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Independence Day: The Day We Celebrate the Memorable Fourth

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INDEPENDENCE DAY
THE DAY WE CELEBRATE THE MEMORABLE FOURTH



Richard V. Simpson

OTHER BOOKS BY RICHARD V. SIMPSON

- Crown of Gold: A History of the Italian-Roman Catholic Church in Bristol, RI (1967)
Independence Day: How the Day is Celebrated in Bristol, RI (1989)
Old St. Mary's: Mother Church in Bristol, RI (1994)
Bristol, Rhode Island: In the Mount Hope Lands of King Philip (1996)
Bristol, Rhode Island: The Bristol Renaissance (1998)
America's Cup Yachts: The Rhode Island Connection (1999)
Building the Mosquito Fleet: U.S. Navy's First Torpedo Boats (2001)
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- Portsmouth, Rhode Island: Pocasset: Ancestral Lands of the Narragansett (1997)
Tiverton and Little Compton, RI: Pocasset and Sakonnet, Wampanoag Country (1997)
Tiverton and Little Compton, Rhode Island: Volume II (1998)



1998. Past Miss 4th of July float.

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Independence Day

The Day We Celebrate the Memorable Fourth

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2003 Miss Fourth of July and Court. L-R: 1st Runner up, Nicole Guercia; 2nd runner up, Ashley Rodriques; 3rd Runner up, Erin Schrutt; Miss Fourth of July Courtney Glavin; 4th Runner up, Kristen Dziedzic.

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Cover illustration: The Living Flag first appeared in the 1991 Bristol 4th of July parade. Members of the flag team are L-R: Andy St.Ours as the flag pole, Gary Whynot, Ann Mehlmann, Carol Botelho, Carolyn Jaques, and Marilyn St.Ours.

THE LIVING FLAG photo used with permission of Julia Brigidi (Bristol Workshops © 1994). 1986: Chief Marshal, courtesy of Joan Doyle Roth.

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C O N T E N T S

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Miss Fourth of July Recipients

FOREWORD

The second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoca, in the History of America. — I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires, and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not — I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States — Yet through all the Gloom I can see the rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that posterity will triumph in that Days Transactions, even although we should rue it, which I trust in god we shall not.

*John Adams in a letter to his wife from Philadelphia,
July 3, 1776*

Little did he [Adams] think when he penned these lines, how well his suggestions would be carried out. The old accounts of the 4th of July celebrations are replete with the very things he mentions. Looking back on his boyhood days, this writer well remembers the noisy celebrations carried on year after year in the small New England town where he grew up. Starting the night before, we kept it up, without let-up, until the town-clock in St. Michael's belfry struck 12 o'clock, 4th or July night.

*Charles O. F. Thompson
Bristol, Rhode Island 1947*

P R E F A C E

At the request of the Bristol Fourth of July Committee, in 1953, Miss Alice B. Almy compiled a brief history of the town's famous celebration. It was not meant to be a narrative, but merely a collection of names of principal celebrants and dates of some high points of the day that we celebrate the nativity of our Republic. Inspired by Miss Almy's benchmark effort to document this very important element of Bristol history, I resolved to continue the research.

Impressed by the paucity of historic documentation extant concerning the traditions surrounding the committee and the celebration, in 1973 I suggested the post of committee historian be established. The motion was carried and I accepted the job. After resigning the committee in 1976, I continued collecting celebration reports as a hobby. The result of ten year's research was publication of *INDEPENDENCE DAY: HOW THE DAY IS CELEBRATED IN BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND* (Aquidneck Graphics, 1989).

Shortly after publication of *Independence Day*, information that was unknown to exist before publication came to my attention. This book is, therefore, a continuation and expansion upon the Fourth of July celebrations of which I had but sketchy knowledge, and it details celebrations that were not included in the original volume.

These years fill gaps in the previous volume:

1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1859, 1860, 1874, 1875, 1878,
1880, 1883, 1888, 1894, 1915, 1916, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1925,
1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940,
1942, 1943, 1944, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1961.

Research confirms the 1785 origin of Bristol's popular Fourth of July celebrations and parades. They are founded in an *official procession* by dignitaries and citizens to the place where *Exercises* consisting of prayers of thanksgiving were held.

In-depth reading of early town council records and nineteenth and early-to mid-twentieth-century newspaper reports clearly show distinct identities between the *Celebration* of the day and the *Procession* (parade) to the place of *Exercises*. In this Book II, of a planned three book series, I separate and identify the distinct personalities of celebrations and parades and assign to each its correct number. Further, I examine the origins of and reasons for the longevity of Bristol's unique identity with Independence Day. The conclusions presented are supported by my continuing study of these documents.¹

This book fills the void that exists on this particular aspect of Bristol, Rhode Island history. It finally separates and puts to rest the confusion surrounding the number of celebrations of Independence Day and the number of parades. The reader may now study a chronological history of the Bristol celebration through to 2003.

As satisfying as the research and assembling of these facts may be to me, it is a wasted effort if the results are not imparted to others who may have a similar interest. Propagation is the responsibility of the social historian.

¹ In the interest of authenticity, all spellings and abbreviations in box quotes may be considered to be as found in the original source material; for the sake of brevity I have not added (sic) at the point of every strange spelling or abbreviation.

INTRODUCTION

**The dust raised in Bristol, Rhode Island's nineteenth-century streets
by columns of marchers still rises today to partially
obscure our vision of their identities.**

On the 4th of July, all roads lead to Bristol, Rhode Island—site of the grandest and best-known Independence Day celebration in the United States. It is widely known that this small, seaside community, founded in 1680 has the longest running, unbroken series of Independence Day observances in the nation.

The beautiful old colonial town boasts dozens of restored Federal-period homes in its historic down town section—the parade route. Bristol is an ideal place for parades. It's broad, level, and well-paved streets, shaded by arches of ancient linden, maple and chestnut trees, make the march comfortable for those who participate, and enjoyable for those who watch.

The committee for arrangements begins planning for the next year's celebration shortly after the current year's celebration ends. Almost a full year of fastidious planning is required of the volunteer celebration committee members to make everything go just right. The parade on July 4 is actually the pinnacle of a three-week schedule of concerts, receptions, dances, athletic events and exhibits that begins on June 14—Flag Day.

But the big event is the parade. Early on Independence Day, visitors and townsfolk begin to stake out their viewing posts and squatters' rights on the expansive grassy fronts that border the sidewalks along the three-mile flag-bedecked parade route. If the residents of the well-kept colonial homes on High and Hope Streets find strangers sitting on their front steps or leaning against their walls or shrubs, they say nothing, because this is Bristol's most hospitable day.

Most Bristol folks think Thanksgiving is good, and Christmas is better, but the Fourth of July is best—it is the town's secular holyday. The Fourth in Bristol is a busy day; it begins at 6:00 a.m., with the ringing of all church bells. At 8:30 a.m., Patriotic Exercises begin on the marble piazza of the Colt Memorial School; at 9:00 a.m., the judging of competing parade floats begins; and at 10:30 sharp, an aerial bomb or pistol shot signals the start of the long-awaited "Grand Military, Civic and Firemen's Parade." After the parade, the carnival on the Town Common resumes business for the balance of the day. From 6 to 8 p.m., at the Chief Marshal's reception hundreds of invited military, church and civic officers, and citizens fill their champagne glasses from silver fountains. The day ends with a gigantic fireworks display launched from a barge in Bristol Harbor.

Origins of the Celebration

Mrs. Mary Gould Almy, a Tory sympathizer of Newport, recorded the following in her diary:

4th of July. This being the first anniversary of the Declaration of the Independency of the Rebel Colonies, they ushered in the morning at Providence [Bristol] by firing 13 cannons, one for each colony we suppose. At 12 o'clock the three Rebel Frigates that lie at and near Providence fired 13 guns, and at one [o'clock] 13 guns were fired from their fort at Howland's Ferry [Tiverton]. At sunset, the Rebel Frigates fired another round of 13 guns each, one after the other. As the evening was very still and fine, the echo of the guns down the bay had a very grand effect, the report of each being repeated three or four times.

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Indians, Privateers and High Society, Bertram Lippincott, J.B. Lippincott Co., PA, 1961.

It was eight years later that Bristol began its distinguished tradition. Since 1785, organized prayer meetings, or “exercises” where prayers of thanksgiving, praise for the principles of liberty and freedom, combined with music and singing are performed each year when the nation’s natal day rolls around.

Official town records and copies of the public press from early to mid-1800s have been searched and they yield much valuable information. Now, most of the gaps in the history of Bristol’s celebrated Independence Day observances can be filled. The names of participants and the dates and types of events presented here are as complete and correct as they can be, until other facts yet unknown to exist are discovered.

As you read on, you will discover that through the years 1815-1850, occasionally, groups of citizens took it upon themselves not only to celebrate the Fourth of July, but also to espouse their “holy cause” of Temperance! You will also discover the events that make the 1818-1850 period so significant to this history.

There are only six years during 1815-1850 in which no records of an officially appointed arrangements committee, a Chief Marshal, or a speaker could be found; those years were 1818-1820, and 1831-1833; but, that does not necessarily mean that parades, celebrations or observances with oratory did not take place because other years are documented as not having an official committee, yet, parades and/or observances with prayers and orations were part of the activities of the day. During those 36 years one or more of the several temperance societies active in the town controlled seven celebrations. Not least among active organizers of the popular temperance movement was Mr. W.H.S. Bayley, editor of the local weekly newspaper. His spirited editorials on the evils of strong drink were moving factors in forming the opinions of townsfolk. For more than a decade and one-half (1835-1850), even when the Town Council did appoint an official arrangements committee, the temperance societies took prominent places in the parades, and the themes of the speakers always managed to get around to the subject of abstinence from “spirituous liquors.”

Patriotic Exercises

The celebration of America’s birthday by the town of Bristol, Rhode Island really began as the town’s observance of “Patriotic Exercises,” a full day of organized proclamations of patriotic pride and thanksgiving through speech-making, prayer, music and song.

The first such observance was conducted in 1785 under the guidance of the Reverend Doctor Henry Wight, Pastor of the Congregational Church of Christ in Bristol, a Revolutionary War veteran. Although these ceremonies have swelled in content over two-hundred-plus years, Bristol’s tradition of celebrating this kind of “Exercise” has changed little since the first orations and prayer offerings were delivered in the town’s Congregational Church.

During the nineteenth-century, citizens most often gathered at the various houses of worship to hear the oratory: 1854, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church; 1855, Congregational Church; 1857, Old Methodist Church. During the 1860s these gatherings took place at the Town Hall, but that may be misleading unless we mention that the Congregational Church building was donated to the town, for use as Town Hall. The July 4, 1895, and 1906, gatherings were held at the Opera House; but again, the strength of the Bristol tradition of Patriotic Exercises persists. The Opera House is none other than the same Church-Town Hall building, thus demonstrating the ease with which Bristolians, eager for the inspiring speeches and prayers, found their way to the designated meeting place—no matter what its current function. In 1907, the Grand Army Hall was the site of the ceremonies; the following year the exercises returned to the Opera House. This same auditorium continued in use despite changes in location (the building was moved from the center of Bradford Street, to the side of the street), name, and function, until worn out, it was demolished in place, circa 1930

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The traditional Exercises survived the demise of the original location for the ceremonies, as they moved quickly to the new Town Hall (1914), outside to the Town Common (1916), to the Hotel Belvedere (1924), and to several of the town's public schools, until in 1951, the Exercises moved to Colt Memorial School, where the proud tradition continues.

The modern Patriotic Exercises open with the National Anthem sung by a soloist accompanied by the Mt. Hope High School Band, and the pledge to the flag. Next, invocation prayers are offered by a member of the clergy from one of the Bristol churches followed by introduction of guests and dignitaries in attendance, and the young women chosen as Miss Fourth of July and Little Miss Fourth of July are presented. Following the exchange of plaques and citations between the Town Administrator, commander of the visiting U.S. Navy ship and the Fourth of July Committee, a United States flag that has flown over the Nation's Capitol is presented to that stalwart Bristol-born person who has traveled the greatest distance in order to be home for the Fourth of July festivities. Oratory by the Speaker of the Day and an address by the Chief Marshal close the ceremonies.

Today, as in previous centuries, the position of "Speaker of the Day" is a very honored one. Alas, originally the principal position in the day's celebration it is now second to that of the Chief Marshal. The list of speakers has come to include many church officers and town officials, prominent barristers, captains of industry, distinguished educators, ranking military, and citizens—favorite sons and daughters of Bristol.

Parade Origins

The idea of a "procession" or "parade" may have started simply as a walk by the celebrants to the Congregational Church to participate in the "Exercises of the Day," or as a result of families, neighbors, and friends meeting at various places in town and proceeding in small groups to the meeting house. Eventually, these groups may have become more organized, forming a general procession, and later adding music. Perhaps the musicians were on their way to the exercises to lend their accompaniment to the patriotic and religious songs of the observances. This scenario of the origins of the parade may be considered accurate because until 1957 the parade always moved to the site of the patriotic exercises.

According to Town Council meeting minutes of 1815, an official Committee for Arrangements was appointed; this is the earliest record known of such a committee being formed. Since there are no records that indicate what the committee was tasked to arrange, it is fair to assume that the official town arrangements for the day included the usual oratory, music, amusements and fireworks.

Between 1815 and 1850, the Town Council did not always appoint an official Committee for Arrangements; sometimes, there were non-official celebrations and parades and at other times there were no celebrations. This may seem a contradiction to the statement about an annual observance since 1785; but patriotic ceremonies with prayers of thanksgiving have always taken place.

We have numerous accounts of "young bloods" parading the streets, of "hooting and hollering" and the discharge of firearms on the "night before." Displays of "antiques and horrors" would march at daybreak and young boys, in the various neighborhoods would gather, form themselves into a line, and march while banging on drums and tooting on conch shells, causing a racket at an early hour. Militia units met at their armories, paraded to the Town Common and presented mock skirmishes.

Exactly when the idea came about of having one organized parade is not certain, but this multifaceted stream of marching citizens may have been one reason why the Town Fathers decided to appoint a Chief Marshal, someone who could establish some order to the growing number of celebrating Bristolians.

What appears to have been the town's first official Fourth of July parade is when, in 1826, Colonel Giles Luther was Chief Marshal, and Luke Daring headed the Arrangements

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Committee. This indicates that a parade had become an important and well-organized element of Bristol's now traditional celebration of the day.

The Town's charge to Luke Daring and the committee for the 50th anniversary (1826) was to "make all necessary arrangements for the celebration." The sum of \$30 was appropriated from the town treasury to defray expenses of the day; townsfolk thinking that amount might not be enough collected another \$35 by public subscription. The Fourth of July in Bristol is always met with generous public support.

Extensive research of public records yields no information for seven years (1827-1833), of names of Chief Marshals or anything else that would indicate there were official town-organized parades. Documentation reveals that, with only few exceptions since 1834, a parade has been part of Bristol's Fourth of July celebration. Evidence exists to demonstrate that the several years since 1834 when there were no parades, were years when the country was experiencing hard economic times, or when a lack of funds may have been a reason to cancel the official parade. Another exception to the annual parade was in 1881. The elaborate celebration planned for the day, with William T.C. Wardwell as Chief Marshal, was not held because of the shocking assassination of President Garfield. The resulting feeling of respect due the Chief Executive forced the town to cancel that year's festivities.

Originally, the parades seem to have consisted of two separate elements: "citizens" and "strangers." Early parades included soldiers and sailors of the Revolution, the town militia, volunteer firefighters, elected town officials, clergy, and members of fraternal organizations. These would be the "citizens," joined by such invited "strangers" as visiting militia members, including members of revolutionary war chartered units, elected state officials, firefighters taking part in the annual field day and muster competition, and invited fraternal organizations. We know who the marchers were because early sources refer to the procession as the Civic, Military and Firemen's Parade; with few exceptions, this has always been the parade's title.

Modern-day Parades

Today's parade is a major part of the Bristol celebration. It includes many lavishly decorated floats boasting national and civic pride; thousands of marchers representing diverse civic, military, and fraternal organizations; and visiting dignitaries, elected government officers, beauty queens and entertainment personalities.

Over the years, a strict protocol has developed concerning the order of the procession. The parade is divided into two-basic units: military and civilian. These two basic units are further divided into ten divisions, the Chief Marshal's Division is first; followed by military units: First Division, U.S. Army; Second Division, Sea Services—U.S. Navy; Third Division, Rhode Island National Guard; Fourth Division, Centennial Legion—Chartered Militias; Fifth Division, Veterans. The civic divisions are: Sixth Division, Independence—Firefighters and Police; Seventh Division, Freedom—Fraternal; Eighth Division, Liberty—Civic Volunteers; Ninth Division, Bill of Rights—Citizens and Strangers. Interspersed throughout the civic divisions are beauty queens, clowns, and antique cars. The floats, marching bands, and drum and bugle corps are placed at appropriate places throughout the parade.

The parade has thus evolved from the original band of citizenry who marched to the site or focus of the day's patriotic exercises to celebrate and give thanks for the young republic's deliverance, to the current multi-division parade consisting of literally thousands of people from all over the country. They come to Bristol, Rhode Island to take part in the oldest continual celebration of America's foremost holiday.

SUMMARY

During the first 30 years of Bristol's consecration of Independence Day as a secular holy day the citizens themselves were the organizing force.

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The Town's government may or may not have contributed to those early observances and celebrations. Not until 1815 is there a record of government involvement. Committees, when appointed by the town, were selected from the so-called "great folks," or "gentry," the freemen, merchants, and electors of the town.

This Bristol tradition owes its longevity to the tenacity of people such as Henry Wight and William Bayley; to Edward Anthony, Jr. who served on the Celebration Committee for more than 50 years (from about 1860 to 1912) and during those years he acted as its chairman 24 times; to Everett LeBaron Church (1922-1931) and James F. Meiggs (1937-1947); three who guided the celebration through some 70 years—from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century; to the current committee a stalwart team of volunteers—Bristolians all—who work to continue this Bristol tradition.

Those citizens and strangers who gathered at the Congregational Church on July 4, 1835, heard the Reverend Wight deliver this impassioned prayer:

We rejoice and thank God on this joyous anniversary, that we may assemble in a temple dedicated to His service, and offer homage of our grateful hearts for His deliverance bestowed to our Fathers when the storms of war lowered upon their destinies; and the blood-nurtured battalions of a cruel Despot swarmed upon their shores.

As often as this glorious day rolls round, we should assemble before our Country's Altars, and there tell the story to our listening children, that they may know the awful price our Fathers paid for Freedom.

Today, these continuing exercises are the answer to Dr. Wight's supplication and reaffirm the love Bristolians have for their First Amendment rights.

In his 1988 address, Joseph Caromile summed up Bristol's identity with our national icon, the flag, with these words:

Throughout the country today, and especially here in Bristol, Rhode Island, you will see flags displayed from every flagpole, from every porch, from every window. We as Americans are saying, 'We love our symbol, we love that symbol which tells the world that we are a free nation, dedicated to 'the proposition that all men are created free and equal.'

Every year since 1785 Bristol has marked this day with "Exercises." Each new sending forth of prayer, song, and oratory from Bristol's Fourth of July Patriotic Exercises, and each annual parade proves again they are truly unique for their longevity. The Patriotic Exercises in 2000 was 215th edition, and the parade was the 161st official one.

Thirteen to Fifty

Now, see the majestic ensign rise,
Dark vapors rush from cloudy skies;
Forked lightning salutes from a cloud,
The rippling flag that never bowed.

1. THE ROOTS OF THE CELEBRATION

Records Revel the Foundation of the Tradition

The Bristol tradition of commemorating the anniversary of Independence Day began as a grass-roots movement of religious services to give thanks for the deliverance of the infant nation.

As the prayer services became popular with the citizens and the program expanded to include patriotic oration and honors to surviving veterans of the war, participants in the exercises usually met on or near the Town Common and proceeded in columns to the Congregational Meeting House.

Evidence is abundant and convincing that 1785 is the initial year of an observance of the anniversary of Independence Day in Bristol, Rhode Island. Rev. Dr. Henry Wight was the prime moving force behind those early observances. Rev. Wight was ordained as the pastor of the new (second building) Congregational Meeting House, during the building's dedication on January 5, 1785. He was the sole pastor of the church until 1815, when Rev. Joel Mann joined him. Rev. Wight remained at his post until he retired in 1828; he died in Bristol, August 12, 1837.

Rev. Wight, a veteran of the Revolution, continued his ministry for nearly a half century, and we learn from W.H. Munro's *THE STORY OF THE MOUNT HOPE LANDS*, published in 1880; "He took an active interest in the political questions of the day...." So, Dr. Wight, a patriot who was politically astute and a graduate of Harvard College (1782) had the credentials as an honored and educated citizen, among the few more than 1,100 residents of the town, to act as an organizing force.

Some early newspaper references give conflicting dates (see 1835 below), but the following two quotations document a firm date for the initial celebration of Independence Day in this patriotic old town. There are no other records of such authority extant that establish the date so unquestionably.

1785-1836: Dr. Wight gave an appropriate prayer at the exercises held at the Congregational Church for the fifty-first time. *Gazette and Companion* July 1836.

1785-1871: From the year 1785 to the present time, the anniversary of American Independence has with few exceptions, been duly observed by military parades, orations, and public processions. *Phoenix* □, March 11, 1871.

1835: Mr. Bayley, Editor of the *Gazette* reprinted a letter, written by a Bristol man, which had appeared in an earlier edition of the *Providence Journal*. It is from this writer's recording of his recalled observations of his hometown's celebration of the Fourth of July that helps to date its origin. "...In a very fervent and appropriate manner Rev. Dr. Henry Wight, in his 85th year offered prayers to the throne of Grace...it is stated that the present was the 45th time that he has offered the introductory prayer on similar occasions." This statement gives indication of an observance in 1790.

Plans progressed for the 1835 celebration of the day in the usual time honored way. James Clifford Hidden, Esq., accepted an invitation from the committee to arrange for the music at the hall, he selected some appropriate tunes and secured the aid of a full choir.

1835: Arrangements are also in the making by the several Sunday School Managers to have an address delivered to parents, teachers, and scholars. The Young Men's Temperance Society will also celebrate the day by having an address, and a public dinner. *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, June 20.

□ The newspaper's name *PHENIX* was spelled without the letter O until 1850.

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The Committee of Arrangements for celebrating the 59th Anniversary consisted of three gentlemen who answered the call to meet on June 15, they were: Jacob Babbitt, Jr., W^m B. Tilley, and J.R. Bullock. *Gazette and Companion*, July 4.

The members of the Temperance Society, together with invited guests, sat down at half past one o'clock, to a dinner at Burgess' Temperance Hotel. The table was loaded with all the luxuries and dainties of the season, served up in a very superior manner. Ardent spirits and wines of all kinds were excluded from the table and pure water and coffee substituted in their place. *Gazette and Companion*, July 11.

1836: The *Gazette and Companion* in its report concerning the 1836 celebration offers compelling evidence of an observance in 1785.

The 4th of July was celebrated in this town with the accustomed honors and festivities. At ten o'clock the procession formed in State Street under the direction of Marshals Messrs., N. Fales and J.W. Dearth, in which the Independent Train of Artillery, the surviving soldiers of the Revolution, the civil and military officers of the State and a large and respectable body of citizens took respective stations; it then moved through several of our principal streets to the Congregational Meeting House. After a most impressive and appropriate prayer by the venerable Dr. Wight, himself an actor in our revolutionary scenes, and who officiated now for the fifty-first time Mr. J.C. Hidden admirably read the Declaration of Independence. *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, July 9, 1836.

Dr. Wight and Mr. W.H.S. Bayley must have known each other. There is an overlap of almost five years between the premier issue of Bayley's weekly newspaper and Dr. Wight's death. It is conceivable that the torch that fired Dr. Wight's ability to organize was passed to Mr. Bayley. Each of these gentlemen controlled powerful platforms from which to promote and perpetuate the Fourth of July celebrations.

The Town Council Takes A Hand

1815: Committee of Arrangements for July 4, 1815: Daniel Bradford, Giles Luther, George Munro, 2nd. William Reynolds, William Throop, Jr., Heseekiah Munro, Jr., Charles Collins, Nath'l Bullock, & James D'Wolf, were appointed a Committee, to make all necessary arrangements for the celebration of the next anniversary of American Independence. Witness Geo. Munro, 2nd. clerk. *Town Council and Probate Records of 1811-1825, Vol.3, Pg.96. Town Council Meeting, June 30, 1815.*

1816: Committee of Arrangements 4th July: Daniel Bradford, Giles Luther, Charles D'Wolf, jun. (sic), John W. Bourne & Charles Collins are appointed a committee of arrangements for the 4th Day of July next. Witness Daniel Bradford, Clerk. *Town Council and Probate records of 1811-1825, Vol.3, Pg.128. Town Council Meeting, July 1, 1816.*

1817: Voted that a Committee of five gentlemen to be appointed to make suitable arrangements for the proper celebration of the Fourth of July ensuing. Voted that Colonel William Throop, Samuel Bosworth, Esq., Mr. Charles D'Wolf, Jr., Oliver Wilyom (sic) and John W. Bourn, Esq., be that Committee. *Town Council Meeting of June 13, 1817. Town Council records Vol.4, 1811-1839.*

After a thorough search of Town Council records up to and including 1849, only ten years in which "official" committee members were appointed by name could be found. The following are abridged transcripts of those records:

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1821: James D'Wolf, John Howland & John Howe a committee to make arrangements for the celebration of the coming 4th [of] July. *Recorded May 5, 1821.*

1822 & 1823: Nath'l Bullock, Hezekiah Munro, Jr. and John D'Wolf, Jr.

1824: George D'Wolf, Bryon Dimon and Jacob Babbitt.

1825: Noted that same committee as last year, which was Geo. D'Wolf, Bryon Dimon & Jacob Babbitt, be and are hereby chosen to make arrangements for the celebration of the fourth (sic) of July, next. *Recorded May 7, 1825.*

1826 & 1827: Luke Daring, John D'Wolf, Jr., and Jacob Babbitt. *Recorded April 29, 1826 and April 18, 1827.*

1828: William E. Morris, Benj. O. Bourn, W'm. B. Tilly, John R. Richmond, John D'Wolf, III and Walter W. Dalton. *Recorded April 16, 1828.*

1829: W'm E. Morris, Ben'j O. Bourn, John R. Richmond and John D'Wolf, III. *Recorded April 15, 1829.*

1830: William E. Morris and John D'Wolf, III. *Recorded April 21, 1830.*

Town Council records provided no further information concerning the appointment of Arrangement Committees. A lapse of information occurs during the years 1831-1833 for which no records can be found from any source.

A Chronological History

The first successful newspaper to be printed and distributed in Bristol, *The Gazette and Companion*, appeared in the year 1833, followed by *The Bristol Phoenix* in 1837. The greater part of the following history is taken from those pages. We can now take a chronological look at the sometimes confusing but important foundations of Bristol's Independence Day celebrations.

1834: At 10 o'clock a procession will be formed in front of the Hotel, under the direction of Col. Arnold H. Bush, Marshall (sic) of the day, and will proceed in the following order:

A salute will be fired from the Artillery at sunrise, and a National Salute after the procession is dismissed—the day will be closed by a salute at sunset. The bells will ring a merry peal during the several salutes, and from the time the procession moves until it arrives at the Meeting House.

Arrangements Committee: Geo. H. Reynolds, Henry C. Gibson, W'm. S. Nichols, H.P. Diman, Josiah H. Luther, W'm. H. Pitman and Arnold H. Bush; Chief Marshal: Col. Arnold H. Bush; Invocation: Rev. Dr. Henry Wight; Reader of the Declaration of Independence; William F. D'Wolf, Esq.; Oration; Bradford F. Munro, Esq." *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, June 28.

Friday the Fourth of July was celebrated in this town with more spirit and animation than we ever before witnessed. A great number of citizens of neighboring towns and villages participated in the festivities of the occasion, and we are sorry to say that some of these visitors did not behave themselves as well as

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they should have done. But ill conduct was confined to a very few, and to the great mass of those who honored us with their presence we are obliged for the pleasure that they afforded. *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, July 12.

As illustrated by the above article, even at this early date Bristol was the place to be on the Fourth of July to take part in the “festivities” of the day. Another short article in the same issue of the *Gazette* is worthy to note here; it dates the foundation of the organized temperance movement in the town; a movement that was to become the dominant force and controlling element for more than a decade of future 4th of July observances. “The first anniversary of the Bristol Young Men’s Temperance Society was celebrated at the Congregational Meetinghouse at 5 p.m., on the Fourth of July with prayers and an address by W’m. F. D’Wolf, Esq.”

1835: Fourth of July is approaching—we should think that some preparations for such an event would be creditable to the town. If our patriotic fellow citizens be of our opinion, they will meet at the Mechanic’s Hotel on Monday evening next [the 15th] and choose a Committee to make the necessary arrangements. *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, June 13.

Under the leadership of the Young Men’s Temperance Union (Y.M.T.U.), Bristol’s 50-year tradition went “dry” and the better part of the day was given over to the cause of abstinence. The day included a lecture on the evils of drink and singing on the same theme by the Cold Water Army as it marched in the parade.

1837: There was no official committee appointed this year and there was no official procession. *Gazette* editor, Mr. Bayley lamented in an editorial comment the passing of this part of the Bristol tradition. Conditions must have been hard that year because he wrote in part “...in this town there will be no celebration, our citizens having concluded to keep their loose change usually spent on such occasions, against the pitiless storms of another winter, when they will probably need it.”

Regardless of the feelings of the majority, the town put on a festive face and visitors came from neighboring towns to pass the day with friends and relatives and to listen to an oration on the subject of temperance.

The 61st. anniversary of our National Independence passed off in an unusually quiet manner, no arrangements having been made by the citizens of this town for the celebration of the day. The weather was pleasant, and the streets thronged with cheerful faces. A large party of visitors from Taunton had a clambake at Mount Hope; another party from Dighton dined at Horton’s [Hotel]. The boys as usual spent the day in firing crackers and other youthful sports.² In the afternoon Rev. Mr. Tobey delivered a temperance address at the Baptist Meeting House.

A number of our citizens feeling desirous of celebrating the day in some manner, procured drums and fife, formed themselves into a company and paraded the streets during a part of the afternoon, after which they retired to a large room and listened to a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and Washington’s Farewell Address. Thus passed the day. We

² In those days, even as today, there was a town ordinance prohibiting the use of firecrackers—then called India Crackers.

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trust the good citizens of this town will not let another anniversary of this memorable occasion pass without celebrating it in an appropriate manner. *Gazette and Companion*, Saturday, July 8.

1838: Without newspaper records or other files available for confirmation we must assume that Miss. Almey's original findings concerning the events of July 4, 1838, are correct. The usual parade and celebration must have taken place because she wrote that J.M. Gooding was an arrangements committee member, COL. Nath'l Fales was Chief Marshal of the parade, and Dr. Silas Holmes was Speaker of the Day.

When The Temperance Societies Took Charge

Every so often local churches' pastors and traveling evangelical missionaries espoused the evils of strong drink and preached the virtues of temperance. These crusades that started as brushfires, occasionally became full-fledged firestorm movements for prohibition and abstinence. Regardless of their ultimate failure to rid the town of its "low drinking element," the town's several abstinence societies accomplished much good in the community. They organized sports clubs and sponsored theater groups.

One of the temperance societies' most noted contributions to the community was organizing the Fourth of July celebrations in those years when the Town Council failed to do it. Newspaper accounts and town records from the mid-1800s are incomplete, but by piecing together facts from all sources, we can account for seven years when observances of the day were organized by the local temperance groups; years the Town Council abdicated its custom of appointing an Arrangements Committee—a custom originated in 1815. For eight years during 1818 to 1833, there are no surviving records concerning the existence of an Arrangements Committee; for six holidays, 1837 to 1850, no official committees were appointed.

1839: The Town Fathers saw fit not to appoint an official committee of arrangements, but the townsfolk would not be deprived of their annual holiday observance. So, the local temperance societies mobilized the public school children into a procession.

After the parade, the Y.M.T.U., with invited guests, dined at the Burgess Temperance Hotel where pure water took the place of "Ardent spirits and Wines."

At 10 o'clock a.m., the youth of the several public schools will convene at the Congregational House of worship to attend such addresses and other exercises as may be appropriate to the occasion. The several private schools are respectfully invited to unite in these services.

At half past 2 p.m., in the same place, Rev. Dr. Tucker of Providence will give an address on the Cause of Temperance. The procession of children will form on the Common and walk in order to the Meetinghouse. Prayer will be offered by Rev. Mr. Scott, singing will be performed by the children lead by Mr. Guhee, and the address will be delivered by Rev. Messrs. [Thomas] Shepard and Tucker.

1840: committee members S.H. Akerman, John Gladding, Jr., Thomas I. Usher, Richard S. Pearce, James D. Ingraham, Gilbert Richmond, William Bradford and Thomas Thurston signed the official program of the day presented in the Phoenix.

The procession under escort of the Artillery, marched without accident from Jones' Hotel to the Presbyterian Church, where the Declaration of Independence was read by J.R. Bullock, Esq., and Washington's Farewell Address by Mr. Eames. The musical portion of the exercises were greatly assisted by Mr. Shaw, who presided at the organ; the solos also in one of the pieces deserve particular commendation.

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The Artillery fired rounds at noon and at sunset. There were fireworks. On the whole, perhaps the anniversary never passed off in better style. No mischance occurred to mar the festivities of the day nor was the public peace offended by a single instance of drunkenness.

The weather was cool and pleasant. The ladies of St. Michael's held a Fair; objects for sale included little cotton pigs with texts from scripture on their backs.

1841: The *Phoenix* of July 3, informed the public that no celebration was planned to commemorate the Fourth except for an address on temperance on July 5; "Rev. Mr. Blodget of Pawtucket in the Congregational Meeting-House, at 3 o'clock p.m." The Fourth of July holiday fell on a Sunday, so the celebration was held on Monday, July 5; a custom that continues today.

A report published on the following Saturday, July 10, informs us that at the last moment an Arrangements Committee was appointed and a procession was organized. But, the press is silent as to the names of the committee members and the name of the parade marshal.

In our last, we stated that there would be no celebration in this town on the 5th. After our paper went to press, however, the committee appointed for that purpose, concluded to make the necessary arrangements for celebrating the day in a becoming manner and gave notice accordingly. At 10 o'clock a procession was formed in front of Jones' Hotel, which after marching through several of the most public streets, repaired to the Congregational Church where after prayer, singing, and a reading of the Declaration of Independence, an oration was delivered by G.H. Reynolds, Esq.

As yet we have seen but few accidents recorded as having occurred on the 5th, and we trust that not many happened. We expected to have heard of some sad accident befalling a stage load of young men from Warren who were driving furiously through our streets beastly intoxicated, and cutting up all manner of capers; but, we believe they escaped injury otherwise disgracing themselves in the eyes of all who saw them.

1842: When the *Phoenix* went to press on Saturday, July 2, the arrangements for the day and the order of the procession were not yet firmed-up, so the information was made known to the town later in the afternoon in the form of a posted handbill. The names of the committeemen went unrecorded, however. "...A procession was formed at ten o'clock in front of the State House, under the direction of Colonel. N. Fales, and was escorted through several of the most public streets to the Congregational Meeting House, by the Bristol Guards, Captain H.C. Wardwell; the Bristol Train of Artillery, Colonel W.R. Taylor, and a large company of volunteers, under the command of General Diman, the latter of which participated in recent scenes at Chepachet [the Dorr War]."

Rev. Mr. Fales offered the invocation, Geo. F. Usher, Esq., read the Declaration of Independence. Rev. Mr. [Thomas] Shepard delivered an address; he referred in most touching manner to the events which have occurred in our state.

Our citizens generally seemed highly pleased with the events of the day, and what is still more gratifying, but one or two individuals were seen the least disguised in liquor during the day. No spirituous liquors or wines were used by the several companies, and on the whole the celebration passed off in the most rational and gratifying manner to all participants.

1843: Previously, in my 1989 book, I reported no parade was held in 1843. The omission of that parade and its Chief Marshal has been part of the official record since its

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compilation. But, the following news item from the July 1 issue of the *Phoenix* disproves that thought. “[The] Procession will be formed on the Common at 2 o’clock, by Mr. George M. Coit, Chief Marshal...”

The celebration was devoted to the cause of Temperance. The *Phoenix* of July 1 printed a notice of the approaching celebration inviting the “Ladies whose happiness is so intimately connected with the triumphs of total abstinence to unite in the procession. We think such an example would do good in this place.”

The march which was organized under the leadership of several temperance organizations seems to have consisted of four divisions as follows: Chief Marshal, Band, the Clergymen of the town, Committee of Arrangements, Martha Washington Society, Second Division; Marshal, Cold Water Army, Third Division; Marshal, Washingtonian Society, Fourth Division; Marshal, Bristol Young Men's Total Abstinence Society. Services were held in the Methodist Church.

Should the day be warm and the streets dusty, we presume the Marshal will not deem it expedient to subject the procession to a tedious walk. But as far as it does proceed we hope to see it filled up with friends of the cause [of abstinence] of both sexes, and all ages and denominations.

1844: The procession formed in front of Jones’ Hotel at 10 o’clock a.m., by William H.S. Bayley, Marshal of the Day.

The procession will proceed to Bradford Street to the Congregational Church where will be performed the following exercises: music, reading of the Declaration of Independence by Joseph M. Blake, Esq., oration by Rev. Mr. Thayer, music, benediction. At the close of the service the procession will again be formed and proceed to the Armory, and [will] be dismissed after partaking of a Collation which will be prepared for the occasion

The Committee for Arrangements for the 1844 celebration was: W’m. R. Taylor, C. Esterbrooks, Geo. H. Pearse, Jacob Babbitt, Jr. and M.D. Bonney. In the evening there were fireworks on the common. *Phoenix*, June 29.

1845: The Town Council again failed to appoint an Arrangements Committee, so youthful members of the Cold Water Army undertook the task. The orders of the day read:

TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION—FOURTH OF JULY.

A procession will be formed on the Common at 10 o’clock a.m. under the direction of Mr. David Coit, Marshal of the Day, and parade down High Street to Constitution Street, down Constitution to Hope Street, up Hope to State Street, down State to Thames Street, up Thames to Bradford Street, up Bradford to the Congregational Church, where the following exercises will be performed: VOLUNTARY, SINGING By The COLD WATER ARMY, PRAYER, TEMPERANCE ADDRESS By Rev. Mr. Waterman, SINGING, BENEDICTION. The friends of Temperance are respectfully invited to join the procession.

The body pews will be reserved for the Temperance Societies. The wall pews for the ladies. The Orchestra and South Gallery for the singers from the Cold Water Armies. *Phoenix*, Saturday, June 28.

Those who wish to furnish themselves with Temperance Badges, can obtain them at the store of Mr. John B. Munro and Mr. John Adams.

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It gives us pleasure to see the youth of our village, marshaled as a Cold Water Army making arrangements in connection with the Temperance Societies, to celebrate this National Festival in a manner so worthy of the day and so honorable and useful to themselves.

At an early hour, a very beautiful Banner was presented to the Bristol Young Men's Total Abstinence Society by the Ladies of the town, through the hands of Mr. Louis Diman, who in presenting it made a neat and appropriate speech. The Banner was received by Mr. M.T. Bennet, who replied in a very happy manner to the remarks of Mr. Diman.

1846: Surprisingly, *Phoenix* Editor Bayley showed uncharacteristic restraint in his report of the celebration; surprising, because this year he was a member of the Arrangements Committee. The other members of the committee were: W'm. R. Taylor and Joseph C. Pearse.

The morning of the Fourth was ushered in by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. At 10 a.m. a procession was formed on State Street [under the direction of Chief Marshal John Adams, Esq.] and escorted by the Bristol Artillery to the Congregational Church, where a very able and appropriate Oration was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Sykes. The beautiful and appropriate hymns selected for the occasion were performed by the choir, and the exercises throughout appeared to be highly satisfactory to the audience. The usual salutes were fired and the bells rung at noon and 6 o'clock p.m. The day was remarkably fine, and everything passed off pleasantly. We are happy to say that we saw not a single instance of drunkenness or rioting during the day or evening. *Phoenix*, July 11.

1847: Because the temperance societies had taken such decisive leadership roles in previous celebrations, the Town Council did not appoint an official committee. And so, the temperance societies were caught off guard, and with such short notice they were unable to muster the personal for an appropriate parade.

The Anniversary of National Independence passed off very pleasantly in this town. Although the day was not celebrated in the usual manner, yet, there were various means of enjoyment. The Methodist Society had a picnic on Mount Hope, and a splendid address by Rev. Mr. Wise of Providence, the Ladies of St. Michael's Church held a Fair at the Armory Hall, which attracted a large number of visitors. Salutes were fired at sunrise, and at 6 o'clock and the bells rang as usual.

1848: Once again the temperance societies of the town organized the day's observance. It was billed as a "Temperance Celebration" and the announcement for the procession and ceremonies read:

A Procession will be formed on the Common at 9:30 a.m., under the direction of John Adams, Esq., Marshall [sic] of the day in the following order. MARSHALL - MUSIC - ORATOR AND RESIDENT CLERGY - COLD WATER ARMY - TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY Friends of the Cause of Temperance.

The Procession will proceed to the Methodist Church on High Street where the following exercises will be performed: VOLUNTARY By The Band SINGING By The Choir PRAYER By Rev. Mr. Kelton READING The

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Scriptures by The Rev. Mr. Bigelow ORATION By Rev. Mr. Shepard
BENEDICTION By Rev. Mr. Linesey. *Phoenix*, Saturday, July 1.

Some few among us would probably have been better pleased to have seen a procession of a different character, and composed of those who would not hesitate to satisfy their thirst with something stronger than cold water. But we trust the time is not distant when the birth day of our national independence shall be celebrated throughout the land without the use of alcoholic drinks.

The day was cool and exceedingly pleasant, affording an opportunity for all to enjoy the fresh air, and unite in the festivities of the occasion.

We are happy to say that we never saw a day celebrated in a more rational and pleasant manner, and we doubt not that all friends of the holy cause of temperance, who were present, were highly gratified with the entire proceeding. *Phoenix*, July 5.

1849: The 73rd anniversary was a grand affair with the military, the Sons of Temperance, the ex-Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, the fire department, and town officials in the parade. The Temperance Society must have had some influence because "... a light lunch was partaken in an orderly manner."

1850: The proceeds of the fair were intended to offset the cost of new uniforms for the Artillery Company. It is noteworthy that *Phoenix* Editor Bayley did not mention prayer or oration, or other patriotic exercises in two editorial articles concerning the celebration. It appears the entire day's activities were conducted by and for the benefit of the Artillery Company.

The approaching Anniversary of our National Independence will not be celebrated in the usual manner in this town. Should the day prove pleasant however, there will be sufficient entertainment for the young. A salute will be fired at sunrise by the Artillery Company who will pitch their tents upon the common, and in the course of the day will march through some of the principal streets, accompanied by the Pawtucket Brass Band.

The Armory Hall will be decorated in a new and lovely style, and a Fair will be held throughout the day and evening for the benefit of the Artillery Company. We understand that the tables will be furnished with a large variety of fancy and useful articles. Great preparations have been made by the ladies to have the Refreshment Tables supplied with the most delicious articles. *Phoenix*, June 29.

The Fourth passed off very peaceably and pleasantly. In the morning the weather was cloudy and rather unpleasant, it however cleared off about 10 o'clock and the remainder of the day was exceedingly fine. The usual salutes were fired at 6 o'clock in the morning, at meridian and at 6 p.m., and the several bells rang a merry peal. The Artillery Company under the command of Col. M. T. Bennett were out in full rank and paraded several times through the principal streets—they made a handsome appearance. The day seemed to have been passed pleasantly and agreeable by our citizens generally, we are happy to say that we saw but two persons disguised in liquor. *Phoenix*, July 6.

In the same issue of the *Phoenix*, Francis Bowen, Secretary of the Bristol Total Abstinence Society (T.A.S.) announced that the regular monthly meeting of the Society was to be held on Monday at the Vestry of St. Michael's Church.

Conclusion

Since Alice B. Almy compiled her original list of Speakers of the Day in 1953, the name of Rev. Dr. Henry Wight has been carried as the speaker for the years 1785 through 1814. Contemporary newspaper accounts provide us with evidence that Rev. Dr. Wight blessed the Patriotic Exercises with invocations and devotional prayers. Alas, the press is silent regarding the names of exercises' orators during those early years of celebrations.

Because of the local presses' unfortunate omissions, the chronology of principal participants must begin with the year 1815, and the names of Daniel Bradford as first Committee Chair and Barnabas Bates as the first known orator.

Chronology	
1785 - 1814	Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration
1815	Town Council appoints first Arrangements Committee
1826	First Chief Marshal appointed, Colonel Giles Luther
1818, 1819, 1831 - 1833	No records existing
1834 - 1836	Records of three official parades
1837, 1839, 1841, 1842, 1847	Celebrations but no official parades
1837, 1839, 1845, 1847, 1848, 1850	No committees appointed
1835, 1837, 1839, 1841, 1843,	Temperance societies take charge of the

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1845, 1848	celebration and parade
1826 - 1880	Evidence of forty-one parades
1881	President Garfield assassinated, parade canceled
1882 to present	A parade every year
1957	Patriotic Exercises held before the parade for the first time

Population of the Town of Bristol for the years discussed in this chapter

1782 - 1,035; 1790 - 1,406; 1800 - 2,693; 1810 - 2,693;

1820 - 3,197; 1830 - 3,034; 1840 - 3,490; and 1850 - 4,616.



1986: Chief Marshal Joan Doyle Roth

2. THE COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN

Long unknown and buried in dusty forgotten files the names of past Committee Chairmen surface

During the early nineteenth-century the entire Fourth of July Committee generally consisted of three to five people. As the celebration grew in importance as a special civic activity, so, likewise the committee grew. Early Town Council records provide us with the names of committee members who were appointed at Town Meetings. Usually those appointed were prominent and respected citizens whose names are still recognized today. We can now add names in chronological order to the existing list of committeemen and fill the gaps in the list, which previously started with James D'Wolf, in 1820. We do not know if these men were called upon to act as a committee or they came forward to volunteer their services.

Further, we can only speculate as to the make-up of the committee; were all members equal or did they chose from among themselves, one to be their leader—Chairman. This same dilemma of first among equals, presented itself in 1975 when I was compiling the list of Chairmen. To solve the problem, I used two standards as a measure by which to judge which member of the committee was the leader: when an individual's name appeared repeatedly in the press making announcements in the name of the committee, or failing that test; whom ever was the first person to be appointed by the Town Council in a particular year. So, in at least the first half of the 19th century the names listed as "Chairman" are entirely speculative. For example, in 1822 and 1823 these men were appointed as a committee in the same order each year: Nath'l Bullock, Hezekiah Munro, Jr., and John D'Wolf, Jr., so for the record we call Nath'l Bullock, Chairman. Likewise, for the years 1824-25 George D'Wolf, Bryon Diman, and Jacob Babbitt were appointed a committee in that order; so we can say George D'Wolf was Chairman. Using these guidelines, we may assume that the following named men occupied the Chair of nineteenth-century Arrangements Committees.

1815-1816, Daniel Bradford; 1817, Colonel W'm Throop; 1818-19, No Record; 1820-1821, James D'Wolf; 1822-1823, Nath'l Bullock; 1824-1825, George D'Wolf; 1826-1827, Luke Daring; 1828-1829, W'm E. Morris; 1830, W'm E. Morris and John D'Wolf III; 1831-1833, No Record; 1834, Geo. H. Reynolds; 1835, Jacob Babbitt; 1826, Geo H. Reynolds; 1837, No Comm. Apptd.; 1838, J.M. Gooding; 1841-1843, No Record; 1844, W'm R. Taylor; 1839, No Comm Apptd.; 1846, W'm R. Taylor; 1847-1848, No Comm Apptd.; 1849, Jacob Babbitt Jr. and Richard Pearse; 1850, No Comm. Apptd.; 1851-1852, W'm R. Taylor; 1853, C. Esterbrooks.

The Committee

Until 1882 the committee was referred to by several interchangeable names, among which were: The Arrangements Committee; The Committee for Arrangements, and The Celebration Committee; it was not until 1883 that the committee was first called The Fourth of July Committee—and it stuck.

In 1927, the committee consisted of eleven members, some of whom thought that number was just right; other members thought that their ranks should be expanded to fifteen. After a vote on the question, it was agreed that the size of the committee should be left to the discretion of the Town Council. By 1936 committee membership had swelled to 132. Now, membership is held fairly consistently at the mid-90s.

These days people who wish to serve on the committee solicit an active member to submit their names to the Chairman. Each fall a subcommittee for membership is appointed by the Chairman to compile a list of nominations. The nomination of continuing members is automatic unless an individual has resigned or has not attended the required number of meetings

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during the previous celebration year. Occasionally, when membership grows too large, new nominations are not accepted. The nomination list is forwarded to the Town Council for ratification and approval. It is rare for the Town Council to appoint individuals to the committee who have not been recommended by the members.

How The Chairman is Chosen

The chairman and other officers are chosen by a Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Chairman. Members of the Nominating Committee are usually former chairmen or other members who have had extensive experience and have earned the respect of the members of the general committee. Though the Nominating Committee is autonomous, it may seek the opinion of the Chairman on his choices for Vice-Chairman and the other officers.

By tradition, and generally since R.S. Bosworth, Sr. chaired the committee (1948-1949), a Chairman holds his office for two one-year terms. The following year this same Chairman appoints a new Nominating Committee to select his successor and the other officers. Here the selection is a foregone conclusion, because the Vice-Chairman, following the same path of ascension as the Chairman under which he served, has held office for two years and expects to be nominated for the Chairmanship. The Nomination Committee, then, in effect selects the chairman-to-be two years in advance. Even though the Chairman appoints the Nomination Committee—it is not thought to be a rubber stamp for his wishes. If by the wisdom of the Nomination Committee, an incumbent Chairman is considered to have failed in carrying out the duties of the office in his first year, then the Nomination Committee could decide not to re-nominate him for the traditional second term. In the several years since 1953, when there have been one term Chairmen—it was by their choice not to accept a second term.

From the standpoint of the general committee there are certain qualities, which are incumbent to the making of a good Chairman. Through my experience on the general committee for ten years, as Chairman of several subcommittees, and as a member of the Executive Board for four celebration years, I learned firsthand what was expected of the person who was to assume one of the most important civic positions in town. The Chairman should be non-political, he should be unprejudiced in his personal beliefs, and he should have prestige in the community, and pay attention to and involve himself in civic matters. Additionally, committee experience is critical—the nominee should have served on and at some time chaired major sub-committees. In short, nomination and election to the post of Chairman of the Fourth of July Committee is a reward—an honor given to an able, and deserving member.

The Chairmanship is rarely sought, and so, when it is bestowed upon a member it is considered an honor. And with the honor comes the obligation to fulfill that duty on behalf of and to the satisfaction of not only the committee—but also the town.

A Notable Exception

Elections are democratic, and counter-nominations, opposing the official slate are entertained. Within the memory of old time members no challengers to the Nomination Committee's selections have ever come from the floor—with one notable exception.

Late in 1985, Gena Campbell waged a successful campaign to challenge the choice of the Nominating Committee: James Farley, Jr. Farley expected to be the Chairman for the 1986 celebration because he was Vice-Chairman for the two previous celebrations.

The Chairman of the 1985 committee called an election for new officers at a general meeting on September 16. In a paper ballot, Mrs. Campbell won by a reported wide margin, thus making her the first woman elected to chair the full Fourth of July Committee.

Thus feeling betrayed by the unfavorable turn of events in the change to the traditional line of succession, Farley took his dilemma to the Town Council. The council threw out the election calling it illegal, because the 1986 committee had not yet been appointed. A second

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election was held October 30, at the Bristol County Court House on High Street with all of the newly appointed members present. By a vote of 47 to 22, Farley defeated Campbell.

In a March 16, 1995, *Phoenix* interview, Campbell in her second term as General Committee Chairperson, said she believed the Town Council might not have had the legal authority to overrule the 1985 committee vote. She added that she could have had a lawyer challenge the council, but she did not want to mire the celebration in red tape.

Changing Times

All through the long history of Bristol's Fourth of July Celebrations the leadership has been held by a self-perpetuating male autocracy.

That changed at the Committee's September 1989 reorganization meeting, when by unanimous vote Elizabeth Anne Moreira was elected to chair the general committee. Though Ms. Moreira was the second woman to be elected to the Chairman's position, she was the first woman to actually take the helm.

A 25-year veteran of the Committee, she had worked on several important sub-committees and held the elected offices of Recording Secretary and Vice Chairman.

Again for the 1994 and 1995 celebrations a Bristol woman has taken the leadership of the celebration committee; none other than Gena Campbell.

This precedent-setting election of woman to the post of General Chairperson was a sign of the future of the celebration committee. As greater numbers of women have joined the committee, the potential for women to become a dominant force and to assume more elected leadership roles is an interesting prospect.

List of Celebration Principals 1815-1853

Year	Committee Chair	Chief Marshal	Speaker of the Day
1815	Daniel Bradford	No Record	Barnabas Bates
1816	Daniel Bradford	No Record	No Record
1817	Colonel William Throop	No Record	No Record
1818	No Record	No Record	No record
1819	No Record	No Record	No Record
1820	James D'Wolf	No Record	Joseph W. Torry, Esq.
1821	James D'Wolf	No Record	John DeWolf, Jr.
1822	Nathaniel Bullock	No Record	No Record
1823	Nathaniel Bullock	No record	No Record
1824	George D'Wolf	No Record	No Record
1825	George D'Wolf	No Record	No Record
1826	Luke Daring	Colonel Giles Luther	Walter W. Dalton
1827	Luke Daring	No Record	No Record
1828	William E. Morris	No Record	No Record
1829	William E. Morris	No Record	No Record
1830	W.E. Morris & John D'Wolf, III	No Record	No Record
1831	No Record	No Record	No Record
1832	No Record	No Record	No Record
1833	No Record	No Record	No Record
1834	George H. Reynolds	Colonel Arnold Bush	Bradford F. Munro, Esq.
1835*	Jacob Babbott	Colonel John ladden	James C. Hidden, Esq.
1836	George H. Reynolds	Colonel Nathaniel Fales	J. Russell Bullock & J.W. Dearth
1837*	No Committee Appointed	No Official Parade	Rev. Mr. Tobey
1838	James M. Gooding	Colonel Nathaniel Fales	Dr. Silas Holmes
1839*	No Committee Appointed	No Official parade	Rev. Mr. Tucker
1840	H. Ackerman	Martin Bennett	No Record
1841*	No Record	No Record	George H. Reynolds
1842	No Record	Colonel Nathaniel Fales	Rev. Thomas Shepard
1843*	No Record	George M. Coit	Rev. Mr. Thayer
1844	William R. Taylor	William H. S. Bayley	Rev. Mr. Thayer
1845*	No Committee Appointed	David S. Coit	Rev. Mr. Waterman
1846	William R. Taylor	John Adams, Esq.	Rev. James N. Sykes
1847	No Committee Appointed	No Official Parade	Rev. Mr. Wise
1848*	No Committee Appointed	John Adams, Esq.	Rev. Thomas Shepard
1849	Jacob Babbitt, Jr. & Richard S. Pearse	John Gladding	Rev. Dr. Cleveland
1850	No Committee Appointed	James D'Wolf	No Record
1851	William R. Taylor	James D'Wolf	Rev. J.C. Richmond
1852	William R. Taylor	James D'Wolf	Rev. J.W. Smith
1853	Crawford Esterbrooks	James D'Wolf	E.P. Whipple

3. THE DAY WE CELEBRATE THE MEMORABLE FOURTH

1851 SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The day will be celebrated in every section of our extended country as the 75th anniversary of our national Independence. We have reached the maturity of three quarters of a century, and yet it is the memory of childhood; for in a national point of view, a child may die an hundred years old. But though young we have attained a gigantic stature and a precocity of mind unexampled hitherto in the history of nations.

The Sons of Temperance and the Bristol Total Abstinence Society held prominent positions in the parade. The procession traveled along the principal streets on the town until it came to the Congregational Church where the exercises were held.

The citizens of this ancient town are invited to assemble once more for the orderly performance of such a celebration. May their united devotions be inspired with sincere gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty, education, and religion pure and undefiled; and may the sentiments communicated be such as shall stimulate them to a more faithful discharge of their individual duties as freemen, patriots and Christians. It is our earnest wish and we doubt not, the earnest wish of all good citizens that the day may pass off without noise, or dissipation of any kind, in an orderly and quiet manner. *Phoenix*, July 4

1852 SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

As a matter of course, on such days of public celebration, we must expect a due portion of alloy. Each pleasure has its poison too, and every sweet a snare.

Unusual quantities of those annoyances were in the shape of Chinese crackers; there were continuous explosions in the public streets and lanes of the town from earliest dawn until latest evening. It seemed as if every pebble contained a collection of compressed powder with a slow fuse attached to it. Such an annoyance is intolerable and we think it calls for the interference of the Committee of Safety.

On Alcohol

The demon of alcohol, who is wont to marshal his victims and make a show of them openly on such occasions, knowing that his time is short, made a somewhat bolder onset, as was anticipated, this year than usual. But with a few exceptions, we are happy that our own native citizens [Indians?] kept themselves so generally aloof from the accursed thing.

Concerning A Drowning

Charles E. Williams, a lad of 13 years of age, son of Samuel R. Williams, was drowned on the evening of the 5th. He was with the crowd looking at the fireworks, and after they had closed he walked off the wall into the Cove. Saturday, July 10, 1852

1853 SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The press informs us from all directions of the unusually animated and spirit-stirring celebrations of the 77th anniversary of our national Independence. Partyisms seem to be forgotten; all minor and sectional differences are merged in one general enthusiasm for those great principles of national liberty and independence, which lay at the foundation of our free and happy government.

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The *Phoenix* editor goes on to say; "As we were among the invited guests at the celebration in Portsmouth, NH, we would say a word as to the exercises of the day in that city."

And say he does. Using four times the space devoted to the Bristol celebration, he describes in great detail the procession, floats, and dinner which was set out for 2000 people under a tent on the Portsmouth Common.

Drinking in Bristol

"We understand that there was not a case of drunkenness in this town on the 4th. Such an instance of sobriety speaks volumes." *Phoenix*, July 9, 1853

1854 SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Theme of the Orator *Antagonisms of the day*

Introduction: Principle of Antagonism in nature, Man individually and Man socially. Antagonisms arising from the relations of the Rich and the Poor. antagonism arising from the extent of the United States, divisions of climate, productions and characteristics. Antagonism Conservatism and Progression. Antagonism between Freedom and slavery. Antagonism arising from Religious belief, Protestantism, Romanism and Infidelity. Results traced from the time of the Puritans to our present condition as a nation.

Lesson: Broad views of Humanity. The predominate strength of Light

Duty: To preserve the good so clearly brought and share it with others. The part of Rhode Island in the Drama, and the incentives to action on her part, &c.

A Lad Named Morris

A portion of the wadding of one of the guns lodged upon the roof of the Baptist Church and set it on fire.... A lad named Morris, about twelve years of age, ascended by the lighting rod to extinguish the flames by scraping dust upon them with his feet; but finding it of no avail, he began to spit upon them, still the flames increased, until he had the presence of mind to unbutton his pants and play his own engine so effectually that he entirely extinguished the fire. Large crowds of persons were present who greeted the lad with loud huzzahs.

A builder of [fire] engines at Pawtucket, who was in town on the fifth, and on hearing of the act of the young lad, said he has built a number of machines which had done good service, but he would knock under to the engine of young Morris.

1855 SEVENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The King Philip Engine Co., No. 4., made a very neat appearance on the 4th, in their new caps and sashes. Their engine was gaily decked with flowers and was drawn by two white horses.

The Artillery Company with their new hats and pompoms, and the American Protestant Association looked exceedingly well.

Phoenix, July 4, 1855

1856 EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Rain Fails to Dampen Enthusiasm

Our celebration was carried out with a good degree of enthusiasm, and the programme was fulfilled as nearly as the state of the weather would permit.

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The reading of The Declaration—an annual service which we hope will never die—and the music by the choir, were in excellent taste and judgment, and the oration was a production of much interest, well written and well delivered, and happily commemorative of the manly deeds and the moral heroism by which we became free people, and suggestive of the firmness and the virtue necessary if we would continue so.

Despite the dampening effect of the rain, the celebration was spirited and gratifying. May there be many returns of such. We are not of those who decry all noise and hilarity on such an occasion. While we see no necessity for wild indiscretions and beastly excesses and public disturbances, we desire with Jefferson, that the nation may at every turn of this anniversary, give vent to one great outburst of inexpressible joy and gratitude, and may hail it with one unbroken peal of cannon and of bells from Maine to California.

Violent and Noisy Revelers

...the attention of the Watch was arrested by an unusual noise on John Street. On proceeding to the spot, they found three men drunk, and very violent and noisy, just having made their exit from one of those low grog shops, which abound on Water [Thanes] Street. *Phoenix*, July 12, 1856

1859 EIGHTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

There was the customary parade which included the Bristol Train of Artillery who escorted Chief Marshal Captain John Y. Lawless, followed by the King Philip Fire Co., and the Hydrolic Fire Co., the Town Sergeant, the Committee of Arrangements and elected and appointed town officials, the clergy, the Ex-Governor and members of the legislature, Foreign Consuls, Soldiers of the war of 1812 and Officers of the Army and Navy, as well as Citizens and Strangers.

All the elements of the parade as we know it today are now in place, but, the procession is yet to be identified as the Civic, Military and Fireman's Parade.

Again approaches that anniversary which rightly stands first in our political calendar. Never can it return without bringing back to the breast of every intelligent and true hearted American, thrilling emotions and inspiring memoirs, and we ought to add, invigorating anticipations.

The usual prayer meeting will be held on the morning of the great day. We venture again to call attention to it.... *Phoenix*, July 2, 1859

In Praise of the Oration.

The oration by Charles Blake, Esq., of Providence, but a native of this town, was marked by some sound sense. The subject, the permanency of our Constitution and the present tendencies, which threaten it, was appropriate and timely. And the sentiments advanced were healthful and conservative—judiciously so,—and such as we feel assured, every mature and thinking citizen must be glad to hear instilled in the public mind on such an occasion;—especially glad to hear them so clearly and emphatically announced by such a young man. If all our young men now will cherish in their hearts sentiments so [illegible word], then will our country be safe.

Reveling

One feature of the public exhibition of the day we must deplore. Every true lover of his country, not to say every philanthropic and every Christian, must

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deplore it. We refer to the appearance of certain young men of our town, who disgrace themselves and their friends, by reeling about the streets and talking nonsense and otherwise playing the fool under the influence of alcohol.

Still we believe there were fewer exhibitions of this kind than on some previous years. And this is certainly a gratifying fact, especially considering the great number of people in the street. There was all the usual noise, hilarity, and gunpowder, but extremely good order, with the exceptions we have named.
Phoenix, July 8

1860 EIGHTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Old Home Days

The trains of the previous evening and on the morning of the day had brought home a large number of sons and daughters of old Bristol, who were ready to do their part in celebrating Independence Day among the scenes of their youth. Nine o'clock thronged our cool and shady streets with a moving mass of men, women, and children.

This custom of making the Fourth of July an occasion for an annual reunion of the children of Bristol is a very pleasant one, and we are glad to learn is gaining in favor.

The threatening clouds which had given us gentle showers during the night previous which so opportunity laid the dust and cleaned the streets, cleared away in the morning and left us one of the most beautiful of days for an out-door celebration....

Exercises At The Hall

The program of exercises included: Music, Prayer by Rev. Thomas Shepard, DD; Music, Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Mr. James H. Denney, of this town; Music, Oration by Rev. David H. Ela, of this town; Music, Benediction by Rev. G. H. Hubbard.

The oration gave universal satisfaction, it was one of the best that we have had for a number of years. The speaker introduced his remarks by showing that to us the occasion was a Holyday [sic] as the Nation's birthday, that the world and to the lovers of liberty it was sacred as Freedom's Sabbath. *Phoenix*, July 7

1874 NINETY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The previous celebration must have proved too costly, for there was no parade this year. Instead, a baseball match was held on the Common and, at 4:30, a unique tub race. There were fireworks in the evening.

The Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the Anniversary of American Independence announces the following programme: A National Salute will be fired at 6 o'clock, a.m., and at 6 p.m., by a detachment of the Bristol Train of Artillery. The bells of the several churches will be rung for half an hour commencing at 6 and at 10 o'clock a.m., and at 6 o'clock p.m.

At the close of the ringing of the bells at half past 10 o'clock, the following order of exercises will take place at the Town Hall: Singing, by the Bristol Chorus Society; Prayer, by Rev. Geo. L. Locke of St. Michael's Church; Singing, by the Chorus; Reading, by Charles F. Chase; Singing, by a Double

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Quartet of Male Voices; Oration, by LeBaron B. Colt, Esq., of Chicago, Ill.; Singing; Benediction, by Rev. Thomas Shepard. The Hall will be opened at 10 o'clock, [there will be] no reserved seats. *Phoenix*, Saturday, July 4, 1874

The singing elicited universal praise from the audience. The 'Declaration,' was exceedingly well read, and the exercises throughout gave great satisfaction to the large and appreciative assembly. The oration was listened to with undivided attention, and at the conclusion was heartily applauded. The Bristol Chorus Society joined by the audience sang *America* and the exercises were closed by benediction pronounced by Rev. Dr. Thomas Shepard.

This article continues with an outline of the entertainment planned for the day that included several sporting events as well as a band concert and a display of fireworks. Nowhere in this article nor the report on the day's events in the *Phoenix* dated Saturday, July 11, is there any mention an official parade. However, contestants in the "tub race, in fancy costumes were escorted by the Excelsior Cornet Band." This would seem to be the only "procession" on this particular Fourth of July.

The *Phoenix* dated Saturday, July 11 filed several reports on the day's events.

At 12 o'clock noon, a grand salute from Fort Rounds was fired under the direction of Captain James Lawless." Fort Rounds was the droll designation given by citizens to the residence of Captain James Lawless, a ship's master. His home, at 200 Hope Street—in the area of the old town beach—faces Bristol Harbor with a broad uninterrupted view of the comings and goings on the water. It was Lawless' custom to fire his signal canon during the course of events, whether or not he was called on to do so.

A grand base ball match for a prize bat was played on the common between the "Bristols and the Byfields." The game began at 1 o'clock, it ended at half past four. The Bristols won the prize bat by a score of 24 to 12.

The Excelsior Cornet Band, Daniel Tenner, leader, were stationed at the Bandstand on the common during a portion of the afternoon, and on Steamboat Wharf during the races, where they discoursed good music.

About half past four o'clock the six competitors in the first tub race, in fancy costumes, with their tubs on their shoulders, were escorted to the National Rubber Co.'s wharf, from thence through Themes Street to Steamboat Wharf accompanied by the Excelsior Cornet Band. The race was from Steamboat Wharf to and around a flag boat anchored in the harbor opposite the Rubber Co.'s wharf and returning to the starting point. The first prize, a silver watch, was won by S. R. Chaffee.³

1875 NINETY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Fourth occurring on Sunday, the day was celebrated in this town on Monday, 5th.

³ Could this be the same S. Roscoe Chaffee who was a member of the Providence Art Club, and exhibited pastel paintings there, in 1881?

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That portion of the observance of the day not announced in the programme of the Committee of Arrangements, and which commenced immediately after midnight on the morning of the fifth, and, continued until daylight, was as noisy a demonstration as it was possible to make, with fire crackers, muskets, pistols, fish horns, &c, &c.

The procession, which was to have been formed at ten o'clock, was delayed until nearly twelve, it having commenced to rain just before the hour of meeting and continued to rain for some two hours. About twenty minutes before twelve o'clock, the shower having ceased, the procession was formed on High Street, right resting on Church Street.

The oration was a fine production full of patriotism and lofty sentiment, well delivered, and received by the audience with hearty applause.

There were no disturbances during the day and no arrests were made. The celebration was an altogether successful one—we are led to believe—and the members of the committee, Messrs. Williams, Wardwell, Greene, Pearce, Miller, Turner and Taylor were praised for their work and pressed to service in the same capacity for the centennial celebration. *Phoenix*, Saturday, July 10

1878 ONE HUNDRED-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

A Noisy Night Before

Ushering in the 4th of July in the early hours of the night before was described in the words of the *Phoenix* editor, "The early hours were made noisy—as a show of patriotism—with pop-guns, small firearms, horns, and fire crackers. That portion of the observance of the day was not on the programme."

A Pre-parade Parade

Rhode Island Governor Charles C. VanZandt arrived in town at 9 a.m., aboard the Steamer RICHARD BORDEN, from Providence. His personal staff and Lieutenant accompanied the Governor. Governor Albert C. Howard. The Governor and his party were received with a salute of seventeen guns. "The escort consisted of the Bristol Train of Artillery, Colonel J.H. Adams, and the Bristol Light Infantry, Captain T. H. Brown, with the Bristol Cornet Band, the whole line being under the command of Colonel Raymond H. Perry, Chief Marshal of the Day. The Governor and Suite were escorted up State St. to High St., down High St. to Church, down Church to Hope St., up Hope to the residence of Colonel Colt, whose guests they were during their stay in Bristol."

The official 1878 procession to the Town Hall for the Exercises of the Day, stepped off from the Court House at 10 a.m. The procession moved north on High Street to Franklin Street, west on Franklin to Hope, south on Hope to Walley, to High, north on High to Constitution, west on Constitution to Hope, north on Hope to Bradford and to the Town Hall. No doubt the Governor saw a lot more of the town that morning than he had anticipated.

The usual exercises were held in a full to capacity Town Hall. Interestingly, we learn that the seats in the gallery were occupied by "*ladies only*" and "*the sittedes*" on the lower floor were reserved for the military, and those who marched in the procession, the other seats on the lower floor were reserved for the ushers, but, "Ushers will be in attendance to find seats, that a great amount of confusion may be saved in entering the hall."

The afternoon entertainment consisted of a "*Base Ball match*" on the common between the Bristol Base Ball Club and the Hope Club of East Greenwich; climbing a polished pole for a prize of \$5, a running match, and a walking match; a horse walking match, and a slow horse race.

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At 6 p.m., a boat race took place in the harbor—a scrub race—all boats not rowing over six oars, or less than four, for a purse of \$15. At the same time a tub race took place—the distance from the Fall River Iron Works Co.'s wharf to the National Rubber Co.'s wharf, and return for a prize of \$5.

A general invitation was extended to all citizens to attend a reception hosted by Governor VanZandt at Colonel Colt's residence. The Bristol Cornet Band gave a 2-hour concert on the common, and they played for the reception on the lawn in front of the mansion on Hope Street. The committee included S.P. Colt, A.E. Anthony, J.H. Manchester and R.H. Perry.
Phoenix, Saturday, July 6

1880 ONE HUNDRED-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Town Council received an invitation from General A.L. Burdick, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements in Newport to be guests at the celebration in that town. The Council Clerk sent thanks and regrets.

The *Phoenix* is rather silent about how the 1880 celebration was conducted, except: there were the usual salutes during the day, and a “grand street parade” was held in the afternoon, at two o'clock there was a baseball game. Still later in the day there was a fireman's parade. This appears to indicate parades by various organized groups were common, but as yet no single organizing authority sanctioned an official parade. Celebration of American Independence was held in Bristol on July Fifth.

This was the bicentennial year of Bristol's founding and a large committee was appointed by the Town Council to make suitable preparations for that anniversary celebration—so, this may be the reason for the foreshortened 4th of July celebration. *Phoenix*, Saturday, July 8

1883 ONE HUNDRED-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The procession, which was formed under the direction of Chief Marshal J.H. Manchester on the common at 10 a.m., moved promptly at 10:30, traversed most of the principal streets of the town until it came to the Town Hall on Bradford Street where the exercises were held.

“Police Skirmishes” which may have resembled our present day motorcycle troopers and squad cars that go before the Chief Marshal's Division with screaming sirens and hollowing engines—the effect of which is to clear a path for the approaching marchers—preceded Chief Marshal Manchester.

The first division of the 1883 parade consisted of a 22-piece band from Mansfield, Massachusetts, the Bristol Train of Artillery and the Bristol Light Infantry.

The second division was led by the Bristol Cornet Band of 16 pieces followed by Bristol's three fire companies, in this order; Hydraulic Engine & Hose Co., No.1; King Philip Steam Fire Engine Co., No.1, and Dreadnaught Hook, Ladder & Hose Co. The fire companies were followed in the line of march by no less than five local “*Base Ball*” clubs. In the second division also marched [rode in carriages]; the Reader of the Declaration of Independence, Orator and Clergymen; elected town officials, the Arrangements Committee, invited guests and soldiers, sailors, and veterans “of the late war.”

The Antiques and Horribles were scheduled to parade at 4 o'clock—for cash prizes—but the committee had doubts about awarding the prizes, sentiment was, that the prize money would be awarded; “...providing there is sufficient interest manifested during the coming week to warrant the same.”

Phoenix Commentary

The Fourth of July Committee [this appears to be the first time that the Arrangements Committee was called by this name] are trying to do their best with the material at hand and they will no doubt succeed in eventuating a pretty fair patriotic spree.

The Fire Department in this town is just now in an admirable condition and reflects much credit upon the individual energy of the men. Captains Sparks, Rawson, and Lawder are men well fitted for their positions as is evidenced by the discipline shown, and by the neat and attractive appearance of each company's headquarters.

Next to our "Glorious Fourth" the event of the season will be the advent of the new carriage for [the] Hydraulic Engine Co. It is said to be a beauty and Captain Sparks ought to be proud of his success in getting it.

1888 ONE HUNDRED-TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The parade is now growing in the number of marching participants. Five divisions are present for the 1888 procession. Although the procession still does not have an official name—all the elements with which we are familiar in the twentieth first-century are present at the time from which these gleanings were taken.

The Marshal's Division, is the lead division, Hon. Isaac F. Williams, Marshal, with his staff and platoon of police; next, the First Division: the military, active and retired; then, the Second Division: elected and appointed town officials, and a carriage containing the Orator of the Day and the Reader; followed by the Third Division: the Bristol Fire Department; last, the Fourth Division: various sports clubs.

The Exercises

The platform was tastefully decorated with flags and adorned with a large and fine display of beautiful plants. On the platform were seated the Committee of Arrangements and a large number of prominent citizens. Mrs. George O. Eddy sang the solo part of the Star Spangled Banner, in a very effective manner and in the duet Red, White and Blue, Mrs. Eddy and Mrs. McCarty were recipients of immense applause....

Col. S.P. Colt read the Declaration of Independence in an impressive manner. It was just sixteen years since he performed a like service having read the Declaration on July 4th, 1872. The oration was very effectively delivered, Mr. [Samuel] Norris [Jr.] occupying about twenty-eight minutes in its delivery.

"In the morning at 8 o'clock the usual union prayer meeting was held in the Congregational Memorial Chapel." Here is clear evidence that the ceremony of thanksgiving offered on the Fourth, which originated 100 years previous—at the Congregational Church—had survived to this point.

The Parade

The procession was one of the longest and finest seen here on 'the day we celebrate' for many years. The Bristol Train of Artillery wore, for the first time their new and handsome uniforms, and made a very fine appearance. The Bristol Light Infantry paraded in their white coats nearly new, looking finely and marching in true military style. Babbitt Post No.15, G.A.R. turned out with about sixty veterans and their fine appearance and full ranks attracted much attention.

Just before the procession took up the line of march the Marshal of the Second Division, Dr. George A. Pike was thrown from his horse, but

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Take it all in all the celebration was one of the most successful and enjoyable which has taken place here for half a century.

Receptions

A fine Collation was given the Bristol County Wheelmen at the Trinity Church rectory. Rector; Rev. Mr. Trotter was President of the Bristol Bicycle Club.

Mrs. Colt and Mrs. Norris at their residences on Hope Street gave elegant receptions. In each instance large numbers of guests attended. The Colt mansion (Linden Place) and Norris House are abutting neighbors facing Hope Street. Norris House was built after Linden Place as a "keep up with the Joneses" affair. And, during those days the owners were social rivals.

Entertainments

The afternoon was taken up with sporting activities; at 2 o'clock there was a "Base Ball" game on the common, between the St. Mary's T.A.S. [Total Abstinence Society] Club and the Warren Unions. The Union team won the match 14 - 3.

Immediately after the ball game, the Bristol County Wheelmen held a bicycle race for prizes. The race was on High Street between Bradford and Constitution Streets.

The Bristol Cornet Band and the Bristol Fife and Drum Band gave a Promenade Concert on the common during the ball game, and later, in the evening the day was brought to a close with a display of fireworks. *Phoenix*, Saturday, July 7

1892 ONE HUNDRED-SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Town Council instructed the Chief of Police to place extra men on duty in the south part of town on the night preceding the Fourth; he was also instructed to enforce the town ordinance relative to bathing. The Town Clerk was ordered to draw \$500 from the Town Treasury, and place in an account for the benefit of the celebration.

The Committee for Arrangements consisted of Edward Anthony, Jr., Chairman; and C.L. Miller, Secretary (Mr. Miller was chosen in place of Fire Chief Edwin C. Sparks who declined to serve); with B.R. Wilson, Jr., Isaac Gorham, William F. Peters, and George E. Slocum who made up the sub-committees for music, orator, and Chief Marshal.

A three-division procession was formed under the direction of Chief Marshal H. Maitland Gibson and his staff; it began to move shortly after 10 o'clock along the principal downtown streets to the Town Bridge; from Town Bridge it counter-marched along Hope Street to Bradford Street to the Town Hall where Patriotic Exercises were held.

1894 ONE HUNDRED-EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Day and Night Before

The *Phoenix* editor struck a philosophical chord in his July 7 report of the celebration when he wrote, "On Tuesday afternoon, the day before, young America was alive to the promise of the coming day and got there with a vigor unexcelled in lung power on the one note horn, while the distant sound of the booming cannon cracker and that of smaller caliber [pistols] could be heard in any part of town. These are forbid by town statute until after 12 a.m., on the morning of the 4th, but the boy of the period is not looking after town statues, and many of mature growth are not backward in giving an impetus to the opening of the day commemorative of the nation's history and even the girls caught the infection and aided in the coming event by firing crackers and blowing the tin instrument with only one octave.

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“Young America outdid itself the night before the Fourth and made the night ring with cannon fire and Chinese crackers, accompanied by the noisy horns. Well, we’ve all had our day, and as it comes only once a year we shouldn’t begrudge the youth their pleasure at this period of the year.”

However, the evening was not without some of the usual mischievous destruction of property, as the following news item attests. “A large cannon cracker was thrown behind the blinds of a front window at the residence of Mr. James Bowler of Franklin Street, and exploding, blew off the blinds, smashing the sash and broke up a number of potted plants standing on the window sill.”

A Riotous Good Time

The streets in the early eve of Tuesday were alive with people and traders did a thriving business. A couple who extended the right hand of fellowship on the corner of Hope and State Streets, cut the pigeon wing and executed a fandango, as a mischievous youth emptied the contents of a six barrel revolver close to his heels, while an old Vet from the back precincts was enlightening a crowd he had gathered through bug juice demonstration, on the considered prospect of a pension increase and consequently a further supply of rock and rye, while in the dim distance could be heard the only band gathering in torrents of perspiration and emitting at the same time the latest musical gems in the tunes of ‘Sweet Marie’ and ‘Huckleberry Dew.’

At 10 o’clock all seemed quiet while the sober and the sedate wended their way homeward to gain needed rest. If they got it they were lucky as the boys were promptly on hand at midnight and kept up the incessant din until the wee small hours, when a shower dampened their ardor and sent them to cover. The procession later that day was decided to be the neatest and best appearing of any previous anniversary.

1915 ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Parade Was Imposing and Satisfactory Exercises at Burnside Memorial Hall Good Ball Game and Foot Races Excellent Display of Fireworks

Bristol’s celebration of the 139th anniversary of American Independence may well take rank with many most pleasing events of like character in years gone by, and the committee and Chief Marshal are to be congratulated on the successful carrying out of their excellent plans for the day.

The morning parade, notwithstanding the fact that a heavy shower interfered with it materially during the last few blocks of its progress along the route of march, presented an imposing appearance and embraced several unusual features.

The presence of more than 400 blue jackets and marines from the battleship MICHIGAN on the right of the line, headed by the ship’s fine band; the attendance of Governor Beckman and Mrs. Beckman, who rode with US Senator LeBaron B. Colt and Colonel Colt in the latter’s Colonial coach, escorted by Co. C, of the Bristol Train of Artillery in Colonial uniform; the beautifully decorated float representing the progress of ‘Votes for Women,’ with its still more beautiful young ladies.

Company C headed by the Banda Tripoli met Governor Beckman and wife, as they landed from the Newport boat at 10:30 a.m. and escorted them to Linden Place, where they entered the Colonial Coach. The escort and coach then took its place in line by marching up Church Street, around the common and the parade started down State Street about 11 o’clock.

Just before the parade started, members of the Bristol County Equal Suffrage League presented Mrs. Beckman, the Governor’s wife, with a bouquet of yellow flowers.

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The inclement weather made business good for the stores which dispensed ice cream, soft drinks, confectionery, light lunches, etc.

The newsboys and boy scouts fared well by the generosity of the men of the battleship. Saturday night one of the scouts was met by several of the blue jackets who bought the youngster fire crackers, sky rockets, banners, candy, fruit, etc., until the boy could carry no more.

The ship's men also gave liberally to the boy scouts who held their annual tag day Saturday. The scouts raised \$107.

There was a ball game on the common between a picked Bristol team and nine from the battleship, the game was the center of attraction for the afternoon. The game was won by the Bristol team 7 to 1.

Other Reports of The Day

Thousands visited the USS MICHIGAN Sunday and yesterday, and many were entertained at lunch with the officers.

A private dance was given at the Bristol Yacht Club house, Saturday evening in honor of the officers of the Battleship MICHIGAN, many of whom were present.

Commodore and Mrs. William L. McKee entertained Commander Wells of the Training Station at Newport and Mrs. Wells at their home, Blithwold, Ferry Hill, at luncheon, Saturday. Later in the afternoon they entertained Capt. Niblack of the Battleship MICHIGAN.

The Battleship MICHIGAN left this morning for Newport where she will remain for a week or two before going to Provincetown, Mass.
Phoenix, Tuesday, July 6

1916 ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Night Before

The night before the Fourth was made a memorable one for the Captain of the USS KANSAS and about 20 of his officers. Chief Marshal R.F. Haffenreffer, Jr., by a dinner and dance, given in their honor at the Hotel Belvedere. Also honored were members of the Town Council, the Fourth of July Committee, Marshals of Divisions and a few citizens of the town. Mr. Haffenreffer presided at the dinner, which was an excellent one. Addresses were made by Council President B.F. Lindemuth, Col. M.A. Chessman and Judge F.H. Hammill. After dinner the party adjourned to the sun parlor where the Crown Orchestra of six pieces discoursed music for dancing. Many ladies from Bristol and neighboring towns were present to meet the officers and the occasion was an enjoyable one.

We also learn from the *Phoenix* of the day that the Commanding Officer of the USS KANSAS, Captain Hutchinson, provided a concert by the ship's band from the balcony of the hotel for 2 hours in the evening and "throng" of people enjoyed it.

Battleship in Bristol Harbor

The officers of the USS KANSAS planned to entertain a number of the townspeople on board the ship in the afternoon with a dance, but the plans were interrupted by the bad weather. Nevertheless a number of local people took tea with the captain and his officers.

Col. Merton A. Chessman chartered the Steamer MINNIE V. POPE and took the Caledonian Societies, with their Scottish Pipe Band, to the Battleship KANSAS, where they spent an enjoyable hour and a half on the afternoon of the Fourth. They paraded the deck, sang songs, and after inspecting the ship returned to Bristol.

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Many people visited the battleship while it was open to visitors, and the power boats made frequent trips. The ship this year was in plain sight from all along the wharves, being anchored just south of Pappoosesquaw Point. For the past few years the battleships assigned to this port over the Fourth were anchored southeast of Hog Island.

On the night of the Fourth the Battleship KANSAS, which was dressed for the holiday, presented a fine appearance. Thousands of colored electric lights were displayed on the hull and fire control towers, etc., and the outline of the vessel could be seen for miles around.

The boys from the battleship had plenty of money when they came ashore and considerably less when they returned. They didn't exactly buy the town, although one storekeeper says two blue jackets came into his store about 11 o'clock on the night of the Fourth and wanted to buy all the fire works he had, and set them off in the show window. They agreed to pay for broken or any other damages. It is needless to say that they were refused. As usual a police patrol of about 20 men from the ship, on the night before the Fourth, kept good track of the men, sending some of them, who were a little unruly, back to the ship.

***Phoenix* Editorial, July 3**

Bristol is to have a big celebration tomorrow, and it is well that it is so. But let us remember that honoring our country and our flag does not consist of rowdyism; let us remember that the immoderate use of intoxicating drinks is not conducive to the good of the country; let us remember that liberty is not license; let us remember that endangering our own lives or the lives of others by the careless use of fireworks is not a patriotic duty; let us remember that the destruction of property, either wantonly or through any form of recklessness, is as reprehensible on the Fourth of July as it is on any other day of the year; let us remember that true patriotism consists very largely in being a good citizen.

Let tomorrow be a thoughtful Fourth. Rejoice in your country's freedom and greatness, and enjoy to the fullest extent the blessings which that freedom and greatness have given to you; but with your rejoicing mix equal portions of common sense and the essence of the golden rule; be thankful that you are an American citizen or an American boy, and live up to your proud title.

Notices Concerning the Approaching Spectacular

The Fourth of July Committee is fortunate indeed in being able to secure an orator as such high reputation as Col. [H.] Anthony Dyer to deliver the address at the Town Hall tomorrow morning. Those who fail to hear him will miss a treat.

Chief Rain-in-the-Face, a Sioux Indian, who will come to Bristol tomorrow, with the North Providence Boy Scouts, will give an exhibition of war dances, scalping, etc., on the common, after the ball game.

At a meeting of Babbett Post No. 15, G.A.R., Friday evening, it was voted to accept the invitation to take part in the parade and to attend the bake on the Fourth of July. The veterans are to ride in a large automobile and are to attend the exercises in the Town Hall in a body after the parade.

The official decorator, George R. Fish, announces that it is impossible to get decorations enough to decorate in this town this year owing to the preparedness of celebrations, when most of the flags and bunting were bought up. Mr. Fish is trying his best to secure decorations or a decorator with a stock to come to Bristol today.

Report on the Celebration

The celebration of the 140th anniversary of American Independence was observed in this town this year in a manner, which exceeded many previous years. The parade in the morning

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was the principal feature on the day and was an imposing one. The marines and blue jackets from the USS KANSAS, with the ship's band, nine companies of the Coast Artillery Corps, Rhode Island National Guard, and other military organizations, Boy Scouts and firemen, etc., were watched by thousands along the line of march. The skies were heavily laden with clouds, those who participated in the parade appreciated the coolness of the air. The drizzling rain which started about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, continued at intervals throughout the day and night, but the ball game, athletic events in the afternoon and motion pictures and band concert in the evening, were given.

R.F. Haffenreffer, Jr., Chief Marshal of the Fourth of July parade, presented his personal staff with neat souvenirs of the occasion. The souvenirs consisted of small silk flags from which suspended a gold plated pendent representing the HOLLAND submarine boat.

The procession moved down State Street to Thames to Church to High to Walley, to Hope, counter march at junction of Thames and Hope, to Franklin to Wood to Bradford to the Town Hall where line was reviewed by the Chief Marshal and dismissed.

The exercises at the Town Hall, which took place immediately after the parade, were unusually interesting. The Chief Marshal, presided in graceful manner. On stage with him besides those who took part, were seated members of the Town Council, the Committee and other citizens. Henry Serbst, Jr., read the Declaration of Independence in a very satisfactory manner, and he received well-merited applause. The oration by Col. H. Anthony Dyer, of Providence, was one of his best efforts, which is saying a great deal, as Col. Dyer is a finished orator.

Police Action

Nester Dias Brouch, arrested by Patrolman Henry Serbst, Tuesday night, was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Philip Brady, Wednesday evening, and pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness. His case was continued to the Fifth District Court. Bail, fixed at \$200, was obtained.

Chief of Police Thomas Dwyer and the police force were highly complimented by the Council for the excellent manner in which the crowds were handled on the Fourth and the night before. No accidents of a serious nature occurred and the local police made no arrests, which speaks well for the safe and sane Fourth. *Phoenix*, Friday, July 7

1919 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Seaplanes Here on Fourth

Bristol has been assigned two seaplanes for the 4th of July by the Navy Department. People in this section will have an opportunity of witnessing remarkable stunts and possibly given the rare privilege of an aerial ride. The flying machines will be sent here from Chatham, Mass.

The proposed "Antiques and Horribles" feature for the celebration does not appear so far to meet with favor, as only two entries had been made up to Friday. *Phoenix*, Tuesday, June 17

The Approaching Celebration

The following announcement of the parade appears to be the first time the parade is distinguished with an official title

At 6 a.m., the Bristol Train of Artillery will fire a national salute on the common. At the same hour the chimes of Trinity Church and the bells of the

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several churches will be rung. At 10 a.m. there will be a *Grand Military, Boy Scouts, Fireman's and Civic Parade* [author's emphasis].

The parade will assemble at 9:30 a.m. The order to march will be given promptly at 10 o'clock. It will therefore be necessary to have all organizations in position not later than 9:45 o'clock. The parade will form on State Street, right resting in front of the State Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

At the conclusion of the parade the following program will be carried out in the Town Hall: America, Royal Band; Invocation, Rev. Frank Damrosch; Reading, Miss Bertha Farrington; Address, Rev. F.S. Penfold; National Anthem, Royal Band.

Tuesday, July 8

The *Phoenix* of July 3 said; "there'll be a hot time in the old town tonight." The statement was true in every sense. It was the hottest night before the Fourth in many years.

Independence Day was also a hot one with regard to the weather, and this no doubt was a deterrent factor in keeping more of the boys who have been in the national service from participating in the parade. Consequently only a very small percentage of the men returned from overseas were in the parade, although the attendance of service men at the dance in the Naval Armory the night before was large.

Bristol is fortunate in having such elegant shade trees and the line of march was through shady streets, which protected the marchers from the hot rays of the sun.

The parade was a typical Bristol Independence Day style, with the various military and firemen's organizations and Boy Scouts. The parade was augmented by the cadets from Camp Sims, the US Junior Naval Reserves, who made a fine appearance in the natty uniforms of white blouses and black belts, and white caps, blue trousers and leggings [sic]. They were accompanied by their own band. The Cadets, numbering nearly 200, were in command of Willis J. P. Lhysioc [sic] and staff.

The exercises in the Town Hall were interesting. Notwithstanding the hot day, the hall was cool and comfortable. The hall was about half filled. The Reader, Miss. Bertha Farrington, was heartily applauded at the conclusion of her reading of the Declaration of Independence. Rev. F.S. Penfold of St. Stephen's Church, Providence, gave an excellent address on 'Liberty and Americanization.' He was heartily applauded at the close.

The two government seaplanes, which arrived here on July 3, gave demonstrations on the morning and afternoon of the Fourth, and were seen by thousands as they circled over the harbor and flew at a low altitude over the main thoroughfare of the town.

The celebration ended with a fine band concert on the common in the evening by the Royal Band of Providence, which also gave a concert in the afternoon.

Further Notes on The Celebration

Hundreds of people visited Linden Place, yesterday afternoon, where Colonel Colt held open house for his friends.

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During the celebration the 'night before' one of Stetson Clowes hands was quite badly injured by the explosion of a five inch cracker that he was holding.

At the suggestion of Commodore William G. Low, Jr., the Bristol Yacht Club float was made available for departure and landing of many hundreds of people who visited the United States destroyers and it was a great convenience to the public.

Frederick W. Macauley, Jr. Injured by Artillery Cannon.

While ramming in the third charge of the National Salute, which was being fired on the common at 6 o'clock in the evening, by a squad of seven men from the Bristol Train of Artillery, one of the old brass field pieces of the Artillery Company suddenly exploded. The charge was only partly '*home*' in the gun when it exploded, but the full force of the discharge struck young Frederick W. Macauley's right hand, blowing off that member and shattering the forearm. The flame burned his face and neck badly and injured his right eye badly. The young man was carried to the office of Dr. Hasbrouck. Dr. John H. Morrissey of Providence, formerly of Bristol, rendered first aid.

1920 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Bristol always celebrates Independence Day in good old-fashioned style and yesterday the reputation was maintained. Thanks to the kind-hearted weatherman the day was ideal—plenty of sunshine and cool breezes.

The shady streets were highly appreciated by those who participated in the parade, and the crowds that lined both sides of the streets along the line of march.

The big parade this year was augmented by the hundreds of firemen with their unique hand engines.

At 6 o'clock a.m., a National Salute was fired on the common by the Bristol Train of Artillery. At the same hour the chimes of Trinity Church and the bells of the several other churches were rung.

At 10:45 a.m., there was a Grand Military, Boy Scouts, Firemen's and Civic Parade [another early title for the official procession]. The line of march—down State Street to Hope, to Church, to High, to Walley, to Poppasquash Road. countermarch to Franklin to High, to Bradford to Wood to the common.

At the corner of Wood and State Streets the Chief Marshal and staff reviewed the parade. The parade continued down State Street, each unit executing section, platoon or company front, just west of the Walley School marching on to the common, facing the band stand, closing in mass at the Band Stand.

The usual exercises following the parade were conducted from the bandstand on the common this year. Col. L.H. Callan, the Chief Marshal presided, the Chief Marshal's staff, the committee and US Senator LeBaron B. Colt and Col. S.P. Colt occupied places on the stand. Luciano Capone, of the class of '21 Colt Memorial High School read the Declaration of Independence with good expression and understanding of the important parts of the immortal document. The address by Assistant Attorney General A.A. Capatosto was short, but eloquent and full of sturdy Americanism. It was well received, especially by his compatriots, whom he advised to adapt American ideals with all that those ideals embody.

Afternoon of The Day

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From 2 to 3 o'clock p.m., there was a concert by the Boy Scout Band of Fall River, on the bandstand on the common and at 3 p.m., there was a concert by the American Legion Band of Providence.

The ball game on the common in the afternoon resulted in an easy victory for the Revere Rubber Company team over Kearney Post, American Legion nine of this town, the score being 12 to 5.

Other Reports Relative to The Celebration

A party of seven sailors, said to be from the US destroyers created considerable disturbance on Bradford Street Sunday night. They fired Roman candles against windows and the home of Stephen W. Hopkins [a direct descendent of Rhode Island's signer of the Declaration of Independence], they threw a discharged Roman candle butt through a windowpane.

The old town was dressed in holiday attire. Nearly all the business places in the compact part of town, Federal buildings and many private residences were decorated. Hope Street was especially patriotic. Flags and bunting were suspended from ropes stretched across the main street at many points.

The noisy part of the celebration began early Sunday evening and continued all night, parties with drums, bugles, etc., paraded the compact part of town, amid red fire and explosives. There was no lack of noisy enthusiasm all day yesterday, but the fireworks dealers sold out early last evening so that the windup of the celebration was comparatively quiet.

The Colt Band made its first appearance, in its natty uniforms of blue coats and white trousers under the capable leadership of Prof. William Ferrara. The band, which has 35 members, went to the residence of Col. S.P. Colt about 9 a.m., and played several fine selections for Colonel Colt and his guests. The band then went to the Naval Armory and escorted Kearney Post No.6, American Legion, to the formation point. The band is a good one and it was heartily applauded along the line of march. Colonel Colt, for whom it is named donated the band instruments and uniforms. He was much pleased with the fine music and complimented Prof. Ferrara.

Henry DeWolf Allen Thrown From His Horse—Suffers Skull Fracture

Henry DeW. Allen, who served as mounted aid to Joseph E. Simmons, the veteran marshal of the Firemen's Division in the parade is in the Rhode Island Hospital suffering from a fracture of the skull, caused by a fall from his horse. Mr. Allen had finished his duties in the parade and was riding to his home on Poppasquash, when the accident occurred. The horse, a large black animal only three years old, had been very lively all morning, and just as Mr. Allen was about to turn him into Poppasquash Road an automobile shot past causing the animal to dance and rear. The horse became frantic and slipped on the rails of the Suburban track nearly falling. This threw Mr. Allen over the animal's head and he fell on his back, striking his head on the macadam roadbed of Hope Street, just above Poppasquash corner.

Professional New York and Providence Pickpockets Apprehended

Professional pickpockets who had in mind 'nice pickin's' in this town on the Fourth were nipped in the bud through the foresight of Chief of Police L.H. Callan. The Chief anticipated a visit by the light-fingered 'profesh,' and engaged two Providence inspectors of long experience to come here on the Fourth to help

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round them up. Accordingly Inspectors Harran and Bowen were here early and before the parade had rounded up 20 of the famous 'Paul Dimond gang' of New York and eight from Providence. The ringleader, who is 70 years old, when he saw the inspectors gave the gang a warning tip and all skipped out of town except five who were arrested. *Phoenix*, Tuesday, July 6

1921 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Several Accidents and Heat Prostration, Good Ball Game, Many Visitors in Town

Bristol celebrated Independence Day in her usual old-fashioned Old Home Day style. The weather was very oppressive on account of great heat and humidity and those in the parade suffered accordingly, but there was no serious prostrations and the celebration passed off most successfully, with something doing from morning to night.

The parade assembled at 9:30 a.m., and the signal to march was given promptly at 10 o'clock by Chief Marshal Capt. James W. Goff.

Line of March—down State Street to Hope to Church to High to Walley to Poppasquash Road, countermarch to Franklin to Wood to the common.

The Chief Marshal and his staff at the corner of Wood and State streets reviewed the parade. The parade continued down State Street, each unit executing section, platoon or company front just west of the Walley School and marched onto the common closing in mass in front of the band stand.

Afternoon Activities

At 1:30 p.m., there was a program of sports for Boy Scouts, National Guardsmen, and townspeople. At the same time there was a band concert by the National Guard Band on the common.

At 3 p.m., there was a concert by the Colt Band in the bandstand on the common. There was also a ball game between the Bristol All Stars and the Powhatans from Providence.

Between 5:30 and 6 p.m., there was a battalion evening parade and review of the National Guard on the common by Lieut. Governor H.J. Gross.

Notes On The Celebration

After the ball game a battalion of three of the visiting National Guard companies under the command of Major John J. Collins, was inspected by the Lieutenant Governor and Adjutant General Charles W. Abbot, on the common and made a good showing. After the formal ceremonies of inspection there was a drill in the manual of arms, dress parade, evening colors, as the flag was lowered on the community flagpole, and retreat. The crowd that witnessed the ball game remained for the interesting military evolutions.

Two ball games preceded the scheduled game on the regular program. in the first game the Bristol team defeated the team from the destroyers by a score of 9 to 1. The second game was between a team of sailors and the Bristol Athletic Association team. The Bristol boys won 4 to 3.

Woman Accidentally Shot

Mrs. Josephine Cirella, about 60 years of age, was accidentally shot in the right shoulder about 8:30 last evening as she was standing near the bandstand on the common listening to the concert. She did not fall, in fact she did not know she was shot, but complained to her daughter who stood near that she had a severe pain in her shoulder. An examination showed the wound,

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and she was taken to her home on State Street extension. Dr. C.J. Hasbrouck was called. He found that a bullet of good size had penetrated the muscles of the right shoulder.

Advertising in Parade

The Retail Merchants Division of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce furnished a new and novel feature of the parade. First came a party of about 40 boys each carrying a pennant lettered with the name and business address of a member of the division. Then followed a dozen automobiles, carrying the members of the division. The autos were fitted with large signs reading: 'Members of Retail Merchants' Division of Bristol Chamber of Commerce,' and on the rear wheels were discs, with the admonition, 'Trade at Home.' A large and handsomely decorated float brought up the rear.

***Phoenix* Report Tuesday, July 5**

Chief of Police Kelley engaged Inspectors O'Malley and Bourn of the Providence Police to be on the lookout for pickpockets in Bristol yesterday. They mingled with the crowd in citizen's clothes, but saw no evidence of light-fingered work.

The Hydraulions made a fine appearance in the parade marching ahead of two motorized pieces of fire-apparatus, and it is greatly to their credit that they turned out to assist in the celebration.

The N.I.R. [National India Rubber Company] Ambulance Company also made a very creditable showing in their natty white uniforms and marched well.

The Boy Scouts were in large numbers, and swung along in good style. The Bristol Athletic Association made a very neat appearance and carried a large flag horizontally. The detail of Troop 1, of the Boy Scouts, in [the] charge of Scoutmaster Coggeshall, which assisted the local police in handling traffic during the parade deserve much credit for their assistance.

1922 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Preparations for the Fourth

At a meeting held Tuesday, June 23, correspondence received and read were from the Town Council, Babbitt Women's Relief Corps., Kearney Post, American Legion, and Judge F.H. Hammill all of who said they would participate in the morning parade. The Portuguese Fraternity declined the invitation.

The Committee and Chief Marshal W. Frederick Williams, Jr. decided there would be a slight change in the line of march this year. The line proceeded up Franklin to High, to Bradford and to the Pastime Theater where the exercises were held. The parade was reviewed on High Street near the freight station of the United Electric Railways Company.

The Night Before

There was an invitation dance at the Bristol Yacht Club from 10 to 2 in the morning, with "hundreds of dancers present." Sometime after midnight a gang of young men from Fall River intruded upon the dance. The uninvited guests acted badly; drawing a pistol among the dancers, setting off cannon crackers around the clubhouse, breaking windows, and doing other damage. A typical understatement by the *Phoenix* in its report of the incident read: "In fact they practically broke up the dance."

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The night before activities centered downtown at the junction of Hope and State Streets and were one of the “rowdiest” in years. The sounds of heavy explosives were heard throughout the night. There were no injuries reported and the threat of fire was reduced by the rain and fog that lasted until daylight.

The evening’s festivities included the town's first Block Party on High Street between Court and State Streets. From 9 p.m., to midnight the block was filled with not less than 300 dancers taking part at any one time.

Thousands of spectators watched the merry dancers. Sailors from the destroyers took part in the dancing and found no lack of Bristol girls for partners. The commanding officers of the two war vessels were much pleased with this feature of the entertainment for the ‘*blue jackets*,’ and said Bristol was one of the few towns visited where the men were entertained like citizens instead of being looked upon as mere sailors.

Rudolf F. Haffenreffer entertained at his lodge on Mt. Hope on the Night Before. Among the guests were the Town Council President E.F. Bunn; Councilmen; seven officers of the visiting ships, and members of the Fourth of July Committee. The party returned to town in time to take part in the dancing on High Street and at the yacht club.

1923 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The unfavorable weather, notwithstanding, Bristol’s Fourth of July Celebration this year took rank with the best of the many that this old town has held.

The *Phoenix* editor notes with pride; “every foot of the long line of march this year was over smooth tar macadam highway, a fact that the town has never been able boast of before, and Bristol’s good roads must have made a favorable impression on the visitors who took part in the parade.”

There were comparatively few cases of drunkenness during the celebration and in general the crowd was orderly. The police made no arrests, but officers were called to suppress a ‘*battle royal*’ between citizens of foreign extraction on State Street near Hope Street on the evening of the Fourth. Two men engaged in a lively fistfight and before long several would be peacemakers, including several women were involved in the scuffle. *Phoenix*, Friday, July 7

1925 ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Night Before

Ceremonies included the fourth annual Block Dance. It was held between State and Wardwell on Hope Street. Martelly's Brass Band was stationed in front of Linden Place and provided music for a reported “more than 2000 people,” who were present for the dance. There was a total of five dances on this particular “night before,” the block dance, and a dance given by the Bristol Council Knights of Columbus; a dance on the common during the bonfire; the Bristol Yacht Club dance, and one at the Bristol Casino. Some of the dances lasted until 3 o’clock on the morning of the Fourth.

Visiting Ship

The USS PUTNAM, commanded by Captain Charles H. Shaw of Amherst, Mass., arrived in Bristol Harbor Friday afternoon, and spent a full four days as the town’s guest. The Town Council, Chief Marshal, Chief of Staff, and the Celebration Committee extended the customary courtesies to Captain Shaw and Lieutenant Robertson. During the day of the ship’s arrival all of the town officials were invited aboard for an inspection tour.

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R.F. Haffenreffer, Jr., entertained the officers of the PUTNAM at a dinner at his Mount Hope estate; later the officers were the guests of Colonel Edward S. Godfrey at the Bristol Casino.

The Day We Celebrate

Reports indicate there was an exceptionally fine parade with a stronger military bearing than in recent previous years and it was efficiently handled by Chief Marshal James F. Lavander and his Chief of Staff Bertram W. Wall, and their vigorous marshaling of the divisions.

Rain did not fall during the day or on the evening of the Fourth although there were threatening clouds throughout the day. Besides the parade, the day was made special by the baseball games, band concerts and the destroyer PUTNAM in the harbor, as well as a "fine display of fireworks on the common," which played to about 15,000 people.

The Parade

The order to "forward march," was delayed for about an half hour, waiting for the arrival of a detachment of sailors from Newport. The Chief Marshal mustered 50 friends and relatives to act as his aids; all of whom were dressed in dark jackets, white trousers, and straw hats.

Because of the new freedom to travel upon well-surfaced roads in reliable motor vehicles, more and more out-of-towners chose to come to Bristol to take part in her well-known Independence Day celebration and parade. The 1925 festivities was no exception, as we learn from the July 7 issue of the *Phoenix*: "The procession, an unusually long one, was witnessed by thousands who lined the route of march. Hundreds of parties of motorists from out of town augmented the large number of townspeople who enjoyed the various features of the day...."

The Exercises

The Patriotic Exercises were held in the afternoon on the balcony of the Hotel Belveder. There were selections by the band and a prayer by Rev. F.I. Maryon, Rector of Trinity Church; Miss Hazel Hoyle of the class of 1925, Colt High School, read the Declaration of Independence, and the patriotic speech was delivered by Leo M. Harlow, Commander, American Legion, North Easton, Massachusetts.

Chief Marshal James F. Lavander presided as master of ceremonies of the exercises, and he publicly congratulated the Fourth of July Committee for the excellent program they had prepared for the day. The Exercises closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

1927 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIRST CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The holiday was ushered in with band concerts on the common; the Portuguese Independent Band played on Saturday evening followed on Sunday afternoon by the Doric Band, and in the evening music was supplied by the 243rd Coast Artillery Band. At midnight on "the night before" a "monster" bonfire was lighted and witnessed by several thousand people.

The Parade

The seven-division parade with Bertram W. Wall as Chief Marshal stepped off at the appointed time. Under bright sunny skies the parade threaded its way through the major streets in the downtown area. Governor Arron J. Pothier and his staff on the west side of High Street at the corner of State Street reviewed it.

At 4 p.m., there was a "trades procession" headed by the Portuguese Independent Band. The automobiles and floats followed much of the same route as the morning's patriotic parade. The afternoon parade featured most of the major manufacturing industries and some of the

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tradesmen of the town. The trades' procession ended in the front of the Hotel Belvedere at 5 p.m., just in time for the participants to witness the Patriotic Exercises for the day, which were held on the hotel's balcony.

The exercises consisted of the following program: Music, 243rd C.A.C. Band; Invocation, Rev. Nelson Kellogg; Reading, Miss Virginia LeClair; Address, Bishop Louis C. Sanford; Singing of the National Anthem by Miss. Aida A. Connery.

The area between State and Church Sts. on High Street was roped off during the exercises. From 6 to 8 p.m., there was a concert by the D'Orsi Silver Lake Band and a Block Dance.

The celebration was brought to a close at 10 p.m., with a grand display of fireworks on the common. The officers for the 1927 celebration were: Everett LeB. Church, Chairman; Robert J. Anderson, Vice Chairman; John G. Stewart, Secretary; Matthew J. Cahoon, Financial Secretary; James F. Meiggs, Treasurer.

Committee's Final Meeting Closes Business for 1927

The local Fourth of July committee held its final meeting Friday evening in the Burnside Memorial Building for the purpose of paying the bills incidental to the recent celebration and to conclude other matters. A letter of appreciation was received from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, in behalf of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, acknowledging the receipt of a congratulatory letter. The committee was promised that due consideration will be given to the invitation extended Col. Lindbergh to visit this town when the itinerary of the latter's tour of the country is made up. The members of the committee felt that it would be fortunate if Col. Lindbergh could reach Bristol in time for the Fourth of July celebration next year.

The introduction of a resolution recommending that the Town Council limit the celebration committee to 11 members in future years, resulted in a lively discussion in which practically every member of the committee took part in the debate. A motion to lay the resolution on the table was lost, as was an amendment recommending that 15 members be appointed. The original motion was lost by an overwhelming vote, the majority expressing the opinion that the size of the committee should be left to the discretion of the Town Council.
Phoenix Tuesday, July 12.

1928 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Crowds Enjoy All Features of a Splendid Two-Day Program Ball Game, Band Concerts, Water Battle, Patriotic Exercises Well Received.

The committee met in the Burnside Memorial Building on Friday evening, June 21, to arrange the final program for the approaching celebration. The sum of \$33 was set aside for the afternoon ballgame and Samuel Molasky was contracted to furnish food for the visiting organizations at 33 cents per person.

It was announced that an invitation had been extended to Senator Charles Curtis, the Republican candidate for Vice President, to be a guest of the town over the Fourth.

Bristol Maintains Her Tradition

The USS WRIGHT, flagship of the US Aircraft Squadron's Scouting Fleet accompanied by the tender TEALL and 11 seaplanes were scheduled for inspection in Bristol Harbor; a concert by the D'Orsi Band of Providence was planned for the balcony of the Hotel Belvedere in the afternoon of the Third, and another concert by the same band was scheduled for the common from 10 p.m. to midnight at which time the bonfire was set off.

The Official Parade Gets a New Name

The eight-division *Grand Naval, Military, Civic, and Firemen's Parade* (again, another name for the official procession) was the feature of the day; participants assembled at 9:45 and the order to march was given at 10 a.m.

The line of march was: State to Hope, Hope to Church, to High, to the junction of Hope and High, counter-marched along High to Union to Hope to Franklin to High to the reviewing stand on the corner of State and High Streets.

Governor Norman S. Case and his staff, the Chief Marshal and his staff, and the Fourth of July Committee reviewed the parade. Immediately after the parade, the sailors gave a drill in calisthenics and marching movements from the Naval Training Station, Newport.

Afternoon Program

The afternoon program consisted of a championship baseball game and a band concert by the 243rd Coast Artillery Band; at 4 o'clock there was a Trades Procession, that with the exception of marching on Wood Street, traversed the same route as the morning's patriotic parade; at 4:30 the National Guard drilled and at 5 p.m., exercises were held on the balcony of the Hotel Belvedere. Immediately after the exercises a water battle was held on High Street in front of the Court House.

Notes on The Fourth

For about a half hour on Tuesday afternoon people along the waterfront were treated to an exhibition of flying in formation by two groups of seaplanes, one of five and the other of three. It was a very interesting spectacle as they changed places in forming different figures. It all looked very easy and safe.

It would seem that somebody ought to make it a point to see that the bandstand on the common have a coat of paint and be decorated with bunting for such a day. Certainly its appearance this year was very 'seedy'.

Because of rough water the motorboat races scheduled as a part of the program had to be omitted. Many people were disappointed as this affair promised to be one of the most thrilling of the day.

The horses used by a bakery firm in the Trades Procession made some Bristolians remember the pair of fine old cream-colored horses Josiah Peckham used to have in every Fourth of July Parade.

After the Governor had gone up State Street to the reviewing stand a rope was stretched across the street. An automobile coming down the street occupied by a young man and woman crashed into it, striking it with the lower half of the windshield. The windshield was ripped off in a flash showering the occupants with glass. They were not seriously hurt, however, as they kept on going without even stopping.

The marshals for the parade were chosen with great care and appropriateness for their particular divisions.

One pleasing aspect of the patriotic exercises at the Hotel Belveder was that all of the speakers could be heard distinctly. This added much to the effectiveness of the occasion. What perfect weather! *Phoenix*, Friday, July 6

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For the celebration almost every building—public and private—along the route of march was bedecked with the national colors in the form of streamers, bunting and flags.

We learn that the town was very much alive from early Wednesday evening; in the streets, on the common and at the dance held at the State Armory at the foot of Church Street, which did not adjourn until nearly daybreak on the Fourth.

The Night Before

Hundreds of young people with horns, bells and other noisemakers, and many in grotesque costumes, paraded the streets the greater part of the night until daylight. Along Hope Street, in the business section, there was a continuous cannonading from early evening until the wee small hours, thousands of bunches of firecrackers, Roman candles and other fire works being touched off with a resounding din and banging that made the approach of the Fourth a real old-time 'Night Before' celebration. Crowds of people were about the section between Bradford and Church Streets, on Hope Street the Bristol Train of Artillery Band rendered a concert from the balcony over the entrance to the Hotel Belveder.

Shortly before midnight, a crowd estimated to number ten thousand people, went to the common where a towering pile of boxes, barrels, and inflammable material was assembled, augmented by a liberal supply of gasoline. It was touched off at exactly the hour of midnight....

Battery C Dance

A large and merry party enjoyed the dance held under the auspices of Battery C, 243d Coast Artillery, in the State Street Armory at the foot of Church Street. Many of the young people who witnessed the setting off of the big bonfire at midnight went to the dance afterwards. Jack Mace's Orchestra furnished excellent music and it was nearly daylight on the 4th when the 'Good Night' waltz was danced.

The Day Begins

The bells of the churches pealed out the first official program at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, the chimes of Trinity Church ringing patriotic airs. The bell ringing was repeated at noon and at six o'clock in the evening.

The Procession

An estimated 20,000 visitors were in town to witness the procession, it was said that they came in "thousands" of automobiles, and "the influx exceeded that of a year ago." So, it is apparent that the notoriety of Bristol's parade was widely known throughout the area, and people were coming to town for their holiday celebrating.

The assembling of the many bands, military, naval, fire and civic organizations for the procession gave the streets a lively appearance in the early morning hours. This feature, always one of the most attractive of the day's celebration, assembled under the direction of T. Clyde Foster, Chief Marshal, in State and High Streets, and was a long and colorful spectacle. The United States Navy Training Station at Newport sent a big delegation of 200 young sailors and a band, and these sturdy youngsters who are in training for the Navy made a most favorable impression.

The Review

His Excellency Governor Norman S. Case, Chief Marshal T. Clyde Foster and his staff, and the Fourth of July Committee reviewed the procession on High Street, near the corner of State Street. In the reviewing party were United States Senator Jesse H. Metcalf, Congressman

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Clark Burdick, Officers from the USS RICHMOND, officers from the United States Training Station, State Senator Daniel G. Coggeshall, Representatives Thomas H. Byrnes, and Alexander G. Fales, members of the Town Council and other town officials.

The Midway

The Midway on Bristol Common was an attraction for many with its barkers, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, and many stands and booths. They were on hand early Wednesday afternoon and set up ready for business in the early evening. The Midway has always proved attractive to many people who patronize the fakirs and others on the holiday. Nearly all of the attractions of a summer resort were here yesterday and those in charge report a good business.

1930 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Two-Day Celebration

The committee planned a two-day celebration and reports on the 1930 festivities proclaim that the arrangements as they were played out produced one of the best celebrations ever seen in the old town.

The Chief Marshal this year was Dr. W. Frederick Williams, Jr., and his Chief of Staff was Henry DeW. Allen.

The committee had their last meeting at the Hotel Belvedere on the evening of July 2, which was preceded by a chicken dinner. Final progress reports were read, which included one about the innovation of installing a system of sound amplifiers and speakers on the balcony of the Hotel Belvedere for use during the Patriotic Exercises.

Official Program of Third and Fourth

Thursday, July 3, at 3 p.m., on the common, a baseball game between a team from the USS RALEIGH and Kid Hope's [Joseph Quartaro] team; The USS RALEIGH, a light cruiser of the 7500 ton type, Capt. E. Frederick, commanding, will arrive in the harbor at 9 a.m., and will be open to visitors from 10 a.m., to 11:30 and from 1:15 to 9:30 a.m., daily; from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., there will be a concert on the balcony of the Hotel Belvedere by the Portuguese Independent Band, and from 10 p.m., to midnight there will be another concert by the same band on the common; at midnight a huge bonfire will be set off on the common.

Friday July 4, at 6 a.m., the chimes of Trinity Church and the bells of the several churches will be rung; at 10:15 a.m., there will be a Grand Naval, Military, Firemen's and Civic Parade; at noon a salute to the Union will be fired by the 243rd H.D. Co.

The Night Before

Apart from the "official celebration," on the evening of the third there were several "unofficial" activities, they included: a dance at the State Street Armory, under the auspices of Battery C. 243rd Artillery, from 8 p.m., until midnight. At the conclusion of this dance another began on the same floor, and that one lasted until 4 a.m. The B.T.A. also held a dance at their State Street Armory from 8 p.m., until midnight. The Portuguese Independent Band gave a concert at 7:30 from the balcony of the Belvedere Hotel, and later, at 10 p.m., they gave another concert on the common.

Mount Hope Bridge

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Especially for the Bristol celebration the Mount Hope Bridge was illuminated for the first time with more than 5000 colored lights strung along the cables on both sides of the span outlining the towers making the bridge visible for miles up and down the bay. This bridge illumination has lingered to this day and has been expanded to a full week before the Fourth. The only other occasion for which the bridge's lights are used is from the week before Christmas through New Years Day.

The Fourth

When Chief Marshal Williams gave the order to march, he was followed by an estimated 1200; including many organizations seen in Bristol for the first time. The traditional high standard set by so many previous celebrations was more than held up again this Fourth. The morning parade was "splendid" and the exercises in the afternoon were an elaborate program.

Large crowds witnessed the parade and took part in the many events; there was something going on at all times for the interest and entertainment of everyone. The day was brought to a successful close with a "grand display of fireworks on the common." *Phoenix*, July 8

1933 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Thousands of People Line Our Streets To Witness Parade, Boy Scout Rally, Base Ball Game and Boxing Bouts Play Prominent Part in Day's Activities, Congressman Francis B. Condon is Principal Speaker at Patriotic Exercises

A three-day program was planned and carried out by the committee. The celebration opened on Saturday, when six Bristol County fire companies combated in preliminary and semi finals of the Bristol County Water Battle Championship on the Town Common.

The B.T.A. Band conducted a series of five concerts in the front portico of Colt Memorial High School.

Monday afternoon (July 3) the destroyer USS MANLEY dropped anchor in Bristol Harbor, and two launches were kept busy conveying visitors to and from the ship.

Members of the MANLEY's crew crossed bats on the common with nine ball players from the local twilight league, and on the afternoon of the Fourth there were more sporting events to hold the attention of the thousand who lingered in town after the passing of the seven division parade.

The Parade

In cold and rainy weather more appropriate to mid-spring than early July, Bristol closed its three-day observation of the 157 anniversary of American Independence on Tuesday with a program easily the equal of those provided in previous years. Opening its final day festivities shortly after midnight with a huge bonfire, the day's program included a Grand Military, Firemen's and Civic Parade, patriotic exercises, ban concerts, Boy Scout rally, a wet and dry hose coupling contest between firemen from various sections of the state, an exhibition of base ball on the common, the Bristol County Water Battle championship matches an boxing bouts which featured youngsters from the Sockannosset School [the state training school for boys; mothers used to tell unruly sons they would send them to the "Bad Boy's School."]. Thousands of residents and visitors witnessed the many attractions.

Comprised of seven divisions, the parade to many was the outstanding feature of the observance. Roswell C. Colt, son of the late Colonel Samuel P. Colt, was the Chief Marshal,

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and he had as his Chief of Staff, BG L.H. Callan, of this town. Taking a prominent part in the procession was the old stage coach in which James DeWolf drove from Bristol to Washington, D.C., when U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, in 1817.

[Brigadier] Gen. Callan headed the paraders and a mounted staff followed him. Headed by Dr. John H. Morrissey and William Shea of New York City and Thomas Morris of this town, all mounted on bay horses as an advance guard, the old fashioned coach was next in line. Led by its drum major, Raymond Sartini, the Bristol Train of Artillery Band, which followed, drew much favorable comment in their attractive uniforms of flaming red coats, blue trousers and white belts. Next came the Fourth of July Observance Committee, headed by their chairman, Daniel E. Dwyer.

Patriotic Exercises

Chief Marshal Colt presided at the exercises and after a few remarks turned the chair over to Daniel E. Dwyer, chairman of the celebration committee.

Because of the sudden downpour the patriotic exercises, which were scheduled to have been held from the portico of the Colt Memorial High School, were shifted to the school auditorium. Congressman Francis B. Condon, who was the principle speaker in defending the legislation of Congress in which arbitrary powers were granted President Roosevelt, declared: "...the Constitution stands inviolate and that the interests of the nation were indeed at stake when Congress ended."

Rev. Milton J. King assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, who was chaplain of the day delivered the invocation. Miss Mary Mason, a recent graduate of Colt Memorial high school, read the Declaration of Independence, and the exercises concluded with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Miss. Audrey C. Munro, who was accompanied by the Bristol Train of Artillery Band.

Afternoon Events

Beginning with the wet and dry hose coupling contests, the afternoon program proved to be a diversified one. While the firemen were competing on the west side of the common, the local Boy Scouts took over the east end for a rally. Large crowds were on hand to witness both events. With the above two features well underway, the Olympian Club and the Defiance Engine and Hose Company base ball teams, the two leaders in the first half of the Twilight League occupied the ball diamond and entertained several thousand spectators. During the course of the game the Bristol Train of Artillery Band under the direction of Mrs. M. Theresa Donovan presented a concert from the bandstand.

Boxing Matches

The observance was brought to a close in the evening with the staging of a series of boxing matches by a group of young athletes from the Sockannosset School [the State of Rhode Island's reform school for delinquent boys.]. Despite the threatening weather, more than 8000 persons jammed the north end of the common to watch the youngsters in action. Lieut Joseph J. Garvin and Joseph Panone capably handled the refereeing assignment. Joseph P. (Kid Hope) Quartaro was the announcer. *Phoenix*, Friday, July 7

1934 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

On the Night Before

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“Thousands” of citizens lined the midway on the common to take in the attractions offered by the carnival, which was in town for a week’s stay. A large audience was also on hand to listen to the concert given by the Portuguese-American Independent Band.

A storm was approaching, and eager to see the evening’s main attraction before the rains came, a group of youngsters ignited the bonfire shortly before 9 o’clock. The burning wood was quickly extinguished, but over-exuberant boys set it off again at 1 a.m., and it burned unwatched for more than two hours.

The Parade

The six-division parade assembled at 9:45 and marched promptly at 10 a.m. The line of march was State Street to Hope to Church to High to Walley to Hope to Franklin to the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School. Contributing to the success of the procession was a detachment of sailors from the USS McCORMICK, several military organizations, and national, state and local dignitaries. Also, the fine appearance of Chief Marshal Colonel Samuel A. Hall, the old Colt coach, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the bands and drum and bugle corps, all in colorful uniforms; the local firemen with their apparatus, members of local civic and fraternal societies, the arrangements committee and the mounted and unmounted aids were greeted all along the line of march with “hearty and sincere applause.”

Patriotic Exercises

At 12 noon, the parade closed in around the reviewing stand for the Patriotic Exercises; the original program was enlarged in order to give some of the celebrities present an opportunity to be introduced and say a few words of greeting to the crowd. The first of these was Governor Theodore Francis Green. After Governor Green's remarks, Vernon C. Otten read the Declaration of Independence. U.S. Representative Francis Condon was then introduced and he congratulated the town on its fine spirit. Eddie Dowling followed with a message concerning the health of President Roosevelt and a few remarks concerning his own personal pleasure in being back in Bristol. Dowling, a noted stage and screen actor from Lincoln, Rhode Island, was at the time a declared candidate for the Democrat nomination for the office of U.S. Senator from Rhode Island.

Seated on the platform next to U.S. Senator Hebert was Dowling; it was Hebert’s senate chair that Dowling was hoping to capture in the coming elections. The *Phoenix* observed: “Mr. Dowling was across the aisle from him [Hebert] but in the full rays of the sun. Said Hebert to Dowling, ‘Well Eddie, You’ve certainly got your place in the sun now.’”

Chief Marshal Colonel Hall presided over the ceremonies. Senator Hebert delivered the principal oration of the day, Rev. Mr. Graetz pronounced Miss. Jean Tobin who was accompanied by the B.T.A. Band directed by Mrs. Donovan concluded the benediction and the exercises with the singing.

1935 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Night Before

The activities included band concerts from the balcony of the Hotel Belvedere with vocals by Miss. Charlotte Stoughton. The Portuguese Independent Band rendered a concert on the common preceding the bonfire. Shortly before midnight a huge pile consisting mostly of discarded railroad ties was ignited into a great pyre of smoke and flame.

The Fourth

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The tradition of the Fourth being “home-coming day,” was very noticeable. Bristolians who had been scattered during the rest of the year were home for the holiday. They were on hand to witness the procession in the morning and to greet old friends and neighbors at the afternoon festivities on the common. The parade was the feature of the official program. At 10:45, Chief Marshal, Colonel A.M. Merriman and his Chief of Staff, Colonel Samuel A. Hall, started the line of marchers moving.

By all accounts, the parade this year was long and it was “witnessed by tremendous throngs all along the line of march.” The National Guard was missing this year, but the Spanish War Veterans and their auxiliary units filled their place. The Aeries of Eagles and Portuguese and Italian contingents took places in the line of march.

The Review

Honored guests who reviewed the procession from the platform in front of the Reynolds School were: Governor T.F. Green and Judge Alexander Churchill, Orator of the Day; the Town Council and other state and local dignitaries. Patriotic Exercises commenced immediately after the parade was reviewed; participants and spectators closed in on the reviewing stand and witnessed the “Exercises of the Day,” at which Colonel Merriman presided as Master of Ceremonies.

The order of the exercises was as follows: Selection by the B.T.A. Band; invocation by Canon Anthony R. Parshley; tribute to the late Daniel E. Dwyer a long time member of the committee and reading of [the] poem Independence Bell by Col. Marriman; remarks by Governor Green; reading of the Declaration of Independence by Miss. Rachel Guthrie; address by Judge Alexander E. Churchill of Providence; solo, The Star Spangled Banner by Miss. Aida A. Connery, accompanied by the B.T.A. Band.

The Afternoon Program

Pasquale Scambato directed the Woonsocket Aerie of Eagles drill team—that was watched by a large crowd. There was a boy scout “camp-o-rel” and other drills by the local chapter on the common for the pleasure of all those who cared to attend. Both of these features were held in the early afternoon. Later in the day, there was a base ball game between the Portuguese Athletic Association (P.A.A.) and the Bristol All Stars. The P.A.A. won the game by a score of 8-3. The evening also held the interest of the townsfolk; there were a historical pageant, an exhibition of fireworks and a series of boxing matches between teams of boxers from New York and Boston—all of these exhibits were held on the common. Both winners and losers in the boxing matches were awarded prizes. Angelo Bruscato, a Bristol boy, who was a fighter working out of the New York City A.A.U. boxing consortium was presented with the Governor Green Trophy. The award was presented in recognition for Bruscato’s carrying the name of Bristol and Rhode Island to high recognition in the national amateur boxing arena.

Committee member Joseph P. (Kid Hope) Quartaro brought boxing matches came to town. Officers for the fight program were: Referee, Manuel Perry; Judges, Henry Devron and James A. Sisson; Timer, R.S. Bosworth and Announcer, Joseph Pannone.

The Town Council, School Committee, Staples Coal Co., United Spanish War Veterans, Bristol Rotary Club, and the Celebration Committee donated trophies.

The Police

The entire police force and 12 reserve officers under Chief Anthony J. Ferrara worked from Wednesday morning until 1 a.m. in the morning of the Fifth. they did a good job and reserve to be praised. No accidents were reported and no disorder of a serious nature was observed.

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With perfect sunny skies another celebration of Independence Day was logged in the annals of Bristol's history. The two-day celebration is looked upon as what was considered one of the finest ever held. *Phoenix* Friday, July 5

1936 ONE HUNDRED SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

RI300

This year the Fourth of July Committee took on the extra duty of arranging the tercentenary observance of the founding of the State of Rhode Island. Preparations were made rapidly for a Tercentenary Ball held on the evening of Friday, July 10, at the Bristol Casino. Mrs. Alice McHugh Coughlan was in charge of the event and it was announced on July 7: "The management of the Bristol Casino, Messrs. Maloney and Duclos, have helped the project considerably by donating the use of the Casino free of charge."

The Celebration

Events on the First and Second of July were well received by the public, they included: an historical exhibit, flower show, fashion show, band concert, and open house at the Haffenreffer museum at Mount Hope. Festivities continued on the Third with the arrival of the USS NEW ORLEANS in the morning. A reception for the ship's officers was held later in the day, and a baseball game between the cruiser's nine and a team of Bristol boys managed by James Salzano. There was an Antiques and Horribles Parade, a block dance, band concert and a bonfire on the common at midnight.

At the block dance there was music by a well-known orchestra augmented by an amplifying system, which was expected to draw the attention of several thousand.

The Parade

Without the benefit of town funding for the celebration, the 132 members of the Fourth of July Committee chaired by Dr. Alfred M. Merriman was able to raise sufficient money to put on "...one of the most pretentious and most colorful celebrations ever held in this community."

The Chief Marshal, Town Clerk John W. Church and his Chief of Staff Colonel Samuel A. Hall led the approximately 2500 marchers in Bristol's annual Military, Fireman's and Civic Parade. The procession was comprised of 10 divisions for which music was supplied by 20 bands and drum and bugle corps.

Chairman Merriman with committee members and dismounted staff marched in the Chief Marshal's Division; all of who were attired in white flannel trousers, dark jackets, and straw hats and carried canes.

Patriotic Exercises

Chief Marshal Church presided at the exercises on the reviewing stand in front of the Reynolds School shortly after the passing of the last of the marchers.

After the invocation by Rev. Nelson Kellogg and the solo by R.S. Bosworth, Peter Alfano read the Declaration of Independence. Governor Green was then introduced and he made a short address. The Orator of The Day was the Honorable Antonio A. Capotosto, Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. The exercises were closed by a selection by the B.T.A. Band and a rendition of the national anthem sung by Miss. Aida A. Connery.

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Afternoon Entertainments

There was a drum and bugle corps competition; in the men's division, the St. Agnes Bugle, Fife and Drum Corps of Providence were the winners. M. Theresa Donovan who chaired the competition committee awarded trophies and medals to the winners.

According to the local newspaper, more than 8000 baseball fans assembled on the Common and watched the Bristol team defeated by a score of 7 to 4 at the hands of the team from Warren.

At 8 o'clock in the evening an historical pageant was staged on the reviewing stand. The end of the pageant was the signal for touching off the pyrotechnic display, which excluded the use of aerial bombs—this brought the celebration festivities to a close for another year.

1939 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Vice President Garner Invited to be in Bristol on the 4th

The Town Council was taken by total surprise when on Tuesday, June 27, the *Phoenix* printed on its front page the bold banner headline: VICE-PRES. GARNER ACCEPTS BRISTOL 4TH INVITATION. The announcement was the climax of several weeks of negotiation between Washington and the Celebration Committee. The communication from "Texas Jack" Garner to Chairman Meiggs assured the committee that in the event Congress had adjourned its session by July 4th, he would take part in the parade and he would be prepared to make an address at the Patriotic Exercises. Alas, duties in Washington must have detained the Vice President, because no further mention of him appears in the local press.

Chief Marshal

Chairman Meiggs chose as his Chief Marshal Stanley E. Friswell, manager of the Mount Hope Bridge. Friswell came to Bristol in 1927 as one of the assistant resident engineers for McClintock-Marshall Co., builders of the Mount Hope Bridge. Ten months after the bridge's completion Friswell became a permanent resident of the town and he took over management of the bridge.

The Chief Marshal sent out 300 invitations to residents and former residents, as well as to the State's political leaders asking them to serve as his staff.

Navy Representation

The official kickoff of the celebration was Sunday, July 2, with the arrival of the submarines R-2 and R-10 into Bristol Harbor. The *Phoenix* proclaimed: "Latest of Uncle Sam's undersea fighting forces, the R-2 and R-10 carry complements of three officers and 35 men each. They will anchor either at the Church Street or Yacht Club wharves and will be open for daily inspection." The R-10 arrived at 3 p.m. and the R-2 at 7 a.m., July 4th. The two craft moored alongside each other at the Light House Service Pier (Coast Guard Station) at the foot of Constitution Street.

The Celebration

On arrival, the officers, and crews of the two submarines, were welcomed by town officials and representatives of the committee. The celebration swung into high gear at 3 o'clock on the Third with sporting events and a band concert on the common.

The Parade

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Ringing of bells and the sounding of factory whistles announced the dawning of Fourth of July at 6 a.m. Bristolians were on the streets early—dressed in their best holiday attire—for a full day of festive activity. The Chief Marshal and his staff Brigadier General L.H. Callan, began to assemble the paraders at 9:45. The parade was headed by a platoon of police in charge of Chief Anthony J. Ferrara and Captain William I. Baker, Jr., then came the Chief Marshal, his Chief of Staff and aids. The staff consisted of 40 mounted men and women, immediately followed by the Sharpshooters Drum and Bugle Corps of New Bedford. Chairman Meiggs and members of the Committee, who were acting as a guard of honor for Governor W.H. Vanderbilt, Senator Bertram W. Wall and the Governor's aide, all of whom rode in an open automobile, occupied the next spot in line. The dismounted staff of some 300 Rhode Islanders of distinction who were invited by the Chief Marshal came next, with music supplied by the Newport Junior Drum and Bugle Corps. The makeup of the nine divisions that followed consisted of active and retired military men from all of Uncle Sam's services.

The Exercises

It was more than a display of military might, however, for marching in the parade were several thousands representing various fraternal, civic, and patriotic organizations. Patriotic Exercises Immediately followed the parade; the exercises commenced on the reviewing stand; Governor Vanderbilt spoke briefly; he complemented the town on the presentation of such a splendid celebration; he said that there was only one 'ism' seeded in this country; '...and that's Americanism.' Judge Charles E. Walsh, was the Speaker of the Day. During his address he paid the Governor the complement of saying that with him at the head of the state government, the affairs of the state would be conducted honestly and without graft and that Rhode Island would serve as a model for good government throughout the nation.

Town Fails to Fly Colors

Despite the success of the celebration the town received condemnation from many quarters for failing to fly the national colors from the town flagpole on the common. The flag and halyards were stolen; a nuisance which has unfortunately continued on and off over the years. Boy Scout Commander George R. Fish, who for a number of years was responsible for the flag, said; "...no flag has graced Bristol Common for the past two years." He said after the 1937, Fourth of July Celebration someone had stolen the brand new halyards and the flag. They were kept in a box on the pole; he said the park committee knew this, but no one had taken action to replace them. *Phoenix*, July 7

1940 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Last of US Navy's Participation for Duration of the War

For the third time since 1926, and for the second year in a row, a submarine boat was assigned to Bristol for the Fourth of July Celebration. At 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, the submarine USS R-4 and the destroyer USS HUMPHRIES arrived in Bristol Harbor. What a striking contrast in size and shape the two craft must have made as they lay silhouetted against Poppasquash.

Because of the tense world situation at the time, the visiting craft were in a state of readiness, and acting under orders from Fleet Command a general public inspection of the ships was prohibited.

Few suspected that this year would be the last US Navy representation in Bristol on the Fourth of July until 1946. This was least of all suspected by some members of the Fourth of July Committee who said; "We ought to motion to write back (to the Navy Department) and ask

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them to send a whole flock of submarines.” Another committee member suggested that seaplanes and destroyers should be added to the flotilla.

Funding The Fourth

During the years when town financial problems prevented taxpayer’s money from being added to the budget in support of the celebration, the major activity of the committee was fund raising. The cost to mount the celebrations of the decade of the 1940s was usually more than \$1000, but less than \$2000; small sums by comparison with the 1990 cost to the committee of \$100,000 and which in 2002 exceeded \$200,000.

Sub-committee reports on fund raising included the announcement by Fred Atkinson of the success of the Bazaar, which netted \$108.50; John Cordeiro turned in an additional \$22.50 in receipts from the Bingo; Gladys Brightman expected income of about \$40 from the Bridge Party.

At this particular meeting Chairman James F. Meiggs disclosed that the financial condition of the committee was a healthy one with almost \$1100 in the treasury. This amount included \$500 to be paid by the carnival concession on the common. Donations to the celebration fund were received from Judge William T. O’Donnell and the Hydraulion Engine and Hose Co., \$10 each; Bristol County Water Co., \$15; Central Engineering and Construction Co., First National Stores, Firestone Rubber Co., and the Rhode Island Chapter, DAR, \$5 each.

Celebration

The two-day celebration got started with the arrival of the two Navy vessels and welcoming of the officers and crews by the Town Council and the Committee. Later, at 6 p.m., on the Third, the Fall River Red Sox and the Bristol Rangers clashed in a base ball game on the common. The Fall River team was victorious by a score of 4 to 2.

The Parade

Fully in excess of 30,000 people: strangers, citizens and returning sons and daughters of Bristol were in town to witness the procession and listen to the expressions of patriotism pronounced at the Patriotic Exercises. True Americanism was displayed in the form of flags and bunting that fluttered from almost every house and business all along the parade route.

Chief Marshal of the 10 division parade, Lieutenant Edward J. Fitzgerald, US Cavalry Reserve; who was recently reappointed principal of the senior high school at an annual salary of \$3000, gave the order to march at 10:15, and another Military, Firemen’s & Civic Parade was underway.

Despite the threatening weather, about 3000 marchers, which included an impressive representation by Uncle Sam’s armed forces, traveled the parade route; south on High to the junction of Hope, counter-march north on High to Union, west on Union to Hope, north on Hope to Franklin to High, south on High to the reviewing stand in front of the Reynolds School.

The parade took nearly an hour to pass the reviewing stand, and immediately after the salute of the last marcher the Patriotic Exercises got underway. Orator of The Day was Judge Mortimer A. Sullivan of the Rhode Island Superior Court; Rev. Anthony R. Parshley, Rector of St. Michael’s Church acted as Chaplain and Lucien Capone was the Soloist. Benjamin Peckham read the Declaration of Independence.

We learn from the *Phoenix* dated Friday, July 5; “The oration by Judge Sullivan struck a responsive chord among his many hearers and we must not let this opportunity go by without remarking that the choice of Judge Sullivan as speaker could not have been better for this particular Fourth of July.” A salute to the 48 States was fired by a battery of the Field Artillery,

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Rhode Island National Guard (R.I.N.G.) at 1 p.m. over the harbor from the foot of Franklin Street.

At two o'clock, 10 groups of drum and bugle corps gave an exhibition on the common, while a base ball game was underway between teams of the Bristol Twilight League—Collins & Aikman and the Ever Ready Engine and Hose Company.

Open House

These were the celebration days before the tradition of the Chief Marshal hosting a princely reception. Occasionally a Chief Marshal of above average means would hold an open house at his residence for dignitaries and a few invited guests.

For the 1940 celebration no record of an "Open House" or "Reception" hosted by Chief Marshal Fitzgerald can be found. But, the following account of an open house held by R.F. Haffenreffer appears in the *Phoenix* dated Monday, June 25; "Bristol will adhere to tradition in its annual observance of Independence Day, at least as far as Mr. and Mrs. R.F. Haffenreffer are concerned."

Last week members of the celebration [committee] bemoaned the fact that no one had volunteered to foster an 'open house' this year. This was brought to the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Haffenreffer and last night James F. Meiggs, Chairman of the celebration committee was recipient of the following letter from Mr. Haffenreffer: 'Mr. Meiggs: Mrs. Haffenreffer and I wish to extend to you, your committee and guests, the hospitality of Mount Hope on the Fourth of July, to help carry on the traditional spirit and enthusiasm for which Bristol has been known for so many years.'

Town officials, members of the celebration committee, Governor Vanderbilt, Congressman Sandager and officers of the USS HUMPHRIES, as well as other officials, were guests yesterday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. R.F. Haffenreffer at Mount Hope Farm [Governor Bradford House]. *Phoenix*, Friday, July 5

Police

The *Phoenix* editor had the following words of praise for the stalwart members of the Bristol Police Department, "To the credit of Police Chief Anthony J. Ferrara and members of his department, no disturbances were reported during the two days of celebrating and only a few minor accidents." Aided by the officers' reserve, police kept traffic on the move and as a result visitors came and went from town with little or no trouble. Remarkable also, Chief Ferrara said was the fact that no lost children were reported or brought to police headquarters during either of the two days.

1941 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Committee Invites New York City Mayor LaGuardia

Because the popularity and importance surrounding the Bristol Independence Day Celebration had become so well known throughout the East, the Celebration Committee had no self-doubts when they invited the equally well known and popular New York City Mayor Fiarello H. LaGuardia to take an active part in the 1941 celebration. The *Phoenix* dated Tuesday, June 10, printed the following letter from the office of the Mayor; "Mayor LaGuardia appreciates the cordial invitation attended in your letter and will be glad to give it consideration.

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You will be contacted again when his future plans are more definite.” As we read these early clippings, we cannot be but impressed by the political naiveté of the committee.

Celebration Funding

As of Tuesday, July 1, donations had reached the astounding sum of \$1,440. Actual cash and pledges on hand amounted to \$1,366, and more expenditures for the two-day celebration were anticipated. Mrs. Sadie Almeida organized a tag day fund raise; with the aid of 20 Bristol Senior High School girls, the downtown area was canvassed and \$51 was raised for the cause. William P. Gladding, Chairman of the mile-of-pennies fund drive, reported that thousands of penny slot cards had been distributed to businesses in the downtown area shops.

Linden Place

The Colt High School Band presented a concert on the lawn of the Colt mansion on Hope Street. Mr. & Mrs. Russell Colt were gracious hosts and the hospitality of Linden Place was offered in true Bristol fashion.

The Night Before

The evening of the Third was festive with the opening of the “gigantic” carnival midway on the common. At 5:30 a base ball game between the Mt. Carmel team and St. Brendan’s of Riverside was the main attraction. Later, at 8 o’clock until midnight, the section of High Street between Court and Church Sts. was roped off for the block dance. And, from midnight, until the lighting of the bonfire, the Portuguese Independent Band gave a concert from the bandstand.

The Fourth

At 6 a.m., the bells of the churches and the whistles of the factories announced the beginning of the day. At 10 a.m. Chief Marshal John W. Haley led the parade that was reviewed by many dignitaries, among which included Governor J. Howard McGrath. The parade, consisting of 10 divisions boasted 20 musical units. The Patriotic Exercises were held in the auditorium of the Reynolds School rather than outside on the reviewing stand, as was the past practice. Program Chair Mary E. Spooner planned the in-doors exercises as an experiment; “...to give the younger people a part in the serious observance of Independence Day.”

Chief Marshal Haley conducted the exercises by introducing the dignitaries present: Rev. Arthur W. Burdon, Invocation; Nancy D. Bosworth, Reader; Judge John P. Hartigan, Speaker, and Marjorie McCann, Soloist. After the Exercises, all who had participated in the event, members of the committee and others, were guests for lunch at Linden Place, while the Colt High School Band gave a concert on the lawn.

Through the generosity of Mac Andrade, manager of the Bristol Casino, the afternoon program continued with vaudeville entertainment on the reviewing stand. An estimated 10,000 watched the performers, some of who were recruited from New York City.

General Callan showed the result of years of Army training when his horse slipped and fell during the parade; the General quickly dismounted and neither he nor the horse were injured.

1942 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Two-Day Celebration Planned

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Plans for the two-day celebration were still being formulated at the committee meeting of Friday, May 29. Chairman James F. Meiggs read several letters of acceptance from invitees, among which was a letter from Captain C.W. MacGruder, USN, Commander of the Naval Training Station, Newport, who promised a detachment of 204 sailors and two companies of marines “under arms” as well as a 30-piece Navy band.

The Military

For the first time since 1932, a U.S. Navy man-of-war was not in Bristol Harbor on the Fourth, but the uniformed military were well represented in the celebration with air, sea, and land forces; they held prominent places in the day’s activities—performing drills, and exhibiting their military hardware.

A detachment of 100 men from the 45th Division of the VI Army Corps came to town on the Third and camped on the grounds of the Knights of Columbus Home on State Street—to this, the public came to witness an authentic U.S. Army encampment. It was reported that the soldiers looked very “business like” wearing their new-style helmets—they had the look of stacking up well against “the Nazis and the Japs.” On the afternoon of the Fourth at the conclusion of the drill which included demonstrations of 60 MM and 80 MM mortars, light and heavy 30 caliber machine guns and a 37 MM anti-tank gun; 46 Navy planes circled the skies overhead, it could not have been more perfectly timed; the sight of the war-planes and the drone of their engines sounded out the promise to the people of Bristol that America's arsenal would bring the unwanted war to a quick end.

Funding Woes

The committee met again on Friday, June 12, and all sub-committees reported good progress in arranging the various aspects of the celebration. However, finances were causing concern and the Chairman warned that everything depended on the generosity of the townsfolk, because the Town Council again had not budgeted funds for the celebration. Mrs. William P. Gladding reported that her group of volunteers had collected over \$100 through sales of small lapel-pin flags.

The Celebration

The night before had its usual entertainments: a block dance at 9 o’clock on High Street at the Reynolds School, and a concert on the common from 10 to 12 p.m.; the carnival was already in high gear when at 11 p.m.; the celebrants were thrilled with the circus trapeze exploits of The Great Ricardo.

The Parade

A thirteen-division parade was assembled on High Street in the vicinity of the Reynolds School; it reflected to a considerable extent the wartime activities of Bristol. An Industrial War Workers Division was the special feature of the procession and it included hundreds of Bristolian employees of the local manufactures of products for the war-effort. Workers and management officials of the Bristol Manufacturing Corp., marched and rode on a float of their design; workers from Collins and Aikman Corp. were also in the line of march. Another float was entered by the combined effort of the town’s several Portuguese societies. The principal feature of the float was a large letter V for victory, with a contingent of attractive young women dressed in the colorful costumes of Portugal. Adding verity to the parade was the presence of several Red Cross Units, consisting of Motor Corps units, canteen workers, “first-aiders,” and production workers—most of this contingent was from neighboring Warren. Also present was a large delegation of Air Raid Wardens, and the new auxiliary fire units from Bristol Highlands and Bristol Narrows. The parade was scheduled for a 10 a.m. start, but was somewhat late in beginning due to the late arrival of some of the bands. As a departure from previous years, the

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leading dignitaries were seen walking instead of riding in open cars; this was their contribution to saving gasoline, which was rationed due to wartime shortages.

The *Phoenix* of July 7, reported that the procession was one of the longest ever seen in Bristol's streets, in fact, just as the last division started moving from the front of the courthouse, the Chief Marshal's Division was just coming up High from Franklin. In spite of gasoline rationing, automobiles and buses brought thousands of visitors into Bristol.

Patriotic Exercises

As had been the custom for many years the Exercises were held after the parade on the reviewing stand in front of the Reynolds School. Chief Marshal Dr. William L. Serbst presided in the capacity of Master of Ceremonies; he read a cablegram addressed to Town Council President J. Fred Huestis from the Mayor of Bristol England: "Greetings from Bristol, England; on your Independence Day. May our spirited ties in battle for world freedom endure forever." Dr. Serbst continued to introduce the program, that included: Dr. Lucas A. Whipple, President of Rhode Island College of Education who was chosen as the Principal Speaker of the Day; Dr. Whipple's reputation as a great speaker at such occasions preceded him. C. Thomas Campagna, a 1942 graduate of Bristol Senior High School, read the Declaration of Independence.

Reception

The Chief Marshal held a reception in the afternoon on the grounds of his home on Hope Street. His guests who included Senator Theodore Francis Green, Representative Amine .J. Forand, Governor J. Howard McGrath, the Town Council and members of the Celebration Committee along with other guests were entertained with music supplied by the Cumberland Girls Band.

1943 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

New Flag Presented

The official program began with a flag presentation at the community flagpole on the Town Common. Hubert F. Hill, Chairman of the Flag Committee introduced George R. Fish, Boy Scout Commissioner; he made the presentation to Councilman John P. Marshal, who accepted the flag on behalf of the town. Immediately following the presentation the flag was raised with all the town officials taking a hand in it. During the ceremony a delegation from the Bristol Drum and Bugle Crop sounded "colors." Because the Fourth fell on a Sunday the big parade was scheduled for the Fifth.

The weather on the Fourth was generally wet, so, the field events planned for the common grounds had to be canceled.

The Parade

Rain also fell on parade day, but the march went on as scheduled. Despite the rain, crowds lined the sidewalks and watched from the cover of porches and umbrellas as the procession moved along the usual route.

Son of Bristol, Steven Hopkins, a direct descendent of the signer of the Declaration of Independence, was chosen Chief Marshal of the parade. The Chief Marshal issued an invitation to all Bristol boys in uniform who were home on leave to participate in the parade. Their place in line was directly behind the uniformed aids in the Chief Marshal's Division.

It was reported that the crowds seemed to be as large as in recent past years when the weather was better. The 398th Anti-Aircraft Battalion under Bristolian Lieutenant Colonel A.A.

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Moren, was a prominent feature with its six staff jeeps and 15 half-tracks carrying turret-driven machine guns. Eight British sailors from Bristol, England, all members of the Royal Air Force, training at Quonset Point Air Force Station were honored guests and they received hearty rounds of applause of welcome all along the line of march. For the first WAACS were seen in Bristol's parade, they were 60 in number, accompanied by their own 23-piece band. They were stationed at Fort Devens, and were brought to town at the expense of the Committee.

The Exercises

Because the rain continued into the afternoon, Patriotic Exercises planned to begin at 12-noon outdoors on the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School, were moved indoors to the auditorium of the building.

Governor McGrath brought the "...greetings of all our citizens who look to this town to keep alive a great tradition." He said his thoughts went back to the many who have gone on before and in particular he mentioned the late General Luke H. Callan. "We meet here to dedicate ourselves to the successful conclusion of this war and look forward to the time when we shall welcome home the thousands of men and women now in service. And we must also remember that our Allies in this war have already lost more men than we in the United States have in our entire armed forces."

Captain Gilbert C. Hoover, after reviewing the historic background of Bristol, said that he had been on both sides of this war—the fighting side and the industrial. "I've seen people who haven't put fourth their best efforts. You must realize that the war will only be prolonged by doing that."

"The Japs are excellent fighters," said Hoover; he spoke from experience since he had been awarded three Navy Crosses for service in the South Pacific. After the Exercises, the Chief Marshal hosted a reception at the Bristol Yacht Club.

1944 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

War Time Restrictions Limit Crowds

The town was in the middle of a War Bond sales drive, which was incorporated into the Independence Day celebration. There were wartime difficulties and scarcities and there were travel restrictions—so, many Bristolians living long distances away could not visit the town of their youth on its most important of days.

Chairman James F. Meiggs found ways to surmount many of the war-related difficulties and a splendid program of 16 public activities, in addition to the parade were planned for the two-day observance.

Funding the Celebration

Chairman Meiggs announced at the committee's last meeting (June 30) before the celebration that the cost of the entire celebration had reached \$1650. He told the members that donations were believed to be the highest since the town's appropriations were stopped. The sources of income are as follows: concessions on the common, \$600; War Bond sales, \$215; bridge and food sales, \$198.48; tag day, \$107; community theater, \$75; YMCA dances, \$31.50; program, \$150; other donations, \$405. It was planned to put aside any money left over after the celebration's expenses were paid, for use in hosting a victory celebration after the war.

Patriotic Exercises and Honor Roll Dedication

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After the 10 division parade passed the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School, dignitaries, marchers and spectators moved to the Burnside Memorial Building where Patriotic Exercises and dedication of the new Bristol Honor Roll were held. A small platform built for the occasion, on the sidewalk, acted as a stage. The crowd filled the street in front of it and overflowed to the sides by Court Street and St. Michael's Chapel grounds and pressed close to hear every word spoken.

That part of the program devoted to the Exercises of The Day was distinct in that several short speeches were directed to the Honor Roll and its meaning, and to the war-time struggle.

Judge Edward L. Leahy presided over the unveiling and dedication of the Honor Roll; Chief Marshal J. Francis Connell introduced him. All afternoon and evening the Honor Roll was the center of attraction, as citizens searched for the names of family members and friends.

Afternoon of The Fourth

Chief Marshal Connell entertained a large number of guests at the Bristol Yacht Club. The National Guard units that marched in the parade, acted as color guard and fired the salute at the Exercises, were served refreshments in the form of crackers and cheese, doughnuts and punch at the State Armory.

The afternoon was alive with activity for anyone who wanted to stay on the downtown streets or on the common. At 2 o'clock there was an exhibition by visiting drum and bugle corps on the common; 2:30, a bayonet drill by Co. G., Rhode Island National Guard; and at 3 o'clock, there was a bicycle race and soft ball game on the common.

During the afternoon a barrage balloon was on display on the south side of the common and it could be seen from the outskirts of town hovering high above the trees.

Just as the last strains of the Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corp. exhibition died away, the clouds that were threatening all day broke with a sudden downpour. The rain lasted for about an hour but when it was over the holiday activities continued.

There was a doll carriage parade in which nine little girls showed off their decorated carriages and fancy dressed dolls. The prize for most original was awarded to Betty Anne Holmes who had dressed her doll as the Statue of Liberty. Forty-six years later Betty Anne Holmes Moreira became the first woman to Chair the entire Fourth of July Committee.

1945 ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

James F. Meiggs Leads Celebration Committee for Ninth Year

In his ninth year as Chairman of the celebration committee, James F. Meiggs announced he had been in communication with Secretary of the Navy Forrestal. He was trying to obtain a captured German submarine to exhibit in Bristol Harbor on the Fourth. He further announced that a general invitation went out to all Bristol veterans and enlisted men on leave to take part in the parade. A large detachment of U.S. Marines, veterans of the fighting at Iwo Jima and other areas of the Pacific fighting promised to march.

Business conducted at the June 8, meeting of the Fourth of July Committee included the announcement of the identity of the Chief Marshal—Roswell S. Bosworth, Sr. Chairman Meiggs said that the Martin Amusement Company of New York was contracted for three high trapeze performances on the common and a vaudeville show to be staged on the reviewing stand in front of the Reynolds School in conjunction with a War Bond rally. The Civil Air Patrol

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consisting of 400-500 Cadets and seniors were scheduled to drill as part of the entertainment program. Meiggs said he was negotiating a special feature of entertainment for the children—an animal act from the Shrine Circus.

In other business the resignation of Miss. Norma E. Dwyer as Assistant Committee Secretary was received and action was postponed. Miss. Cynthia McCaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCaw was named as reader of the Declaration of Independence. The Car Pool Committee announced the need of open cars to transport parade dignitaries and disabled veterans in the parade.

Flag Halyards Cut

Townfolk worried that the flag that usually flies from the community flagpole on the common wasn't going to wave on the Fourth. The halyards had been cut and the Highway Department announced that they found it almost impossible to replace them. But they came through in Bristol fashion by using the guide ropes to raise the flag. Everyone was satisfied in knowing that Old Glory would be in its customary place reigning over the holiday observance.

The Day and Night Before

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the Third, the Civil Air Patrol drilled on the common, and they drew the approving applause of the hundreds who gathered to watch. At 3 o'clock there was a Field Meet held at the southeast corner of the common. The events consisted of a potato sack race, 3-legged race, horse and rider relay, flag relay, pie eating contest, and peanut scramble; all of these events were under the direction of Hubert F. Hill. Winners of the events included: James Perry and Joseph Carreira, Harold McCree and Joseph Morrissey, the 3-legged races; James Velleca and Vasco Castro, the potato sack races. The following teams won the horse and rider races: James Velleca and Claude Rene, Joseph Cavalho and Robert Velleca. Frank Gaglio and Joseph Morrissey won the wheelbarrow race. Jeanette Jamiel and Corinne Ferreira won the pie-eating contest for the girls and Irving Windsor for the boys. According to spectators, the girls attacked the pies with much more gusto than the boys; all however, emerged with their faces very much speckled with blueberries and juice. At 4 o'clock there was an all-star softball game between the Quahaugs and Little Necks. The teams were made up from players picked from the five teams of the Industrial League. The eventual winners were the Quahaugs: 7 to 2. Mike DelPiano captained the winning team and Norman "Corky" Servant was the captain of the Little Necks. After the softball game two CYO teams played a game of baseball on the same diamond. While the softball game was in full tilt, a doll carriage parade was underway at the rear of the Reynolds School; prizes were awarded to the girls who presented prettiest exhibit. The carnival, which opened for business on the Third, remained in town for the remainder of the week. There was a formal dance at the yacht club on the night before, with about 80 couples attending. Chair people for the event were Janet MacDougall and Barbara Babcock, who pronounced the dance to be a success.

The Grand Military, Naval, Firemen and Civic Parade

With another official title, the parade stepped off in time-honored fashion, led by a platoon of Bristol Police followed by the Chief Marshal and his Chief of Staff, Ralph F. Kinder at 10:30 a.m. The Chief Marshal was preceded by a mounted staff of twelve and the police contingent led by Chief Anthony J. Ferrara; the Chief Marshal was closely followed by his two personal aides: Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr., and R.C. Hawkes.

Next came the Naval Training Station Band and the Fourth of July Committee; Bristol veterans who were home on leave or had completed their duty followed them, and disabled veterans who rode in open vehicles followed them.

Each of the eight divisions of the parade was marshaled by a prominent Bristolian, they included: Briadier General Samuel A. Hall, Lieutenant Bertrum W. Wall, Sergeant Albert O.

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Earle, Frank J. Sylvia, Colonel Henry A Hambrick, Mrs. Sidney A Herreshoff, and Commander Leroy Doan.

Old Home Days

Native Bristolians and visitors alike were on the streets early dressed in their holiday best; they were set to see the parade and take part in every activity that the day offered. Both sides of all of down town streets were lined with cars and their occupants found their favorite spots from which to view the procession. Many people took advantage of the second floor windows of the YMCA as a vantage point. High and Hope Streets were lined three and four deep, and houses along the rout that boasted porches were crowded with guests.

It was old home days in town and many families held open house for friends and relatives. The common was the center of activity for the two-day reunion. Vendors were numerous; they were selling souvenirs, and a variety of foods; the Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, and the fortuneteller enjoyed the bulk of the business.

1947 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Night Before

On the evening of the Third the common was alive with activity; thousands came to see the boxing bouts and the trapeze performance, listen to the band concert, take a chance at the carnival's wheels and games or take a spin on the many rides.

Dances were in full swing all around town; there was a block dance on High Street. The committee and its guests danced at the Bristol Yacht Club, and all local nightspots were open until the early hours of the Fourth.

The Fourth

With ideal weather for a parade, Chief Marshal Rear Admiral Gilbert C. Hoover gave the order to march promptly at 10:30; behind him followed ten divisions of military, naval, civic and patriotic organizations; the B.T.A., boy and girl scouts, and the Bristol volunteer fire fighters were out in force.

As was the custom, the Chief Marshal acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Patriotic Exercises; he introduced all of the dignitaries on the platform who included: Chief of Staff Arthur J. Belmore, State Senator Daniel G. Coggeshall, Representative Henry Alfred, Captain K.S. Matherson, and Commander E.C. Long, commanding officers of the visiting ships; Adjutant General P.A. Murphy, and Town Councilmen Frank J. Murphy, Paul C. Millemaggi and John P. Marshall.

Governor John O. Pastore extended the greetings of the state. After the reading by Miss. Marie Elizabeth Perry, U.S. Senator J. Howard McGrath gave the oration, followed by the Nation Anthem sung by Anthony J. Nunes. Rev. Charles C. Curran, pastor of St. Mary's Church gave the invocation and pronounced the benediction.

Sidelights to the Celebration

J. Winthrop DeWolf and Colonel Arthur W. Barrett were seated outside in front of the Burnside Memorial building waiting for the committee to assemble for their final meeting before the celebration. Colonel Barrett remarked casually to Winthrop, "Well, this will be my 52nd Fourth of July parade without a break."

To that Mr. DeWolf replied, "Is that so? Well, that beats my record. I think I have missed four in the past 54 years. I wished I hadn't missed any. Twice I was in Europe and the other two years I was out of town. That makes me think of the days when we wore silk hats and frock

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coats in the parade and we were all on horseback. Everybody used to go to church, too, in silk hats and frock coats.”

Flying Saucers Sighted

It was reported here yesterday that a local resident who declares there can be no mistake about what he saw had seen Flying Saucers. He was returning home after a long Fourth of July weekend about two in the morning or perhaps just a little bit later. Whether the flying objects were at all related to those, which have received so much publicity of late, he is not certain. He is sure, however, that he knows a saucer when he sees one and he knows when it is flying through the air. The viewer preferred to remain anonymous. *Phoenix*, July 8.

1948 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Celebration Preparations

Chairman Roswell S. Bosworth, Sr., announced that a three-day celebration was planned and the parade was to consist of ten divisions; an entire division was to be devoted to antique automobiles under Marshal Ralph F. Kinder.

As of Friday, June 25, six floats were expected to be in the parade; the American Legion had prepared its special float for the winning entrants of the Miss. Fourth of July “beauty match.” A total of twelve bands and drum corps were also expected to be seen. Sailors represented the U.S. Navy from the visiting destroyers assigned to Bristol for the celebration. The sailors sent word to the committee that they were “eager to grapple” each other in a baseball game, and they challenged any other team that would like to try their luck. When the ships arrived on Saturday afternoon, they anchored off Poppasquash Point. Town Council President Gilbert C. Hoover, when informed that Admiral Price would be in town for the Fourth, exclaimed: “Admiral Price is an excellent speaker and a fine gentleman. I am delighted that he is coming and I think we are very fortunate to secure him for the celebration. He has been a personal friend for many years.”

The Celebration

Because the fourth fell on a Sunday, the long established rule of holding the patriotic parade on the fifth came into play. The final events of the three-day celebration that were scheduled for Monday the fifth were dampened by the thunder and rain storm in the evening. Reports about the Saturday and Sunday part of the celebration inform us that all the activities were “blessed with a remarkable display of good weather.”

One of the new features of the celebration that pleased the thousands who saw it was an exhibit of historical memorabilia. The Burnside Memorial Building contained an abundance of Bristol relics and documents. Among the most interesting things was a pair of silver spoons sent from California by Archie McLean Hawkes. One of the spoons and a pair of sugar tongs belonging to his Bristol born grandmother were given to her by their maker—Captain Isaac Gorham (founder of the celebrated Gorham Mfg. Co. of Providence). The Bristol Historical Society presented the exhibition and on the tables that were draped with old shawls of Bristol origin were numerous firearms from the revolutionary war period up to the present time, antique jewelry and other items of historical Bristol interest.

The Parade

One of the largest crowds in years, estimated at 45,000, were in town to witness the ten-division parade. In true Bristol fashion it was once again “old home days,” with hundreds of former Bristolians back in town especially to take part in the celebration.

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In time-honored fashion, a platoon of Bristol Police preceded Chief Marshal Samuel D. Clark, M.D., and Chief of Staff Manuel Prenda, both of whom served in the late war; they led a colorful and interesting parade along the two-mile route. Several times during the progress of the procession thirty-two airplanes from the Quonset Naval Air Station roared over the town. There were six floats in the parade; the US RUBBER CO., Bristol Manufacturing Corp., the American Legion, Bristol Business Civic Association, and the YMCA entered them. and DeToro Brothers, all of which added much color.

1949 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Plans for the Celebration

A purse of \$150 was offered as prize money for the top three floats in the parade. According to Float Chairman Joseph Perira, the money was planned to be awarded in categories for first prize, \$75; second \$50 and third \$25. The criteria for the prize money were for color, beauty of design and originality; commercial advertising was to be regarded in an unfavorable light.

Fire Chief Robert J. Anderson was in charge of the bonfire and water battle. He pledged that both events would be as “exciting and thrilling” as in years past. Because of the previous year’s success, the Bristol Historical Society planned another historical exhibit in the Burnside Memorial Building.

The Committee approved the idea of presenting a gift to the Bristolian who came the longest distance to be home for the fourth. The announcement in the *Phoenix* read: “Desk Set To Be Offered As Prize. An attractive two-pen desk set has been chosen as the award to be given the former Bristolian who comes to Bristol from the longest distance to be here for the Fourth of July Celebration....” Residents were encouraged to help by notifying these former Bristolians that they may win the prize simply by letting the committee know that they are here and telling how many miles they have traveled.

The Celebration

The stage was set for another exciting Bristol Fourth—two destroyers, the USS VOGELGESAND and the USS STEINAKER were assigned to take part in the town’s celebration; they were scheduled to arrive in Bristol Harbor on the Second of July, sailing here from Norfolk, VA.

Despite the absence of any town funds to help defray expenses, plenty of events were on tap for the three-day celebration—entertainment was planned to satisfy our citizens and the visiting sailors.

The three-day program with the parade as the main event drew an estimated 50,000 to view the ten divisions that consisted of about 1500 marchers as they passed through the streets. The fourth dawned clear and bright, but the rising temperatures and dry air produced extreme heat. The East Bay area was in its 40th day of drought with no relief in sight. Fortunately, there were only a few cases of heat prostration reported on this particular Fourth.

Shortly after the listed starting time of 10:15, the command “Forward march!” was executed by Captain Raymond J. Makowsky, Chief Marshal, and to a timely overhead salute by a squadron of Navy Corsair Fighters, the parade stepped off from the corner of High and Church Streets. Over an hour-and-a-half later, the final unit saluted the parade staff and guests at the Reynolds School reviewing stand after marching south on High Street around and northward on Hope Street up Franklin Street to High, and thence to the stand before disbanding at the original starting point. The last unit of the parade passed in review almost on the stroke of noon. A few minutes later the Independence Day Exercises were underway on the reviewing stand.

Rangers and Scouts

Two local musical units in the Monday morning parade weren't content with being the applause leaders of the day; they wanted to make sure that those on the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School and the spectators in the vicinity would get a good look at them. The Bugle and Drum Corps of the Bristol Rangers and the Bristol Boy Scouts joined ranks after both had finished the scheduled route of march and reformed at the corner of High and State Streets. When the ninth division of the parade marched past the corner, the combined corps simply swung in line after them: they were in the parade for a second time and everybody loved it.

Patriotic Exercises

Chief Marshal Makowsky acted as Master of Ceremonies; he introduced the usual politicians from the state and federal arenas; they gave a wave and drew recognition from the crowd. Miss. Barbara Campbell was the Reader and Miss Joan Doyle was the Soloist. Later, in 1986, as Mrs. Joan Doyle Roth, she became the second woman in the history of Bristol's celebration to act as Chief Marshal of the parade; the first was her aunt M. Theresa Donovan in 1957. The Principal Speaker, Rear Admiral Henry S. Kendall, Commander of Fleet Air, U.S. Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, called upon all Americans to reaffirm their faith in the system of free enterprise and to regain the national discipline that and opposing ideology was seeking to destroy. The day ended with the usual entertainments on the common, this included a greasy pole climb and a vaudeville show. The celebration was brought to a close at 11 p.m., with a fireworks display at the old town dump in the north end of Wood Street.

A Footnote: Town Lighting

A petition to install an electric light at 7 Burton Street was brought before the Town Council. Councilman Edward Hugh Holmes objected to the light—he was both over voted and unsupported and the new streetlight was approved. Holmes then said, "I'll light up the town like Hollywood if you fellows will pay the freight. It'll cost the town \$13.50 a year for every light that is installed." *Phoenix* Wed., July 6.

1950 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Celebration Costing \$1000 per Day

Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr., in his first year as Chairman of the Committee was guest speaker at the Bristol Rotary Club on Wednesday, June 14. In his address, Bosworth announced that the planned Speaker of the Day at the Patriotic Exercises would be Bristol Senator Edward L. Leahy. Bosworth added that if the weather was good and if everything turned out as planned, the parade should be the biggest ever. He said that it was the opinion of the Executive Committee that future General Committees should begin meeting as early as September to start planning for the following year's parade and celebration. The early meetings were needed in order that invitations to marchers, speakers, and arrangements for high bids for the carnival could be planned as far ahead of time as possible to avoid last minute rushes and ultimately to save money. He went on to say that the cost of the celebration was now running about \$1000 per day. He continued by saying that the committee was about \$800 in the hole when compared with the previous year's celebration. "We lost \$500 on the carnival bid, and it will cost us \$300 to put up a permanent grandstand."

The Parade

A reported 40,000 people witnessed the climax of the three-day celebration in the form of an eleven-division parade. The throng watched for an hour-and-a-half as the parade passed,

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planes of the 152nd Fighter Squadron from Hillsgrove's Air National Guard zoomed low over the parade route. The parade was reported to be one of the longest in town's history.

The Chief Marshal's Division passed the reviewing stand long before the last division of fire-fighters had left its muster area on the south side of Church Street.

This year's parade had several outstanding features; there was a 43-foot model of the aircraft carrier QUONSET, its revolving gun turrets whirled back and forth belching smoke as if firing at an enemy, her deck was replete with models of jet fighters. DeFelice Florists entered another spectacular float; it featured a floral national flag and an anchor—the symbol of Rhode Island.

There were 16 antique automobiles in which rode ladies and gentlemen dressed in the fashions of the gay-nineties. Thirteen bands provided the cadence for the eleven divisions of marchers; the Bristol Rangers Drum and Bugle Corp. drew much applause, as did the Bristol Boy Scouts who were attired in their new uniforms.

The Boy Scouts presented special maneuvers in front of the reviewing stand and they showed off their float depicting a scout encampment and George Washington at Valley Forge.

The highlight of the 1950 parade was to be a truck carrying a replica of the Liberty Bell. The replica was the centerpiece of the Liberty Bond drive.

Patriotic Exercises

Both U.S. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath and U.S. Senator Edward L. Leahy spoke about the events in Korea and they urged all Americans to stand fast and to preserve the blessings of our heritage of freedom. Governor John O. Pastore received the replica of the Liberty Bell at the Patriotic Exercises held after the parade. He said that the bell "...shall be a symbol to the peoples of Rhode Island of their great heritage of liberty." The replica is now a permanent exhibit in the Rhode Island State House rotunda.

Attorney General McGrath, arrived in Bristol by way of a crash boat from Quonset Point. He was in constant contact with Washington throughout his stay in his home state. Because of this, the parade was delayed for about 15 minutes while the Attorney General talked to the Chief Executive's office in Washington.

1954 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Committee Co-chairs

Leonard P. Sanford and Norman J. (Corky) Servant were co-chairmen of the Fourth of July Committee this year. Together they announced the schedule of events for the coming celebration. The destroyers BRISTOL and HYMAN were the visiting ships representing Uncle Sam's Navy, and both ships were open for inspection by the public on Saturday at 10 a.m. Saturday afternoon the Bristol Yacht Club was the scene of a reception for the officers from both ships.

Sporting events, which are always looked forward to, consisted of a bicycle race for youngsters from ages 13 to 17. The course ran from Walley Street to the Reynolds School. Edmund P. Massa, Frank J. Miserandino and Anthony E. Agatiello were the judges for the bicycle race. At 5:30 a King Philip Little League game was played on the Town Common diamond.

Saturday's activities concluded with a band concert on the common and a block dance on High Street in front of the Reynolds School.

Sunday's exercises opened with a massing of the colors and a patriotic service at the First Congregational Church at 11 a.m. At 4 p.m., more patriotic and speaking exercises took place on the reviewing stand, followed at 5:30 p.m., by judging the Miss. Fourth of July contestants.

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Later, there was a band concert, and at midnight when “the night before” became the “day that we celebrate” it was ushered in with a huge bonfire on the common.

Sunday Patriotic Exercises

Principal Speaker at the exercises, held Sunday, the Fourth, was Lieutenant Colonel B.W. McLean, USMC. He stated that if this country is to overcome the threat of militant Communism, the American people must pay more than lip service to the aims and ideals of our democracy. Also during the exercises Colonel Arthur W. Barrett was presented with a plaque in recognition of his long service to the celebration and his having marched in the parade for 83 years.

The Parade

Punctuated by the roar of jet engines, the brassy cadence of marching musicians and sharp reports of firecrackers, Bristol climaxed its 196th celebration of the Fourth of July with a parade, which wove its colorful way through the town on Monday morning.

Mathias Brito, Chief Marshal led the parade from on high as he rode horseback through the streets of Bristol. He was protected from the front by Bristol’s finest; a police platoon led by Chief Anthony Ferrara. Following Brito were the honorary Chief Marshals, Mrs. John G. Stewart and Mr. Arthur W. Barrett. Chief of Staff Albert Brunelli also rode horseback and was followed by the Chief Marshal’s mounted aids.

The Portuguese Independent Band resplendent in their new red and black uniforms provided music for the Chief Marshal’s Division. The Bristol Train of Artillery supplied the color guard.

Joseph Medeira, winner of the soapbox derby, rode in solitary splendor on a float, with the other contestants towed in their soapbox vehicles by army jeeps.

Roswell S. Bosworth led the Second Division with Dorothy Saucier and Joan Sylvia acting as his aids. The combined navy bands with representatives from the USS BRISTOL and USS HYMAN marched in this division.

1955 ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Only Two Problems Remain

On June 30, the committee concluded plans for the celebration. The final meeting was held at the YMCA building with co-chairmen Leonard P. Sanford and Norman J. Servant presiding.

Only two problems remained to be discussed: the state of finance, and a location for the bonfire. The committee was optimistic that those loose ends would come together in the last few remaining hours before the start of the celebration. The Chairmen said that Monday’s parade would go down in history as one of the longest ever to have been staged, with nine floats scheduled to appear in the line of march. Judges asked to view and award prizes to the nine floats were Sebastian Bernard, Jr., Arthur H. Eastman, and John C. Howland.

Other announcements included: naming George R. Fish as Chief Marshal of the parade, and his selection of recent Bristol Senior High School graduate, Eagle Scout Carlton J. Pinheiro to be his Chief of Staff. The committee was advised that in case of rainy weather, the Miss. Fourth of July contest, and the vaudeville show would be held in the Reynolds School auditorium. The parade, as usual, will proceed regardless of the weather.

The Parade

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The *Phoenix* of July 6, reported a crowd estimated between 30,000 to 60,000, watched the Fourth of July parade as it stepped off almost at 10:30 sharp Monday morning. Although the parade lacked some of the big turnouts of Navy, Marine and Army men of past years, it was loaded with color including everything from Davy Crocket to a Viking ship.

Spectators gathered on the lawn of the new Bristol Yacht Club, and the deck of the brigantine YANKEE was lined with invited guests—members of the Girl Scout Mariners. After the display a traffic jam lasting about 40-minutes developed at the corner of Poppasquash Road and Hope Street.

1959 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Celebration

The celebration moved into high gear at 2 p.m., on the third when the destroyer USS GLENNON moored in Bristol Harbor. Later, Commander David P. Wynkoop, commanding officer of the ship and Lieutenant Commander Mariano Bucolo, executive officer and native Bristolian attended a reception at the Bristol Yacht Club. Others at the reception included town dignitaries and visiting foreign naval officers from the Naval Supply Depot in Newport. Following the reception, all the visiting officers and guests attended a buffet supper at the home of Edward and Marion Newbold, 139 High Street.

Sports and Entertainment

An old-timers base ball game was held on the common at 5:30 p.m. The teams were made up with many well-known players from Warren and Bristol. There were sporting and athletic events held all Saturday afternoon.

The Herman Toro Band presented a two-hour concert from the bandstand on the common. The concert was sponsored by the State Department of Education.

Always a favorite, the block dance was held on High Street in front of the Reynolds School until 11 o'clock in the evening. Many of the block dance participants walked up High to the north end of Monroe Avenue where the bonfire was scheduled to be set ablaze at 11:30 p.m.

After the parade, five amateur boxing bouts were held. The Providence CYO sponsored the matches, on the common. Also scheduled were a greasy pole climb and a Little League softball game. The New England Firemen's Muster also took place on the common and it held the rapt attention of the celebrants for hours.

Fourth of July Ball

Two Canadian bag pipers traveled to Bristol to help make the Ball at the National Guard Armory, on June 27, a colorful event. Alexander Campbell and Raymond LaPonte of the Black Watch Regimental Band of Montreal in full-dress regalia played for the Grand March. Governor DelSesto's representative State Registrar of Motor Vehicles Romeo Asselin led the Grand March. Tony Abbott's orchestra supplied the dance music for the evening. Ball Chairman Paul Smith arranged the affair that continued until 1 a.m. Another feature of the Ball was the presentation and judging of the Miss Fourth of July contestants.

The Fourth

Governor Christopher DelSesto, arrived in town via Rhode Island National Guard helicopter. The Governor landed at the Guiteras School field at 9 a.m. A police escort and committee motorcade took the Governor and his aide on a short tour of the town: down High St. to Bradford to Central to Wardwell, where at the Colt School the Patriotic Exercises were held.

The program of exercises included opening remarks by General Chairman Francis N. Perry, and playing of the National Anthem. The program continued with an invocation by Very Rev. Monsignor. Charles H. Lynch, Pastor of St. Mary's Church; reading of the Declaration of Independence by M. Theresa Donovan; introduction of guests and crowning of Miss Fourth of July by Margaret O'Brien. Speaker of the Day was Associate Justice of the Superior Court Joseph Weisberger; the Rev. John N. Sinclair, Pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church gave the benediction. The Bristol High School Band under the direction of Roger Dietz closed the Exercises with a selection.

1961 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

America's First Astronaut, Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Honored

Patriotic Exercises Searches for a Home

Patriotic Exercises were held at the Colt Memorial School for the first time in 1952, they were held there again in 1953, but in 1954, the ceremonies moved back to the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School. The following year they moved to the Harriet Bradford Inn. In 1956 the exercises returned to the Colt School. It was 1957, when the custom of holding Patriotic Exercises before the parade at the Colt Memorial School was established.

Mrs. Frank L. Martin, Chair of the Exercises Committee, announced the program. The Exercises commenced immediately at 9 a.m. The program included: Opening Remarks by General Chairman Ralph H. Lavers; Introduction of Chief Marshal Clinton J. Pearson, President of Pearson Corporation; the National Anthem by the Bristol Senior High School Band, Roger J. Dietz, Director, and vocal by Oliver Burton of Newport; Invocation by The Reverend Albert E. Hutchison, Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Bristol; Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Monroe E. (Bud) Toevs; introduction of guests; Address by U.S. Senator John O. Pastore

Miss. Deborah Babbitt was crowned Miss. Fourth of July at the Exercises by LCdr Herbert Sharpe, Jr., Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cutter SPAR which was permanently assigned to the Bristol Station.

Senator Pastore's Address

Addressing the subject of atomic weapons; "Time is running against us," he declared in his speech at the Patriotic Exercises. "I say we must resume our underground testing," he asserted. Pointing to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman and the fateful decisions, which they had to make with regard to the atom bomb and the hydrogen bomb, Senator Pastore himself a member of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, called on President Kennedy to make his decision. "If we are not first," he declared, "we are lost."

The Parade

Chief Marshal Pearson gave the order to march at 10:50 a.m. The 15-division parade was so long that two divisions were still waiting to start by the time the head of the parade had reached the reviewing stand.

For this edition, Anthony Bisbano, Roland J. LaVallee and Norman J. Servant were co-chairs of the Parade Committee. They estimated close to 50,000 people watched the marchers and colorful floats go by.

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The prize for the Most Patriotic Float was awarded to the Naval Supply Depot's entry, which was a stylized missile, fashioned entirely from colored paper that fluttered on its vehicle as it rolled along. Another Navy float was from the Naval Underwater Ordnance Station—A Torpedo Attack Guided by Sound—this also took a first prize.

Monetarily, it is beneficial for the committee to award prizes to US military or government organizations. Because of strict government prohibitions cash prizes may not be accepted by them—but a trophy can be accepted—a less expensive alternative for the committee. The budget for this year's celebration was \$7,860.00.

We learn from the *Phoenix* dated July 7, that one of the best marching groups was the Annapolis Midshipman from the Cruiser NEWPORT NEWS berthed at the Newport Naval Base. Overall the Navy Division looked very smart and received well-deserved applause all along the march. A *Phoenix* editorial declared Ralph H. Lavers, as General Chairman of the committee for this year's celebration, received many favorable comments on the success of the program. Lavers summed up the secret of that success by saying, "Well, everybody worked hard."

1963 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

In March the Bristol Town Council granted the Committee exclusive rights to award, to the highest bidder, a single vender's license to operate concessions during the celebration. The highest bidder paid his fee to the Committee and in turn, the vender sold set-up rights to various corners and wandering rights to many individual vendors to sell their wares.

The *Providence Evening Bulletin* of April 26, floated the suggestion, from an unattributed source, that the Committee was planning to paint a tri-color patriotic center stripe along the parade route. The patriotic street stripping did not occur this year, but did materialize on Hope Street from the Franklin Street intersection, south to the corner of High and Hope Streets in 1968.

The *Providence Sunday Journal* praised the Committee and the celebration in a feature story on June 30. The Committee and its' activities is now receiving more editorial coverage in the statewide press. Not all of the newspaper articles are of a praising nature, however; often they are critical of policies or procedures. Even unfavorable articles are informative and contain kind words for individual Committee members.

The town council canceled the traditional night before the fourth bonfire scheduled to be set on private property near Veterans Park. Sentiment was that the conflagration would do damage to the Little League field. Although the official bon fire was canceled, the shoreline on both sides of Bristol harbor were ablaze with private bon fires all during the celebration.

Early on Friday, June 28, a group of Committee officers, Chief Marshal Rudolf F. Haffenreffer, III and his aids, left town by chartered bus for the submarine base in New London, Connecticut. There, they boarded the submarine (SS244) CAVALLA, the town's US Navy guest for the celebration, for an exciting cruise back to Bristol.

From the marble steps of the Colt Memorial School, before the start of the parade, Judge Arthur Carellas addressed a captivated crowd at the Patriotic Exercises. He declared that he was critical of the US Supreme Court's decision on public prayer. He said, "Very small minorities of our citizens have successfully eliminated certain prayers and Bible readings from our schools and thus have imposed on the vast majority a religion of their own secularism."

Speaking of Jefferson and the First Amendment Carellas asked, "Might not he and other patriots who sacrificed and jeopardized their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to leave us the heritage they did, indict the America of today for what has happened to the legacy they left us?"

This year's parade was the 20th successive one that was not bothered by rain, the last such soggy parade slogged along under the leadership of Chief Marshal Stephen Hopkins.

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Temperatures on this particular Fourth were colder than usual, possibly a record cold for the day. The cool spell came on the heels of a weeklong record setting heat wave.

Our US Navy guests fired flares of various colors from the submarine CAVALLA and the rescue ship SUNBIRD from their anchorage in the south end of Bristol Harbor, while the Committee's rockets whistled and boomed over the north end. Private fireworks, although illegal were in evidence all over town.

1965 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

**Committee Chairman Anthony E. Agatiello chooses
Anthony T. Campagna for his Chief Marshal,
Patriotic Speaker is radio personality Mortimer Blender.**

The parade stepped off about twenty-minutes later than its planned starting time irritating the thousands of viewers lining the town's streets. All parade participants consisting of 37 bands, 25 floats and more than 2,000 marchers waited in their muster areas on Bradford and State Streets while parade organizers attempted to put every unit in its proper order.

This was not the first time in recent memory that the Subcommittee responsible for the parade failed to meet its goal of starting the parade at its scheduled time. This slippage in the organizing group's ability to do its job as expected drew calls from several sources for change in the organization.

1966 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Bristol High School teacher, Dr. Paul Fletcher, wrote a student pageant he described as a, "...kind of U-2 flight over Bristol's history." High school students planned to present the pageant as part of the celebration. Alas, according to Dr. Fletcher, he had to cancel the presentation because of difficulty in holding the seniors together after graduation.

Although Fletcher said he hoped that the original plan could be carried out during the 1967 celebration, the pageant never materialized.

The temperature reached the low 90s during the time the parade traversed the town's streets. The rescue squad responded to five emergency calls to aid people suffering from heat exhaustion during the parade. With siren blaring, the rescue vehicle dispersed the ranks of marchers as it rushed along the parade route.

1969 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Committee was the subject of newspaper headlines for a week because of its refusal to let the Providence Redwood Lodge of Masons pass out free ice cream in Bristol on the 4th of July. The feeling of the Committee and town council was because a special vending license is sold to one vendor for \$600 it would be unfair to let any entity undercut that vendor by passing out "freebees."

Former Governor John H. Chafee drew thundering rounds of applause as he marched at the head of the Navy Division, for the first time, in his new cabinet post of Secretary of the Navy.

This was the first year that the traffic divider on Hope Street was painted red, white and blue.

1970 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

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When in 1970, the entire parade route was painted in the national colors; a battle of words arose between Democrat State Representative Henry W. Pacheco, and Republican State Senator Michael Balzano. Pacheco, through the intercession of Governor Frank Licht, was instrumental in having the entire parade oval striped in the national colors. Balzano called for limiting the striping to Hope Street, as in the previous year, and for using the remaining money to fill potholes along the parade route.

General Chairman John R. Partington chose as his Chief Marshal Dr. Ralph E. Gauvey. Gauvey was the last of the non-Bristol-born Chief Marshals.

In 1951, Governor Dennis J. Roberts became the first non-Bristol resident Chief Marshal, breaking a 125-year string of homegrown marshals. Another non-Bristolian Chief Marshal was Senator Theodore F. Green in 1959. Though the men were respected, their selections as Chief Marshal of the Bristol Parade met with controversy. The traditional selection of Chief Marshal is based on being a Bristolian who is a community-concerned citizen.

1971 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Although the Fourth of July Committee is nonpartisan, at that time a majority of Committee members were members of the town Democrat party. Herbert DeSimone, the unsuccessful 1970 GOP candidate for governor was denied permission to march in the parade. It was the feeling of the Committee that DeSimone's appearance would be "political," in spite of his position as an Undersecretary of Transportation in the Nixon administration.

As a consolation to DeSimone, he was allowed to march as an aid to Chief Marshal Gaetano D. "Kelly" Parella.

1972 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The projected budget for the 1972 celebration was \$19, 625. The high bid for the vendor's license was \$1,428. The raffle for a \$500 cash prize netted \$3,500 for the Committee treasury.

When the post of Committee Historian was established in 1971, this author was appointed to the position. By March 1972 a concise anthology of the highlights of 180 years of the Bristol celebration was compiled. The compilation was reproduced and several bound copies were available for distribution.

Recipients of copies of the history were: the Committee, Rogers Library, Bristol High School, Bristol *Phoenix*, Professor. Philip Leis Chairman of the Brown University Anthropology Department, and Navy Secretary John H. Chafee.

Committee Chairman Joseph Andrade reprimanded the author for giving a copy to Chafee. Andrade said the gift was too "political." The reason for the gift to Chafee was that as Governor and as Navy Secretary, he had performed many services for the Committee including the donation of photographs and histories of all the US Navy ships that had visited Bristol on July 4 since 1876. That album of photographs now resides in the library of the Bristol Historical Society.

1973 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Professor Philip Leis attended all the meetings of the Fourth of July Committee during the 1971-1972-celebration year. He prepared an anthropological paper on the operation of the Committee and the reasons for the celebration's longevity.

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Leis was given free access to all Committee records, the chronological history, newspaper scrapbook, and interviewed Committee members. His conclusions, that patriotism mixed with religion, patriotism mixed with pedology, entertainment, community pride, and social integration is evident in Bristol's celebration, were read to the Committee at a 1973 meeting.

1974 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

State Attorney General Richard Israel charged alleged deceptive and dishonest gambling games were conducted at the previous year's carnival. In a letter to the town council, he said the Fourth of July celebration group had better see to it that a "clean" show be run this year. Further, he said that state inspectors would be monitoring the carnival to assure that games were not rigged in favor of the operator.

On April 1, Town Solicitor Anthony Berretto assailed Israel for "blackening the name of Bristol" with his criticism of the carnival. Later, in a *Phoenix* interview, General Chairman Joseph Caromile said, "We have become the pigskin in a political football game."

After two months of carnival debate, the annual carnival was eventually held on its usual spot on the town common; alas it was a mini-version of the previous year's mammoth affair. The smaller midway of rides and games resulted in a loss of \$3,000 to the Committee treasury.

1975 ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

During the course of the previous two years the Committee had lengthy and heated discussions about the feasibility of lengthening the parade route in anticipation of larger crowds for the fast approaching bicentennial celebration. At an early June meeting, General Chairman Joseph Caromile and Parade Chairman Gerald P. Romano announced plans for an extended parade route.

Instead of parade units mustering in the vicinity of the town common as in the past, the 1975 parade formed on Chestnut Street; the Chief Marshal's Division at the corner of Chestnut and Hope Streets. The parade proceeded south along Hope to the intersection of High Street where it took a sharp left turn and marched the length of High Street to the corner of Washington Street where it dispersed in the area of the Guiteras School.

The reviewing stand was at the corner of Lincoln and High Streets; the entire parade oval encompassed three miles. Four hours after the 10:30 a.m., start, the last foot-weary marcher crossed the finish line at the Guiteras School.

Parade Chairman Romano said, "I thought the parade moved exceedingly well. We had about twenty-five percent more people in it than last year with over 100 marching units including 37 floats."

1976 TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

As part of the town's bicentennial celebration, Bristol was looted, pillaged, and 'burned' in May as members of the American Contingent of the British 10th Regiment of Foot reenacted the events of May 25, 1778. Several thousand spectators followed the process as 'British' and 'Hessian' soldiers moved south on Hope Street. Any 'rabble' that wandered too close to the 'British invaders' was treated to the rough language that American colonists would have received.

The bicentennial parade was the biggest the town had ever put together; it played to an unprecedented 300,000 spectators who stood 10 to 15 deep to catch the color, glitter and

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pageantry of the floats and marchers. The Bristol celebration was the official celebration for the state.

The crush of humanity was so great it prevented Chief Marshal Anthony R. Barretto and other dignitaries from reaching the staging area at Hope and Chestnut Streets for the 10:30 start. The parade, which is noted for its prompt starts, started 13 minutes late. It took almost four ½ hours for the 70 floats and 10,000 marchers to pass the reviewing stand at the corner of Lincoln and High Streets.

1977 TWO HUNDRED-FIRSTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

General Chairman John P. Biancuzzo chose Chairman of the Democrat Town Committee Frank D. Balzano as his Chief Marshal.

Judge Anthony J. Dennis, former long-time town clerk and faithful Democrat party member was appointed Speaker of the Day, by his brother-in-law, Patriotic Exercises Chairman Domenic N. Raiola.

The bicentennial parade reached such a peak that it stretched the town's endurance to the limit. For 1977, the town continued its tradition of holding the biggest and showiest parade around; but it modified its act to what the Committee agreed was a manageable level.

1978 TWO HUNDRED-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The soaking, chilling rain with 60-degree temperatures, whipped by winds of 25 miles per hour, apparently kept thousands away—but not the force of die-hard parade enthusiasts of about 25,000.

The rain produced two beneficial side effects, however. Fifteen minutes after the rain ended, traffic in Bristol had returned to normal. The usual traffic jams on routes 114 and 136 didn't materialize. And, the town's public works department, which usually collects several dozen tons of trash after a parade, had light work this year.

1979 TWO HUNDRED-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

This was the summer of the great American gasoline shortage. Beginning in May, General Chairman Gerald P. Romano started receiving frantic telephone calls from concerned marching units. They told Romano they would not be in Bristol on July 4 unless they received guarantees that they could get gas. In response, Romano turned to Town Administrator Sarah Amaral for help.

Mrs. Amaral gave her guarantee that 14,000 gallons of gasoline would be available at the town's public works garage pumps in case of emergency. However, even with assurances of ample gasoline, the number of participating bands and floats was down considerably from the previous year's number.

This year's parade was not the biggest, but it set a record for the longest gap; it was a full ten minutes long. In fact, some of the reviewers thought the parade was over after the fourth division had passed.

The fifth division, headed by George Lima, Jr., featured a marching band called the New York Lancers. When the Lancers reached the channel 36 TV cameras at the corner of Hope and John Streets, they put on a five-minute exhibition while the first four divisions marched on.

The 1979 parade drew about 150,000 spectators who applauded military marching units, bands and drum corps and the usual contingent of smiling, waving, and hand shaking politicians: Governor Garrahy, US Senators Pell and Chafee, Congressmen St.Germain and

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Beard; and making his first Bristol parade appearance was Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.

1980 TWO HUNDRED-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

For the first time since its formation a decade earlier, the Bristol Police Color Guard chose not to march in the parade. Two occurrences seemed to have caused the color guard's withdrawal from the parade.

First, under orders from Town Administrator Sarah Amaral, the bus used by the 31-member civilian organization was placed under lock and key. Amaral said the bus was retrieved by the Town from a Seekonk, Massachusetts auto repair shop where it was being serviced; it was taken to the public works garage where it was locked up. Amaral said the vehicle belonged to the state's civilian youth employment program and needed to be put in the town lot "for inventory."

According to Patrolman Richard Almeida, the bus was bought by the color guard in 1976 for one dollar from the US Army in Colts Neck, New Jersey.

The second reason for withdrawal of the color guard from the parade was voiced in a letter to the *Phoenix* editor. Manual Pacheco, head of the civilian division of the color guard, said that the 30-civilian members of the group voted unanimously not to march on the Fourth of July because of conflicts with Bristol Police Detective Frederick Caravallo, the official Police Department member of the unit.

1981 TWO HUNDRED-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The on-again, off-again bonfire on the night before the fourth was on again. Fire Chief Edward Borges and his department of volunteers were ready for any emergency at the new bonfire site, Independence Park. Standing by were four fire trucks along with members of the US Coast Guard to assist firemen at the bonfire.

The last official town bonfire held on the night before was in 1961 at the old town dump, near Veteran's Park on far north Wood Street. The following year the bonfire was planned for a vacant lot just south of Gooding Avenue, but it was never held due to protests from neighbors. The town council decided to have it on town land near the town garage on Mount Hope Avenue, but that location also met with complaints from neighbors and that too was cancelled. That appeared to be the end of the tradition of a pre-fourth bonfire.

The 1981 conflagration was about three-stories high and topped off with a dummy seated atop in an old kitchen chair. Chief Borges said the figure is, "Anyone you want it to be," and every one of the 2,500 who attended the Friday night blaze had someone special in mind. At a signal, Marcia Bosworth, wife of Chief Marshal Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr., touched off the fuse to the large wooden structure.

1982 TWO HUNDRED-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

This year, Bristol's 18,000 citizens began celebrating Independence Day on June 20, and the celebration didn't end until July 5.

Bristol is a community that revels in its traditions; once an idea or activity is originated and executed, if the community accepts it, it becomes traditional; Bristolians will not be deprived of their traditions.

Bristol is a praying community; prayers and religious exercises have always been a traditional part of Bristol's 4th of July ceremonies. Following the credo of a new tradition begun during the bicentennial celebration, an Ecumenical Service commemorating the signing of the

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Declaration was held on the marble steps of the Colt Memorial School on Sunday, July 4, at 12 o'clock noon.

Led by Town Crier James Riley and the Bristol Train of Artillery as color guard, clergy from all Bristol churches and the synagogue marched in procession from the Bristol County Court House to the Colt Memorial School. There, passages were read from the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and the writings of Bishop John Carroll, first Bishop of the Catholic Church in the United States in 1789.

1983 TWO HUNDRED-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

A battle of Independence Day parades was starting to develop between Bristol and the City of Fall River, Massachusetts. Fall River had staged parades over the 4th of July holiday for the two previous years, and parade officials bragged that they would out-class the Bristol extravaganza as the "one to see."

However, the battle ended prematurely when the challenging officials said that the city would not compete with Bristol's parade this year. The Fall River parade organizer said, "It is just very time-consuming."

1984 TWO HUNDRED-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Halsey C. Herreshoff, a participant in America's Cup races and scion of Bristol's most famous boat-building family was named Chief Marshal of the 1984 edition of the Grand Civic, Military, and Firemen's Parade by General Chairman Manuel Pasqual.

At their April 4th meeting Committee members warmly greeted Pasqual's selection of Town Councilman Herreshoff as Chief Marshal. Herreshoff said, over the years he has missed very few Bristol 4th of July parades; he missed "a couple of times," when he had to be in Newport practicing for the Cup races. Herreshoff said he finally solved the problem by inviting the 12-meter yacht crews to take the day off and come to Bristol for the parade and a clambake.

Herreshoff held his Chief Marshal's reception at his boat-storage yard at 155 Hope Street. Two large tents were attached to form a "Y" on the piers from where so many Herreshoff Manufacturing Company boats first met the water.

1985 TWO HUNDRED-NINETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Because of the particular important milestone of Bristol's 200th Independence Day Celebration, 20-year Committee member General Chairman Manuel Pasqual, and the full Committee for arrangements made plans to make the 1985 celebration one to remember.

Over the previous decade, the cost of the celebration hovered around \$40,000. The estimated cost of the 1985 edition was approximately \$60,000. Pasqual, therefore, approached town legislators to ask the State General Assembly to ante-up \$10,000 to help foot the bill.

Pasqual broke new ground when he named the three Januario brothers: Anthony, Joseph, and Manuel, Jr., as his co-Chief Marshals.

The Committee's sense of history was correct when it came to the selection of Speaker of the Day. It was natural that the town remember again its long tradition of Patriotic Exercises, and the importance of Reverend Dr. Henry Wight, the venerable worthy, who did so much to originate and perpetuate the town's first celebrations. The Committee wisely called upon Dr. Wight's successor, Minister to Bristol's Congregational flock, The Reverend Walter Rudy.

A New Century of Celebrations

Century of the Common Man

It is the normal and very commonplace man who makes history, and lays down the laws and codes of humanity. It is the everyday man in the street (not by himself, but in his thousands and millions) who is the real lawmaker, as the scientific sociologist knows it. It may be that his achievement is to make a nation of slaves who will submit to a despot; yet nonetheless true is it that he makes the laws of his society—by servile submission—in a far more fundamental sense than they are ever made by the tyrant, however absolute. The despot does not make the slaves. It is the serfs who make their lord. That may not be the opinion of the serfs or the lords, but it is of the impartial historical scientist.

G.R. Stirling Taylor

Seven Nineteenth Century Statesmen—1929.

1986 TWO HUNDRED TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

James W. Farley, Jr., Takes Control of Committee

The 1986 celebration year (201st Bristol celebration) began in September 1985 under a cloud of uncertainty. James W. Farley, Jr., who had sat for two years as Vice-Chairman under Chairman Manuel Pasqual, assumed he would, without opposition, be nominated and elected to the position of Chairman; following the usual and traditional rise to the Chair, but, an unsuspected challenge was made from the floor. The name of Regina Campbell was placed in nomination for chairman's seat. The resulting vote—a majority for Campbell made her the first woman elected to Chair the General Committee.

Incensed, Farley brought his concern to the Town Council, who eventually ruled the election illegal because the Committee had not yet been reappointed, and ordered another election.

Town Council Record: October 9, 1985

EXCERPTED FROM A LENGTHY PROPOSAL BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT SYLVIA

“The Committee is instructed to meet on October 16 to elect a new vice-chairperson due to the resignation of Andrew Vorro, III, and discuss the propriety and legality of the Chairperson;

“...that the bylaws be revised specifically to address elections;

“...that criteria be developed for the selection of Chief Marshal and that it be a consensus decision and not the action of one person. Also, some consideration is given to subsidizing the Marshal's Reception;

“...that the Committee keep attendance records and submit them to the Council prior to appointments in September.”

All 76 members were reappointed to the Committee and the list of four proposals were voted in favor of by 3 - 2, along party lines.

Special Fourth of July Committee Meeting

October 30, 1985, Manuel Pasqual, presiding; Recording Secretary Elizabeth Anne Morrira, listed 69 members and 4 guests present, and...

“...Next office is that of Chairman - Sara Amaral placed the name of Gena Cambell (sic) for Chairman - Alan Merritt placed the name of Jim Farly (sic) for Chairman - Frances Holmes moved that nominations be closed - Second [by] Peg Morris.”

Votes cast numbered 69— Campbell 23, Farley 46.

With the controversy over the election of its Chairman behind it, the Committee began planning the 1986 celebration. Chairman Farley appointed members to head and serve on 39 Subcommittees. Although several supporters of Campbell's were asked to head-up Subcommittees; Farley chose not to give Campbell a Committee to chair.

Kickoff Event Flops

The June 14, JUNEFEEST, a dry version of the popular BEERFEEST did not work out as planned. The several thousand dollars expected from the fund-raiser didn't materialize. Farley explained, “It was a tough weekend, very discouraging, we didn't make any money at all.”. Trying to keep the Beerfest of the past several years afloat without any beer proved a heady

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task. Dubbed Junefest the new family-oriented non-alcoholic version of the popular Beerfest was as palatable as a warm brew on a hot summer afternoon.

Later, Chairman Farley presented to the Town Building Official John Legeiro a drawing of a plan to erect a Fourth of July sign on the corner of Washington and Hope Sts. on a permanent bases. The sign that was to promote the celebration on one of the busiest corners in town was never erected.

Chief Marshal Joan Doyle Roth

At the Wednesday, April 9, Committee meeting Chairman Farley introduced his choice for Chief Marshal Joan Doyle Roth. She is the second woman to hold the honored position; the first being her aunt, M. Theresa Donovan, in 1957.

Mrs. Roth told the Committee that her mother, the late Joanna E. Sullivan Doyle, was born on July 3, and always told people she watched her first Bristol parade when she was only one-day old.

A Bristol native, Roth was in the 1944 Colt Memorial High School graduating class; she has been deeply involved in music and education for many years. She holds a bachelor and master's degrees from Rhode Island College.

Roth had her reception at Independence Park under a red, white, and blue striped tent. This was the second reception to be held at the Bristol Harbor side site—the first was in 1981.

The Annual Bicycle Race

The annual event, which had been held for several years on Saturday evenings, was scheduled for Sunday morning June 22, in the principal streets of the town.

There was a 15 mile race for juniors that got off at 9 a.m., and two more races of 15 and 20 miles each which started at 10 a.m., and at 11 a.m. Unfortunately these racing times conflicted with church service schedules and the resulting mix of church traffic and cyclists made for an unholy and confusing tie-up.

One of the many letters to the *Phoenix* editor by angry churchgoers was penned by Robert Perkins of 55 Smith Street is typical; he wrote that scheduling the bicycle races for Sunday morning was, “stupid, selfish and arrogant.” Perkins went on to say this about Chairman Farley, “This year’s fiasco started with a sore-loser male chauvinist [James Farley], who lost the traditional election.”

The Night Before

Music spilled into the night: Dixieland, Broadway, and Pop music filled the air. Beginning at 7 p.m., on the Colt Memorial School steps upbeat sounds were featured to get into just the right joyful spirit of the Fourth. The Dixie All Stars brought a festive New Orleans Mardi Gras sound to town, and at 9 p.m., the 76th Division US Army Reserve Band from East Windsor, CT., helped Bristolians usher in the Fourth.

RI350 Torch

Bristol’s 201st celebration got a spark from the RI350 observance; Bristol runner Russell Brown carried a torch which he received at the town line from marathoner Bobby Doyle who lit the torch at the Statehouse and ran the 17 miles to Bristol. Brown ran the distance from the town line to the Colt Memorial School arriving at about 8 o’clock p.m.

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The Parade

As usual the party started early in Bristol on the Fourth—in fact, as usual it was going all night long and by 8 a.m., traffic was backed up to Barrington. But, Bristol's 201st celebration played to less than a full house. A police estimate of 100,000 spectators was about one-third off from the previous year's crowd. The smaller number was attributed to the Mount Hope Bridge, the main route into town from Aquidneck Island, being closed for repairs.

It was the 350th anniversary year of the founding of the State of Rhode island and also an election year - so all the state's politicians and their supporters were out enforce leaving thousands of handbills in their wake.

It was the town's first "bring your own beer" parade, because no alcohol was sold at concession stands, but the town's three downtown package stores did. People brought beer by the case and left thousands of cans and bottles as evidence of their thirst.

The biggest crowd-pleasers were the South Philadelphia String Band Jitter Bugs; the Shriners, who zipped around in tiny red electric cars; a team of six Clydesdale horses pulling the Hallemore Trucking Co. wagon; and the Vietnam Vets.

Fireworks and Pops Concert

The Bristol Fourth of July Celebration didn't end until July 6. The change in date wasn't the only change. The fireworks show was held in Colt State Park rather than Independence Park and was preceded by a pops concert by the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

Crowds at fireworks and concert in Colt State Park caught police and park officials by surprise. Park police expected no more than 4,500 people to show up and therefore reduced the detail of officers assigned to the event from 45 to 20.

Amid fireworks, cannon fire by the Bristol Train of Artillery and an outstanding performance by the Rhode Island Philharmonic. A cheering crowd, estimated at 70,000, brought Bristol's 201st Independence Day celebration to a stirring close—two days late.

1987 TWO HUNDRED ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

A New Celebration Year

The cloud of uncertainty hanging over the first year of the Farley administration of the Fourth of July Celebration lingered into the 1987 year; not for anything that James W. Farley, Jr., did, but for what he failed to do.

A concerned citizen, Gregory Raposa, was trying to obtain certain records from the celebration Committee without success. And, as an appendix to previously recorded costs for production of the celebration, this author joined Mr. Raposa (although separately—neither knowing of the other's interest) in seeking information concerning Committee money matters.

Certain letters from Raposa and my self, and Bristol Town Clerk Angela Mederos; minutes of the Town Council as well as *Providence Journal* and *Bristol Phoenix* reports for the period June 13, 1986 - January 21, 1987 are available on microfilm at the Rogers Library.

Pressured by the town council, Farley reluctantly released specific financial information to the Council who in turn made the same information available to the original requesters and to the public.

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 The 1986 Treasury Report – Dated January 21, 1987

INCOME	PROJECTED	ACTUAL
Fundraising	21,950.00	13,375.00
Carnival	9,000.00	9,500.00
Finance	6,500.00	7,000.00
Special Gifts	7,500.00	17,600.00
State funding	0	5,000.00
Town Funding	7,000.00	7,000.00
Television	1,000.00	950.00
Vending	8,500.00	9,000.00
TOTALS	61,450.00	69,425.00

EXPENSES	PROJECTED	ACTUAL
Administrative*	5,825.00	5,500.00
Military	2,750.00	2,200.00
Parade	39,600.00	35,000.00
Invitational	1,550.00	1,200.00
Public	4,475.00	5,010.00
Miscellaneous	400.00	350.00
Pops & Fireworks	22,000.00	18,540.00
TOTALS	76,600.00	67,800.00

*Administrative includes: archival, badges and plaques, communications, finance, insurance, janitors, printing, stationary and postage, and public relations.

The Committee has to rely on a number of resources to fund the annual celebration, those sources for the 1986 observance were as follows: fund raising 19.3 percent, carnival 13.7 percent, finance 10.1 percent, special gifts 25.4 percent, state 7.0 percent, town 10.1 percent, television 1.4 percent, and vending 13.0 percent.

Fourth, Inc. is Formed

The Fourth of July Committee has always had many friends. Now, they've formed a corporation. The Friends of the Bristol Fourth of July Committee Inc., now exists as an organization, which can accept tax-exempt donations. Committee Chairman James W. Farley, Jr., corporation head.

Phoenix, January 15, 1987

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Hattie Brown Award

During the 1987 celebration the Committee established a new civic award in the name of long- time faithful member Miss. Hattie Brown, who had died earlier in the year.

The Committee solicited nominees from the community who reflected Hattie's giving, charitable, and ecumenical nature. Hattie was a prime example of civic responsibility: she dedicated her life to her synagogue, as-well-as the town's other churches; she was a person who was always ready to lend a helping hand to people in need. Mary Ferguson received the award for 1987, presented at the Patriotic Exercises for the first time.

Herreshoff's 1987 Town Budget

The Committee requested the town contribute an additional \$500 for the 1987 celebration, for a grand total of \$7500. Town Administrator Halsey C. Herreshoff (past Chief Marshal, 1984) said he would either cut the request by 10 percent or by 100 percent. "We're into the Fourth of July for \$50,000 already," said Herreshoff. He further explained, citing \$27,000 for police and \$25,000 for public works costs related to the celebration.

At the town council meeting March 25, 1987, the council voted to restore \$7,000 to the budget, earmarked for the Fourth of July Committee. Council President Anthony Iasiello told Chairman Farley; "I'll restore the \$7,000, providing you don't use it and give it back." Knowing that the Committee had about \$27,000 in the bank after the last year's celebration, the council agreed that the Committee was not starting from scratch and they had no dire need for the Town's appropriation.

Move to Remove Carnival From Common

Town Administrator Halsey C. Herreshoff asked the Committee to look for another carnival site. Because of plans to improve and beautify the common, which included a new ball field, a new bandstand, and a planting program, all in tandem with the community playground, it was hoped that the beginning of a new focus on the town common would take hold. One of the moving factors was last year's tractor pulling contest, which tore up an expanse of grass and left muddy ruts in their wake. Chairman Farley admitted to the council; "I would like to see it fixed up, too, it looks awful." One of the problems with the carnival was that Coleman Bros. Carnival pays the Committee \$10,000 for its use, because of the large downtown walk-in trade. Other sites suggested were the High School athletic field and the former Nike Site at Roger Williams College.

HMS Rose

The HMS Rose made a surprise visit to Bristol on Friday, June 4, "shelling" the harbor as its namesake did in 1775, but a lot less damage was done this time. The ship which was visiting Newport sailed into Bristol waters, and unannounced fired several rounds.

Patriotic Exercises

Joseph Janeiro was chosen as Orator for this year's Patriotic Exercises. Joseph who with his two brothers acted as a Chief Marshal for the 1985 celebration was a close friend of Serophin DaPonte, Chief Marshal for the 1987 parade.

As part of his address, Janeiro remembered the Korean War and the severe wounds received by his brother Manny, a US Marine fighting in North Korea. He also recalled the sacrifices made by soldiers fighting in the jungles during the unpopular Vietnam War.

Two young Bristolians took part in the Excesses: Eric Rudy; son of Rev. Walter Rudy, Orator at the 1985 excesses, who sang the National Anthem, and Bragan Thomas, winner of the 1987 Bristol High School's John L. Burke Oratory Contest, read the Declaration of

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Independence. In 1984, Eric Rudy was the winner of the oratory contest and he was Reader that year.

The Parade

About 175,000 turned out for the 1987 edition of pomp, patriotism, and politicians. Like souvenir venders and soda salesmen, politicians love a parade too, and Bristol had more than its share show up this year.

Parade Chairman Andrew Vorro limited the parade to nine divisions, in addition to the huge Chief Marshal's Division. The parade didn't appear any shorter than the usual 12-division parades of the past, but it did move faster.

Governor DiPrete drew a good round of applause, as he appeared followed by Lieutenant Governor Richard Light, Attorney General James O'Neill, General Treasurer Roger Begin and Secretary of State Kathleen Connell.

The state's congressional delegation included an upbeat U.S. Representative Claudine Schnider, who waved a flag and returned shouts of greetings to admirers; and restrained U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell and U.S. Representative Fernand J. St.Germain merely waved and smiled. U.S. Senator John H. Chafee marched in his usual place at the head of the Navy contingent.

It seemed every one of the parade watchers had a favorite or a friend among the thousands of marchers; there were state and regional beauty queens; television personalities, state and nationally known; clowns, including lawyer Robert Healy, Chairman of the Warren School Committee who was easily spotted despite the clown make-up, by his trademark shoulder length hair and beard; and the Vietnam Veterans who received the loudest and most sustained round of applause as many of the seated crowd jumped to their feet and cheered.

The Vietnam Veterans of America handed more than 9000 small American flags to the cheering throng all along the parade route. Mike Marshall, a Bristolian, and Vietnam Veteran said, "It's our way of saying 'thanks' to the people of Bristol for the reception they've given us." Marshall and Joseph "Doc" Cavallaro had helped to raise more than \$1,600 in two days to purchase the flags.

It was seventeen years previous when the Vietnam Veterans Against the War first wanted to march and the Committee denied them the opportunity to do so. Beginning about ten years ago the veterans have been received by the parade viewers with applause and an outpouring of emotion usually reserved for a hero's homecoming. The veterans have been so moved by their reception of recent years that they wanted to make the 1987 parade a special homecoming: they invited Vietnam Veterans from all 50 states to send representatives to march with them in Bristol.

1988 Two Hundred twelfth Anniversary of American Independence

Committee Business

At its meeting of September 24, 1987, the Fourth of July Committee elected new officers for the coming celebration year. Those elected to serve as officers for the 203rd celebration included:

General Chairman	Andrew J. Vorro, III
Vice Chairman	Elizabeth Ann Moreira
Treasurer	Roger Dubord
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth W. Cambra

Samuel R. Celone conducted the audit of Fourth of July Committee books and the Town Council received his report dated September 30, 1987 at their March 32, 1988 meeting.

Checking Account	\$4,140.64
Savings Account	180.18
<u>Cash on hand</u>	<u>74.57</u>
Total as of 09/30/87	\$4,395.42

The two certificates of deposit, each for \$10,000, were cashed and deposited into a statement savings account on October 10, 1986 and January 23, 1987.

Before the Town Council's vote to accept the auditor's report, Councilman Cirillo stated that the town's appropriation to the Committee should be released only if the Committee shows a need. He was of the opinion that the letter submitted does not state that the appropriation is warranted.

Councilman Marshall seconded Cirillo's motion and the vote was unanimous to take the matter under advisement until Chairman Vorro could be present to show a need for the allocation.

Flag Day Begins Celebration

A number of citizens gathered outside the Town Hall on Court Street to dedicate a new flagpole and to kick off the celebration.

The town's Flag Day ceremonies included the pledge of allegiance led by Town Council President Anthony P. Iasiello and remarks by Town Administrator Halsey C. Herreshoff, Chairman Vorro, and Chief Marshal Federico M. Pacheco. The Rev. Clifton Daniel, III, of St. Michael's Church offered the prayer and James Berry, Bristol High School Orator, gave a patriotic reading.

Fund Raising

The Ways and Means Sub-Committee introduced some new ideas to raise much needed funds for the approaching celebration, they included: a mile-o'-quarters collection, and a Fourth of July Program. Committee member Jerry MacNeil said past experience proved that Programs are not good sellers; he then suggested that Fourth of July souvenir pins would be a better seller. Also suggested was the idea of a yearlong raffle tied to a lottery, and a special concert.

Marilyn Holmes moved to hire a fund raising agency to decide what would be best, and to let them organize and run the fund raising events.

The result of these suggestions was that certain items destined to become Bristol 4th of July collectibles were marketed: a dated pin, an official tee shirt with Committee logo, and an official program booklet (which incidentally was not a good seller).

Highlights Of The Celebration

The events planned for the celebration of the 212th anniversary of American Independence began on Flag Day, June 14, and came to a block-buster climax on July 5th, after a total of forty individual events took place: contests, concerts, dances and receptions filled the weeks.

In its third year the Anything That Floats contest drew more contestants than the previous two years and the entries were more imaginative and humorous. The burlesque of

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floating contraptions exhibited by the contestants was reminiscent of the Antiques and Horribles parades that used to thread Bristol's streets.

Other activities included: the annual road race, a sanctioned event, began and finished at Guiteras School; the annual sailboat race in Bristol Harbor; a patriotic sing-a-long at Gillary's Pub on Thames Street drew an enthusiastic and orderly crowd; Ron Bianco & Bilbo the singing dog entertained on the Colt Memorial School steps; while the Committee and town officials were at the reception for visiting military at the Bristol Yacht Club, citizens listened to the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble at the Colt Memorial School.

Sunday, June 26, was a busy day: the 26th Annual Firemen's Field Day began at 10 o'clock at Independence Park; there was an Ecumenical Service at St. Michael's Church at noon; the Anything that Floats Contest at 1 p.m., followed at 4 p.m., by the annual Orange Crate Derby on Bayview Avenue. Later, at 7 p.m., the US Coast Guard Band concert and US Coast Guard Drill Team entertained on the Colt Memorial School steps.

Soviets Join Festivities

A group of Soviet officials just happened to be in Bristol on the Fourth. They were part of an eleven-member party of USSR theater officials visiting the United States for conferences with American theater officials about cultural exchange programs.

Members of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford CT suggested showing the Russian visitors some Americana; he asked Chairman Vorro if they could come to the parade; the Soviets watched the parade from the reviewing stand as Vorro's guests.

The Fourth

The Patriotic Exercises that precede the splash of color and noise of the parade is the calm time of serious speeches on the meaning of the celebration: the reading of the Declaration of Independence, the introduction of veterans, and town and visiting dignitaries.

"We feel very fortunate to live in this great nation," said the Chief Marshal, who emigrated from the Azores 20 years earlier.

Under bright sunshine in a clear sky, the marchers: politicians, musicians, military men of all ranks and all services, veterans, firemen, boy scouts, clowns, and even 2 Uncle Sams paraded through the press-of-humanity that was here to see a big show—and big it was. Parade Orders listed 130 individual entries in nine different categories, which amounted to almost 5,500 participants in the procession. The line of marchers stretched longer than the length of the parade route, the march took about 2 1/2 hours to pass one spot.

Even as the first paraders were passing the reviewing stand at the Court House on High Street, there were three more divisions still waiting back on Chestnut Street to begin their 2.6-mile hike. The small beaches at harbor-side points along the parade route were congested with skiffs and dinghies from the hundreds of boats moored in the harbor that brought parade watchers. With shores of the east harbor so crowded, some people reached Hope Street by jumping into the bay and swimming to shore.

Other people taking no chances arrived Sunday night to stake out their viewing spots. Some Hope Street residents roped off their favorite spots Saturday afternoon in hopes of securing good vantage points for themselves and family guests. Paul Phalon parked his truck on a corner on the High Street leg of the parade and erected a scaffolding rig on the truck bed, creating a viewing stand.

Within ninety-minutes after the last marcher had crossed the finish line, traffic in the harbor and on the streets was back to normal.

Committee Chairman Andrew J. Vorro, III, made the following remarks in a letter the *Phoenix* editor.

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Our 1988 budget exceeded \$90,000.00. With this we sponsored over 20 concerts, 2 sailboat races, 2 road races, a parade with over 5,000 participants and 150,000 spectators, and a fireworks display and concert that was superb.

We also served and paid for almost 1000 meals for military and various other participants. We supplied almost 350 nights lodging to many participants in our concerts and parade.

I have three simple solutions to the few complaints that I have read or heard: One, sit back, try to enjoy; two, contribute in some way to try to improve our show; three, stay away.

On The Police Blotter - 4th of July

Police were called to a fight at Thames and Franklin Sts., 11:55 a.m. Two officers approached the man and his wife and warned them to stop. The man yelled at the officers; making obscene gestures while holding his genitals in his hand. The officers tried to arrest him, but he resisted violently, punching, kicking, and biting. The man's wife tried to interfere, at one point pulling the officer's nightstick from his belt and trying to hit him with it. With the help of additional officers the pair were subdued, arrested and charged with assault, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest. Patrolman Guercia was treated for a severe bite on one finger.

After word

Ironically, in the *Phoenix* wrap-up stories about the celebration dated July 7, 1988, a short article appeared begging for new members for the Celebration Committee; "To be a member, you must be at least 18 years old, a Bristol resident and willing to work," wrote past Chairman James W. Farley, Jr.⁴

1989 Two Hundred thirteenth Anniversary of American Independence

The B.T.A.

The Colorful Colonial uniforms and fife and drum corps are special! It's a real throwback to Colonial times, and the Bristol Train of Artillery certainly fits right in with the image.

Raymond A. Thomas, 66, has lived for the B.T.A., ever since he first enlisted as a Private in 1951. Now, a retired Brigadier General, Thomas realizes the impact his unit has made on Bristol's Fourth of July Parade.

'To my knowledge, we've never missed a Fourth of July Parade,' he noted.⁵ 'Each year, we lead the Fourth [Centennial Legion] Division, and its been quite an honor,' said Thomas.

Thomas, and his late brother, Col. Oswald A. Thomas, was recognized as the backbone of the B.T.A. for many years.

Excluding education and religious institutions, the B.T.A. is the oldest organization in Bristol. It has maintained and sustained an uninterrupted existence continuance from the date of its establishment on February 12, 1776.

⁴ This was the only request for members that the author has found in any *Phoenix* newspaper since 1826.

⁵ **1887 and the BTA:** The Bristol Train of Artillery was not in the parade of 1887. They were invited to Providence to take part in the unveiling of the Burnside memorial statue.

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A citizens Committee to plan the (Fourth of July) observance usually consisted of about five or six men, and always included the commanding officer of the B.T.A.

Manny Correira:

Providence Journal Bulletin, Thursday, June 29, 1989.

Turf Wars

By noon Monday many residents along High and Hope Streets had staked off sidewalks in front of their homes and were making last-minute preparations for the celebration.

The grassy shoulders lining the parade route had been almost entirely “reserved;” reserved with chairs, blankets, and ropes on stakes that marked the boundaries so nearby homeowner’s friends and relatives could have a curbside seat.

Elmer McNamara of Hope Street was busy driving stakes a foot or more into the ground in front of his home. He explained; “People come into town the night before, rev their engines, yelling and breaking things.” He recalled one “night before” at 2:30 a.m., he heard noises outside, and when he checked he saw someone moving his stakes and setting up their own chairs. They said he had no right to reserve the spot, because it was state land.

Highlights of The Celebration

Because it is Bristol, the Fourth of July Parade stepped off as scheduled at precisely 10:30 a.m. Overcast skies simply kept the thousands of marchers and watchers cooler without raining on them.

Continuing the recent trend for innovation in respect to the selection of the Chief Marshal; Chairman Vorro chose as his lead personality for the parade, not one, but two people; Robert and Marie Rondeau, acted as Co-Chief Marshals.

Co-Chief Marshals Robert and Marie Rondeau requested that Bristolians revive the old time tradition of house illumination and decoration. “What we’re hoping to do this year is to revitalize an old Bristol tradition, which they used to do here more than 100 years ago, that is light up the entire town. We’d like to have as many lights turned on the night before the Fourth as possible, not only along the parade route, but also throughout the whole town. We want everyone to get into the true Fourth of July spirit.”

Furthermore, the Rondeaus helped put into motion plans to conduct a house decorating contest, similar to the one held in town for the past three years at Christmas. Special prizes were awarded for the most patriotic and most original house decorations.

David and Candice Lawrence of 245 High Street won the first ever Patriotic House Decorating Contest.

First Fourth Postal Cancellation

A special postal cancellation was available for collectors at the Bristol Post Office on July Fourth. A special cancel design was devised by the Committee and made into a hand stamp-cancel by the United States Postal Service. The design was a representation of the Fourth of July Committee’s logo—the flag of Rhode Island and the national flag with crossed staffs, centered on a Colonial drum. After the stamp-canceling device had completed its period of use, it was supposed to have been encased in plastic and added to the collection of Fourth of July artifacts at the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society.

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Accidents and Arrests

Although alcohol has now been banned from Bristol streets on the Fourth for three years; the town hosted and the people toasted, keeping the police busy during the long holiday weekend. One report on the police blotter said 40 cases and 12 kegs of beer were confiscated from underage revelers.

Overall, the holiday was relatively quite; there were no major incidents during the parade or on the night before, according to Bristol Police Lieutenant Russell S. Serpa. There were about a dozen arrests of people who were drunk and/or disorderly, he said. Also several local people for whom the police had warrants were spotted in the crowd and were arrested. Serpa said about 108 police were on duty, compared to the 19 who were on duty in 1972, when a riot broke out. This year police from Cranston and Warwick reinforced Bristol Police.

The Rescue Squad answered about 50 emergency calls during the celebration. The only serious celebration-related injury reported was burns to a person accidentally pushed into the bonfire Monday night.

Silly String

Town Administrator Halsey C. Herreshoff addressed the Town Council about some complaints he had received concerning, "A silly fluorescent substance shot from an aerosol can". Herreshoff said, "...objections to the material range from safety, damage [to clothing], aesthetics and damage to the atmosphere by fluorocarbons."

James W. Farley, Jr., said all vendors were told not to sell the stuff, but some had already stocked the item. "We had some on the floats." Farley continued, "People riding on the floats were shooting it at the crowd." The Council agreed to draft an ordinance that would ban the sale and use of silly string.

1990 Two Hundred Fourteenth Anniversary of American Independence

FIRST WOMAN HEADS COMMITTEE, NEW FLAG POLE DEDICATED,

FORTY FLOATS IN PARADE, TWENTY-SIX BANDS COST \$35,000,

ANTI-DRINKING CAMPAIGN REMINISCENT OF 19TH CENTURY TEMPERANCE

At their September reorganization meeting the Committee elected Elizabeth Anne Holmes Moreira, of Cottage Street, General Chairperson. She was the second woman chosen for the position, but she was the first to keep the job (see 1987 text). The new Chairperson, daughter of long-time Committee member Frances Holmes (Mrs. Edward H.), boasts that her daughter Joanne was crowned Miss. Fourth of July in 1981. Moreira said in keeping with her family's tradition of volunteering on the Committee, both her sister and daughter-in-law were members.

Officers elected for the 1990 celebration included:

Chairperson	Elizabeth Anne Moreira
Vice Chair	Marvin Perry
Treasurer	Frank Parenti
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Cambra
Corresponding Secretary	Regina Campbell

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Hattie Brown Award

Virginia B. Kinder, a Life Member of the Fourth of July Committee spent 26 years volunteering her services to the celebration. She was named the 1990 recipient of the coveted Hattie Brown Memorial Award. Virginia, the daughter of another long-time Committee member, the late State Senator Gladys M. Brightman, at 68, recalled that at a very early age she was made to understand the significance of the Fourth of July Celebration.

School Dept. Upstages Fourth Group

An invitation was sent to Barbara Bush, Wife of President George Bush to take part in the parade.

Beverly Z. Travers, director of instructional services and curriculum development sent the invitation to Mrs. Bush. The invitation was in conjunction with Bristol's literacy program. Travers said a float was being built around the theme "Literacy Liberates."

Mrs. Bush sent regrets.

Miss. Fourth

The King Philip Restaurant was the site of the forty-first Miss. Fourth of July contest (there was no contest in 1952). The two judges interviewed the 17 contestants, one-on-one before the public portion of the pageant. The judges scored the entrants on their poise, personality, and general appearance. Also considered was how well they fielded a series of questions on random subjects and how well they handled themselves during the interview.

The eventual winner of the crown was Jennifer Faria, an 18-year-old Bristol High School student, who was scheduled to graduate the following evening. The queen, in addition to riding on a float in the parade and making appearances at other celebration events, received many valuable gifts donated by area merchants.

Tickets to the pageant cost \$4 and \$2, for a net profit to the Committee of \$600.

New Flag Pole

The Bristol Rotary Club donated a 50-foot flagpole, which is 7 feet taller than the one at the intersection of Hope and Thames Sts. and from which flies a 12 by 18 foot flag. The new flagpole is on the median strip of Rt. 136 just north of the Mount Hope Bridge⁶. The ceremony was held on Flag Day, June 14.

Ecumenical Service

US Senator John H. Chafee was the keynote speaker at the ecumenical service, arranged by the Fourth of July Committee Sunday afternoon, at the First Congregational Church. Participants included representatives from all the Christian churches as well as the United Brothers Synagogue

Patriotic Exercises

During the nineteenth-century celebrations the Patriotic Exercises were the featured activity—the focal point of the day. These days, sadly, the Exercises go almost unnoticed. Despite the 150,000 - 200,000 who gather to watch the parade, few more than 150 - 200 gather at the Colt Memorial School to take part in the patriotic part of the program.

⁶ The new flagpole was relocated in 2001 when the State Bridge and Highway Authority changed the configuration of Ferry Road as it approaches the Mt. Hope Bridge. The flagpole now stands at the intersection of Ferry Road and Old Ferry Road.

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Congressional Representative Ronald K. Machtley quoted Thomas Paine, saying, "We have it in our power to make this world over." He added, "Indeed we have made the world over."

Chief Marshal Kenneth Marshall told the gathering how proud he was to represent his hometown at the head of the parade.

At the end of the 45-minute ceremony buses and a limousine (for Mr. Marshall) were waiting to carry the dignitaries to the parade's muster area at Chestnut Street

The Parade

The highlight of the town's 205th celebration was the eleven-division parade. Parade Chairman Marvin Perry said that 40 floats and 26 bands were in the line of march.

Maybe it was because of last years Supreme Court ruling that flag burning is protected by the First amendment, that Old Glory and her colors dominated the day. The flag was in evidence all over town. Float after float in the four-hour parade provided some message about the sanctity of the American Flag.

The "Living Flag" made its first appearance in the parade. Gary Whynot and four female friends, all dressed in red, white and blue stars and stripes outfits walked side-by-side with their arms around each other's waists. When the five were viewed as a unit they seemed to be a walking 50 stard, 13 striped American flag. The group drew so much attention that they were invited to march in the Chief Marshal's Division of the nationally televised Macy's New York City Christmas Parade.

Although the marchers started from Chestnut Street at 10:30 sharp, it was halted dead in its tracks only six minutes later by the Rescue Squad called to Sheffield and Hope Sts. Viewers on High Street didn't see the end of the parade until nearly 3 p.m. Gaps usually develop between divisions toward the end of the parade, but a huge, gaping hole near the end of the ninth division was caused by a tractor-trailer breakdown. After some time the marchers were detoured east on Walley Street to High Street.

Highlights of the day

THE BIKE PATH had room to spare while thousands of motorists struggled with miles of heavy traffic on the roads to Bristol. Hundreds of cyclists were zipping along the East Bay Bike Path cooled by the comforting breezes off Bristol Harbor.

Some walked, others used roller-skates, but mostly they cycled along the 10.4 mile path from Riverside to Bristol. The bike path ends (and begins) at Independence Park, on the Bristol waterfront. The Committee provided hundreds of bicycle stands for the cyclists at the path's terminus.

Many enterprising youngsters setup lemonade and iced tea stands on the borders of yards that back-up to the bike path. There was even a pizza stand erected for the day.

A PARKING FEE of \$1.00 was charged for each auto entering Colt State Park on the evening of the Fifth for the Pops concert and fireworks display. Walkers and cyclists were admitted free.

THE HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST. Hundreds of house fronts, doorways, and front yards were imaginatively decorated in patriotic themes. First prizewinner Dennis Tavares, 29 Burnside Street was awarded a gift certificate for a dinner at the Lobster Pot Restaurant.

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NO US NAVY VESSEL graced Bristol Harbor this year—the Committee's navy liaison, James W. Farley, Jr., failed to issue an invitation.

SOUVENIRS IN ABUNDANCE were hawked by the Committee: aprons, tee shirts, buttons and even a commemorative Christmas tree ornament were for sale. The Bristol Post Office offered a limited edition print and a special postal cover both with a special July 4 cancellation.

Fund-raising

At the May 24, meeting of the Committee, Judy Squires reported that the card party made roughly \$1,676, and the raffle made \$654.

Even though the Committee netted \$10,000 on the lottery, it was suggested that next year the cost of a ticket should be raised from the current \$20 to \$25.

WPRO-TV sent a check for \$2,000 with a request to broadcast the national youth oriented Up With People show.

Marilyn Holmes-Travers said that 30% of the vendor corners were sold, if all corners were sold it would mean \$10,000 for the treasury.

As of June 6, the Master List Committee had received 204 donations totaling \$5,225.

The Committee held its wrap up meeting of the 1990 celebration on July 18; the following Subcommittee reports were read:

The Drum and Bugle Corp. competition made a net profit of \$4,500

Peggy Morris said \$7,600 was donated through the Master List of names of usual contributors.

The Reception for Town Officials cost \$1,117.22, slightly under the budget of \$1,400. June Paten estimated that 350-400 people were present and there were no complaints about there not being martinis served.

Andy Vireo reported that Special Gifts were slow this year, but a \$5,000 check was received from AT&T.

A net profit of \$11,813.47 was realized from the sale of Vendor's Licenses. In past years one license was sold to the highest bidder, who in turn would lease areas on the parade route to the hawkers. These days the Committee deals directly with the street vendors.

Another meeting was called for August 9, at which more reports were read, and the nominating Committee was appointed.

Concessions run by the Committee realized a net profit of \$3,761.

Final report for the Enlisted Men's Party Included a \$1,200 donation by Raytheon Co. Donations out numbered expenses; \$660.50 was spent but there remained \$567.45 in the profit column.

A profit of \$1,300 was made from the Up With People concert.

\$35,000 was expended for bands and 1,178 invitations were tended for the Chief Marshal's reception.

1991 Two Hundred Fifteenth Anniversary of American Independence

**Bon fire, a thing of the past, Fireworks launched from a barge,
Senator Chafee absent, Bishop Gelineau reappears,
\Committee goes begging.**

So many events are now scheduled as part of the celebration that it is almost impossible to fit them all into the time allotted. For the past several years the celebration has started on Flag Day, June 14. Some towns folk have observed that perhaps the opening shot should be backed-up to May 4 - Rhode Island Independence Day.

Regardless of the previous year's admonishment by the *Phoenix* concerning the Flag Day Bash, there was an unpublicized post-flag raising party for "insiders."

James W. Farley, Jr., defended the party as not being just an event for the Committee, but also for people who donated to the annual souvenir program and to recognize police and fire personnel and those who have made special gift offerings for the cause of the celebration.

Money, Money, Money

One can justly question if expenditures of hard-earned funds were wisely spent on parties and receptions. A look at the minutes of the March 17, 1991, general Committee meeting confirms that one of the chief concerns of the Committee is money.

As part of the treasurer's report, Frank Parenti said \$15,000 had been received from ALMACS Super Market and \$2,000 from radio station WPRI. Parade Chairman Marvin Perry said his Committee was planning a fundraiser along the parade to collect money (see Parade Section).

Public Relations Chairman DeWolf Fulton announced a plan to sell flags and photographs of the Living Flag for \$32 each. He also said he would try to get someone of national prominence to march in front of the Living Flag. Fulton reported that \$2,000 had been pledged for this fundraiser and the *Phoenix* would give an \$800 advertising space for its promotion.

Tag Day Chair John Riley, said he would order around 15 gross of clip-on flags at \$40; with hopes of equaling the 1990 net of \$1,900. The Ways and Means Committee's macaroni supper netted \$1,154.56. A motion was made and passed to sell invitations to the Chief Marshal's reception for \$25 rather than the \$15 requested over the past few years.

Still more discussion on fund raising dominated the meeting: the lottery, a 1950s-type dance, the souvenir book, souvenir sales, a fashion show, the clambake, and personality roast.

Fourth of July Ball

At \$30 a couple the principle social event of the summer—the Fourth of July Ball—was a sellout. The 34th annual edition was held Saturday, June 30, from 9 p.m., until 1 a.m., at the King Philip Inn. Those who bought their tickets before the Flag Day Exercises were eligible for a drawing to win a limousine service to and from the dance and a dinner for two at the King Philip Inn. The semi formal event that featured hors d'oeuvres and a continental style midnight breakfast was co-chaired by Mary Ellen Dwyer and Donna Marshall.

Chief Marshal Named

Anthony E. Agatiello, former teacher, Town Administrator, and town recreation director was named Chief Marshal by Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Anne Moreira.

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Known affectionately as “Agg” and “Mr. A,” the selection of Agatiello as Chief Marshal was considered, by most townies, a wise choice.

Parade Day

There was no doubt about the patriotism in the hearts of the throng of 180,000 who cheered, chanted and whistled to celebrate the United States 215th year of independence and its recent victory in the Gulf War. The town’s 206th Fourth of July Celebration was dedicated to the returning veterans of Operation Desert Storm. The recent custom of tying yellow ribbons around trees, mail boxes, and flag poles as a sign of support and affection for the troops took hold in Bristol—they were in evidence everywhere.

The parade featured uniformed military, 28 bands, drum and bugle and high school groups, as well as 2 Mummers' bands from Philadelphia. There were 48 floats of all sizes, most of which displayed flags and yellow ribbons. The entire parade route was a sea of red, white, and blue, and yellow ribbons; the colors were in prominent display on most of the homes along Hope and High Streets.

For all of the commotion the day was relatively trouble free and no arrests were reported. Only a few beers were confiscated, there was one minor auto accident. For about 10 frightful minutes parents were separated from their two ½-year old child.

To beat the big crowds, some spectators began lining Hope Street at 6 a.m. Most passed the time by reading newspapers, and people watching and working on their tans. The “parade” before the parade is amusing to watch and always causes wonder to the thousands who watch while guarding their selected viewing posts with military vigilance. They wonder at the hundreds of people who are strolling north up Hope Street and a like number who are walking south on the same pavement; the question is, what is the attraction in the opposite direction?

Despite the tardiness of the scheduled flyover by three F-14 jets from Westover Air Force Base to announce the 10:30 start of the parade, the platoon of Bristol Police, the All Services Color Guard, the Chief Marshal and the Bristol High School Band sporting their new uniforms began their trek at the appointed time. The F-14s made their expected flyover one hour late.

Parade Personalities

Conspicuous by his absence was US Senator John H. Chafee who had been in Bristol parades every Fourth of July for almost 30 years. He even showed up in 1972 after he was “uninvited” by the Committee after he announced his candidacy for the United States Senate.

After an absence of several years Most Reverend Bishop Louis E. Gelineau, Roman Catholic Bishop of Providence, returned to the parade. He was seen riding in an open car with the Knights of Columbus contingent.

1992 Two Hundred Sixteenth Anniversary of American Independence

1st Rainy Fourth in 14 Years, Patriotic Exercises Forced Indoors, Squatters Routed, Anything That Floats Contest Revived, Fireworks Launched in Harbor

For decades the practice of reserving favorite parade viewing spots along the procession’s route was tolerated; property owners whose houses border the street's grassy shoulders bore the burden. Over the past three or four years the practice has gotten out of hand. Squatters trooped into town by the hundreds on the Second and Third of July; they staked out claims to “plantation-sized” plots of town and state owned land.

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When Bristolians came from the outlying neighborhoods, they found almost every foot of close-up viewing space was reserved and occupied by chairs, blankets, and children posted as guards. Even people living on the parade route found themselves corralled from the sidewalks in front of their homes.

Hope Street residents requested that the Town Council take action. The Council wisely recognized that the land from sidewalk to curb is common ground, and belongs to everyone. So, a ban on ropes, chairs, and blankets on town property before 5 o'clock on the morning of the Fourth went into effect. Police and highway department workers confiscated any such items sighted before the approved 5 o'clock land rush.

Santo "Sam" Mascena Chosen Chief Marshal

When Sam Mascena, the Pizza Man, was asked in February to act as the 1992 Chief Marshal, he said it took a while for the reality to sink in, and it took longer for him to make the decision to accept.

Mr. Mascena, owner of Sam's Restaurant and Pizzeria, on east Bradford Street, is a Bristol native born in 1922; he graduated from Colt Memorial High School in 1941, and joined the US Navy in 1942. It was while in the service that he learned his culinary skills; now semi-retired his sons run the restaurant. "But I work for them," he said, "I still come in and keep my hands in the dough, so to speak."

The announcement of Sam for the Chief Marshal's post by Chairman Roger Dubord was met with rousing applause from Committee members. The Committee unanimously approved Dubord's decision. Sam's appointment received praise as the least political selection of the past two decades.

Exercises Forced Indoors

For the first time since 1978, contingency plans for the Patriotic Exercises swung into place. The auditorium of the Colt Memorial School was full to overflowing with citizens and friends who had gathered earlier outdoors. The persistent drizzle and on-again, off-again showers forced all the participants indoors.

Senator John Chafee commented on the beauty of the room. He said, although he had been in the building often, this was the first time he had been in the auditorium.

Principal Speaker, Mario A. Mancieri, delivered what many said was the most stirring speech in recent memory. It earned him a standing ovation.

He began his oratory on a personal note; he recalled his days as a student at Colt; "Standing here, I recall Miss Bradford trying to encourage me and other classmates to become involved in the Voice of Democracy Contest. She persisted and gave us all encouragement. We were young and unresponsive. We lacked the self-confidence and belief in our abilities even to consider writing the requested essay, let alone recite something in public. She continued to have faith and hope in us as individuals and continued to encourage us to strive for excellence. She never gave up.

"This morning, as I speak about American Democracy, I hope to pass along the faith and hope that she, Miss Horton, Mr. Burke, Miss Marino, Mrs. Donovan, and many other wonderful men and women who were our teachers, had in me and my generation while we were growing up and struggling to seek our own identity. America is also growing up, and she also needs citizens who have faith and hope in her ability to re-identify herself with the ideals and principles on which she was founded."

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At the Exercises, Sam Mascena took the opportunity to introduce and thank his family. He also had some fun while doing it; he read from notes as he addressed the crowd, "I'd like to introduce my wife," he turned the page and then said, "Marjorie."

The Parade

Though the dreary weather thinned this year's crowd, there were still plenty of die-hard faithful on hand. Overall, thanks to Gina Campbell and her Committee, the parade presented a good show, with 40 marching bands, 37 floats, and the usual array of politicians, who for the most part were warmly received by the crowd. There were only a few gestures of dissatisfaction directed at Governor Bruce Sundlun.

The parade proceeded at a good clip with few gaps and finished relatively early in the afternoon. After scanning the sidewalks around her, police officer Diane Gibree said, "Compared to last year, there's no one here." Police estimated the crowd to be 100,000 people; about half that of recent past parades.

Despite the constant drizzle, the Chief Marshal and his wife seemed to be enjoying the parade more than anyone. They marched about half the route before their special car caught them. Along the entire route well-wishers clapped and cheered for the man who brought "family" back to the parade and celebration.

At the end of the Chief Marshal's Division, Mascena's family and friends rode in a float festooned with a large pizza. It was a fitting theme for the man whose pizzeria was voted the best in town. The float was kept a secret right up until parade time.

At his reception on the East Lawn of Linden Place, the Mascenas were still reeling, "Its been fabulous, like a great big family outing." For over two-hours they received an endless line of family, friends, and admirers.

While at the Chief Marshal's Reception, the author spoke with Sam the Tailor who operates a tailoring and dry cleaning business on High Street. He said he often receives calls for Sam's Pizzeria; when he takes an order he asks, "...so wuda-ya want on it, zippers or buttons?"

Lesbians and Gays

In the days before the parade, the Committee received more than its share of lamb-basting and well-orchestrated rash of letters and telephone calls about the handling of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance float⁷. Scarcely a radio talk show or newspaper story didn't include something concerning "... this year's parade not being without controversy..." The float met with jeers and boos and a few eggs tossed by a gang of boorish redneck hecklers, motorcycle toughs at Silver Creek Bridge; otherwise, the passing of the float was a non-event.

Drum Corps and Bands

Receiving particularly warm applause was the Bristol High School Marching Band in their distinctive green and white uniforms with the rearing Colt on their tunics. Because of the Bristol/Warren school rationalization, it remains to be seen if this will be the last year for the band as it is now organized.

The drizzle did little to dampen the enthusiasm or precision of some of the crack corps and units in the parade. The Connecticut Hurricanes corps thrilled viewers with their rousing rendition of their trademark Marlboro Man Theme, and the Litchfield High School Band from Minnesota and Bristol's Generations Senior Marching Band were greeted by particularly loud applause.

⁷ A homosexual organization in which one of the principal activists was the daughter of US Senator Claiborne Pell

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“The drum corps and bands have really made the parade special,” said Committee Chair Roger Dubord. “Those kids all fall in love with Bristol, which is great public relations boost for us. I think it will continue to grow.”

Highlights and Sidelights

Hattie Brown Award: Town Crier Anthony Marino received the Hattie Brown Award from Committee members at his home. A member of the Fourth of July Committee since 1956, Tony served as parade division coordinator, division marshal, and honorary chairman. As town crier for the 1990 and 1991 parades, he donned a colorful Colonial costume to ring in the major events and to lead off the parade. Tony died shortly after the award presentation, after a six-month bout with cancer.

The Chief Marshal’s Association is an organization of all former Chief Marshals and Chairs of the Celebration Committee. At their annual luncheon in the Linden Place ballroom, association President Joan Roth invested the 1992 Chief Marshal with the presentation of his special medallion. The medallion, worn around the neck, suspended by a red, white, and blue ribbon, has an image of the town seal on the face, and on the obverse is the recipient’s name, his office, and the date.

For the first time, all who served as general chair of the Fourth of July Committee were presented with their own medallion, designed by Bristol artist Paula Digati. Roger Dubord, Jr., the 1992 Chairman was the first to receive the new medallion.

Then, beginning with the most senior chairman, the medallions were presented to Roswell S. Bosworth, Sr., Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr., James J. Velleca, John R. Partington, Joseph Andrade, Joseph Caromile, Frank Perry, Manuel Pasquel, James W. Farley, Jr., and Elizabeth Ann Holmes Moreira.

The Fourth of July Ball, the premier social activity in Bristol’s round of public events was as usual a sell out. The gala event at Richard Alegera’s King Philip Inn on Metacom Avenue at the top of Bay View Avenue, featured dancing to a 15-piece orchestra and dining to what was said to have been a “scrumptious” dinner

Souvenirs: for the most part the spirit of the Fourth of July Celebration is the flood of ideas and activities pouring out of the body of the Bristol population. Once again the Committee took to the streets hawking a variety of souvenirs—some useful, others frivolous—but all eagerly snapped up. Numerous stands and counters were constructed at the many Committee functions and in legitimate retail outlets around town. Available were: a special Christmas ornament, sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats, cups, and the special souvenir button designed by Jennifer Lynn Tavares, a Bristol High School freshman. The T-shirt design, by Robert Donato, depicts a Narragansett Bay sunset and the American flag.

For the third year the local post office offered a souvenir collectable: a special Fourth of July postal cover franked and canceled with a special Bristol Fourth of July cancellation. The local post office also offered a special limited edition print signed, dated, and numbered by the artist. The print was franked with a flag postage stamp canceled with the special Fourth of July cancellation.

1993 Two Hundred Seventeenth Anniversary of American Independence

Chief Marshal Tom Byrnes Hospitalized — Committee Members Face Fines Focus on Floats — Parade on Fifth — Fireworks Over Harbor

Known as the “Father of the East Bay Bike Path,” Thomas H. Byrnes, Jr., was introduced to the Committee by Chairman Roger Dubord, Jr., on Wednesday, April 14. As

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ceremonial head of activities for the Bristol Fourth of July Celebration, the title carries with it a hectic itinerary of official duties.

Byrnes, 74, served as a State Representative from 1978 to 1982 and as Town Administrator from 1982 to 1984. A 1937 graduate of Colt Memorial High School, he served in the US Army during World War II, and was later employed as a postal worker for 30 years, retiring in 1978. Joan Roth at the Past Chief Marshals' and Chairmen's Association's annual meeting presented his badge of office.

The Chief Marshal and his wife Constance have 6 children and on Wednesday, April 21, they were all named staff aids to the Chief Marshal. Eldest son US Army Attaché Col. Michael T. Byrnes, 47, was named Chief of Staff.

Byrnes Hospitalized

On June 24, the town was shocked to learn that the Chief Marshal had been rushed to Rhode Island Hospital with an apparent heart attack that occurred about 8 a.m., the previous day.

Chairman Dubord said he heard optimistic reports on Byrnes' condition. He said he hoped Byrnes would be able to resume his Chief Marshal's duties, but he added, "The very first priority is that he take care of his own health right now. We'll be glad to have him back when he's ready."

The Chief Marshal was unable to attend the Bristol Yacht Club reception on June 25; his Chief of Staff represented him. During the reception ceremonies, in the absence of Chief Marshal, his son, Col. Byrnes made a presentation of a hand carved walking stick intended for his father to his mother Constance.

Byrnes eventually carried out most of his duties including a short welcoming speech at Patriotic Exercises. His wife joined him in the parade; they rode in a 1924 Packard, which conked out because of a bad fuel pump while passing the Lobster Pot Restaurant on Hope Street.

Committee Members Face Fines

Eleven local officials including seven Fourth of July Committee members were faced with possible fines of up to \$200 for not filing financial disclosure statements to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission—the members: Dale Bernard, Douglas C. Bernard, Joseph Perry, Domenic Raiola, Paula Ramos, Paula Richard, and Claudia Silvia.

We can safely assume the named offenders made the required disclosure statements, because no further reports on this subject appeared in the local press.

Focus on Floats

Float Subcommittee chair Donna St. Angelo and her crew of volunteers must ensure that floats adhere to the parade's patriotic theme. For the past several years the Committee has had to deal with some 40 entries.

Anyone is welcome to enter a float in the parade, as long as it is tasteful and has a patriotic American theme. If a float doesn't focus on American independence or related subjects, St. Angelo advised them simply "...to rethink their theme. After they do, they are usually accepted," she said.

Past questionable subject matter for parade floats include the cast from the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." One of the cast members portrayed a transvestite. St. Angelo said when the Rocky Horror float showed up, this year, at the muster area if they were dressed inappropriately, they would be told to wear shirts and pants to cover the costumes.

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Another negative that turned positive in 1993 was when the Gay and Lesbian Alliance demanded to march in the parade amid controversy and much publicity. The float Committee suggested they ride on a float instead of marching. The float though not roundly accepted by the majority of parade viewers, won a third place prize on of the award categories.

Exercises at Colt Memorial

Bristol High School Salutatorian Kristen Trout read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence; Cindy Belmore sang the National Anthem.

Governor Bruce Sundlun spoke briefly. "Without your freedom, you're really a little less than human," he said. He recalled being hidden in France for nearly a year during World War II when the plane he piloted was shot down. He related how precious he has held freedom ever since.

The theme of Principal Speaker, Bryant College Economics Professor, William B. Sweeney, was how high school students need God in order to form a good set of values. He recalled our forefathers and how this country was formed.

Parade on Fifth

It was one of the finest parades in decades and the huge crowd was on its best behavior. Though a hot day, it was the best parade weather enjoyed in Bristol for a long time. The exuberant crowd, which one state sheriff described as the biggest he has seen in a decade, lined the parade route 12 deep in some places to watch the annual spectacle unfold.

The heat, traffic, and number of emergency calls to Safe Way Auto Body made the day long and busy for tow truck operator Joe Coelho, Jr. On Monday Coelho's trucks towed 15 cars before the start of the parade.

Four cars were disabled in accidents; the rest were towed for parking illegally along the parade route. About half the cars were from out of state, including one with Michigan plates.

From Barney the purple dinosaur, to radio personality Salty Brine, to Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci, and Governor Bruce Sundlun and his recently acknowledged out of wedlock daughter Kara Hewes, Bristol's 208th celebration was vintage Rhode Island.

The litmus of the crowd's good behavior and tolerance was when 30 members of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights appeared aboard a float celebrating the Independent Man⁸ rolled over Silver Creek, past the Topside Bar, where rowdy spectators last year had booed and tossed eggs at the Alliance's float. This year the ride went smoothly and the float received cheers from spectators where the most boisterous onlookers tend to gather.

1994 Two Hundred Eighteenth Anniversary of American Independence

**Miss. Fourth Wins Title on Second Try - Gay Group Gets Invitation
Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross Co-Chief Marshals
Fourth of July Historian is Speaker
Bands Battle to Lead the Parade**

For the first time since a Committee to arrange the celebration of Independence Day was appointed in 1815, an all female slate of general officers headed the celebration Committee. Leading the Committee, Gena Campbell, a 15-year veteran of the Committee took the Chair. Mrs. Campbell said the biggest challenge faced by the new officers is fund raising. She said

⁸ A monumental gold plated bronze statue cast by the Gorham Silver Co., of Providence that stands on the dome of the state capitol.

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because the state's new anti-gambling law prohibits Las Vegas-type gambling—one of the Committee's most successful events—other sources of income must be found. Also gone is a \$15,000 donation for the fireworks display from the bankrupt ALMACS Super Market.

The other officers for 1994 included: Donna Marshall, Vice Chair; Donna St. Angelo, Recording Secretary; Lisa Sienkiewicz, Corresponding Secretary and Frances O'Donnell, Treasurer.

Co-Chief Marshals

Continuing a new trend for naming Co-Chief Marshals of the parade, Committee Chair Gina Campbell chose Gerry and Mickie MacNeill. Gerry came to Bristol from Winchester, MA; he works, as a process engineer at Bristol's Furon Dixon Co. Mickie is Providence native, a graduate of Bryant College; she works in Barrington as a receptionist.

The MacNeills spend much of their free time as volunteers. They emerge during the Christmas season as Santa and Mrs. Claus throughout the region to raise money for Camp Stone Tower, and other child related causes. Walking the town streets during the months of the year other than December, with his trademark long white beard, children who are convinced he is Santa Claus in civilian clothes continually speak to Gerry. For the past several years the couple have donned red, white and blue self-designed costumes representing Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross. They appeared as the historic personages during their stint as Co-Chief Marshals.

Battling Bands

Along with the weather, the attending anticipation of a rousing Fourth of July celebration reached a colorful and blaring pre-parade spectacle at the Mount Hope High School athletic field on the afternoon of the day before. In a competition to choose the band to march in the Chief Marshal's Division of the annual parade, spirited musicians in colorful uniforms from Quebec and Ontario, Canada, and from Boston, California, Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania performed precision drills for the honor. The victors: The Blue Devils Marching Band from Concord, California.

According to parade Committee Chair Kenneth Marshall, the parade was expected to be a musical extravaganza; he planned for about 30 floats and more music than ever before. The complements of the bands were bigger than past years; one band in the 11th Division featured 250 members.

Parade Committee

Despite the emphasis on music, Mr. Marshall said he is most proud of the choice of division marshals. Each marshal is chosen for their contributions to the community. His pride was evident when he spoke of the leaders of the 11th Division: David Marshall, Stephen Drew and Nelson Cardoza, all veteran Special Olympians. The three men earned several medals over the years and deserve the town's recognition and applause for their efforts, he said.

Marshall, who was Chief Marshal in 1990, worked on his part of the celebration for about a year said, "I just wanted to give something back to the Fourth of July Committee." Organizing the parade is a team effort. Marshall had particular praise for Lynn Luiz who headed the float Committee and band Committee co-chairs Richard Luiz and Tony Mederos and all the members of those teams.

Several prohibitions were planned to be enforced during the parade: no drinking of alcoholic beverages, no Silly String, snappers or water pistols, and no bicycles on the route of march. Temporary toilets were posted at strategic points along the route, including handicapped accessible units, and reserved handicapped accessible viewing area on the corner of Court and Hope Streets, near the Burnside Building was intended.

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Patriotic Exercises

This author was doubly honored in having been chosen to be “Speaker of the Day” by the Committee, and to be introduced as “Bristol Historian” by past General Chair Betty Ann Moreira.

The subject of the address included an overview of the celebration’s 208-year history, praise for the volunteers who had guided the celebration through more than 2 centuries, a 1836 prayer of supplication, and homage to the flag.

The Day We Celebrate

As every year, for over 200-years, Bristol’s celebration of the Fourth of July really began the night before. Citizens began to prepare their backyards and porches for the crowds of friends and relatives expected to partake of their hospitality. The aroma of barbecue filled the air in most of Bristol’s neighborhoods.

Hope Street residents watched the invasion of strangers who strolled the streets or lounged at the sidewalk tables of the main street bistros and coffee shops. Local bars were filled to capacity, but the crowds were in good spirits, seeking good-clean fun. And there was plenty of that at the carnival on the common. Police reported no major problems.

The *Phoenix* reporter said he overheard the conversation of three young men walking south on Hope Street near the bike path.

“I didn’t know Rhode Island was this jumping,” said one, eyeing the crowds lining both sides of the street and filling the Topside’s parking lot.

“I didn’t know Rhode Island had this many people,” another said.

“I didn’t know there was a Rhode Island,” wisecracked the third.

The Fourth dawned clear and comfortable, the beautiful weather continued for the entire day. Everything from the weather to the crowd cooperated to make for an excellent day. By the time the parade began, promptly at 10:30 a.m., the day had warmed up and the lemonade and ice cream vendors were doing a brisk business.

Several floats and marching units drew the special attention and appreciative applause from the crowd: the Ferko String Band from Philadelphia have been favorite for over 25-years; the square dance float, featuring a senior citizens group; the New England Patriots football team cheerleaders and that all American staple of parades, the beauty queens riding on the boot of their convertibles. The best float in the parade prize went to “Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Man’s First Walk on the Moon,” sponsored by television station WLNE.

The well-behaved crowd was estimated by veteran parade watchers Gina Campbell at 225,000 and by Bristol Police Chief Thomas Moffatt at about 180,000. “The crowd was great,” Chief Moffatt said. “There weren’t hardly any problems. To my knowledge, there were no alcohol related arrests on the parade route.”

Despite the prohibition against drinking alcohol in public, people did drink beer from cups and cans relatively openly all along the route; others disguised mixed drinks in lemonade and soft drinks. When discovered, police asked them to empty the containers.

A few people were treated for heat exhaustion, but the rescue units reported no serious problems, according to the chief.

As the end of the parade moved along, the crowd who saw what they came to witness, moved out quickly. Because of the increasing heat of the day, people chose not to linger.

Midnight Cleanup

After the crowd that stayed for the fireworks had all left the town streets, the department of public works under the direction of Paul Romano swung into action. The town

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workers began the massive cleanup by sweeping and raking all the trash into the street, where it was easier to pick up. By 5 a.m., there was nary evidence of what had gone on the day before.

After the parade route and Thames Street were swept spotless, the Department of Public Works workers attacked the parks and Town Common and began to take down temporary barriers and the reviewing stand, that were stowed until needed again.

1995 Two Hundred Nineteenth Anniversary of American Independence

Parella Siblings Co-Chief Marshals — Concert Location Flap Native Americans Warmly Received — Street Striping Vietnam POW Patriotic Speaker

For several months workers at Meffifield-Roberts Inc., on Broadcommon Road were building a fiberglass replica of Miss Liberty's torch for The National Broadcasting Company. NBC planned to use the torch in commercials during the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta.

Kim Roberts, a spokesman for Merrifield said, "We own the torch, though NBC paid for it. We're going to hold onto it and see if we can rent it out from time to time," he said. "NBC may even have a float using the torch in this year's Fourth of July parade."

Co-Chief Marshals Chosen

When Committee Chair Gina Campbell considered who to ask to act as this year's parade Chief Marshal, she wanted someone who has made a significant contribution to Bristol, someone who gets out and gets involved. That's when the Parella name came to mind.

The faces and smiles of Town Administrator Joseph Parella and his sister State Senator Mary Parella are familiar throughout town. The Parellas were the second brace of siblings to lead the annual parade together; the first was the Januario brothers in 1985.

The Chief Marshals were popular favorites all along the parade route where they exchanged shouts, waves, and handshakes with well wishes. Their reception under a large tent on the Linden Place grounds was a non-alcohol affair where only ice cream cones and sundaes were served.

Concert Location Flap

For several months before the celebration a controversy raged over the relocation of the site of the pre-celebration concerts from the Colt Memorial School terrace to the Guiteras School athletic field.

In a February 16, letter to the *Phoenix* Chairperson Campbell argued that the limited space at Colt precludes inviting some of the big bands and larger groups who would be interested in performing. Also, without exterior lights at the school performances must be early in the evening. For these reasons the Guiteras site is favored over the Colt Memorial School site.

Past Committee Chairman Joseph Caromile, in a February 23, letter of rebuttal took issue with the way and the reasons the Guiteras School site was chosen.

An article in the March 16, issue of the *Phoenix* stated that Ms Campbell planned to call a meeting of the executive Committee to discuss the protest of the new concert location.

The article continued, "Former Committee members Joseph Caromile and Ronald Armillotto — protesting a decision by a Subcommittee to move the concerts — obtained more than 500 signatures on a petition that was presented to the Town Council.... the council agreed that the full Fourth of July Committee should have voted on the issue and expressed that sentiment in a letter to Ms Campbell.

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Ms Campbell downplayed the petition's significance, "We could go out, and get 800 signatures to hold the concerts at Guiteras," she said.

Concerts from June 19-26, took place at the Town Gazebo on the Common and in front of the Reynolds School from June 27-July 3. In case of inclement weather, arrangements were in place to hold the concerts in the Colt Memorial School auditorium.

Parade Highlights

"Everything from the weather to the crowd cooperated to make the parade one of the best," said Gina Campbell.

By the time the parade stepped off at 10:30 a.m., the bright sun and cloudless skies combined to warm the shaded streets, which generated brisk business for the lemonade and ice cream trucks along the parade route.

As usual, local and state politicians were out in full force waving and shaking the hands of their many admirers.

Governor Bruce Sundlun marched with his wife, Marjorie, who stole the show. She was making her first public appearance since recovering from severer head injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

Several floats and marching units, such as the Mummers String Band, the square dancing float, the New England Patriots cheerleaders and the beauty queens riding in open convertibles, drew raucous applause, shouts and whistles from the crowd.

Well-behaved Crowd

"The crowd was great," said Bristol Police Chief Thomas Moffatt. "There weren't hardly any problems. There were no alcohol-related arrests on the parade route."

Despite the prohibitions against drinking alcohol along the route, people drank beer from cups and cans relatively openly all along the route. When they were spotted, police officers asked the drinkers to empty the containers onto the ground.

A few people were treated for heat exhaustion, but the rescue units had no serious problems.

After the last parade unit had passed a section of viewers, they immediately packed up their chairs, blankets, and cooler and left for their cars. The crowd, estimated at 180,000, exited the town that there were no reports of extended traffic snarls on the roads. Police Captain Paul Borges speculated that it was too hot for people to linger around town after the parade.

The Committee held its end of year meeting at the Burnside Memorial Building on September 26, 1995, where Subcommittee's final reports were read. Treasurer Frances O'Donnell reported treasury balance of \$57,062.38; in checking \$16,651.10 and \$40,411.28 in savings.

ACTIVITY	BUDGET	EXPENSES	PROFIT
Drum & Bugle Corps.	0.00	0.00	6,151.07
Ecumenical Service	180.00	355.70	-175.70
Enlisted Men's Picnic	800.00	408.92	391.08
Firefighters' Field Day	625.00	550.00	75.00
Fireworks ⁹			
Parade	7,500.00	6,497.45	1,102.55
Soccer	0.00	0.00	6,004.72
Souvenir Program ¹⁰			

Considering the number of Subcommittees and diverse projects undertaken by members, the Committee was certainly understaffed with an active roll of only 77 members. The bylaws were amended to allow a new cap of 125 members.

Seemingly uncharacteristic of the Bristol Town Council, they communicated with the Committee requesting Jerome Squatrito and Richard Ruggerio be considered for membership.

1996 TWO HUNDRED TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Committee Business

At the Committee's February 7, 1996, meeting, the treasurer reported a balance of \$80,874.49

Fireworks Subcommittee Chair Roger Dubord agreed to contract the Bay Fireworks Company again this year. Because of the previous year's disappointing display, Dubord negotiated a deal with the fireworks company that if the show failed to please this year, the Committee would not have to pay for it. The Town of Bristol and Roger Williams University shared the \$20,000 cost of the pyrotechnic display.

Roger Dubord reported, at the October 8, meeting, that once again the Subcommittee thought that Bay Fireworks' display was disappointing and they would not be asked to bid on the 1997 show. Committee minutes reveal no further mention of a refund of the unsuccessful presentation's cost.

The launching date of the Bristol celebration is always Flag Day, June 14. Bette Anne Moreira reported that the ceremonies would be on the town common at 6:00 p.m., with a reception following at Linden Place. To help defray expenses for the day, she asked for and received an additional \$500. She reasoned because Flag Day falls on a Friday, this year, more people will attend.

Commercial contributions are always welcome. At the May 16, meeting the General Chair announced that several cash donations had been received. Dunkin Donuts sent a check for

⁹ Fireworks Chair Roger Dubord reported that he was not particularly satisfied with this year's display. In response to his complaint, the pyrotechnic company offered a free \$5,000.00 show to be held at the Committee's pleasure. Dubord suggested that the free show be offered to the Christmas Festival Committee.

¹⁰ The Souvenir Program Sub-Committee reported that many of the advertisers had not yet paid their bills; a total of \$4,000.00 was still owed.

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\$4,500.00. Three thousand dollars of which was to sponsor the second place drum and bugle corps winner and \$1,500.00 for an ad in the souvenir program book. The Providence Journal sponsored a concert with its donation of \$500.00.

Miss Fourth Pageant Co-chairs Joanne Mello and Barbara DeSano reported a new crown for the winning contestant was being custom designed in New York. The new crown will feature three stars and a flag in the middle.

Changes to the pageant rules that were accepted by the general Committee by a vote of 21 in favor to 19 opposed.

After two consecutive years, contestants named to the winner's court may no longer compete in the pageant; contestants who agree, may be identified by name rather than by number; the top five winning contestants will receive invitations to attend the Flag Day kickoff event, the Yacht Club Reception, the Ball, and the Parade.

New rules to the pageant judging and scoring included the use of five judges rather than the current three; an independent tabulator will be used to tabulate the scores and; upon request scores will be made available to the public after the pageant.

National Television Coverage

Crews from cable television's the History Channel, an arm of the Arts and Entertainment Television Network roamed Bristol's streets and attended several Committee functions on July 3, and 4, gathering footage for a special television program.

How Americans celebrate their independence from the British in 1776 and from slavery in 1866, was the subject of the documentary; it included a segment of Bristol's 1996 Fourth of July Celebration.

Patriotic Exercises

The ceremonies begin at 8:30 a.m., and last about an hour, allowing enough time for participating dignitaries to be ferried by bus to the site of the parade's muster.

Judy Squires, co-chair of the 1996 Exercises explained that the event's highlight is the Speaker of the Day, who is chosen by the Exercises Committee. There are no criteria for choosing the speaker. However, it is preferred to have a person with a military background. Lacking military experience, the speaker is usually someone with an association with Bristol, has had a relationship with the town, or had done a great service to the town.

The speaker can choose any topic to speak about "as long as it's under ten minutes and as long as it has some kind of patriotic theme," said Charlotte DeMarco, co-chair of the Subcommittee.

The 1994 Speaker, Bristol historian and author Richard V. Simpson, gave a brief overview of Bristol's Fourth of July tradition.

Porter Halyburton, the 1995 Speaker, spoke about his experiences in a Vietnam prisoner-of-war camp for seven years and what freedom means to him.

For the 1996 exercises' speaker the Committee chose retired Marine Corps LTC Anthony Natri, a Bristol native residing in Pennsylvania. Natri's speech entitled, "You can take the boy out of Bristol, but you can't take Bristol out of the boy," focused on what makes the citizens of Bristol so unique and proud.

The Chief Marshal

For her Chief Marshal, General Chair Donna A. Marshall chose one of the most familiar faces in town, that of Bristol Town Clerk Emeritus Orlando J "Larney" Bisbano. His

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many contributions to the town, his fraternal memberships, and honors received are too numerous to mention here.

The Chief Marshal decided to hold his reception at the Roger Williams University athletic facility. Breaking with custom, rather than decorating the hall with traditional red, white, and blue, he chose the Italian national colors of red, white, and green.

The Parade

As if on cue, the sun broke through the overcast sky at 10 a.m., just a half-hour before the parade kicked off from the corner of Chestnut and Hope Streets.

As the Mount Hope High School Band played the national anthem, the Rev. Canon Clifton Daniel III smiled a sad smile of farewell. This was the final Fourth of July march for Daniel, who left his post at St. Michael's Episcopal Church to become bishop coadjutor in his home state of North Carolina.

At 10:30 a.m., sharp, a pistol shot! The crowd roars with anticipation and the parade begins; clanging bells, police on motorcycles and in cars with sirens wailing clear the route of spectators pressing into the road. Chief Marshal, 83-year-old Orlando "Larney" Bisbano dressed in formal white tie and tailed tuxedo, straw hat and carrying a cane gives the signal to "Forward march," and begins the 2.6-mile hike to the reviewing stand.

Cool Moose Political Party founder Robert J. Healy, dressed as a clown, entertains the crowd, smiling and pumping hands.

Several marching bands follow, including drum and bugle corps from all over the United States and Canada. Behind them come eight crowd-pleasing Clydesdales; then US Senator Claiborne Pell marching in his last Bristol parade.

Just before the parade turns north on High Street, at the Lobster Pot restaurant the crowd claps and yells for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ladies Auxiliary, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Ex-Prisoners of War, POW-MIA, and Pearl Harbor Survivors.

The Chief Marshal's Division finally reaches the reviewing stand at 1:30 p.m., the sky fulfills its promise, and the rain begins to fall.

At 6 p.m. rain is drenching the now quiet town. The ten phone lines at the Bristol Police Headquarters are constantly lit as caller after caller asks if the fireworks are called off. The dispatchers don't know.

What was a deluge settled into an irritating drizzle. The fireworks went as planned. Traffic on Hope Street began to back up as cars threaded their way through downtown side streets in search of parking. Spectators on foot flocked to Independence Park in droves.

Vendors hawked their light-up toys and balloons as people settled on blankets and lawn chairs on the grass. The encroaching chill prompted the appearance of sweaters and jackets. Youngsters set off a few illegal Roman candles, some falling dangerously close to passing cars. As the grand finale lights up the sky some viewers packed up and began to pick their way out of the park in the darkness, trying to beat the rush.

Final Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report, December 5, 1996

BAL: 10/31/96	Deposits	Withdrawals		BAL: 11/30/96
\$67,946.63	\$126.00	\$780.29		\$67,292.34
ACTIVITY	INCOME	BUDGETED	EXPENSE	PROFIT

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			S	
BYC Reception			1,440.80	
Car Show	550.00		284.00	
Concerts			6,797.58	
Drum Corps	19,897.00		19,577.00	329.00
Ecumenical	141.85	300.00	240.75	
Exercises			394.37	
Fireworks			20,000.00	
Floats			358.96	
Foot Race			425.95	
Master List	6,880.00			
Military Feeding			818.37	
Parade			6,485.92	
Parade Collection	5,643.72			
Photo Contest			63.78	
Soccer	5,000.00			
Souvenirs	6,887.00			
Vending	18,858.99			

General Chair Donna Marshall announced that she and Richard Luiz visited John Ryan, President of the White Advertising Co. Ryan will be donating the use of two billboards, on Metacom Avenue across from Benny's Auto Store, for the use of the Fourth of July Committee during the 1997 celebration.

Marshall said she was open to suggestions about how to use the advertising space, but thinks one billboard should be used to thank Committee sponsors of \$5,000 or more.

1997 TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Committee Business

At the first meeting of the new calendar year, January 6, 1997, Committee Treasurer Frances O'Donnell reported the condition of the Committee's finances as follows:

BAL: 11/30/96	Deposits	Withdrawal	BAL: 12/31/96
\$67,292.34	\$1,173.68	\$718.69	\$67,747.33

National TV Coverage

Manny Pasqual announced that he had been contacted by ABC-TV News concerning a documentary of the USA in the twentieth century. The television network was interested in

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viewing home movies of the town's 1976 bicentennial celebration and parade for possible inclusion in the documentary program.

Ruggiero Named Chief Marshal

At a ceremony held at the Burnside Memorial Building, General Chair Donna Marshall named Bristol Town Council Chairman Richard Ruggiero as her Chief Marshal.

Ruggiero said he accepted the honor in January. When asked if he expected any criticism of his selection while serving as council chairman, he responded, "Can you please everyone in Bristol? Absolutely not. I think I'm deserving of the honor. Anyone who doubts it, all they have to do is look at my resume. This isn't a political thing."¹¹

In addition to his service on the Bristol Town Council, Ruggiero has been involved with the sons of Italy, Knights of Columbus, Cup Defenders, and Bristol Substance Abuse Task Force and Babe Ruth baseball.

Flag Day Reception¹²

Lisa Sienkiewicz reported to the general Committee, at the May 14, meeting, that the Flag Day reception would be held on the front lawn of Linden Place because the East Lawn was already booked. She requested additional funding to rent a tent, chairs, tables, and possibly a portable toilet.

James Farley, Jr., moved that the Committee allot \$1,000 for two tents, lights, chairs, and tables to be used at Linden Place. The motion passed unanimously.

Fourth of July Breakfast

Donna Marshall told the Committee that a special "thank you" package was compiled for major sponsors. The package included a continental breakfast on the morning of the fourth.

¹¹ Town Council Chairman and Chief Marshal Ruggiero is mistaken in thinking that the most visible and honored position in town, second only to that of Chairman of the town council, is not *political*. Anyone who doubts the politicalizing of the post of Chief Marshal has only to look at the political leanings of past Committee chairmen and the men who were their choices for the post. In Bristol, most citizens' political leanings are well known. An analysis of the list of chairmen and their marshals will reveal, almost without exception, Democrat Committee chairs appoint Democrat marshals and the Republican chairs appoint Republican or Right-leaning Marshals.

¹² Beginning in 1997, and on and off for several years, the *Bristol Phoenix* has wagged a critical finger at the Committee for throwing lavish parties for the benefit of Committee members and a few "insiders". The Flag Day reception is never advertised; only invited guests and members are informed of its time and place. The 1997 affair, held on the front lawn of Linden Place, may have been a tactical error because the festivities were open for all Hope Street passers by to witness.

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She said that the Committee should have a tent for the breakfast, and she would like to purchase a 10' x 10' umbrella tent for approximately \$200. She said that Dunkin Donuts would donate the breakfast. A motion to purchase a tent was passed unanimously.

Parade Route Banners

Since 1997, Bristol's parade route has sported 60 colorful banners with the official 4th of July Celebration logo. The banners are secured on both ends, top and bottom, to a metal bracket attached to utility poles. Thus the banners hang vertically, perpendicular to the road.

Kenneth Marshall originally suggested the idea; he did the research and guided the idea through the Committee bureaucracy. To support the banner effort, and help recoup the costs, the Committee asked donors to "adopt" a banner in their name or in memory of a loved one at \$100 each.

The Committee was pleased to learn at its June 24, meeting, that all banners had been adopted and there was a waiting list for additional adoptions, including another \$1,000 from the Chief Marshals' Association.

The Committee collected all monies for adoptions, totaling approximately \$6,000. The Town purchased 30 stock banners and all the brackets to hang the banners. The Committee approved a motion to appropriate \$3,000 collected from adoptions back into the program for purchasing additional banners and maintenance of the current sixty banners.

Calendar of Events

Bristol's annual Independence Day celebration kicked off on Flag Day, June 14, and reached its crescendo on the evening of July 4. The 1997 celebration spanned a full seventeen days concerts, exhibits and athletic events, and receptions.

The Rockwell Amusements Midway and Carnival opened at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, July 2, on the Town Common.

The Parade

Despite early threats of rain, the skies remained clear throughout Bristol's special day. This year's parade was very much like several previous years' parades featuring a familiar mix of marching bands, military units, civic floats, politicians, police, firefighters and entertainers.

At precisely 10:30 a.m., a cannon fired, police sirens wailed, and a cloud of 40 white homing pigeons flapped in the air at the corner of Hope and Chestnut Streets. The Town Crier swung his bell while announcing the beginning of the parade, and Chief Marshal Richard Ruggiero gave the order to "Forward march."

With temperatures reaching into the upper 80s, sweat began to show on the colorful costumed and nattily uniformed marchers; even spectators comfortable under sheltering tree canopies felt the heat.

The most significant change to the 1997 parade was a shuffling of divisions. The Veterans' division was moved to lead spot behind the Chief Marshal's Division.

Parade Chairman Kenneth Marshall said, "This is primarily a military parade, and we really want to pay tribute to the veterans."

Marshall said this year's crowd was the biggest he's seen in years. In places, he said, the crowd was so thick that the parade's progress was impeded.

"It slowed portions of it down," he said, "I'm not complaining, I'm actually rather proud that we had so much participation."

Marshall said the parade cost about \$150,000. Much of that money was spent on appearance fees for eight drum and bugle corps that made appearances.

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The colorful crowd-pleasing Palestine Temple Shriners of Cranston reappeared after an absence of several years; they made up a large section of the parade with marching units, bands, clowns, and large men in miniature electric vehicles.

One of the Shriner bands rode on a trailer and played exotic melodies as a hefty, gray-haired, bearded man in full Arabian regalia danced to the rhythm, waving a shiny, wide curved scimitar in his right hand.

Governor Lincoln Almond did not attempt to hide his unofficial bid for reelection while waving to the crowd from the back of a National Guard jeep. With his wife, Marilyn, at his side, Almond said he hoped to return to the Bristol parade as governor in 1998¹³

Ahead of the governor's jeep, former US Senator Claiborne Pell, nearly 80 years old, walked to the music of the Portuguese Independent Band. This was Pell's thirty-sixth appearance in the parade. His first appearance was as a military aide for Senator Theodore Francis Greene when he was Chief Marshal in 1959.

Flanked by US Representative Robert Weygand and US Senator Jack Reed, Pell acknowledged the sustained applause from the sidewalk and stopped briefly on High Street as members of the crowd offered him water and juice.

US Representative Patrick Kennedy, Bristol resident General Treasurer Nancy Mayer, and Secretary of State James Langevin also garnered the approval of the crowd as they made their way along the parade route.

Overall, the celebration went off without a hitch. The Committee of organizers put together one of the largest, most well attended parades ever, highlighted by controlled, enthusiastic, and highly entertained crowds. The parade suffered few interruptions and rolled virtually without missing a beat.

The drum corps competition was a smashing success. Patriotic Exercises attracted more than just the usual sprinkling of interested citizens.

The fireworks over Bristol Harbor were called one of the best ever, and far better than fireworks displays in neighboring communities.

Committee Business Wrap-up

Final reports of the various Subcommittees and the treasurer's report were read.

ACTIVITY	INCOME	EXPENSES	PROFIT
Ball	7,525.00	5,736.26	1,788.71
Bands & Concerts	26,223.00	29,303.80	5,919.20
Banner Adoptions	7,600.00	4,146.00	3,473.29
BYC Reception		1,339.50	
Car show	391.00	225.00	166.00
Carnival			15,000
Concessions			2,517.80

13 Local, state, and national elected Rhode Island politicians seldom, if ever, miss a Bristol 4th of July Parade while they are in office or running for reelection. It is their chance to unabashedly pander the crowd for votes. It is worthy to note, that when no longer in elected office, except for former Bristol politicians who have been honored by the Committee, seldom, if ever, do they return to Bristol on the 4th of July.

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Country Dance		325.00	
Ecumenical		276.00	
Enlisted Party		663.30	
Fireworks		25,000.00	
Floats		441.00	
Lottery	12,845.00	5,787.25	7,057.75
Mail Solicitations	6,490.00	130.00	
Military Food		572.00	
Music & Entertainment		7,212.25	
Parade		10,484.25	
Parade Collection			3,968.09
Soccer Tournament	39,200.00	30,400.00	4,070.00
Souvenir Program	19,787.50	5783.00	14,004.50
Souvenirs	17,789.74	8,693.49	9,096.25
Special Gifts	36,344.82		
Trophies		476.00	
Vending	19,925.00	184.05	19,740.95

Elections of officers for the 1998 celebration year held on July 31, 1997.

Chairman	Richard Luiz
Vice Chair	Frances O'Donnell
Treasurer	Donna Falcoa
Corresponding Secretary	Kimberly Campbell
Recording Secretary	Donna St. Angelo

Chairman Luiz reported that the Warren 250th Anniversary Parade Committee had contacted him. The Warren group made a request to borrow the Bristol Parade Committee's division banners to use in their parade. A motion to loan the banners passed unanimously.

Luiz said he had spoken to George Sisson regarding the Committee's use of the second floor of the court House for general Committee meetings. Sisson said he would bring the question to the Court House board for an opinion and vote.

1998 Two Hundred Twenty-first Anniversary of American Independence

Committee Business

Chairman Richard Luiz called the first full meeting of the 1998 Committee to order. The first order of business was the report of Treasurer Donna Falcoa.

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BAL: 08/30/97	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 09/30/97
\$62,606.80	\$31,397.50	\$16,637.80	\$79,366.50

The treasurer distributed copies of the proposed 1998 budget. Several motions were made from Subcommittee members that the budgeted amounts allotted to their Subcommittees be increased:

- to purchase five new radios and batteries needed for the old radios;
- to increase the Patriotic Exercises budget to \$600.00;
- to increase the Enlisted Picnic budget to \$1,000.00;
- to increase the budget for bands' housing from \$7,500 to \$9,000.00.

The proposed budget was accepted unanimously.

The first order of business at the December 2, meeting of the general Committee was the treasurer's report.

BAL: 10/31/97	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 11/30/97
\$91,174.44	\$18,193.02	\$5,721.71	\$103,645.75

Souvenir Trailer

A motion was made and passed unanimously that \$3,000 be appropriated for the purchase of a trailer from which to sell souvenirs. Arrangements were made with the Town to store the trailer at the department of public works garage and to register the trailer with the town.

Beginning in June

The silly season for Bristol's police dispatchers begins early in June. Calls come into the Bristol Police Department from out-of-state folks wondering when the Fourth of July parade will be held. The calls come from local residents asking how many people will march in the parade this year. Calls come in from others across the state and across the country, inquiring where the hotels and the good restaurants are located

Over the next four weeks, until parade day, according to some estimates police dispatchers will field about 2,500 Fourth of July-related calls.

It was July 3, traditionally one of the busiest nights of the police year. Thousands of people were downtown, enjoying the patriotic fervor—not to mention the fine malt beverages—found at Bristol's restaurants and watering holes. If the hordes of people downtown weren't bad enough for police dispatchers, there was something even worse—it started to rain.

Chief Marshal John R. Partington

Chairman Luiz introduced John Partington, a fifty-year member of the Fourth of July Committee, to his fellow members as the 1998 Chief Marshal at the April 29, meeting.

Being selected the 1998 Chief Marshal was for the retired Bristol math teacher, tennis coach and World War II bomber navigator a dream come true. Secretly, he confessed, he's

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dreamed it for years, every year speculating—as others have done in other years—whether this was his year.

Partington said keeping his selection as Chief Marshal a secret until the official April 29, announcement was a difficult task. In the weeks after the announcement, his life and that of his wife, Muriel, were thrown into an upheaval.

The Chief Marshal is the Fourth of July Committee's official representative at every town function related to the celebration. That means that he is always on call, day and night, to attend Fourth of July functions. He attends pageants, derbies, soccer tournaments, balls, concerts, dinners, and fund-raisers.

Being retired made things a little bit easier for him to give the required time to all the activities. "I don't know," he said, "how Chief Marshals who are still working are able to get everything done and still satisfy their employers."

"I'm overwhelmed, that's for sure," said Partington, "it makes you feel good to be recognized."

Partington held his reception under a large tent on Linden Place's east lawn. Over a 1000 guests waited in the line to sign the guest book, congratulate Partington, and shake his hand. Several 12-foot diameter tables groaned under the weight of a cornucopia of gourmet meats, cheeses, seasonal fruit, and large sterling bowls of iced jumbo shrimp. The bar-tables on the parameters of the tent served three-or-four traditional wines, beer, and soft drinks.

Later, Partington said he was so busy shaking hands and chatting with friends and admirers during the two-hour affair that he hardly had a chance to taste the wine or eat a shrimp.

At the Exercises

After the usual presentation of officials and plaques, the patriotic speaker for the 1998 exercises, Captain Jerome (Jerry) M. Donovan, USA (ret), took the podium. A 1938 Colt Memorial School graduate and recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received during World War II, the proud Bristol native loudly greeted all with, "Good Morning America!"

Donovan recited the beginning of the Declaration of Independence, word for word, from memory. He said he read the declaration as a high school senior, during the 1938 patriotic exercises.

"Have you ever read the Declaration?" he asked of the audience, before anyone could respond, Donovan threw out some facts: "its reading time is only 10 minutes and it has 1,321 words. They are powerful words, if you haven't read it, please do."

Donovan was at no loss of words when describing the meaning of Bristol's world-renowned parade. "This parade is the glue of our democratic lives, adhering our generation to the next. We're a town of diversity."

The 77-year-old veteran concluded his speech with a touching ending, "We are so many today, that we are one. We are all American and for some of us, the greatest pride is that we are Bristolian."

A Four-Hour Spectacle

The ceremonial start of Bristol's annual extravaganza rocketed off with a canon blast and the roar overhead of a pair of F-15 fighter jets as the Mt. Hope High School band struck up the national anthem and the town crier swung his ceremonial bell at the corner of Hope and Chestnut Streets.

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Tens of thousands of flag-waving and flamboyant spectators packed the 2.6-mile route, crowding every inch of sidewalk and lawn space to catch a glimpse of the color and pomp for which Bristol's patriotic parade is famous.

With the blazing sun sending temperatures into the mid-80s, Bristol fire and rescue personnel were busy with 30 calls for heat exhaustion and other minor medical emergencies. Police reported only a few arrests for minor incidents during the parade.

Law and Order on the Fourth

As anyone who has been to Bristol on the Fourth of July knows, traffic is an operative word. The police have many more responsibilities than just looking for criminals or patrolling for illegal alcohol consumption.

In many ways, the police must literally keep the Fourth of July moving. One of their primary tasks is directing traffic. With thousands of additional automobiles pouring into Bristol's two major arteries and narrow side streets, the police must essentially create order out of chaos.

Bristol Police Lieutenant Robert Karsch, who coordinated all police efforts on this particular celebration weekend, said they would sometimes provide an escort to a parade participant trapped bumper to bumper far from the parade route. Police will keep side streets and driveways clear for moving traffic. They will shepherd parade marchers from their finish line on High Street back to their busses on Chestnut Street, and they will turn everything around and direct motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, etc, out of Bristol, when tempers and emotions get out of control.

Another great challenge is people. Officers enforce the rules about no bicycles, skateboards, or in-line skates on the parade route, as well as no silly string, no poppers and no open containers of alcohol. All of the rules are designed to keep order where there is ample room for disorder and danger. The alcohol law—prohibiting open containers of alcohol anywhere on the parade route—has had a greater impact on the celebration in the past decade than has anything else, said Karsch.

Another forgotten responsibility is patrolling the rest of town. With everyone jammed into the downtown district, roughly 90 percent of Bristol is abandoned. However, not only do the police continue their normal patrols throughout town, but also they actually double them.

The town of Bristol has accepted its role as the State of Rhode Island's official Fourth of July guardian and each year appropriates money specifically for police protection. The appropriation for police manpower for July 3, and 4, 1998, was about \$35,000.

Committee Wrap-up Concerns.

Frances O'Donnell brought forward an issue of concern to the parade Subcommittee. One candidate who had been told that candidates for political office were not allowed to participate outlined his concerns in a letter to the Committee. He saw on television other candidates for public office who did participate on the parade. O'Donnell mentioned that this has always been a problem, since candidates find organizations that will allow them to march within their ranks. She suggested that a letter be sent to Joe Moniz and the Don Luiz Filipe Society reminding the society of the Committee's rules and regulations and asking that they cooperate in the future.

BAL: 06/30/98	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 07/31/98
\$148,606.36	\$73,026.04	\$128,795.65	\$92,836.75

1999 Two Hundred Twenty-second Anniversary of American Independence

Committee on Membership.

At the general Committee meeting of September 23, 1998, Donna St. Angelo reported that the Committee for membership had voted to accept five new members effective for the 1999 celebration year. The new minimum age for membership is 21 and applicants must be Bristol residents.

Further, Kim Campbell reported that thirteen letters were sent to existing Committee members who had not met the membership policy requirements concerning meeting attendance. Three members who did not respond to the letters were removed from the active membership roll. Also, nine letters were sent to members eligible for life membership.

Richard Ruggiero (President of the Bristol Town Council) commented that he had received telephone calls regarding the membership letters, which were sent to a few long time members. He asked that the Policy be reviewed with regard to membership requirements and suggested that the letter sent may be too strong and should be personalized. The Chairman responded by stating that the Membership Subcommittee had followed the Committee Policy and that members who had not fulfilled their membership requirements were sent a letter as per current Policy procedures. The Chairman continued, stating, that the cognizant Subcommittee will review the contents of the letters sent, as well as the procedures followed.

The total Committee membership for the 1999 celebration year was set at 103: 80 active members, 10 lifetime members, and 13 new members.

Committee Headquarters.

At the December 1998 Executive Committee meeting, Chairman Richard Luiz reported that he had received notice from the town council that the Hydraulion Fire Station, on the corner of Franklin and High Streets, would become vacant within the next few years and the building was offered for use by the Fourth of July Committee if no other town department was interested in it.

Fire Chief David Sylvaria mentioned that this station has lots of storage space and a meeting room, but there would have to be some improvements made, including another exit and handicap accessibility.

A motion was made and seconded that the possibility of moving Committee headquarters to the old Hydraulion Fire House be explored.

Television Coverage.

Chairman Luiz reported that Cox Communications had shown an interest in broadcasting the 1999 parade. Luiz said that he the Vice Chair and Treasurer met with representatives from Cox Communications and Channel 12 to discuss financial packages.

Luiz detailed the meeting and asked the Committee to decide which broadcaster they would prefer to have cover the parade in 1999. Discussion included the relocation of cameras, quality/times of coverage, viewing for those without cable, celebrities for the parade and the need for a multiple year commitment.

A motion was placed on the floor to accept the Cox Communications offer for three-year package. The motion passed unanimously.

The cost to the cable companies (Cox Communications and Full Channel Cable) for the right to broadcast the celebration was not made public. The bidding process involved WPRI (CBS affiliate channel 12) as well as the other two broadcasters, who outbid WPRI.

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WPRI's Karen Adams, who did the on air parade commentary for about 10-years, said she will miss her birthday greetings from the throngs of spectators and parade-marchers¹⁴.

Committee Events and Alcohol

March 8, 1999. Frances Bettencourt questioned the Committee's alcohol policy, stating that there was some confusion on this issue. She suggested adding a position statement to the Committee's policy. Ed Travers reported that he had a discussion with the town Solicitor regarding serving alcohol at the Reception for Military and Town Officials. The Solicitor stated that the Town, the Committee and the Subcommittee Chairs equally would bear the responsibility of alcohol was distributed at an event. It is strongly suggested by the Town that alcohol not be served at Committee-sponsored events.

Executive Committee Meeting

March 18, 1999. The Chairman reported that the Town Solicitor strongly suggested that the Committee minimize events where alcohol is served and he agreed to check into the Town's insurance policy regarding liability. It was agreed that Committee policy should be consistent at all Committee events, including the Flag Day reception and the reception for Military and Town Officials. The Enlisted Persons' Picnic was also discussed.

Assistant Town Solicitor.

April 19, 1999, MEMORANDUM: Concerning limiting Committee liability and preventing claims against alcohol service at Committee functions. One very good way to insulate the Committee from the serving of alcohol is by contracting that duty with someone else, such as a particular facility where the event is being held or some other group or organization. As long as the Committee does not exercise control over who is served and how much, but only sets the basic parameters as to time and cost, then there should be no liability due to alcoholic beverage service on the part of the Committee.

Executive Committee Meeting

May 4, 1999. The Chairman read the letter received from the Town Solicitor. The Town's insurance coverage, using TIPS Certified servers, amending the Committee's policy to include a liquor policy statement and obtaining certificates of insurance from businesses that provide food and/or beverages for Committee events were discussed.

Big Ticket Donations

These donations were announced at the April 21, meeting: Southwest Airlines, \$44,000 and two airline tickets; Citizens Bank, \$2,500; Bank of Newport, \$2,500; HiLo Supermarket, \$1,000; Peoples Credit Union, \$500; Columbus Credit Union, \$500; Coventry Credit Union, \$500; Foxwoods Casino, \$4500; BJ's Wholesale Warehouse, \$500; Whiteco Advertising two billboard spaces; TACO feeding of US Navy Band; New England Tent Co., donation of tents at Flag Day Reception and Drum Corps Show. The Town Council approved \$15,000 in the town budget for the 1999-2000 celebration.

Miss Fourth and the Ball

At the June 9, Committee meeting a question was asked regarding tickets for Miss Fourth of July and her court. It was stated that, in the recent past, the girls were all given a ticket

14 Letters of complaint to the Phoenix Editor and Committee members described the shouts of birthday greetings to Adams as disruptive and intrusive to the spirit of the celebration.

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and they purchased one for their escorts. This year, as a drastic departure from previous custom, the girls were told they had to purchase both tickets at \$30 each¹⁵

In the early years of the Miss Fourth of July contest, the five finalists were guests of the Committee at the ball; the winner of the title was crowned and escorted by the commanding officer of the visiting ship, and junior officers of the ship escorted the runners up.

At other times, the five winning contestants and their civilian escorts were guest of the Committee at the ball. More recently, Miss Fourth of July and the four runners up were the Committee's guests at the ball, but they were required to buy their escorts' tickets¹⁶

The Day that we celebrate: Monday, July 5.

At the Patriotic Exercises smiling Chief Marshal Herbie Moitoso and his staff, were all decked out in tan suits; Speaker, the Honorable Frank J. Williams, clad in heavy military fatigues; and self anointed "Town Crier" Gerry MacNeill wearing heavy woolen Colonial-era garb. Also on the piazza of the Colt Memorial Building was Bristol native and Sydney, Australia, resident Jim Linn, who traveled 10, 093 miles to be home for the parade, and Miss Fourth of July Gia-Marie Handley dressed in a glittering gold sequined dress.

The Parade.

If Monday in Bristol was any other day but the day that we celebrate, the town streets would have been deserted. The 1999 parade will be long remembered as one of the hottest in the history of the day. The temperature topped off at nearly 100 degrees and it was even hotter on the parade route, with the blistering sun reflecting its heat off the black asphalt; it was even hot under the many puddles of shade supplied by the town's forest of trees that line the parade route.

Under the sun's torturous glare, this year's parade was the most sparsely attended in recent memory; police estimated the crowd at about 70,000.

Chief Marshal Herbie Maitoso appeared cool in his tan linen suit and light blue cotton shirt as he marched with his wife and waved to the crowd.

The Bristol Fire Department and Rescue Squad responded to 90 calls before, during, and after the parade. The bulk of the calls, according to Fire Chief David Sylvaria, were heat-related; from heat exhaustion—heat stroke calls—people down. The 90 calls resulted in 160 treatments to cool people down through re-hydration.

As they passed the Café La France, on Hope Street, across from Norris House, a member of the Kingsmen Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps passed out and hit the pavement. Lying flat on his back in front of the coffee shop, he was attended by a member of the Bristol Police Bicycle Patrol.

At the corner of Walley and High Streets, the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps stopped for a much-needed break in the shadow of a cluster of chestnut trees.

"This crowd's great, and I love this parade, but it's very wet and hot inside this suit," said 20-year-old Jonathan Landon of the Cadets of Bergan County Drum & Bugle Corps, as he stopped on High Street for some shade and a quick breather with the rest of his corps.

Frequent stops by over-heated marchers taking breaks to cool down at the few places of deep shade on the south end of High Street caused other marchers who followed to stand perspiring in the unforgiving sun on the hot pavement.

15 As late as 1996, the top five winning contestants received gratis invitations to attend the Bristol Yacht Club reception and tickets to the Fourth of July Ball for herself and her escort.

16 The 1999 Miss Fourth of July Pageant realized a net profit of \$2,550.70; the Fourth of July Ball netted a profit of \$1,616.21.

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Shortly after the last barrage of fireworks exploded over Bristol Harbor, Paul E. Romano and his men from the Department of public works took to the streets; the armada of trucks and army of men attacked the tons of trash littering the town's streets using blowers, vacuums, and street sweepers in a precision military-like operation. By 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, the crews were finishing the cleanup operations, from the entrance to Colt Park to the Town Common.

Final sub-Committee reports for 1999

ACTIVITY	INCOME	EXPENSES	PROFIT
Ball	7,730.00	6,113.79	1,616.21
Bands & Concerts	30,226.00	20,614.70	9,611.30
BYC Reception		1,747.32	
Car Show	434.00	380.00	54.00
Carnival	REPORT	NOT	RECORDED
Concessions	REPORT	NOT	RECORDED
Enlisted Picnic		565.12	
Fireworks		25,000.00	
Floats		442.00	
Lottery			7,560.00
Mail Solicitations	9,255.00		
Military Food		646.75	
Miss 4 th Pageant	4,704.00	2,153.30	2,550.70
Music & Entertainment	REPORT	NOT	RECORDED

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Old Fashioned Days	500.0017	408.99	91.01
Orange Crate Derby	600.0018	388.13	214.81
Parade		12,243.00	
Parade Collection			7,305.00
Souvenir Program	23,644.50		
Souvenirs	19,417.16	8,715.14	10,702.02
Tag Day	2,322.15		
Vending			26,270.00

2000. Two Hundred Twenty-third Anniversary of American Independence

On September 14, 1999, Chairman Richard Luiz convened the meeting with thanks to his officers, Subcommittee chairs, and his Chief Marshals of the two previous years and handed the meeting over to the Nominating Subcommittee.

The new officers for the 2000 Fourth of July celebration:

Chairman	Frances O'Donnell
Vice Chairman	Donna St. Angelo
Treasurer	Donna Falcoa
Recording Secretary	Gena Moreira
Corresponding Secretary	Kimberly Campbell

08/31/99	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 09/30/99
\$86,976.37	\$5,026.08	\$19,903.41	\$92,193.01

Fourth of July Ball

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- 17 Rhode Island State Employees Credit Union sponsored the event with this donation.
 - 18 The Bristol Substance Abuse Task Force sponsored the event with this donation.

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At the May 10, meeting Sandy Ruggiero reported that the Fourth of July Ball would be held on July 1, at the Newport Viking Hotel. She said that busses and drivers were hired to transport patrons to and from the hotel. Tickets: \$35.00 per person.

For the first time in the 40-year history of the Fourth of July Ball, the affair was held outside of Bristol. It was a star-spangled evening as two hundred people danced the night away in the Viking’s glittering, spacious ballroom. After a sumptuous multi-course meal, participants chatted, renewed memories of past Balls, and later sang patriotic songs.

There was the traditional call to colors by a contingent from the Bristol Train of Artillery, led by Major General Everett Francis of the Rhode Island Militia. The highlight of the evening was the traditional Grand March; this year directed by past chairman and Committee Military Liaison James W. Farley, Jr. It included members of Chief Marshal Anthony P. Iasiello’s family, local, state, and federal political figures, and members of the Fourth of July Committee.

Later, a beaming Iasiello, a retired Bristol High School Principal and former Town Council Chairman said, “I’m thoroughly enjoying all of this. It’s nice to be surrounded by all of my family and friends here.”¹⁹

In her final Subcommittee report on the Ball, Sandy Ruggiero said they went over budget by \$1,089.14. The Committee handed out \$1,120.00 in complimentary tickets²⁰

1999 – 2000 Projected Budget

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Ball	1,500.00	Archives	300.00
Car Show		Badges & Plaques	1,250.00
Card Party	1,200.00	Bands	75,000.00
Carnival	15,000.00	Bank/Uncollected	
Circus	1,500.00	Capital Expenditures	2,500.00
Concessions	1,500.00	Ecumenical Service	400.00
Drum Corps Competition	8,500.00	Enlisted Men’s Party	1,000.00
General		Firemen’s Field Day	600.00
Income Interest		Fireworks	25,000.00
Lottery	6,000.00	Fireworks/Police	4,000.00
Master List	8,500.00	Flag Day Reception	1,200.00
Mini Flags	1,500.00	Floats	500.00
Miss 4 th Pageant	1,000.00	General	4,000.00
Parade Collection	3,000.00	Housing for Bands	10,000.00
Savings	40,000.00	Military Food/Concerts	750.00

19 Iasiello held his reception under a large tent on the east lawn of Linden Place. The affair was not as sumptuous as some recent past receptions. Some eminent and well-known Bristolians were conspicuous by their absence.

20 Though not in Ruggiero’s report, we may assume Chief Marshal Iasiello’s family, the local, state, and federal politicians, and select members of the Fourth of July Committee received the gratis admissions.

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Souvenirs	7,000.00	Military Food/Parade	750.00
Special Gifts/Comm Book	30,000.00	Miss 4 th of July Float	1,000.00
State Appropriation	12,000.00	Music & Entertainment	8,500.00
Television	10,500.00	Old Fashion Days	500.00
Town Appropriation	15,000.00	Orange Crate Derby	500.00
Vending	25,000.00	Paper Goods	500.00
Ways & Means	3,000.00	Parade	15,000.00
		Patriotic Exercises	500.00
		Policy	250.00
		Reception for Officials	1,750.00
		Special Attraction	35,000.00
		Special Events	600.00
		Utilities	350.00
TOTAL	191,700.00	TOTAL	191,700.00

Celebration of the Century

Patriotic Exercises began at 8:30 a.m., sharp, when Town Crier Gerry McNeill clang-clanged his ceremonial bell and announced the beginning of ceremonies. Lieutenant Governor Charles E. Fogerty followed, reminding listeners that “Today, Bristol is not only Rhode Island’s home town, it is also America’s home town.”

Fogerty’s succinct address was followed in rapid succession by presentation of the Hattie Brown Award to Anthony Desmaires. Next, was the presentation of a flag to Bristol native Nancy Ragano Athfield who traveled from New Zealand to be home on the Fourth.

Miss Fourth of July Heidi Squires and Little Miss Fourth Shannen Doherty were introduced to the crowd and received bouquets from the Committee.

Speaker of the Day, son of past Chief Marshal and former Town Administrator Thomas H. Byrnes, Jr., Brigadier General Michael T. Byrnes, USA (ret), focused on the key role played by families and communities in developing patriotism.

“The family,” he said, “is the key element in developing those values that underlie patriotism.” He listed duty, responsibility, loyalty, and tolerance as some of those key qualities.

“The development of a healthy and rational patriotism begins in communities like Bristol where civic responsibility are part of the fabric of life,” he said.

On the parade route people sauntered through a forest of shoulder-to-shoulder plastic lawn chairs to find a perfect viewing spot. Others with hat and bothered children in tow took the first unoccupied patch of lawn and spread out their battered blankets. By 10:30 a.m., the sidewalks of Hope Street were tightly packed. Bristol Police Lieutenant Gregory P. Ursini estimated the crowd at 200,000.

A pair of police cruisers crept through the crowded street with sirens screaming, clearing the way for the approaching marchers. Next came the town crier ringing his bell, then the rumble of a marching band could be heard, the crowd broke out in cheers and shouts as the nation’s oldest Independence Day parade began to pass.

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A new parade feature, at the cost of \$6,000, was the addition of several helium filled character balloons. Balloon handlers were kept busy navigating the balloons under and around low hanging tree limbs and utility wires.

Vendors hawking balloons shaped like dolphins, giant green inflated aliens, and other gaudy souvenirs pushed their carts in gutters trying to avoid the feet of people sitting on the curbs. Children bought boxes of snappers—pill-sized paper rolls of gunpowder—detonated by flicking against the sidewalk. These mini-explosions are nothing compared to the heart-stopping cannon fire from Everett Francis’ golf cart mounted artillery, or the booming of the big bass drums of the parade’s 24 bands.

Not all of the bands were marching drum and bugle corps. There were six fife-and-drum corps, two marimba bands, plus three bagpipe bands the musicians replete with Scottish highland regalia including kilts and dirks. Some bands came from the States of Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware; and even Ontario, Canada to march in the parade. Their overlapping music made a delightful cacophony.

Eclectic music and sights made the parade an audio and visual extravaganza. Floats—the most essential part of the visual portion of the parade, of course, were many and varied in theme and quality. While two floats seemed to have had the potential to spark controversy, both passed through the parade route with hardly a negative comment.

Eight years after their first appearance in the Bristol parade, the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights received polite applause rather than the catcalls and thrown eggs that greeted them in 1992.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence and Bristol’s St. Elizabeth Church joined forces to cosponsor an antiabortion float, “Freedom to Live for All: Declaration of Independence.” The Rev. Thomas Ferland, of St. Elizabeth’s, said this was the first time the church had a float in the parade and it was the first time the Diocese of Providence entered the parade too.

New to the parade was the National Association for the Advancement of Nigeria. Its float, “Independence Accentuates,” featured Nigerian music and dancers.

By 2 p.m. the parade had completed its route on Hope and High Streets; the streets that were jammed with spectators were now empty as a light rain began to fall.

Fireworks.

The fireworks display planned for launching over Bristol Harbor from Poppasquash Road was canceled because of 25 mph winds. Fireworks Committee Chairman Roger Dubord said this was the first time the scheduled display was canceled since 1992. A superior show was presented on Wednesday, July 5.

BAL: 08/31/00	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 09/30/00
\$161,651.24	\$981.50	\$37,374.62	\$125,451.99

2001 Two Hundred Twenty-fourth Anniversary of American Independence

Committee Business.

At the November 8, 2000 meeting, Chairperson Frances O’Donnell proposed beginning in 2002 the Committee should pay the postage for invitations to the Chief Marshal’s reception. She also proposed that the Committee pay for the food at the Chief Marshal’s announcement reception.

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Fire Chief David Sylvaria moved and Jerry Mederos seconded his motion that the Committee to pay up to \$500 for the Chief Marshal's announcement reception. Sylvaria amended his motion adding the exclusion of alcohol in the in the cost of the reception and it should become effective for 2001 Chief Marshal. The motion was scheduled for a vote of the general Committee at the December 12, 2000 meeting.

Chief Marshal

As usual, there was town-wide speculation as to who would be selected for this year's honored post of Chief Marshal. Chairperson Frances O'Donnell chose the first woman elected to the office of Bristol Town Clerk—Diane C. Mederos. Mederos was first elected to the town clerk's office in 1984.

The day after the official announcement of Mederos' selection, her co-workers surprised her when she walked into Town Hall. She was welcomed by red, white, and blue stripes of colored fabric taped on the floor emulating the stripes painted along the parade route.

For her civilian aids Mederos sent invitations to her municipal clerk counterparts statewide. Seventeen of the state's city and town clerks answered the call and marched in the Chief Marshal's Division.

Clerks participating in the parade came from the following communities: Barrington, Coventry, Cumberland, East Providence, Exeter, Foster, Lincoln, Little Compton, Middletown, Narragansett, North providence, North Smithfield, South Kingstown, Tiverton, Warren, and West Greenwich. Most other clerks wanted to march but family commitments prevented them from doing so.

Mederos held her after-parade reception on the grounds and in the barn of Mount Hope Farm. The beautifully restored Victorian-era barn with its highly polished plank board floor is suitable for dances, receptions, and exhibits. Unfortunately, the high-placed spinning ceiling fans did little to displace the muggy conditions of the airless hall as it filled with guests. Most guests, after greeting Mederos and her husband Tony, retrieved a cool drink and withdraw to the estate's grounds.

The Chief Marshal's aids distributed favors to guests of sparkling blue and red Marti-Gras-type necklaces.

Patriotic Exercises

A persistent light drizzle and the threat of rain caused the Patriotic Exercises to move in doors to the auditorium of the Colt Memorial School. In the stuffy hall the town's traditional opening ceremonies of the day unfolded before an attentive audience of residents and visitors; servicemen, and town and state officials.

Everyone stood and sang a medley of patriotic songs lead by US Navy Lieutenant Clay Hahs.

The crew of the visiting warship, the USS Laboon, performed an Old Glory flag ceremony.

Little Miss Fourth of July Kailey Grantham led the Pledge of Allegiance and Alyssa Parella read her winning essay on what it means to live in a free country.

US Navy Signalman 3rd Class Thomas Smith, of the USS McCain, was recognized as the Bristolian who traveled the farthest distance to be home on the 4th of July—Yokosuka, Japan.

In his patriotic speech, Roger Williams University Chancellor Anthony J. Santoro praised the everyday freedoms of Americans and celebrated the meaning of patriotism.

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Santoro said patriotism means that all Americans deserve all rights and privileges, regardless of race, creed, gender, ethnic origin, or opinion. “This is what it means to live free in America. This is what it means to be a patriot in America. This is what we celebrate this Fourth of July.”

“Hopefully, the events of today, both here in Bristol and elsewhere, will help us all to reflect on the freedom that we have and the freedom that is denied to half the population of this world,” Santoro said.

The Parade

The morning rain eventually turned to a fine drizzle and finally stopped. The sun peeked through the clouds just as a US Air Force B-2 stealth bomber made a flyover of the parade route.

Just before the 10:30 a.m., scheduled start, Chief Marshal Mederos arrived with her entourage and they quickly assembled into place. Parade Chair Donna St. Angelo handed Mederos the ceremonial scissors and she cut the ribbon, only two minutes behind schedule, and the parade was on its way.

After some initial tension as the first units of the procession were sent on their way, the flow seemed to hit the pace and everything was moving as planned. At this point, parade organizers’ concerns centered around one thing—gaps between divisions or units.

Except for a few unanticipated and unappreciated gaps the parade won high praise from most of the enthusiastic viewers. Police Chief Russell S. “Rusty” Serpa estimated the crowd at around 80,000.

Fire chief David Sylvaria, who led the Bristol Fire Department, had a difference of opinion, and estimated the crowd at closer to 200,000. Chief Sylvaria said the number of rescue runs during the parade were much fewer than recent previous editions.

Cox Communications televised the parade live with Bristol native and Cox programming manager Mary Lou Palumbo providing viewers with the color commentary.

Popular Rhode Island country music vocalist, 13-year-old Billy Gilman garnered shrieks from fans along the route. At the end of the parade he joined dignitaries on the reviewing stand to sign autographs. It was later reported that Gilman had cancelled a previous engagement to be in the Bristol parade.

Parade Chair Donna St. Angelo said it was an exhausting effort to put the parade together, but it was worth it. She said the cooperation she received from the local fire, police, and highway departments made it all happen as planned.

Post-celebration Reports Filed

At the July 17, 2001, Committee wrap up meeting New England Tent Co., sent notice that it was missing one chair from the drum and bugle competition. Chairperson O’Donnell requested aid to locate the missing parade banners belonging to Citizens Bank and Southwest Airlines.

Under old business, a statement by the nominating Committee requested, “If anyone is interested in running for an officer’s position on the Committee, you must send a letter of intent to the nominating Committee in care of Richard Luiz by July 31, 2001.”²¹

21 In this author’s thirty years of researching and reporting the history of the Committee and celebration, this is the first time in memory that members needed to be solicited to submit their names for officer’s positions.

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Music and entertainment Chair Ken Marshall reported the crowds were very big. The US Air Force Band had already committed for the next three years. At the end of the concert, it was discovered ten chairs were missing. The missing chairs were later located by the School Department after the Committee had been billed for the loss.

Parade Chair Donna St. Angelo reported more gaps this year than usual; stilt walkers in the beginning of the parade caused most of the gaps. The Bristol Housing Authority donated all the coffee and donuts for the morning of the parade. There was praise for the new division signs.

One hundred dollars remained from the \$15,000 parade budget.

2002 Two Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary of American Independence

Committee Business: September 20, 2001

Officers elected for the 2002 celebration

Chairperson	Donna St. Angelo
Vice Chairperson	Jim Tavares
Treasurer	Donna Falcoa
Recording Secretary	Gina M. Moreira
Corresponding Secretary	Diane M. Holt

Treasurer's report to close out 2001 business

BAL: 07/31/01	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 08/31/01
\$127,419.19	\$1692.50	\$24,166.01	\$105,607.55

Executive Board Meeting: November 15, 2001

Donna St. Angelo reported television channels 6, 10, and 12 were sent letters requesting bid proposals to telecast the 2002 parade. Channels 6, and 10 declined; channel 12 promised a proposal.

After the resignation of the Committee's long time Military Liaison James W. Farley, Jr., St. Angelo asked him to hand over all of his records. Farley refused to give up his accumulated files. The Executive Board concluded the new Subcommittee could survive and do its job without Farley's cooperation.

Television Coverage Proposals

At its January 15, meeting, the Executive Board reviewed proposals from Cox Communications and Channel 12. The Cox proposal was the same as in past years.

The Cox cable television proposal:

1. \$10,000 for rights to televise the parade
2. A full-page ad in the souvenir book
3. Sponsor the Miss 4th of July float

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4. A ½ hour special regarding the parade and Committee
5. Live coverage of the parade with a ½ hour pre-parade show.

The Channel 12 proposal:

1. \$5,000 for rights to televise the parade
2. Ten percent for sponsorship based on net of income from commercials
3. Live coverage of the parade with Karen Adams
4. Enter 1 float or vehicle in the parade
5. An ad in the souvenir book.

There was much discussion on the proposals. Cox guaranteed the money up front; Channel 12 did not. However, most Committee members' felt more money could be raised with the Channel 12 deal.

The Committee authorized St. Angelo and Tavares to further negotiate with Channel 12 for a fixed amount rather than a percentage of ad money.

At the February 20, meeting, St. Angelo and Tavares reported a successful negotiation with Channel 12 and a contract was signed. St. Angelo said what it really came down to is what was in the best interest of the Committee financially.

“This is a one-year contract,” she said. “Channel 12 offered us a better financial package.”

Fourth of July Ball

Ball Subcommittee Chair Elizabeth A. Harvey said all 300 tickets to the Saturday night gala were sold; marking the first time in the last three years that the annual semi-formal dance has sold out.

In past few years the event had drawn only about 170 people, said Harvey, who credited this year's local venue as the reason for the unusually high attendance. The ball, held in Newport and Portsmouth in recent years, was held this year at the Bristol Yacht Club on Poppasquash Road. Tickets cost \$100 per couple, the most expensive the price of admission ever.

The Parade Route

Shortly after the 2001 parade, Bristol Police Chief Colonel Russell (Rusty) Serpa asked that the 2.6 mile long route be redirected along High and Wood Streets, eliminating Hope Street entirely from the route of march.

The chief said his concern was that if an emergency were to occur on Hope Street, specifically between Chestnut and Washington Streets, emergency vehicles would have no access to the scene.

He argued that by keeping Hope Street open, it would allow access to all spots along the route with multiple options for leaving the area. It would also allow two routes for people to enter and leave town on the day of the parade.

Regardless of public-safety concerns raised Chief Serpa, the parade route remained the same.

Chief Marshal Jerome (Jerry) Donovan

For her Chief Marshal, Committee Chair Donna St. Angelo chose Jerome Donovan, an 82-year-old native Bristolian and active member of the community.

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Donovan, is a 1938 graduate of Colt Memorial High School, he is a decorated veteran of World War II, and was a member of the Bristol Town Council in the mid-1950s

His association with the Bristol Fourth of July celebration began in 1938 when he read the Declaration of Independence at the Patriotic Exercises. In recognition of his extensive community service he received the Hattie Brown Award in 1994; in 1998, he was Speaker of the Day at Patriotic Exercises.

Of Donovan, St. Angelo said, "It is fitting that the Chief Marshal of the oldest Fourth of July celebration should be a man who believes you continue to serve because you can. A man who is grateful for his blessings, his country and for those he loves. A man who, the more I know, the more I like."

At the Exercises

This being the first Independence Day after the September 11, 2001, terrorists' attacks on America, Bristol's Patriotic Exercises took on a special meaning and garnered lofty pronouncements of fidelity to America's heritage of freedom.

Much has changed in the country since September 11, but Bristol's Patriotic Exercises carried the same messages of prayers of thanksgiving and patriotic addresses just as it has for the previous 216 years.

In a brief address, Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse told the 200 gathered on the grass and marble piazza of the Colt Memorial School that the nation must take on new resolve to defend the principle of freedom.

Interim minister of the First Baptist Church of Bristol, the Reverend Shirley Fortin prayed for courage and fairness for the nation's leaders, and for Americans to continue to live as free people.

Speaker of the Day, associate director of the state Division of Veteran Affairs and Commandant of the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol, David C. Foehr said this year again finds the nation at war.

"Do you see a nation cowering in fear and afraid to display its patriotism?" Foehr asked. "You bet you don't."

Foehr told those gathered for the ceremonies, "Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving that we are Americans and be ready to defend what is sacred about living in the United States—freedom of speech and liberty."

He concluded his address by remembering the group of passengers who on September 11, aboard United Flight 93 forced Moslem hijackers to crash the jet in a rural Pennsylvania field, possibly saving thousands of lives if the plane had crashed into its intended target—the Pentagon. Those passengers demonstrated, "the right values and the right character," Foehr said. He said he was confident that today's generation would rise to the challenges just as the "greatest generation" had done during World War II.

Chief Marshal Jerry Donovan introduced his family and offered a blessing for the nation: "May God continue to bless you. One flag, one heart, one hand, one nation, ever more."

The parade

The crowd estimated at 225,000 roasted in record-breaking heat of 96 degrees, recorded at 2 p.m., as the 13-division parade passed over the nearly 3-mile route. It was so hot that the ideal viewing spots were vacant if they were not in the shade of a tree or building. Overheated band members stopped playing a mile from the reviewing stand. Rescue squad volunteers made 300 heat-related runs by 4 p.m. It was so uncomfortable that some of the most diehard

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spectators surrendered to the unrelenting sun, packed their lawn chairs and coolers, and headed home early.

The effects of the September 11 terrorists attacks on America were evident in the increased security along the parade route. Two military helicopters hovered overhead from 8 a.m., the time participants began mustering, until shortly after 10:36 a.m., when the parade officially stepped off, only six minutes behind schedule.

A van from the Providence Police Department’s Special Response Unit sat in a service station parking lot on Hope Street. Its bomb-investigation robot was used more for demonstrations for the curious than for detecting bombs.

The Hallamore Trucking Co. was back with its team of Clydesdale horses. The horses’ handlers attempted to keep the animals cool by rubbing them with wet cloths during lulls in the march, some of which lasted up to five minutes.

The Bristol Blues and the Providence Grays vintage baseball teams used the lulls as an opportunity to play catch with children or let them have a swing with the bat.

Sweating men and women covered head to foot in costumes of children’s favorite television characters Elmo, Cookie Monster, Bert and Ernie, and others shook hands and gave high fives with children who ran up to them.

A surprise feature in the parade was the Big Blue Bug, the mascot of the New England Pest Control Company. The very large and colorful metal representation of a termite is usually perched on the rooftop of the Providence exterminator’s building and is a highly visible landmark seen from Route 95.

Post Celebration Wrap-up Business

Tuesday August 24, treasurer’s report

BAL: 06/30/02	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 07/31/02
\$112,803.59	\$24,840.42	\$7,258.59	\$140,470.25

The chair reported that a letter was sent to all town department heads requesting a meeting to discuss the parade route. No date for the meeting was scheduled.

Subcommittee financial reports

ACTIVITY	INCOME	EXPENSES	PROFIT
Badges/Plaques		1,734.80	
Ball			990.32
Bands & Concerts			6,520.58
BYC Reception		1,943.25	
Car Show			793.73
Channel 12 Payment	5,525.00		

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Concessions			1,616.30
Fireworks		25,797.70	
Floats		516.03	
Golf Tournament			2,403.85
Lottery			6,499.35
Mail Solicitations	7,882.37		
Memorial Fund	780.00		
²² Military Food		646.75	
Orange Crate Derby		709.00	
Parade Collection			5,059.60
²³ Souvenir Program			15,447.70
Souvenirs			7,798.48
Special Gifts	77,225.00		
Tag Day			1,490.63
²⁴ Vending			26,270.00

Parade Early Birds

For about a decade, the town’s policy regarding early staking out of parade viewing areas has been observed by most visitors and townies.

However for the past two or three years, the policy has been ignored by more and more people who get out especially early putting down chairs or blankets or physically roping off plots of ground with stakes in the ground.

When police were called to stop the spot grabbers, they said they were powerless. It was thought that an ordinance prohibiting the practice was in force. Upon checking into it, police found that it was a policy and no ordinance was ever enacted.

Town solicitor Michael Ursillo drew up the new ordinance, which states that people cannot reserve areas from which to view the parade before 5 a.m., on July 4.

2003 Two Hundred Twenty-sixth Anniversary of American Independence

The treasurer’s report dated April 28, 2003.

BAL: 02/28/03	Deposits	Withdrawals	BAL: 03/31/03
\$164,946.96	\$16,656.00	\$7,415.34	\$174,306.15

22, 23, 24: Estimated, actual figure not available.

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Co-Chief Marshals.

The best kept secret in Bristol and the one that generates the most speculation of its content is the secret surrounding the name of the person anointed Chief Marshal of Bristol's Grand Civic, Military and Firemen's Parade.

For her selection, Committee Chair Donna St. Angelo chose husband and wife Raymond Cordeiro and Oryann Lima.

St. Angelo said, "Suddenly, this one couple stood out, since they are involved with the town and both are true Bristolians."

Cordeiro is Bristol born; he's a 1956 graduate of Colt Memorial High School where he starred on the baseball and basketball teams. He returned to Bristol after 19 years playing professional baseball for several major league teams; he is a five-term member of the Bristol Town Council. For the past 21 years he has been employed by Roger Williams University.

Lima is a lifelong Bristol resident. She graduated from Bristol High School in 1967; she earned a bachelors degree at Trinity College and received a master's degree in elementary education at Rhode Island College. She is director of her father's George C. Lima Funeral Home; she also serves as a volunteer for many civic, religious, and municipal groups.

Flag Day Kickoff

The canon fired, the ropes snapped taut, and the Stars and Stripes unfurled over the town common to mark the official start of Bristol's 218th consecutive Fourth of July Celebration.

In keeping with established tradition, the Flag Day ceremony is the venue for the introduction of key celebration figures to citizens.

The true star of the day, however, was the flag itself. Bristol Town Council Chairman Richard Ruggiero reminded those who assembled that, "Today we gather to honor the flag. It's something that we do today, but something that we should do every day of our lives."

"We're a bunch of flag wavers in this town," confirmed 1986 Chief Marshal Joan Roth. She stood reminiscing with Fred Pacheco, the 1988 Chief Marshal. Both agreed that Flag Day gets them energized for all the traditional Bristol Fourth of July activities planned for the following three weeks.

Vintage Baseball

A relatively new sporting event that has gained popularity with baseball fans is the annual 19th-century baseball game. This year, the Bristol Blues played the Providence Pondfielders. The draw to this event is that the game is played using 1860 rules and without modern equipment.

Antique, Classic, and Custom Car Show

The 14th annual exhibit and competition of classic automobiles sponsored by the Fourth of July Committee took place at the Guiteras School athletic field on Washington Street. After the award of prizes to vehicles in several categories, the exhibitors drove in procession along the town's traditional parade route before leaving for home.

Fourth of July Ball

Second only to the Chief Marshal's reception, the most anticipated part of the celebration is the annual Fourth of July Ball. Though the ball's setting and ticket price has changed many times over the years it has remained Bristol's singular social event of the year.

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In 1970, the ball was held at the National Guard Armory on Metacom Avenue, tickets were \$10 per couple. The 2003 ball was held at the Bristol Yacht Club; the price of admission, \$100 per couple.

The Day We Celebrate

At the Patriotic Exercises under overcast skies speeches dedicated to national pride and prayers of thanksgiving were the order of the day.

Lt. Governor Charles Fogerty proclaimed Bristol the nation's capital, at least for the day. "This is the day every year that Bristol becomes not only the capital of Rhode Island, but the capital of America," he said.

Commander Rick Wilson, captain of the guided missile frigate USS Simpson, anchored in Bristol Harbor for the holiday festivities, said his crew had fallen in love with the town and its patriotism.

"If you see our crew wandering around a few days from now, don't be surprised," he joked. "They really like your town."

Speaker of the Day, Rear Admiral Barbara McGann, USN, retired, said the character of Americans is what makes the country stronger.

"As we have watched the heart-warming images from the war in Iraq, the character of America has been visible on every young face," she said.

Harking back to the terrorists' attacks of September 11, 2001, Admiral McGann added that today's heroes and heroines are ordinary people, like the people who helped crash the plane into a Pennsylvania field, perhaps saving many hundreds of innocent lives, and the truck driver who helped catch the sniper who ran loose in Washington. She said we should honor individuals like these.

"Today, let us celebrate our Independence Day, but let us also recommit ourselves to our fundamental values," She said.

The Grand Civic, Military, and Firemen's Parade steeped in the traditions of two-centuries of commemorating Independence Day in this patriotic old town is distinctly something unto itself. It has grown and matured from a simple procession of hundreds of town's folk to become a multi-division demonstration of nationalistic fervor by literally thousands of citizens, strangers and invited guests.

As the parade has become larger in the number and diversification of participants, and longer in duration of time it takes to pass one point on the 2.6-mile route, little has changed since its official origin in 1815 when it only traversed the principle "down town" streets.

In fact, the 2.6-mile parade route is not long enough to accommodate all marching units at one time. Typically, each year since the mammoth 1976 bicentennial parade, when the Chief Marshal's Division arrives at the reviewing stand at the Reynolds School on High Street, one or two divisions have yet to move from the muster area on Chestnut Street.

For the 2003 edition, parade organizers planned a shorter procession. In deference to over heated marchers and spectators they decided to cut or not invite some marching units, thus cutting march and review time by one hour.

Chief Marshals Cordeiro and Lima said their emotions took over, after the ribbon cutting, when they took their first steps on the red, white, and blue painted parade route.

As a member of the Bristol Town Council, Cordeiro has marched in many 4th of July parades, but this one belonged to him and his wife.

Buildings, both residential and commercial, on both sides of the parade route on Hope and High Streets had sprout American and state flags, and the flags of many countries: England, France, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, and Portugal; banners, bunting, and ribbons fluttered on light and fleeting breezes.

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There was the usual contingent of local, state, and federal politicians smiling, waving, and shaking hands with constituents and potential voters. They included Governor Donald Carcieri, Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch, US Senators Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee, US representatives Patrick J. Kennedy and James R. Langevin, as well as newly elected Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline.

The parade consisted of the usual eclectic collection of bands, floats; patriotic and civic units and individual marchers; by the end of the two- and one-half hours, 20 floats, 25 bands and about 2500 marchers in the parade's six divisions had passed the reviewing stand.

Frightened Horse Startles Crowd

Shortly before 12:30 p.m., the parade came to a screeching halt. People on and around the reviewing stand were justifiably startled when drivers of the Hallamore Trucking Company's wagon lost control of the team of eight one-ton Clydesdale horses.

As the Clydesdales were moving along toward the reviewing stand, one of the horses became frightened and disoriented and charged into the crowd on the west side of High Street just past the Bayfield School. Then it seemed to turn its sights on the reviewing stand before the driver could reign in the large animal.

A spectator who received minor injuries and later taken to Rhode Island Hospital for observation said, "A group of horses came charging in our direction." Later, from his Little Compton home, he lamented that he missed half the parade.

Why the horse became frazzled is open to debate, though many believed it to be the colorfully painted street design. At the reviewing stand three-dimensional lettering and simulated fireworks are painted in the street. Some thought that the letter "O" in the word Bristol appeared to the horse to be a hole in the ground. Others thought that the realistically painted rocket trailing a fiery tail appeared as real fire to the horse.

About a half hour later, a second horse suddenly stopped short just before the painted area and began to veer off toward the east side of the street, eliciting shrieks and a scramble to clear the area.

Warned that a third group of equestrians were on their way, Police Chief Serpa radioed a parade spotter alerting him of the potential problem and re-routed that group of horses south on Church Street.

A Postscript on the Day

By 3 p.m., it was all over. The last float, Barrington's infamous blue cow towed by a Munroe Dairy delivery truck painted white with black patches passed the reviewing stand.

The moderate temperature hovering in the upper 70s and low 80s and soft cooling breezes off Bristol Harbor allowed members of the Bristol Fire Department and rescue units to enjoy the day more than they did in 2002.

Fire Chief David Sylvaria said they had calls coming in at a steady pace but nowhere near what it was like during last year's oppressive heat and humidity.

Unlike the Bristol parades of the wild and disorderly days of the 1970s and even some of loud and raucous parades of the 1980s, including Bristol's Tercentennial parade, the 2003 edition was unusually restrained. Chief Serpa said the crowd was definitely smaller than usual, the traffic lighter, and the competition for viewing spots was not as fierce as in other years.

As police prepared to shut off the parade route to vehicles shortly after 8 a.m., there were few cars on the road. The route along Hope Street was lined with chairs, but few people were occupying them, and only a handful of people were wandering around the area near the Lobster Pot Restaurant at the south end of Hope Street.

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During the parade, the sidewalks along the route, usually overflowing with cheering spectators were for the most part free and clear, making it easy for strollers to navigate. Later in the day, along High Street, it was as easy going as on any other summer day.

Some parade officials reported the cheering seemed restrained, as floats that in the past would receive loud rounds of applause received only polite signs of approval.

The restrained atmosphere was even evident on the usually rowdy "Night Before" when typically bars and clubs do a land office business with freely flowing beer. Chief Serpa reported a quiet night, with only a few arrests for minor offences.

PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS

	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
1854	Jacob Babbitt	Ambrose E. Burnside	Rev. Thomas Shepard
1855	Charles Sherry, Jr.	Charles Sherry, Jr.	James T. Brady, Esq.
1856	William R. Taylor	James H. West	Asa Arnold, Esq.
1857	J. Coggeshall	Charles Sherry, Jr.	Rev. Dr. S.K. Sweetman
1858	Joseph B. Burgess	Edward Wheaton	John Turner, Esq.
1859	George H. Reymolds	CAPT. John Y. Lawless	Charles Blake, Esq.
1860	William R. Taylor	James D'W. Perry, Jr.	Rev. David H. Ela
1861	William J. Miller	Charles Sherry, Jr.	Thomas W. Bicknell, Esq.
1862	John B. Pierce	Walter C. Barclay	Honorable Francis Minor
1863	John B. Pierce	Charles F. Page	Rev. S.F. Upham
1864	T. J. Usher	LT. Charles Gibson	Rev. William Stowe
1865	Joseph L. Gardner	James D'W. Perry	Honorable Sidney Dean
1866	John B. Taylor	General Lewis Richmond	Rev. Mark Trafton
1867	John B. Taylor	LT. William J. Bradford	Rev. J.J. Peck
1868	Elisha M. Wardwell	William B. D'Wolf	Rev. George L. Locke
1869	John B. Taylor	Major Raymond H. Perry	John C. Pegram, Esq.
1870	John B. Taylor	Mark Antony D'Wolf	Rev. G.L. Westgate
1871	Elisha M. Wardwell	Samuel P. Colt	Rev. James P. Lane
1872	Charles A. Greene	Captain Allan G. Wright	Rev. William Miller
1873	John Turner	Isaac F. Williams	Hon. N.F. Dixon, Jr., Esq.
1874	Isaac F. Williams	No Parade	LeBaron B. Colt, Esq.
1875	Isaac F. Williams	Samuel P. Colt	Colonel Henry H. Robinson
1876	William J. Miller	George T. French	Rev. James D'Wolf Perry
1877	N. C. Bidell	Major Raymond H. Perry	Honorable Francis Brinley
1878	Samuel P. Colt	COL. Raymond H. Perry	LeBaron B. Colt, Esq.
1879	General Ambrose Burnside	E. Samuel P. Colt	Honorable James C. Collins
1880	Thomas C. Church	COL. Richard B.	No Record

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	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
		Franklin	
1881	Edward Anthony, Jr.	William T.C. Wardwell	Rev. Edwin F. Jones
1882	Samuel P. Colt	Samuel P. Colt	Colonel George T. French
1883	Elisha M. Wardwell	J. Howard Manchester	Samuel Norris, Jr., Esq.
1884	Elisha M. Wardwell	Dr. George A. Pike	Colonel Daniel R. Ballou
1885	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Colonel George O. Eddy	General Horatio Rogers
1886	Edward Anthony, Jr.	J. Howard Manchester	Hon. Henry J. Coggeshall
1887	Joseph B. Burgess	CAPT. John H. Morrissey	Rev. S. Hamilton Day
1888	Samuel P. Colt	Issac F. Williams	Samuel Norris, Jr., Esq.
1889	Charles A. Barbour	Gelbert Wilson	Theron H. Carter
1890	Eugene A. Rounds	COL. Richard B. Franklin	Rev. W.F. Davis
1891	Edwin C. Sparks	J. Howard Manchester	Rev. S.D. Moxley
1892	Edward Anthony, Jr.	M. Maitland Gibson	Orren F. Bosworth, Esq.
1893	Edward Anthony, Jr.	John J. Christie	Samuel Norris, Jr., Esq.
1894	Edward Anthony, Jr.	H. Maitland Gibson	Rev. S.D. Moxley
1895	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Henry M. Thompson	William F. O'Donnell
1896	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Charles F. Chase	Rev. A.W. Kingsley
1897	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Charles F. Chase	Irving H. Gamwall
1898	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Charles F. Chase	Honorable Orrin F. Bosworth
1899	Frank C. Child	Dr. W. Fred Williams	Henry W. Hayes
1900	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Dr. W. Fred Williams	Lefferts S. Hoffman
1901	Edward Anthony, Jr.	L. Maitland Minsher	William T. O'Donnell
1902	Edward Anthony, Jr.	L. Maitland Minsher	Rev. Wilenoir Hood
1903	Edward Anthony, Jr.	L. Maitland Minsher	Colonel Frank T. Eastern
1904	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Benjamin L. Hall	Rev. J.F. Downing
1905	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Wallis E. Howe	Rev. Samuel Smith Drury
1906	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Peter C.R. Morris	William A. Kennedy
1907	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Charles B. Rockwell	Rev. John McVay
1908	Edward Anthony, Jr.	George W. Warren	Edward Lawrence Leahy

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	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
1909	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Wallis E. Howe	James F. Lavander
1910	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Wendell R. Davis	Governor Aran J. Pothier
1911	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Colonel Arthur B. Spink	Rev. A.C. Larned
1912	Edward Anthony, Jr.	Howard W. Church	Hon. George O'Shaunnessy
1913	Josephus Daniels	Captain W.C. Metcalf	Rev. A. Clark McGilton
1914	Elisha Hibbert	Captain W.C. Metcalf	Lt.Gov. Roswell Burchard
1915	Thomas Goff, Jr.	Captain W.C. Metcalf	Rev. Jamuel Lindsay
1916	George L. Drowne, Jr.	Rudolph Haffenreffer, Jr.	Colonel H. Anthony Dyer
1917	George L. Drowne, Jr.	COL. Andrew W. Anthony	Hon. M. Louis DeSadeleer
1918	George L. Drowne, Jr.	Colonel Harold J. Gross	Honorable LeBaron B. Colt
1919	George L. Drowne, Jr.	COL. Andrew W. Anthony	Rev. F.S. Penfold
1920	COL. Andrew W. Anthony	Colonel L.H. Callan	Judge A.A. Capatosto
1921	George L. Drowne, Jr.	Captain Edward L. Leahy	Sen. Herbert M. Sherwood
1922	Everett LeB. Church	W. Fred Williams, Jr.	Rev. Luciano R. Capone
1923	Everett LeB. Church	Charles B. Rockwell, Jr.	Senator McGrane
1924	Everett LeB. Church	James W. Salisbury	Mrs. Ray Cox Flint
1925	Everett LeB. Church	James F. Lavander	Honorable Leo M. Harlow
1926	Everett LeB. Church	Henry Wood	Hon. Richard W. Jennings
1927	Everett LeB. Church	LT. Bertram W. Wall	Bishop Louis C. Sanford
1928	Everett LeB. Church	Captain Edward L. Leahy	Honorable Charles Sisson
1929	Everett LeB. Church	T. Clyde Foster	Honorable J.F. Hughes
1930	Everett LeB. Church	W. Fred Williams, Jr.	Judge A.A. Capatosto
1931	Everett LeB. Church	Carl W. Haffenreffer	Honorable M.A. Sullivan
1932	Alexander S. Basilevich	Dr. John H. Morrissey	Honorable Ray Rawlings
1933	Daniel E. Dwyer	Roswell C. Colt	Honorable Francis B. Condon
1934	Daniel E. Dwyer	Colonel Samuel A. Hall	Honorable Felix Hebert
1935	G.S. Pailthorpe	Colonel A.M. Merriman	Hon. Alexander G.

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	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
			Churchill
1936	Dr. Alfred M. Merriman	John W. Church	Justice A. Capatosto
1937	James F. Meiggs	Colonel M.A. Cheesman	John Scanlon
1938	James F. Meiggs	George M. Cady	John W. Haley
1939	James F. Meiggs	Stanley E. Friswell	Governor W.H. Vanderbilt
1940	James F. Meiggs	Edward J. Fitzgerald	Judge M.A. Sullivan
1941	James F. Meiggs	John W. Haley	Judge John P. Hartigan
1942	James F. Meiggs	William L. Serbst	Dr. Lucas A. Whipple
1943	James F. Meiggs	Stephen W. Hopkins	Captain Gilbert C. Hoover
1944	James F. Meiggs	J. Francis Connell	Judge M.A. Sullivan
1945	James F. Meiggs	Roswell S. Bosworth, Sr.	Justice A. Capatosto
1946	James F. Meiggs	Rev. Anthony R. Parshley	CMDR Paul Theiss
1947	James F. Meiggs	RADM Gilbert C. Hoover	Senator J. Howard McGrath
1948	Roswell S Bosworth, Sr.	Dr. Samuel D. Clark	VADM John D. Price
1949	Roswell S Bosworth, Sr.	Raymond J. Makowsky	RADM H.S. Kendall
1950	Roswell S Bosworth, Jr.	Harold Church Paull	U.S.Senator Edward L. Leahy
1951	Roswell S Bosworth, Jr.	Gov. Dennis J. Roberts	Governor Dennis J. Roberts Captain Richard Visser USN
1952	Roswell S Bosworth, Jr.	Dr. C. Paul Bruno	Honorable You Chan Yang
1953	Ralph G. McGaw	John H. Tuplin	Honorable John Muccio
1954	Leonard P. Sanford Norman J. Servant	Mathias Brito	LTC. B.W. McLean
1955	Leonard P. Sanford Norman J. Servant	George R. Fish	CAPT. William L. Eagleton
1956	Frank J. Miserandino Michael DiLello	Colonel E.S. McMillan	Joseph F. Bruno
1957	Frank J. Miserandino	M. Theresa Donovan	General A.K. Sibley
1958	Frank J. Miserandino	Joseph G.A. Riccio	Judge Robert E. Quinn
1959	Francis N. Perry	Theodore Francis Green	Justice J.R. Weisberger

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	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
1960	Francis N. Perry	William H. Smith	George T. Howe
1961	Ralph H. Lavers	Clinton J. Pearson	Senator John O. Pastore
1962	Manuel A. Sousa	John Andrade	Senator Claiborne Pell
1963	Manuel A. Sousa	Rudolf F. Haffenreffer, III	Judge Authur Carrellas
1964	Anthony E Agatiello	Anthony Pinheiro	Judge Edward Plunkett
1965	Anthony E Agatiello	Anthony T. Campagna	Mortimer (Mort) Blender
1966	Albert Nutini	Cesar Brito	Monroe E. (Bud) Toevs
1967	John Vera	Edward J. Medeiros	RADM Means Johnston, Jr.
1968	James J. Velleca, Jr.	Salavator V. Gianola	Dennis J. Roberts
1969	James J. Velleca, Jr.	Dr. Victor P. DeMedeiros	Roswell S. Bosworth, Sr.
1970	John R. Partington	Dr. Ralph E. Gauvey	Werner A. Baum, PhD
1971	John R. Partington	Gaetano D. (Kelly) Parella	Edward Travers
1972	Joseph Andrade	Anthony A. Nunes	GEN. Robert C. Cushman, Jr.
1973	Joseph Andrade	John P. Andrade	Justice J.R Weisberger
1974	Joseph Caromile	James J. Velleca, Jr.	Bishop Louis E. Gelineau
1975	Joseph Caromile	Dr. Manuel L. daSilva	RADM Lucien Capone, Jr.
1976	John P. Biancuzzo	Anthony R. Beretto	Justice Joseph Bevilacqua
1977	John P. Biancuzzo	Frank D. Balzano	Judge Anthony J. Dennis
1978	Gerald Romano	Richard Alegria	GEN. Raymond A. Thomas
1979	Gerald Romano	Dr. Joseph Perroni	Joseph G. Kinder
1980	Frank Perry	Dr. Anthony Bernardo	Louis P. Alfano, Jr.
1981	Frank Perry	Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr.	Robert L. daC. Bernard
1982	A. Jeffery Chase	Joseph M. Brito	Dr. William Crausman
1983	A. Jeffery Chase	Peter A. Quito	Dr. William Rizzini
1984	Manuel Pasqual	Halsey C. Herreshoff	Judge Eugene Cochran
1985	Manuel Pasqual	Anthony, Joseph and Manuel Januario	Rev. Walter Rudy
1986	James W. Farley, Jr.	Joan Doyle Roth	Roswell S. Bosworth, Jr.

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	COMMITTEE	CHIEF MARSHAL	PRINCIPAL
1987	James W. Farley, Jr.	Seraphin (Fee) DaPonte	Joseph Januario
1988	Andrew J. Vorro, III	Frederico Pacheco (Fred)	Dr. Robert C. Arruda
1989	Andrew J. Vorro, III	Robert & Marie Rondeau	Joseph Caromile
1990	Elizabeth A. Moreira	Kenneth Marshall	W. DeWolf Fulton
1991	Elizabeth A. Moreira	Anthony Agatiello	Manuel C. Correira
1992	Roger Dubord, Jr.	Santo (Sam) Mascena	Mario Mancieri
1993	Roger Dubord, Jr.	Thomas H. Byrnes, Jr.	Professor William Sweeney
1994	Gena Campbell	Mickie & Gerry MacNeill	Richard V. Simpson
1995	Gena Campbell	Joseph & Mary Parella	Porter A. Halyburton
1996	Donna Marshall	Orlando J. Bisbano	LTC. Anthony D. Nastri
1997	Donna Marshall	Richard Ruggiero	CDR. Linda Borges-DuBois
1998	Richard P. Luiz	John R. Partington	Jerome M. Donovan
1999	Richard P. Luiz	Hildeberto Moitoso	Judge Frank J. Williams
2000	Frances O'Donnell	Anthony P. Iasiello	General Michael T. Byrnes
2001	Frances O'Donnell	Diane C. Mederos	Anthony J. Santoro
2002	Donna M. St.Angelo	Jerome M. Donovan	David Foehr
2003	Donna M. St.Angelo	Raymond Cordeiro Oryann Lima	RADM Barbara McGann
2004	James Tavares	Joseph and Mary Lero	Judge Anthony J. Dennis
2005	James Tavares	Col. Russell S. Serpa	Professor Paul Fletcher
2006	Nat Squatrito	Santa W. Matrone	U.S. Senator Jack Reed
2007	Nat Squatrito	Manuel C. Correia	Patrick T. Conley, PhD
2008	David A. Burns	Edward Castro	William F. Bundy, PhD
2009	David A. Burns	Joseph Coelho, Sr., & Jr.	Col. Edward Cyr
2010	Judy Squires	S. Dudley Hallagan, Jr.	Rev. Daniel Barron Randall
2011	Judy Squires	Joseph and Elizabeth Britto	Brig Gen Rick Baccus

MISS FOURTH OF JULY ROSTER

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1948	Evelyn Lemaire	1978	Torie Stevens	2013	
1949	Barbara Ferrara	1979	Patricia Troiano	2014	
1950	Lee Ann Reilly	1980	Jo Ann Goglia	2015	
1951	Grace Castro	1981	Joanne Moreira	2016	
1952	No Contest	1982	Bonnie Brayton		
1955	Mary Ann Ventura	1985	Cheryl Sousa		Little Miss Fourth
1956	Roberta Luther	1986	Carol Anguila	1997	Ashley Ann Oliveira
1957	Louise Bettencourt	1987	Rene Cortellessa	1998	Alyssa Luther
1958	Roslind Matheson	1988	Kim Coccio	1999	Cassandra Lyn Guercia
1959	Alberta Ann Remieres	1989	Joanne Mello	2000	Shannen Doherty
1960	Edith Duffy	1990	Jennifer Faria	2001	Kailey Grantham
1961	Debbie Babbitt	1991	Laurie Ramos	2002	Niki Jannitto
1962	Patrica Rielly	1996	Sarah Traynor	2003	Samantha Lyn Jannitto
1963	Lorraine Alfred	1997	Lisa Dos Anjos	2004	Emily Sousa
1964	Gail Rinaldi	1998	Lizabeth Marshall	2005	Makenzie Marshall
1965	Marcia Blount	1999	Gia Marie Handley	2006	Victoria Sousa
1966	Barbara Fields	2000	Heidi Squires	2007	Andersyn Costa
1967	Susan Smith	2001	Eliza Burham	2008	Aurora Faria
1968	Linda Rhynard	2002	Laura Beth Almeida	2009	Abigail Lombardo
1969	Theresa Bisbano	2003	Cortney Glavin	2010	Jade Lynn Ramos
1970	Pamela White	2004	Hilary Motta	2011	Payton Perroni
1971	Barbara Tubridy	2006	Victoria Thomson	2012	
1972	Nancy Caromile	2007	Nicole Silvia	2013	
1973	Jackie Bilotti	2008	Kaitlyn MacDonough	2014	
1974	Cindy Mello	2009	Jennae Paul	2015	
1975	Donna Ferreira	2010	Kayla Nerone	2016	
1976	Kathy Centazzo	2011	Casandra Guercia		
1977	Donna Soares	2012			

THE HATTIE BROWN AWARD

The Fourth of July Committee presents the Hattie Brown award each year to a worthy Bristolian who demonstrates the same spirit of community service that was so much the distinguishing quality of Hattie Brown's life. Hattie was involved with many organizations and charities not only in Bristol, but throughout the State. She was a long time active member of the Bristol Fourth of July Committee; she was well known for her charitable activities and her spirit of ecumenism. Many community organizations such as churches, her synagogue, youth groups and fraternal organizations could count on her service and support. The presentation of this award is a material way for the town to recognize the contributions of other Bristolians who carry on her giving spirit.

1987	Mary Ferguson	1997	John R. Partington
1988	Camine & Agnes Carraturro	1998	Joan Doyle Roth
1989	Thomas & Louise Adams	1999	Margaret (Peggy) Morris
1990	Virginia Kinder	2000	Anthony C. Demarais
1991	Charlotte Ferris	2001	Madeline Grimo
1992	Anthony Marino	2002	Salvatore Palumbo
1993	Alfred Rego, PhD	2003	Ken & Betty Burkhardt
1994	Jerome M. Donovan	2004	S. Michael Minutelli
1995	Victoria VanVoast	2005	
1996	Bristol Good Neighbors Marie Burden (Director)	2006	
		2007	