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• guest editorial

## INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY FOURTH

By **COL. R.R. TOURTILLOTT**,  
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In 1763, after France surrendered her claims in America, England was staggering under heavy taxes. She determined to make the Colonies bear the cost of the war with France. By proclamation, further development of western lands was prohibited. Restrictions were placed on the expanding and profitable trade in fish and rum, and trade with foreign countries was prohibited. Charles III did not concede that the Colonists had any political rights.

Britain stationed a large army along the frontier to protect the Colonists and insisted that they pay the bill. Various other taxes and restrictions were imposed, the Currency Act of 1764, the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act of 1765, and the Quartering Act, which required each Colony to pay part of the expense of British troops stationed therein. The people were smarting under this oppression. The tax on tea brought on the "Boston Tea Party". This was the first act of resistance. In reply, Parliament passed the "Intolerable Acts", which closed the port of Boston until the tea was paid for, took away from Massachusetts many of their rights of self-government, and allowed the quartering of troops in taverns and unoccupied buildings. The Boston Massacre in 1770 had previously inflamed the people.

The Colonists could not accept these Acts without yielding nearly all of their claims to the right of self-government. By now, it seemed clear that the differences between the Colonies and England could not be reconciled. In October 1775, the

British burned Portland, Maine, destroying thousands of homes as winter approached. The siege of Boston inflicted severe hardships. Then the king hired 20,000 Hessians to put down the revolt. Jefferson said this was "to complete the king's works of death, desolation and tyranny". In December the king blockaded all Colonial ports. This amounted to the beginning of war.

As the oppression continued, Colonial leaders spoke out against this cruel treatment, and two of them were Samuel Adams and John Hancock. 800 British troops were sent to Lexington to arrest them. This effort was thwarted by the ride of Paul Revere. Next day "the embattled farmers fired the shot heard 'round the world'". Then followed Ticonderoga, Crown Point and Bunker Hill.

By the spring of 1776, several Colonies instructed their delegates in Congress to vote for independence. On June 7, a resolution was introduced to dissolve all connection with Great Britain. A committee of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Livingston was appointed to prepare the statement. Because of his known skill as a writer, Jefferson was chosen to draw up the declaration. After minor changes, the declaration was brought before Congress, and debated until July 4, when it was adopted. The actual signing of the Declaration of Independence took place August 2, on a specially prepared parchment copy.

After the passage of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, the Liberty Bell, from the tower of Independence Hall, proclaimed the fact to the people of Philadelphia and to the world. Then it took seven years of untold hardships and bloody fighting finally to make Independence a reality. Every American should be grateful to those great patriots whose efforts and sacrifices gained this Independence for us, and should resolve to work continuously for its preservation.

## Playgrounds Open In Fanwood

The summer playground season started this week at the LaGrande and Forest Road playgrounds in Fanwood.

Edward Lambertsen, Executive Director of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, announced that the program will run for eight weeks with planned and organized activities being presented Monday through Friday

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## La Grande Patrol Honored

The LaGrande School Safety Patrol were honored at a safety assembly at the school June 21, 1967. Each member of the patrol was awarded a certificate of merit which was presented by Patrolman Anthony Parenti, the Police Departments' Safety officer.

Special awards were also given to the two outstanding school patrolmen. The honors went to Elaine Stolaroff and David Armerding. The two received transistor radios which were donated by the Scotchwood Pharmacy. Mr. Edward K. Warner, School Principal, and Mrs. Helen Harper, teacher in charge of the safety patrol, presented the awards.

The Fanwood Patrolmen's Benevolent Association gave the patrol reflectorized orange chest belts and new badges. Officer Jack Hildebrandt, President of the Association, said the belts will replace the white belts presently being used and will be put into use in September. The new belts will make a better appearance on the patrol and also add to their safety, President Hildebrandt added.

The children who serve on the safety patrol and members of the school band were feted at a picnic Tuesday at Seeley's Pond, Scotch Plains. Refreshments for the occasion were donated by local stores. Mr. Walter Goodwin, of the schools' physical education department, was on hand to organize games for the group. One of the highlights, of the affair was a "grand slam home run" by Mr. Joseph Sackel, head of the music department.

The picnic and awards assembly were the first held for the safety patrol. They will become annual events according to Officer Parenti. He also noted that the traffic and in-school safety programs for students at LaGrande School has been intensified in the past few months to make the youngsters "more safety conscious". Mr. Warner and Officer Parenti are planning to keep moving along on safety and are now in the process of setting up safety programs for the entire student body for the next school year.

