

Firemen, Bands, Kids, Crowds Help Allendale Mark 300 Years

Tercentenary Week Opens With Parade That Closes A 2.2-Mile Circle

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(Staff Writer)

Allendale — Children laughed, and the notes of bagpipes and trombones mingled in the distance with the wail of sirens. Men and women sat in little groups with their beer and hotdogs. Teen-agers sprawled in the sun, and firemen from Hillside and Secaucus joked and shouted by the grandstand.

By 5 P. M. Saturday, the 400 residents and out-of-town firemen still on the recreation field were having a good time and refused to end it. Another 1,000 or so had watched the huge Tercentenary parade, spent an hour at the town picnic on the field, and gone on home. Probably 1,000 more had enjoyed the parade from their own lawns or the lawns of friends.

The parade, which opened the Borough's Tercentenary Week activities, began at 2 P. M., and stretched itself over a 2.2-mile course. The sun, blocked now and then by thunderheads, drove the temperature into the 90s, and firemen sipping their first beers admitted after the march they had come close to failing in the heat.

The beer, 10,000 hotdogs, and countless bottles of pop were procured by the Tercentenary Committee and distributed free at the field to every one who had purchased a 50-cent commemorative glass. More than 4,000 were sold last week.

Seventeen fire departments participated, many with their own bands and auxiliaries. Eight Borough groups sponsored floats, and 13 bands, two from New York State, kept the men in step.

The parade course formed a circle the length of which the various units covered completely by 3 P. M. When the leading color guard returned to the start at the intersection of West Allendale and West Crescent Avenues, the last detachments were still marching onto Crescent from Allendale.

The heaviest crowds gathered near the reviewing stand in front of Brookside School, where watched the Mayor, four Councilmen, and a group of judges.

Boy Scout Troop 59 was given the trophy for the best float, actually a pair of floats: the first, two canoes, one holding Scouts, the other Indians; the second, six Scouts, dressed as Colonials, and standing around a campfire. The Chamber of Commerce float, depicting Colonel Joseph Warner Allen — in 1850 a surveyor with the Ramapo Railroad and for whom the Borough was named — won second prize. The Calvary Lutheran Church float was third.

Three sets of trophies were given to the fire departments. Mahwah's Auxiliary was voted the best; Hillside's and Wyckoff's were second and third respectively. The Hillside department, judged best all around, also won the trophy for the best regulation-uniform unit; Ramsey was second, and Ho-Ho-Kus third. Secaucus was judged the best dress-uniformed department. Wyckoff and Mahwah were second and third respectively.

From 3 P. M., when the first detachments straggled into the field and made straight for the

beer and hotdog stands, until 4 P. M. every one was content to relax and refuel.

Shortly after 4 P. M. Tercentenary Committee Chairman Albert Scafuro's megaphoned voice broke the calm. Trying to bring order to massed baby-carriages, balloons, and lost children, Scafuro announced a band competition at the baseball diamond.

Eventually 500 people lined the infield and another 100, mostly firemen, gathered in the stands to watch the Secaucus Fire Department Band and its handsome majorette, Francine

Emr. The stands shouted their pleasure and the group won. Second and third, respectively were the Glenaine Pipe Band, and the Privateers, a group from the Brooklyn Community Center.

Mayor Robert I. Newman also gave awards to the winners of competitions to design the Borough flag, Borough Seal, and 70th Anniversary Seal. These went respectively to Don Langevoort, Maureen Murray, and Robert Lane.

One band or another was playing somewhere all afternoon. After the crowd around the diamond broke and moved back to surround the vending stands, the Secaucus band, 30 strong, entertained about 100 persons under the trees near the swimming pool. Tired faces lit up when the group broke into an energetic "Hello Dolly".

The sun, which had threatened to drop many during the parade, found its first victim at 3:10 P. M. on the recreation field — a girl from the Imperial Knights Drum and Bugle Corps of Upper Saddle River. The Allendale ambulance took her away, and the Upper Saddle River ambulance remained on the field for the rest of the afternoon. There was only one other casualty.

The children could not have had a better time. Entertainment was all around them. The Hillside fire chief was thrown into the pool by his department, delighted with the news of their sartorial victory. Pittman's Pony Farm of Franklin Lakes contributed 10 ponies, for rides on which the 5-to-10 set formed long lines all afternoon. And then, it's not every day you can rub elbows with more than 300 firemen.

