

Beacon Hill Byline by Mary Rogeness

June 27, 1994

Time Out for the Fourth

It seems like spring has been a busy time for everyone in our town. Some families have kept busy with the demands of children's sports, from little league to high school varsity. Some households have celebrated graduations, from the fourth grade DARE celebrations to Longmeadow High School festivities to college ceremonies. Many of our organizations have called us to annual meetings, and all parts of the community have worked on Long Meddowe Days. In Boston the state budget has occupied the time of the legislature, and that will be finalized this week. Now, suddenly the annual meetings are over, tournaments have been held, school is out and it's time for the Fourth of July. Where did the time go?

Looking back on the spring of 1994, I see some significant achievements by townspeople that may have been lost in the shuffle. Here is a reflection on some of those high points of the past few months.

One initiative that will benefit the entire town for years to come is the Neal Fagin Ambulance Fund. Neil's parents launched the drive this spring as a memorial to their son. The fund drive has nearly reached its goal, and the town now has its own ambulance to provide in-town response to medical emergencies. The Longmeadow Fire Department is handling the fundraising, and the firefighters will be happy to exchange one of the few remaining "Historic Longmeadow" t-shirts for your donation of \$15 to the fund. The ambulance will enter its service to the town on July 1.

Another Longmeadow high point comes from the students of Odyssey of the Mind, youngsters who developed a presentation that competed at local, regional and national levels. Congratulations to those participants for a job well done.

Congratulations are also in order for Mary Bagge, a fifth grader at East Longmeadow's Mountain View School, who won first place for the Northeast region in a DARE contest to write a 30-second radio public service announcement. Mary won a \$500 savings bond and the thrill of having her composition produced to be aired nationally on the radio.

A list of local achievements could not go to print without mentioning the Longmeadow High School girls' lacrosse team. After reading about the team's string of victories, I attended the state championship game and was able to join in celebrating the state championship. Congratulations to a winning team.

Other winners include the East Longmeadow centennial celebration and the Longmeadow celebration of our 350th anniversary. The decision of Longmeadow voters to renovate Center School also deserves mention.

For one final winner, I will name one way we know for sure that the Fourth of July has come: the East Longmeadow Parade. This year marks the 39th annual parade, a bigger and grander parade to mark the town centennial. Marching bands, antique and modern fire engines and the clowns and entertainment that is reliably provided by Shriners will highlight the event. I will be marching as will Brian Lees, Longmeadow's new senator, and we will be joined for the first time by Governor Weld.

The day will be a busy day for parade participants, but a chance to relax for the watchers. I hope you will enjoy the day with us on the Fourth.