Marching Band was the lead band. It won the Best Band Award.

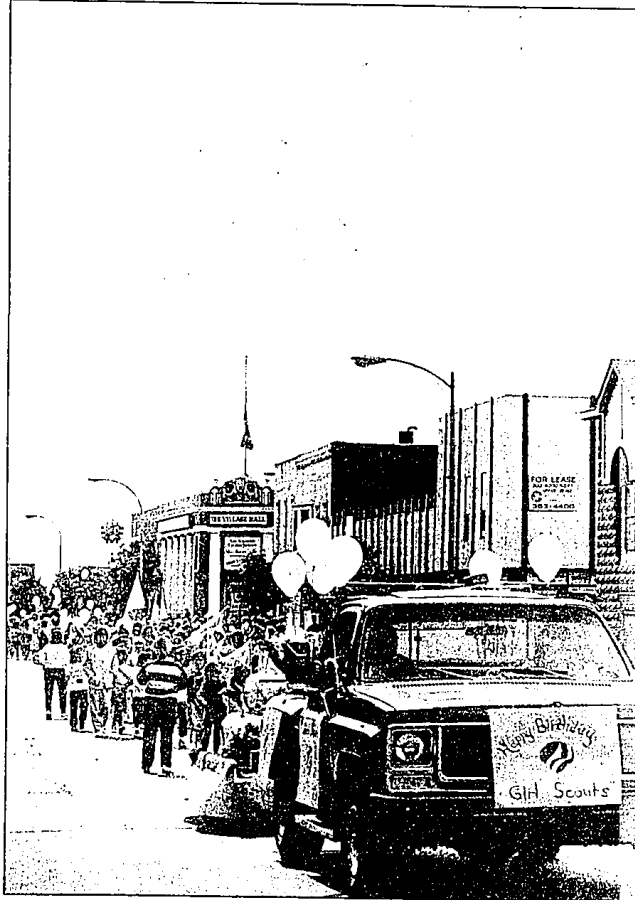
American Legion Groves-Walker Post 346 took the award for best float entered by an adult group. The float portrayed Main Street USA. It carried the inscription, "Freedom is Not a Gift."

Girl Scout Troop 70 took the award for best float entered by a

youth group. In other youth group categories, the Tree Tribe from the Farmington Area YMCA's Indian Guides and Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 3027 won home winners.

The U.S. Marine Corps First Battalion took the prize for Best Mounted Unit.

Livonia Churchill High School's ROTC captured the Best Marching Unit award for adults. Cub Scouts from Troop 231 at Larkshire Elementary in Farmington earned the Best Marching Unit award for youths.



A release of helium-filled balloons helped to honor the Girl Scouts of America's 75th birthday.



AT LEFT: Farmington-area residents Dave Godwin (left), 19, Mike Embury, 16, and Ken Kollar, 21, sit on a ledge next to the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce office on Grand River. The ledge provided a good view of the parade procession.

Staff photos
by Laura Castle



The Farmington High School Marching Band provides its brand of musical entertainment.



Girl Scout Troop 1752 of Farmington displays its banner proudly as it marches along the parade route.