LOOKING BACK

As I read this article about the parade that took place back in about 1947, I could almost feel like I was standing there watching it. Some of the names which some of you will remember, brought back memories of folks I haven’t seen in years. Back then mostly Northville folks participated in the parades. The whole town got excited about it.

NORTHVILLE — Approximately five thousand people thronged the streets of the village Tuesday night to witness the filibuster parade which formed at Van Arnam avenue and proceeded up Main street to Division, down Third and up Bridge, down Main to Center, where they disband. It was a very colorful parade and the many humorous portrayals brought shouts of laughter and sounds of applause from the spectators.

Members of the Central School Band, each arrayed in costumes too numerous to mention, headed the parade and the Band was led by the majorettes who swept the streets with brooms instead of waving their batons.

Humorous and colorful floats, organ grinder, horse drawn vehicles including mowing machines, surveyors, buggys, horse back riders, teams of horses, decorated bicycles, cars, and coaster wagons, baby carriages, fire equipment, Model T’s footmen in unique, funny, patriotic, old fashioned and elaborate costumes completed the procession.

Much credit for the success of the parade goes to the committee which included Harold Wilson and Rex Scheer as co-chairmen, assisted by Mrs. Ernest Schwillik, Mel Graff, James Connolly, Glen Duncan, Robert Van Arnam and Eugenie Willard.

Decisions Were Difficult

The judges were Harry Burgess, Mrs. Frank Hubbell, Harry D. Lawton, Homer Dodge and Helen Willard and prizes were awarded as follows:

Prettiest adult costume to Naomi Shippe with an Old Fashioned Costume riding a bicycle; second prize to Margaret Crowter in a Chinese Costume. In the juvenile division the first prize went to Karen Stone in a Bo-Peep costume and 2nd prize jointly to Eliza and Frances Harrington who were dressed as newspaper girls.

The funniest adult chosen was Mary Dunham who wore a nightgown and cap and carried equipment ready for bed. The second prize went to Marguerite Burlingame and Martha Groff with junior all dressed in old-time apparel. In the juvenile division, Antone Lang as a prize fighter won first prize and Joan Yates, Jane Yates and Lorraine Rhodes as Peanut Vendors, won second prize.

For the best patriotic costume, George Burdett as an Indian on a horse won the first prize and in the juvenile division, Nancy Lincoln were prize winners.

Goldie Carpenter, dressed in an old fashioned gown, won first prize for the best decorated bicycle and Eva Van Every, also in an old fashioned outfit, received the second prize.

Graham W. Olmstead and William P. Yates (believe it or not) were the passengers in the buggy drawn by the sway-back nag that captured first prize in the horses division while Otis Burgess, driving a team consisting of a huge farm horse and a shetland pony tied for second place with Oscar Horton who rode an old type moving machine and for excess baggage carried two boxes evenly balanced on a plank containing roosters and labeled “Truman” and “Dewey.”

The best decorated vehicle was the Van Arnam surrey with the fringe on top. The well dressed couples in 1873 styles were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mosher and Mr. and Mrs. H. Robert Van Arnam with their children. The second prize went to Ernest Giford and his well-known Model T sedan labeled “The Northville Express.”
INTERESTING PLACES

**Group Awards Made**

Group prizes went to the following: The Northville Fire Department of 1875 with the old-timers arrayed in their night apparel, hurrying to a fire; The Serfs Glove Corporation float depicting a plantation scene; The Marvel Glove Company Mountaineers with their hill-billy band, and The Benson Tigers.

During the day “Phila” and “Buster” (Garry and Freddie Gardiner) advertised the evening’s festivities about town. In the evening, Herbert Corey was again master of ceremonies and announced the prize winners over the loudspeaker system. He also announced the activities for the succeeding days.

Following the parade, large crowds visited the exhibitors in the Legion Home on North Main street and patronized the concessions housed in the lot adjoining.

**Today’s Events**

At 5 this afternoon, on the east of Skiff’s Field, the competitive Skeet Shoot will be held, Victor Brownell, Chairman of the event. Representatives from several Fulton and Saratoga Game Clubs will participate.

From 3 to 5 P.M. the Serfs Glove Corporation will hold open house at the shop on South Main street. Conducted tours will be given and the glove industry will be explained.

At 7 P.M. on the Central School Soccer field there will be a horse shoe pitching exhibition with “Tommy” Brownell of Gloversville and “Tony” Sauro of Syracuse showing trick and fancy horse shoe pitching and they will also play a matched team of 100 points.

In the evening the big exhibition will be on in the American Legion building which will be open to the public.

**After route 30 was constructed in 1952-53, Gilbert removed these cabins from route 152 and built a motel on route 30. The motel is still there but not operating.**
Catherine Corbett ran the Corbett Villa boarding house on Ridge Road. She hosted many vacationers, some from New York City, NJ, and Amsterdam, NY. I’ve not been able to find when it was torn down or possibly burned.

The boarding house was seasonal. She lived in Amsterdam when not at Corbett Villa.

Corbett Villa was located on the west side of this bridge, which had become known as Corbett’s bridge.

Catherine also owned a boarding house in Sacandaga Park called Albion.
It was in the early 1950’s that because of increased local travel and truck traffic that the county made the decision to build a new road. The old road was just too narrow and with curves and residential buildings. In 1952/53 the new highway was built, that we now know as route 30 and use as the main road toward Gloversville.

Prior to the new route 30, route 152 was built in 1930 to replace the main road from Northville to Sacandaga Park and onward south toward Gloversville. Here is a picture of route 152, when the Rustic Theater was on the curve where the Park Marina is today.

Prior to 152, the main road from Northville to Sacandaga Park was east of 152 which today that road is under the Great Sacandaga Lake. It went passed what is now Sport Island Pub. Note the St. James Hotel in the background and the old iron bridge.