



Beth Muscedere prepares her Model T for the parade



The Schied family kids out for a parade ride in a 1931 Ford Model A rumble seat



The traditional parade start flyover by A-10 fighters

Towson Independence Day Parade

By Jerry Gordon, Photos By Tom Kenney & Buzz Diehl

We got up early Friday morning, July 4th, to get ready and out the door for the Towson Parade. But it was raining, which we certainly didn't want. We looked up in the sky and said, "Don't let it rain on our parade." Well, by 8:30 the sun was peeking thru the clouds and the rain had stopped and it turned into a rather pleasant day. We were able to get one of the best Independence Day parades completed without more rain.

The Parade stepped-off at 10:30 AM after the four A-10 Warthog fighter jets came screaming down the parade route overhead just above the treetops. This signals the beginning of the festivities.

More than 80,000 spectators, ranging in age from infants to seniors, gather each July 4th to be a part of the celebration. By lining the parade route in Towson

they are continuing the American dream. They show that we are a proud and strong nation. They wave flags, clap their hands, and cheer as favored marching units and floats pass by – they are saying Happy Birthday America. It seems like many of the same spectators come back year after year to watch one of the best parades in Maryland.

There were the usual politicians, bands, the Ravens Marching Band, the Oriole Bird, floats of all types, veterans groups representing every war, fire engines, Uncle Sam, Abe Lincoln, antique cars trucks and motorcycles, and a myriad of interesting exhibits.

The usual vendors were selling cotton candy, snowballs, balloons, American flags, and bottled water.

This was a patriotic parade that the spectators had a great time watching.

Participating with antique cars were: Andy Gerstmeyer, 1966 Corvair; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1984 Lincoln; Mary & Henry Preston, 1961 Metropolitan; Diane & Pat Varricchio, 1963 Ford; Joan & Walt Meyers, 1953 Pontiac; Mike & Beth Muscedere, 1916 Ford Model T; Barbara & Buzz Diehl, 1966 Pontiac; Larry Fultz, 1963 Studebaker; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Don Wiseman, 1934 Ford pickup; Brent Francis, 1966 Ford; Pat Wenderoth, 1928 Studebaker; Mike Annen, 1966 Trabant; Matt Annen, 1974 Trabant; Tim Schied, 1931 Ford Model A; Kevin Mueller, 1962 Ford; Arthur Gnau, 1930 Ford Model A; and Tom Black, 1967 Plymouth police car.



Walt Meyers with his 1953 Pontiac



Brent Francis with his 1966 Ford Galaxie 500