

When does Childhood end?

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For the individual born, living and dying in the same community, the division of those first three of the seven ages of man may be difficult to separate by specific year.

Ah, but the child whose family relocated multiple times before the child finishes the 6th Grade, the year of ending childhood, school boy, lover of youth and adventure, may overlapped the same number of times.



And so it was in a past age when families and community created their own amusements. The local Public School playground equipment was the source of thrills; the swing, the twelve-or-more-step climb to the slide, the self propelled merry-go-round. Then those children looking at National Geographic, see a world where children, seeming without childhood garbaged for food, and that child wondered.

Which I use to introduces, May 30 , the day initially chosen for the celebration of Memorial Day, (now, May's last Monday).
I owe plenty of "Thanks for the Memories".

This recounting begins as a Boy Scout, our Troop 13 marching Summer Parades, especially May 30, July 4. Parade began in town center, marched through neighborhoods, to the **Erie County Soldiers and Sailors Home** east of the city, on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie. In addition to being their home, this Federal land has a Revolutionary War Blockhouse Memorial for General Anthony Wayne., once General of the Army. Wayne died, was buried here Dec 15, 1796. This land had been named Fort Presque Isle, Pennsylvania.

A oddity. Wayne's burial is unique. On hearing of his death, his children decided on burial at his home in Randor, Pennsylvania. His son drove a two wheel sulky across Pennsylvania. On disinterment of the body, it had not decayed. That buggy was too small to carry a body. It was decided to remove all the bones, which the son then

carried home for burial. The remaining body, uniform, trinkets, was re-interred in the same plot. Factually, Wayne is buried in two graves.

For these parades the families of those marching would meet on this hillside at the parade's conclusion, have a picnic on the spacious grounds, visit with the residents, to finalize the Holiday, May 30, still called Decoration Day then. Families would decorate graves of their loved ones, North or South, killed in the Civil War. We Scouts, this a great day to celebrate. As children, a duel marker, onset of summer, end of a School year.

Today, now well onto that last seventh age of man, recalling pieces, giving thanks for all, raising the United States and Colorado flags at Building 60's entry, joining 70 other volunteers, equally unknown, repeated throughout Windsor Gardens.

This afternoon, today's family picnic, we will create new memories away from the turmoil of conflict, revisiting childhood through grandchildren's vigor, physical and mental.

Each determines when their childhood ends.

Home before sunset, take down and store the Flags for the next holiday.
Now an aging child, bask in freedom.

