

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Thursday, May 31, 1990 O&F

17/10

Farmington parade: slice of Americana

By Susan Buck
staff writer

CLOWNS, BABIES, fire trucks, politicians, antique cars, marchers, floats, hoopla and more. All that is featured in a small-town Memorial Day parade was present Monday in Farmington.

Who doesn't love a parade? A community parade draws from the world around it and anchors the action by providing a local slice of life. Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade was no different.

Award-winning bands from Harrison, Farmington, North Farmington and Clarensville high schools strutted their stuff. The audience responded by clapping and tapping their feet.

Children waved flags provided by the Farmington Exchange Club. "I like the majorettes and the sparkly dresses," said Erin Cuthall, 4, of Farmington Hills.

Echoed Farmington Hills resident, Stephanie Allore, 4, waving her small flag: "I liked the (band) flag-waving and the motorcycles."

Both Verna Shumate, a Redford resident, and Elaine Sulphin, of Livonia, reminisced on the sidelines about the days when they took part in parades. Shumate, a 1965 Farmington High graduate, said she marched with a saxophone in six Memorial Day parades.

Sulphin recalled when she marched with her Girl Scout troop from Rexall Drugs, along Eight Mile and to Clarensville Cemetery. Today, six grandchildren accompanied her at the parade.

BROWNIES AND Cub Scouts, Boy and Girl Scouts, marched proudly with their leaders. Some groups had floats, including Girl Scout Troop NSU 70, which offered a recycling theme. These young people embody the future itself.

And what a difference a year makes. This year's parade featured two women mayors — Mayor Shirley Richardson, Farmington's first woman mayor, and Mayor Jean Fox of Farmington Hills.

Farmington and Farmington Hills politicians drove past. They included: Jan Dolan, state representative; Judge Fred Harris, 47th District Court; Donn Wolff, county commissioner; and Hills council members Aldo Vagnozzi, Larry Lichtman, Jon Grant and Terry Sever.

School board candidates Laura Myers and Jack Inch distributed campaign literature to people sitting on the sidewalks.

The Farmington City Council along with Bob Deadman, Farmington city manager, rode inside an old-fashioned stake truck from H.A. Smith Lumber & Supplies, Farmington Hills.

Ron Hanaway, a Farmington Hills resident, wore his grandfather's Spanish-American War uniform as he chattered his neighbor, Jean

Fox, along Grand River. Even McGruff, the pooch who wants to take a bite out of crime, rode in a Farmington Hills police car.

FARMINGTON RESIDENT Derwin Success, who led a local march for racial harmony last October, marched along the parade route but was not a registered participant. He wore a choir robe with a stole that read, "Racial Harmony." He walked alone, carrying a pink sign: "Blacks and whites died in the wars together. Why can't we live together?" The back of the sign read, "God is love."

Lt. Col. John Morgan, commander of the 3554th U.S. Air Force Recruiting Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mount Clemens, led the parade. He also was on hand on the reviewing stand. Later, he delivered the principal address at a memorial service at the Veterans Memorial on Grand River, just west of Farmington Road.

The 90-minute parade, hosted by the VFW Post Farmington started from the Uplown Farmington Plaza and proceeded west on Grand River to the Veterans Memorial. Lead band was Farmington Hills Harrison High.

Parade award winners were: best youth float, Girl Scout NSU 70; best unit, Farmington Hills Police Honor Guard; best float, Cub Scout Pack 162; best mounted group, Elks Lodge of Farmington Hills' best youth group, Cub Scout Pack 231, Girl Scout NSU 71; best marching unit, American Legion Groves-Walker Post 316; best marching group, Farmington High Marching Band.



Farmington Hills Indian Guide member Amir Hillebrey (right), 8, provides a beat for his dad, Richard, as they march in the 90-minute parade.



SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographer

Josh Rintamaki, a North Farmington High senior, marches in the parade.



Parade participant Walter Gooden of VFW Post 2645 in Southfield fires a commemorative shot into the air.



Several neighbors and family members joined Farmington resident Brad Eubner and his son, Bradley, 3, at the parade. With an American flag in hand, Brad gets a better view of the procession from atop his dad's shoulders.



Garrett Sulphin, 6, of Redford, shades his eyes from the sun as the parade passes by.

Who doesn't love a parade? A community parade draws from the world around it and anchors the action by providing a local slice of life. Farmington's annual Memorial Day parade was no different.