

## **Halloween Parade and Wesley's 'House on Fire' Float**

CG: The Halloween Parade started in, I believe, 1940?

SM: Mmm, no. More like '46. Mother was involved in that. The Vienna Businessmen's Association started it. She was involved in the planning of that.

AS: Was she allowed to be a Vienna Businessman?

SM: Yep.

CG: Were you around for the first parade that they held?

SM: Was I what?

CG: Were you around for the first parade? Do you remember it?

SM: Yeah. Oh yeah.

CG: What was it like?

SM: It was a lot of fun. It was nowhere near as big as it is now, it was really penny-Andy. Everybody enjoyed it. Had a big turn out for it.

VH: Do you remember who marched in the first parade?

SM: I know the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department was in it. The kids were of course, in their costumes.

AS: When you say the Fire Department—did they send some of their engines?

SM: Yeah.

AS: So that's a standard.

SM: I don't remember what year it was. My husband—it had to be about 1955. No, '53 or '54, because he was in the insurance business. He built a house on the back of a pick-up truck. It had something in it that looked like it was on fire. That worked fine here, but then he did that in Falls Church and it caught on fire and he had to get off the road. But it worked fine in the Vienna parade. (laughs)

AS: That's a good story.

SM: That was his advertisement.