

MAY 22, 1986

Chelmsford's first Memorial Day, 1888

Memorial Day will be observed this year on Monday, May 26th, in keeping with the Monday-holiday policy, rather than on the traditional May 30th.


It was in 1868 that the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Northern veterans of the Civil War, usually referred to as the G.A.R.) established May 30th as a day for honoring the memory of United States servicemen who gave their lives for their country.

Because there was still bitterness between the North and the South, the Confederate States refused to recognize this date and set their own days.

Chelmsford had its first formal observance of Memorial Day in 1888 with arrangements

The way it was

By George A. Parkhurst



largest observances ever with 400 people in the parade (double the number of the previous year). Ninety-one veterans from Lowell arrived by train and were met and escorted to the town hall by the Chelmsford Cornet

school children marched the short distance from the schoolhouse to the town hall for a "general assembly."

The program consisted of the singing of a few patriotic songs, some patriotic recitations and brief informal talks by a Civil War veteran and one who had served in World War I.

The parade the following morning was led by the chief marshal and his aides, followed by the Chelmsford band, town officials, Civil War veterans, some marching and others in Model T touring cars, veterans of the Spanish American War; World War I veterans and Gold Star Mothers, Girl and Boy Scouts, and Miss Susan McFarlin leading a large number of school children.

Be careful of offers of friendship from strangers. Because you are lonely and unhappy, do not be misled by signs of affection from strangers.

Do not accept job offers that require you to go to offbeat, lonely areas. Beware of job offers that seem to offer too much pay. Check all references. Do not accept offers to take your photograph and make you famous. Report any such offers.

- Cry loudly for help and run if you are followed by someone, either on foot or in a car.
- Know your phone number and practice dialing it.
- Have a "code word" and only go with someone who knows it.
- Never open a door when home alone. Learn to dial the police if someone persists. In addition to the above tips, grade school children should:
- Always tell parents where

• Then there's her birthday, the wedding of brothers and finally the miraculous wonder of a new baby in our family. But these special times are dimmed with the realization that her special gentleness isn't there to share it with us. These are the hardest of all times, for each of us grieves in our own way, some more self-destructive than others, and the tattered fabric is unwoven even more.

That's when you realize the fragile fabric of a whole family has become tattered.

Hopefully, with God's Divine Mercy, we will see our Judi Arn again and the pieces of our tattered fabric, like a miracle, will become whole again.

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