

Woodbridge Activities in 1900-1950

By: Sophia Rollo

Everyone thinks that the past was boring, but that's not true. The thing is, what did people do for fun? Or, more specifically what did people do for fun in Woodbridge Township between 1900 and 1950? Well, they had a carnival, a very fortunate and successful soccer game, a perplexing baseball game, and a fun Halloween parade! Also, around that time Woodbridge had housed a well-known baseball player!

On October 31, 1930, the Lions Committee held a Halloween parade. As the town prepared for the parade later at eight o'clock, people were feeling hyped! The whole town was decorated for the parade. It started on Rahway Ave, and ended on it too. Twenty floats with many different clubs, organizations, and such on them, along with a costume contest, were judged by eight judges. Also, on a few of the floats bands and singers performed! Plus, tons of bikers from the Fords Motor Club rode their bikes in the parade! The children that attended had received free noise makers too. Also, if the parade was successful, the Lions Committee would make it an annual event! I believe it was most likely successful due to that fact it would of been fun to view all of the floats and hangout with your friends! Also, it's pretty memorable due to the fact it's the first Halloween parade in Woodbridge.(October 31, 1930, Woodbridge Independent)

The Woodbridge Fire company threw a carnival every year, and people really enjoyed it. The carnival was so liked because of all the activities offered! At the carnival that took place on Thursday 15, 1926 and continued until the night of Saturday 17, 1926, there were twelve stands, each one hosting a different activity. Also, a lot of events were planned, such as the Charleston Contest. The Charleston Contest is a

dance competition of sorts, where people form a circle and people take turns going in the center and dancing with someone. The winner of the contest would win a valuable prize, but the ladies would get two! That would of been fun because of all the different events planned to take place, along with the whole social gathering aspect.(Tuesday, July 13, 1926, Woodbridge Independent)

The soccer game took place on Monday, December 21, 1925 at Woodbridge High, was won in a one in a million way. The Woodbridge High School soccer team was playing against the Bound Brook High School soccer team that day. Bound Brook had the lead for most of the game, but towards the end of the game, coach Boehn decides to take the mains out, and put the substitutes in, so the mains can rest. After a while, he threw the mains back in. Bound Brook was in the lead the whole time still. Somehow, five goals were scored in the last fifteen minutes, bringing Woodbridge to the lead, making them win! I would have been very fun to watch due to the pure thrill and suspense! Also, the fact Woodbridge got five goals in the last fifteen minutes is extremely memorable!(Tuesday, December 22, 1925, Woodbridge Independent)

On Wednesday, May 22, 1945, the Woodbridge High School baseball team lost a very close game against Perth Amboy on Legion Field. It was well played, but Woodbridge lost by one point. At the beginning of the last inning, Woodbridge was ahead four, being it was seven to three. Yet, in the last inning, Amboy scored five runs, making it seven to eight. So, Amboy won in the end. So close! It would have been fun to watch, but a little disappointing too.(Thursday, May 23, 1945, Independent-Leader)

Harding William Peterson was a well known baseball player, who happens to be from Woodbridge. Peterson started off by earning a varsity letter and joined the All-

American Honors Baseball league when he started at Rutgers. Then, after leaving Rutgers he signed with the Pirates, who he continued to help throughout the years. He then fought in the Korean war for awhile, then continued to play for the Pirates. He quickly dominated the ranks as time went on. He continued to dominate, succeed, and help until 1995 when he retired. He was very well liked due to his overall knowledge of baseball and how well of a player he was too. (Historic Tour of Woodbridge: Volume V)

To sum up, Woodbridge held a parade, a carnival, a lucky soccer game, a very close baseball game, and housed a famous baseball player; all of this only occurring between 1900 and 1950! These very events were important because it helped shape the community. Peterson also helped influence good sportsmanship amongst the community and his team. These events helped shape the community by giving people chances to socialize with their fellow community members, so they learned to be kinder and more respectful towards each other over time.