



THESE MEMORIAL DAY FISHERMEN WERE ON BRIDGE OVER BASSETT CREEK

Memorial Day for Many Is 'Doing What We Want'

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Memorial Day, a moment dedicated to the past, is for most Minneapolis residents one anchored very much in the present.

While programs in the city drew many to honor the nation's war dead, Saturday's more common pursuits were boating, fishing, golfing or just taking it easy.

Has the national holiday lost its significance?

"I DON'T IMAGINE Memorial Day means what it's supposed to for more than 25 per cent of the people," said Frank Doles, 3104 1st Av. S., spending the day fishing at Lake of the Isles.

For himself, Doles said, the holiday was a chance to spend time with his children. Four of his six youngsters were with him.

"Daddy, will you put a worm on my hook?" asked Doles' 9-year-old daughter Carol. A cigarette dangling from his mouth, the man set aside his pole, stepped over a string of three sun fish and helped his daughter.

Carol admitted she hadn't caught anything but said she had no regrets. "I'm scared of fish," she explained.

Still, milky clouds were overhead. Canoes drifted by on the lake. Doles cast out his line, while his younger children played nearby in their bare feet.

Doles paused and looked at them. "Maybe that's what those wars were for," he agreed. "To be free to spend a day like this, doing what we want."

A SHORT DISTANCE away, at Lake Calhoun, dozens of sailboats dotted the water. Along shore, young people lolled, most of them wearing shirts or blouses. The temperature was in the 60s.

Some observed the holiday more traditionally. At Vocational High School, about 150 persons were scattered about the auditorium for what was billed as the city's largest holiday program.

Memorial wreaths stretched across the stage as Rep. Donald Fraser, D-Minn., reminded the audience that this was the first Memorial Day since the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Fraser lauded the late president as a man "who knew the agonies of war and sought the pathways of peace," a man who "gave his life for his country as certainly as the man who falls on the battlefield."

A YEAR AGO yesterday Mr. Kennedy placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, where he himself was to be buried six months later.

At Minneapolis cemeteries yesterday, families gathered to decorate the graves of deceased loved ones.

Leonard Bouchard, owner of Leonard's Flowers, 3000 W. Lake St., told of brisk business yesterday from persons bound for city cemeteries. But small American flags, which he also was selling, were "moving slow."

"People don't seem to be interested in the flag like they used to," he said.

Most sales, he said, were to children, who walked off smiling, carrying the flags in their hands as if they were ice cream cones.

Outside, beyond rows of mums, yellow snap dragons, blue daisies and multicolored gladiolas, traffic moved slowly along Lake St. Now and then a bicycle passed by, with a picnic basket or a tennis racket in the basket.

Elsewhere around the city, sounds of lawnmowers and transistor radios were heard. Lawns were green, the Twins won, sunburns were scarce, the air was fresh, and carts — some of them anyway — were momentarily forgotten.



SWINGING AT CALHOUN BEACH



CANOEISTS AT LAKE OF THE ISLES



BICYCLISTS NEAR BASSETT CREEK



FLAGS AT CEMETERY SERVICES



BUGLER PLAYED AT CEMETERY