

# Parades



Memorial Day and the Fourth of July were always a time for everyone to gather and be patriotic. With World War II being waged in Europe and Japan, we would put on a show of support--much as we are doing today.

I remember so well the excitement of being in these parades, marching down Park Avenue with my Brownie troop. Ceremonies would be held at the Battle Monument. The following is a description of one of the parades from *THE SCOTCHPLAINSMAN*, the servicemen's paper published during the war--the year was 1944.

## **Fourth of July Field Meet and Parade**

The old township of Scotch Plains may have had greater and more colorful Independence Day celebrations in the past but certainly none were more varied than the one staged this year in which the mothers of our fighting men and women\* took a prominent part and the kiddies topped off the day with a grand display of sporting events down at the Union County Park on Route 29. This, with the compact but enthusiastic parade of townspeople, gave the folks at home a real Fourth of July notwithstanding the absence of fireworks, the minute supply of gasoline, and that empty feeling of loneliness for the peace-loving warrior away from home.

It was the first such affair sponsored by the Township Committee and while decision to hold it came late, the fellows in charge nudged the patriotic pulse of the Plains populace with the result--a grand success.

Early afternoon saw Sergeant Jimmy Osnato astride his faithful steed, leading the parade down Park Avenue. Immediately behind were the auxiliary police and the guests of the day, the mothers of service men and women. Following in order were township officials, OCD Nurses Corps, the Fire Department's apparatus, the Rescue Squad Drum and Bugle Corps led by two pretty, high-stepping little drum majorettes, Boy and Girl Scouts and the local Brownie troops. While Conlin (?) turned to a less serious mood by explaining that we should be joyful that it was a day of independence and one to celebrate, his latter remark was