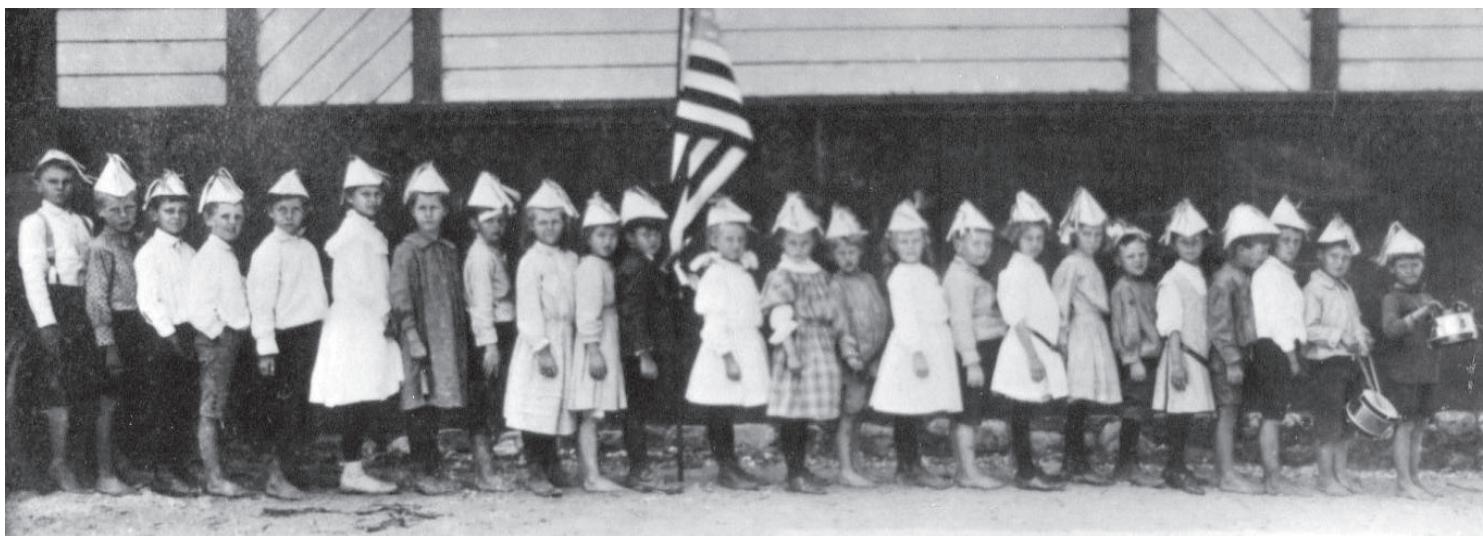A Brief History of the Fourth of July Celebration in Claremont

The Fourth of July is Claremont's most festive community holiday and has been an important annual event throughout the city's history. Early Fourth of July activities in the 1900s took place at Claremont Grammar School (now Sycamore School), before moving on to Pomona College's Greek Theatre in Blanchard Park and the athletic field in 1910.

Throughout the years, the city's fireworks display has also been an integral part of the Fourth of July celebrations. Early on, city-sponsored fireworks displays were the responsibility of local photographer, Robert "Bob" Frampton, who would go around town collecting money for the fireworks show. Hosting these displays at various places over the years - Claremont Grammar School, Indian Hill Mesa, the Greek Theater, Claremont High School, Merritt Field, and Oakmont School - the fireworks displays continue to be a staple of our yearly celebration.

In the 1920s, Claremont started the annual tradition of a morning parade, which usually included the Claremont Volunteer Fire Department, Claremont Band, and City Council. Street dances and music were held along the procession route through the Claremont Village to the Greek Theater.

In 1948, the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Memorial Park, with some portion of the celebration being held here since then, and a street parade down Indian Hill Boulevard was introduced in 1955. Each Fourth of July celebration allows the City of Claremont to appreciate and express its love for its country and our history. Fireworks, picnics, and parades - are all symbols of this celebration.

Claremont Elementary School Children getting ready for the 4th of July circa 1920s