

A Review of the volunteer Mountain Lake Fire Company's 60th Anniversary

By Jack Wooldridge

I knew when the parade was about to start because I heard the sounds of fife and drum from across the road as we were getting ready. We bounded out the front door and scooted past the fife and drum group, which were called the Colonial Musketeers. Then we walked past an array of fire trucks parked down our side road and crossed onto the hill by the school, where we could get a good view of the parade.

And it was quite a parade! For maybe an hour we watched marchers, musicians and fire trucks old and new make their way past us. There were, along with the Colonial Musketeers, a group in kilts playing bagpipes, and a great big brass band that marched past us, their giant tubas gleaming in the sun.

The fire trucks weren't just from the Mountain Lake area, as I don't think we have enough fire trucks to last an hour! Instead, there were fire trucks from all over, including some with the names of counties I had to go look up on a map later. There were some really old fire trucks, with fading colors and complicated hoses wrapped around around big metal wheels. There were also brand new shiny ones, with gleaming paint and clean, uncluttered designs.

I found the 60th Anniversary Parade a very interesting look at the designs of fire trucks and firefighting equipment past and present. I think we have advanced a lot!