

## Everyone Loves a Parade

*By Suzy Hopkins*

A parade always runs through downtown Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19<sup>th</sup>, known as Patriots Day. This is celebrated as the first battle we won against the British in The American Revolution.

The kids who had horses decorated them with red, white and blue crepe paper and wore clothes in the same colors. In 1959 when I was in sixth grade, my neighbor let me ride his horse anytime I wanted. My borrowed horse was an ex-race horse, not happy with the crepe paper on her or on the other horses. It made her nervous.

The horses were ridden towards the end of the parade since they didn't want the marching bands and kids performing to walk in any droppings.

Behind us came the local fire stations' fire equipment driving slowly along the parade route. Suddenly they started their sirens. My horse bolted. She ran the two miles right home to the barn with me hanging on for my life.

We left a trail of red white and blue crepe paper that I had to pick out of the bushes and grass for months.