

randy2

🕒 Fri, 03/15 14:47PM · 10mins

00:02

We're meeting today with Randy Clark to add to the tape that we did the other day. It is Friday, November 17th, 2023. And I'm just going to let him say what he'd like to tell us about.

00:24

Okay, I would like to tell you about the Memorial Day Parade. I believe it was 1950 when they actually started the Underhill Jericho Memorial Day Parade. And it started in the park in Underhill, which three -quarters of the park is in Underhill and about one -quarter of it is in the town of Jericho, but it's right on the town line, right on Route 15.

00:56

And the veterans lined up there and they marched up the road to the old Underhill ID school. And there we were in the fourth grade and all the other kids in the school, and we started marching with them on the way back.

01:22

So they turned around at the school and they came back down and they went over to the cemetery on Park Street, Corner River Road, the Underhill Cemetery, and all of us kids had lilacs to put on a grave with a flag on it.

01:44

Well, you know how kids are, they really don't want to go too far. So all of us kids took our lilacs and put them on the first grave week that was closest to us. And the teacher says, no, no, don't put them all there.

02:01

Anywhere here you see a flag, put the lilacs there. So then we had to take our lilacs and spread them around. And then after that, I was, I marched, so that was the first year that I marched in the parade, which I think was the first year that they had a parade.

02:20

And when they came back from the parade, they stopped at the GAR Hall and they had a lunch at the GAR Hall and they raised the American flag. I get a little emotional at times, but those were the good days.

02:40

And then after that, I marched in this parade as a cub scout. Then I became a boy scout and I marched in this parade. And then I became an explorer scout and I marched in this parade. And then when I was 16 years old, I became a member of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department and they were in this parade.

03:08

And then I was in the army. And for eight years, six years of meetings and drills and six months of active duty. And I marched as a veteran or a U .S. Army person. I wasn't really a veteran because I guess to be a veteran, you have to go away or whatever, I don't know.

03:34

But anyway, I didn't go anywhere except for basic training for six months. And the rest was meetings, but I marched, I think I only marched a couple years with the veterans. And then after that, I marched with the fire department and I have been in every Memorial Day parade since 1950.

03:59

And even if it's held in Underhill or if it's held in Jericho or starts in Jericho and goes to Underhill or whatever it does, I've been in every parade.

04:11

That's 73 years.

04:13

It is. I didn't subtract.

04:15

73 years.

04:18

So, I must be almost eighty -two or eighty -three, huh? Whatever. But no, it was a good time. I enjoyed it. I liked looking back on it. There was one other person that had—we used to talk after the parade—it was Ron Buxton.

04:39

And he says, Randy, I think I've been in this parade longer than you have, but anyway, we're about the same. Now, he doesn't—yeah, I guess he was—he rode in the truck last year in it. He doesn't march in it anymore, but he was in it, so, yeah.

04:59

So what do you wear or carry when you march? .

05:05

In the fire department, we wear our dress uniforms.

05:08

Thank you.

05:09

Matter of fact, speaking about that, back during this parade many years ago, we used to have horses in the parade, too, and people used to ride their horses. You really didn't enjoy walking behind a horse because every once in a while they would decide to do something, and then you're trying to dodge it, and you're supposed to keep in step and, you know, left, right, left, right, and so forth and look sharp and so forth.

05:43

Well, down by Ray Place's in Jericho, one of the horses, something scared one of the horses, and the horse ran into the audience, the people that were beside the road. And luckily, he didn't step on anyone.

06:00

He didn't hurt anybody. But the following year, the towns of Underhill and Jericho said, well, we're not going to have a Memorial Day parade anymore because we don't have any insurance, and should somebody get hurt, what's going to happen?

06:19

Well, the fire department checked for their insurance company, and they said, as long as you are in that parade, and if you become a sponsor of that parade, we will cover you as far as insurance goes.

06:36

So the fire department has been the sponsor of that parade for ever since then, and that's why I want to say that's been at least 30 years.

06:46

Was that when they decided not to have horses anymore? Uh, could be, I'm not sure. Because that was the one thing that triggered the... Oh really? Well it sounded like...

06:55

Yeah, I didn't know that they didn't allow horses.

06:58

nobody would have been thinking about it if there hadn't been a near accident.

07:03

But no, I enjoy being in it very much.

07:09

Yeah, how do they decide? How do you all decide who's carrying the flags?

07:16

the veterans do that on theirs the fire department the chief picks who's going to carry the fire department flags okay american flags but uh

07:27

But there's the U .S. flag and the Vermont flag. Right. Those two. Right. Yeah.

07:32

But the the veterans lead the parade with the American flag and I think they have a Vermont flag. I think it's both. I don't think they have a Army flag of any such, because all different, you know, Army, Air Force, doesn't matter what you are, you're a veteran, you're welcome to participate.

07:58

It's difficult to get people to even participate now.

08:03

So in 2023, this year, about how many people were marching about? You probably don't remember exactly.

08:13

No, I would say, you know, they had some scouts there, the veterans, the fire department.

08:24

So if you're a scout and you want to march, you just march.

08:30

The troop, the Boy Scout troop. Yeah.

08:33

Oh. With the veterans. Right. Okay.

08:36

Yeah, anyone can actually, I believe Richard Becker is actually in charge of it. I know that. Yes. And he's done a good job over the years, naturally he's a veteran and that's what we want it for. Yeah.

08:55

It's not a, hi there, you know, good to see you, you know, that sort of thing. It's a memorial for the veterans and it's not a, wave your hand off at me. Or it's a roll of candy. Right, exactly. That's the Harvest Market Parade, you do that in the Harvest Market.

09:17

So outside of that I think I got everything covered before, hopefully I did.

09:23

very much Randy that's really interesting about your life and also about the history of that event.