

Happy Birthday America

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Finally, 200 years ago today, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence and the United States was born.)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Thursday, July 4, 1776, dawned hot and muggy. Inside the brick statehouse the Continental Congress would soon resume deliberations on the Declaration of Independence.

Flies buzzed about tethered horses outside, and some flew in open windows and stung the legs of our forefathers.

For a day and a half Congress had debated the Declaration, drafted by

Thomas Jefferson, a 33-year-old architect from Virginia.

On the morning of July 4, the delegates turned first to the war, ordering a supply of flints for the troops at New York, then to the fragile subject of independence embodied in Jefferson's work.

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John Dickinson of Pennsylvania warned his colleagues that to adopt the Declaration would be a great mistake, one that would condemn countrymen to wretchedness and death.

The debate — it was not recorded by Secretary Charles Thomson — contin-

ued into the early evening when a roll call finally was taken. Twelve colonies voted to adopt the Declaration. New York abstained from voting until July 9.

The Congress then ordered "that the Declaration be authenticated and printed . . . that the committee appointed prepare the Declaration, superintend and prepare the press . . . That copies be sent to the several commanding officers of the Continental troops; that it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the Army."

The next day the first printing was delivered to Congress. It was signed in

large flowing letters by John Hancock, president.

"His majesty can now read my name without glasses," Hancock said. "And he can double the reward on my head."

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Thomson witnessed the president's signature and theirs were the only names to appear on broadsides hurried into print. Other delegates signed an unpublished copy several days later, and one or two waited a year or more to add their names. The last to sign was Thomas McKean of Delaware, in 1781.

Because of possible reprisals by the

British, the signatures were not made public for six months. Nevertheless, several signers had their homes burned or their families thrown into jail.

Little is recorded of what they said to each other as the Declaration was signed, but one conversation between Hancock and Ben Franklin comes down to us:

"Come, sir, we must be unanimous," Hancock said. "No pulling different ways. We must all hang together." And Franklin replied, "Indeed, indeed, we must all hang together. Otherwise we shall most assuredly hang separately."

Weather

Mostly sunny today with a high in the upper 70s. Fair tonight and Monday. Low tonight in the 50s. High Monday in the upper 70s.

NEWS JOURNAL

North Central Ohio's Foremost Newspaper



92nd Year No. 120

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Mansfield, Ohio, Sunday, July 4, 1976

United Press International, Associated Press
Washington Post/Los Angeles Times Service

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS

30,000 Line Parade Route

Mansfield Welcomes 4th

By Tom Brennan

Thousands of persons swarmed Mansfield yesterday to watch the city throw a party for Uncle Sam on the eve of the old man's 200th birthday.

A crowd estimated at 30,000 lined a sunny mile-and-a-half stretch of Park Avenue West in the afternoon to view the city's two-hour Bicentennial parade.

Several thousand more holiday partygoers jammed Arlin Field and the streets and parking lots around the athletic facility last night to see and hear a gigantic \$4,000 fireworks display.

Although Mansfield chose the day before the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence for its celebration, Richland County and several area communities have their Bicentennial tributes set for today and tomorrow.

The county salute to America, sched-

uled at the fairgrounds today, will include a mock Revolutionary War battle at 1:30 p.m., horse racing at 3 p.m., a statewide draft horse pull at 7 p.m. and square dancing.

Today's area schedule of Bicentennial events also includes a 3 p.m. parade in Lexington and evening fireworks in Shelby and Bucyrus.

Yesterday's parade began at 2:30 p.m. with the 140 units participating marching in warm sunshine eastward along Park Avenue West from Brickman Ave. to the square.

(Additional photographs are on Page 1-F)

Thirteen units received awards from the parade judges, while three others received honorable mention. Joe Polhemus, parade chairman, said the event was a huge success, adding no award was given for the single best entry.

Honors for the most original float went to the Richland County Kennel Club. The entry featured a dog perched on top of a big birthday cake.

The First Alliance Church received a prize for the float with the most outstanding decorations, while the Lexington Kiwanis Club float received the judges award.

An award plaque for the float with the best use of music went to Gfrer's Band. The float with the best execution of a patriotic theme was an entry from the Village of Lexington. The Lexington float featured Amy Hisey, the village's school mascot, dressed as a minuteman.

Another Lexington group, the Lexington Fife and Drum Corp., was honored as the best marching youth group. The Royal Scotts Highlanders received the award for the outstanding marching adult group.

The parade unit with the best costuming was the Ohio Northwest Territory Malitia, while the outstanding novelty unit award went to Boy Scout Troop 131. Both units pulled cannons, and the malitiamen were dressed in frontier-style costumes.

Two color guards received awards yesterday. VFW Post 3494 was honored as the outstanding color guard, while American Legion McVey Post 16 was given an award for the color guard with the best use of the Bicentennial theme.

A prize for the float making the best use of a religious theme went to the Linden Rd. Presbyterian Church. The float depicted a colonial church scene with altar and pews.

Honors for the best commercial float went to an entry from Roger Au and Son, Inc. The entry dealt with the evolution of

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"Rockets' Red Glare"





YEARS OF PROGRESS — A float from the North Central Technical College was among the 140 units that participated in yesterday's Mansfield Bicentennial Parade. Thirteen floats and marching units received top awards, while three other

floats received honorable mention. The photo of the NCTC float was taken from a helicopter hovering over the parade route. (Photo by Charles Zirkle)

Bands, Bunting, Bells Herald Nation's Party

By Jules Loh
The Associated Press

Bands, bunting and bells heralded the nation's 200th Fourth of July weekend with Americans in Middlesex, village and farm bent on making it the grandest birthday yet.

"Break out the flags, strike up the band, light up the sky," said President Ford, and Americans were quick to accept the invitation. The United States is observing, he said, "The greatest Fourth of July any of us will ever see."

In Washington, the Declaration of Independence went on display in a manner perhaps never before done — 76 continuous hours of public view.

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In New York, the tall ships of another era arrived in the harbor for one of the most flamboyant displays of sail since British square-riggers landed troops there in 1776.

Across the land, parades, picnics and street dances celebrated two centuries of independence in a tidal wave of unabashed patriotism.

Ironically, one of the first Independence Day celebrations was in Peking, where July 4 arrived a day early. The American envoy, Thomas S. Gates, was

host for a reception at the U.S. liaison office.

At Valley Forge, Pa., 200 wagons from five separate wagon trains completed 17,000 miles of cross-country travel and made camp. President Ford is scheduled to arrive there today for ceremonies declaring Valley Forge a national park.

The President then will go to Independence Hall in Philadelphia for 2 p.m. ceremonies during which the bell in the tower of Independence Hall will be rung.

On that signal, bells throughout the country will peal, saluting the moment the Declaration was signed "Proclaiming liberty throughout the land."

Ford is then to fly by helicopter to the deck of the USS Forrestal in New York Harbor to watch Operation Sail, the parade of square-riggers up the Hudson River.

Apparently warned off by threats of crushing crowds, New Yorkers and New Jerseyites showed up Saturday in far fewer numbers than expected to watch from shoreside vantage points as the armada assembled. Similar light turnouts were reported in Philadelphia.

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No Consent?

Do you agree with the Supreme Court ruling that an unwed minor may not be required to obtain her parent's consent for an abortion, nor does a married woman need to obtain her husband's consent?

In a recent Supreme Court decision on abortion, Justice Harry A. Blackmun noted that "Constitutional rights do not mature and come into being magically only when one attains the state-defined age of majority. Minors, as well as adults, are protected by the Constitution and possess constitutional rights." The case focused partly on whether parents of an unmarried pregnant girl have any constitutional rights separate from hers. Details for answering this week's Hot Line Feedback question are on Page 6-A.

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Israeli Commandos Free 106 Hostages

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Airborne Israeli commandos raided Uganda's Entebbe airport early today and freed all 106 hostages being held by pro-Palestine hijackers of an Air France jetliner, an Israeli army spokesman said.

It was not immediately clear how many casualties there were among the hostages and commandos.

An Air France spokesman in Nairobi, Kenya, where the three Israeli military planes stopped over on their way home, said the commando unit "apparently has eliminated" the hijackers.

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He said surgical operations were performed on some wounded persons on the runway of the Nairobi airport.

The raid took place about 12 hours before the 7 a.m. (EDT) deadline for Israel and four other nations to meet the hijackers' demands of freedom for 53 militants jailed in those nations.

According to the Air France spokesman in Nairobi, there was fighting reported around the old terminal building at Entebbe where the hostages were being held captive.

He reported the Israeli planes flew directly to Uganda from Israel, — 2,500

the Declaration of Independence. (Photo by Charles Zirkle)

Rich Land

Soldiers, Adventurers First To See County

By Virgil A. Stanfield

Soldiers and adventurers were crossing the land we now know as Richland County at least 20 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

And it was a wild and beautiful country they found, too.

The hills were covered with great hardwood trees interlaced with vines. Clear, swift streams flowed through the valleys on their way to the Muskingum and Ohio Rivers. Pure, cold water spouted from springs.

Deer, bears, wolves and wildcats roamed the forests. Fishing in the streams was a sportsman's dream. The land was fertile.

That fine soil gave Richland County its name. The county, once a part of Wayne County and then Madison Township, is at the extreme western edge of the Appalachian highlands. Drive west out of Mansfield and the country flattens into the fertile plains that stretch beyond the Mississippi River. To the east and south-east are the picturesque hills that loom taller as the traveler reaches the Ohio River.

Probably the first white man to see this part of Ohio was James Smith, a Pennsylvanian who had been "adopted" by the Indians and went on hunting forays with them. That was about 1755.

Five years later Maj. Robert Rogers and his Rangers, possibly 100 in number, crossed this area on their way to Detroit, then an outpost in the wilderness, to hold off the Indians.

A little later the missionaries who worked with the Moravian Indians were in this section of the state, and shortly after the United States was formed Col. William Crawford marched through here with his troops to meet a tragic fate on the plains west of Bucyrus.

It was a little more than 25 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence that the first white settlers came to the Richland County area to stay.

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As the Indian threat began to diminish this part of the midwest was opened to settlers who packed their belongings and left their homes in Massachusetts, Virginia and Pennsylvania to make the journey to the Ohio country by boat, horseback and wagon.

The first permanent settler in the land that was to become Richland County was Jacob Newman, a rugged Pennsylvanian who came here in 1807 to build a cabin on the banks of the Rocky Fork southeast of Mansfield, near the spot where State Route 39 crosses that stream.

Newman was a powerful figure in the founding of Mansfield and Richland County. During the War of 1812, when the British were stirring the Indians into action against the whites, an army of 2,000 men, under the command of Gen. Robert Crooks, camped for several weeks in or near Central Park.

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