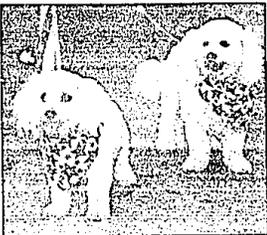
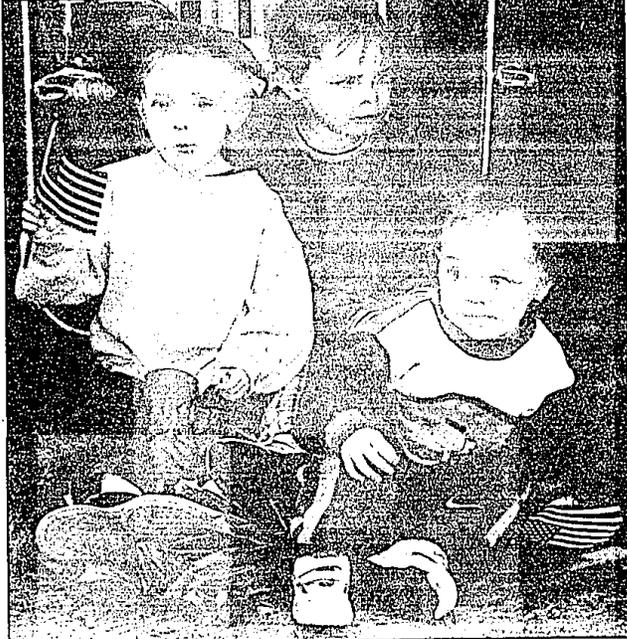


Short view: Nellie (left), a 2-year-old Bichon and Sadie, 3, pets of Tom and Jenny Hubbard of Farmington, check the parade.



Day for a smile: Clara and Glenn Fackler enjoy the Memorial Day festivities Monday.



In salute: Above, Jordan and Nicholas Asher, 3-year-old twins, and brother, Joey, 2, keep track of the parade. At left, Naval Reserve Capt. E. C. Klaviter (left) presents awards and salutes to Seniors Radioman Jeff Krause, Chief Fire Controlman Steve Rutkowski, Sonar Tech First Class Mark Williams and Fire Controlman Second Class Jason Heien.



Not just a memory

Remembering those who died for the U.S. keeps its place in Farmington's holiday celebration

Some worry the message of Memorial Day parades gets lost in the pageantry and hoopla of the annual holiday rite. "Not in Farmington, and not as long as Wally Christensen is marshaling the event. Remembering those who died while fighting for the U.S. remains at the core of the Farmington Memorial Day parade.

"They (the crowd) had a great respect for the flag and I saw a lot of proper saluting," said parade organizer Christensen.

After welcoming remarks by local mayors Mary Bush and Aldo Vagnozzi, retired U.S. Naval Captain Elroy Klaviter spoke to the gathering at the Veterans Memorial. Four Farmington area members of the U.S. Navy were in this year's featured branch of the military — were honored.

"They looked great. I was really proud of them," Christensen said.

As for the parade, flags waved as people's patriotism remained unwavering.

Low clouds that accompanied Monday's overcast weather pre-

'They (the crowd) had a great respect for the flag and I saw a lot of proper saluting.'

Wally Christensen
—Farmington Memorial Day Parade organizer

vented the traditional military airplane flyover. On the ground, bands and community groups marched feverishly to the cadence of pride.

Lansing-based C Cadets collected awards for best unit, best marching ground and best adult color guard. "They looked good," Christensen said.

Harrison High won as leading marching band while American Legion Post No. 346 was selected as most outstanding military unit.

Girl Scout Neighborhood Group No. 33 won for best youth float while Cub Scout Pack No. 231 had the best marching group for youths and Cub Pack No. 166 collected best boys group honors. Dance Electric won for best girls

group.

Best mounted vehicle went to the Hummer driven by U.S. Army Capt. Ken Borman of HHD 210th Military Police Battalion while Bob Rebo's Ford Model-T earned best antique auto.

The parade is sponsored by American Legion Posts No. 346 and 190 and VFW Post No. 2269.

Organizers received more than a little help from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the chamber of commerce. Colonial Car Wash called attention to the event by flying flags of all the military branches outside its Nine Mile location while Korner Barbers made available its window for a Memorial Day Parade display.

The remembrance doesn't stop with the last marching band, either.

At 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30, a memorial service will take place to honor the 134 veterans — some dating back to 1776 — who are buried at North Farmington Cemetery. The service is open to the public.

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The Farmington Observer

CPC **MPA** **SN**

Candidates from page A1

whether she'd have to make opening and/or closing statements. "I feel I'm walking into a controlled interview."

But perhaps any disappointment was unwarranted. By Tuesday evening, Inch received an explanatory and apologetic telephone call from Fred Amady, a member of the Republican Club's board of directors. Other candidates also were phoned.

"I was called last night," said Inch Wednesday morning. "He (Amady) said he had had a death in his family and that he was sorry he missed me on the way, that he was sorry about the error."

According to Inch, "I'm not going to be upset with a man if his stepdaughter died. If that's what happened, that's what happened. That's it. But it (the timing) becomes a little questionable."

Some contacted

School board challengers Jack-

ie Katz and Anwar Mahmood said they were first contacted on Tuesday night about the interview, but Melody Jaske — a member of the Republican Club — apparently was not. Jaske said nobody called her from the organization as of late Wednesday morning.

"I'm a little concerned if it does happen tonight," said Jaske Wednesday morning, adding she previously knew nothing about the interview. "And I am a member there."

Inch added that he contacted the Observer Tuesday about not being invited to that point because he thought "it should be brought to mind. I'm not upset, and I wasn't upset yesterday (Tuesday). I'm just saying, let's play the game on a nice level field."

Meanwhile, the interview might not have taken place on Wednesday night after all.

Wednesday morning, Amady said he was scrambling to con-

tact all the candidates about changing the interview date, possibly to Friday night, due to the death of his stepdaughter. Adding to any confusion, the presidency of the Farmington Area Republican Club is unsettled after the resignation of club president Ben Marks, who stepped down because he's running for Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"Nobody is invited at this point," Amady said. "I'm still trying to... I'm going to have to reschedule this for later this week. It's unfortunate."

An employee at the Longacre House Wednesday said the interview was still scheduled for Wednesday night, however.

'Fair chance'

Whenever the interview takes place, Amady assured that "all will be invited and we're hoping all will show up. We're not out to get anybody. We just want to give people a fair chance to tell us their views. We go in there with an open mind."

On Tuesday night, Marks concurred that all should have been invited and that the organization would never attempt anything shady.

"It either fell through the cracks or someone missed it," said Marks about notifying candidates about the endorsement interview. "If the interview is another service to the communi-

ty. We're not asking for any political persuasions."

The GOP Club — which has about 400 members in a community that is about 67 percent Republican — last year endorsed Democrat Bobbie Feldman for school board, he said.

Scheduling the interview for Friday night might pose more headaches because several other election or district functions are taking place.

Mahmood said he might have a problem getting to the interview if it's moved to Friday. Candidates are invited to the Highmeadow PTA-sponsored school fair, complete with a meet-the-candidates opportunity for residents. Because of space limitations, it is taking place 7-9 p.m. Friday at East Middle School.

Inch and Webb also might attend the school district's employment recognition dinner.

"Everything is happening this week," Mahmood said. "If it had spread it out a little bit more, it'd be all right."

And, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Mahmood and the four other candidates will attend a debate co-sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club and Farmington PTA Council.

The forum, at Farmington Hills City Hall (31556 W. 11 Mile), is open to the public and will be televised on cable television.

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