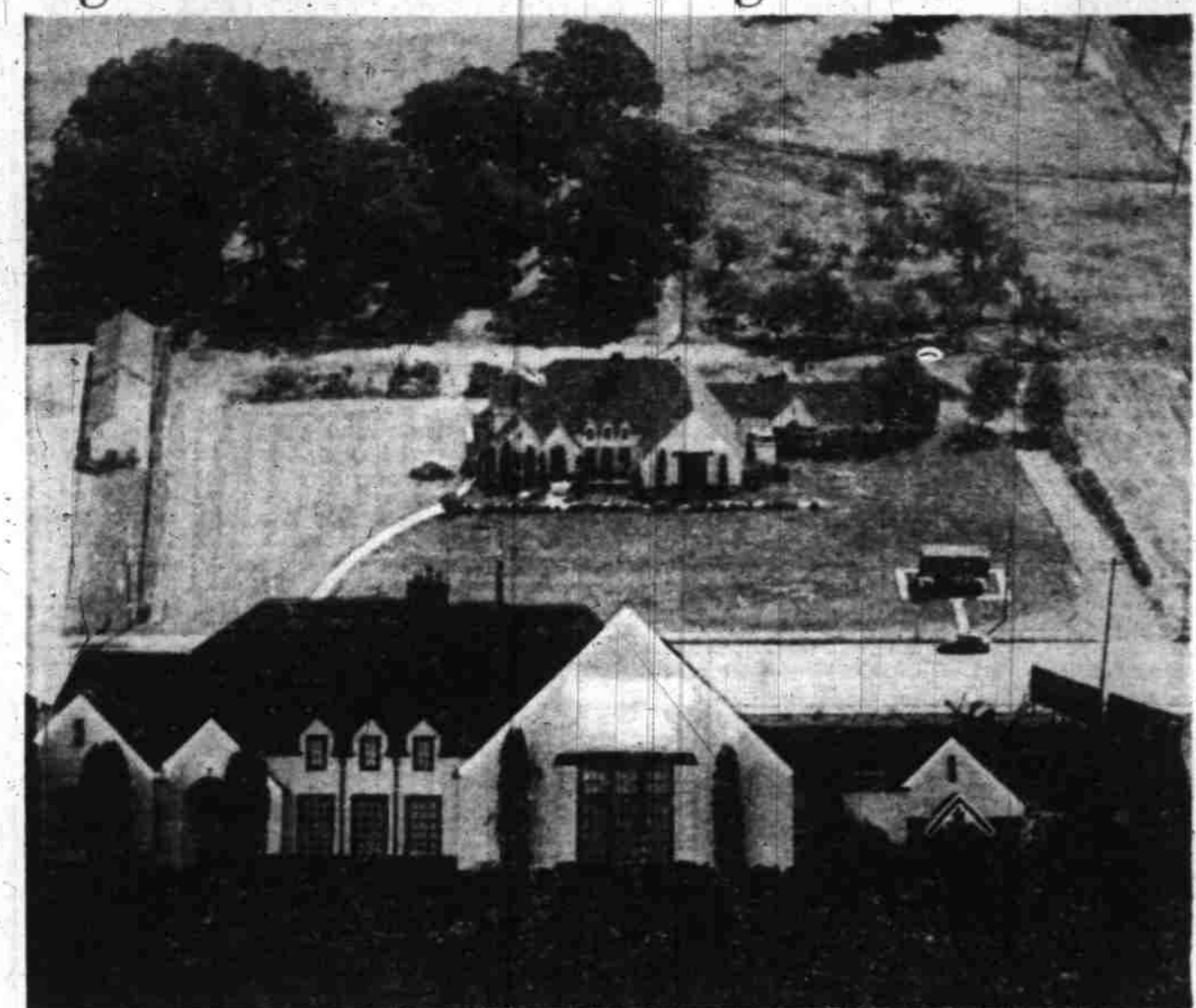


Salem Welcomes State American Legion Convention

Legion Hall Has Look of Large Estate from Air



This "double-take" of the American Legion hall on South Commercial street shows an aerial view of the establishment and grounds at the top contrasted with the night lighting effects of the former restaurant at dusk. (Statesman photos)

Latest Home of Capital Post 9 Sports French Architecture

By Don Dill
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Oregon legionnaires will assemble for many of their functions during the current state convention here in one of the most luxurious and pleasant American Legion halls to be found in the northwest—Capital post 9's hall on South Commercial street.

The huge, rambling structure fashioned after French type architecture will be the scene of many by

'Manor' Still Boasts Good Cuisine

Reunions between buddies of both wars from all over the state, and the club's many facilities will provide relief for the legionnaires following the parades, convention meetings and special events.

Legion Post Move
The beautiful hall was acquired post 9 in March 1948. Capitol

Veterans Found Salem Fine Host in Past Meets

By Conrad G. Franze
Staff Writer, The Statesman

The thrills, spills and distinctive characteristics of an American Legion state convention, such as will be held here August 3 to 6, are not new to Salem.

Many local Legionnaires and non-veterans alike recall vividly the busy, noisy state gatherings here of 1939 and 1929. Legion conventions have a flavor all their own.

Judging from past performances here the annual sessions of the Legion seem to combine the atmosphere of a three-ring circus, business convention, sightseers' tour and carnival.

Not that all is fun and frolic with thousands of Legion members when they take over a city once a year.

Serious Purpose Underneath
Underneath the carefree spirit, fun parades, pranks and numerous "get-togethers," the official delegates carry out the aims and purposes of the American Legion in hard-working business sessions.

Business usually centers around the Legion's main projects. These include welfare work, aid to disabled veterans and their dependents, child welfare, care of widows and orphans of veterans, community service, Americanism and adequate national defense.

Conventions held in Salem have been distinct from others in that they are staged in the state capitol building. When the 11th annual convocation was held here in 1929, Douglas McKay, now governor, was commander of the host post, Capital 9, and welcomed the delegates to the capitol.

Governor McKay will do so again this year—only from a rather elevated position.

Airport Dedicated in '29
Several thousand Legionnaires and their families, only a scant decade removed from World War I, converged on Salem in 1929. In addition to business sessions the schedule for that convention included fireworks, a drum corps contest (Portland won), visits to places of interest, dedication of the new Salem municipal airport, an air circus and a barbecue.

Baker sent a two-ton granite rock and two "hard rock miners" to put on an exhibition. The convention shared headlines with the Graf Zeppelin and New York tong wars.

Ten years later, in 1939, nearly 5,000 Legion members and their families brought an unforgettable convention to Salem. Who can forget the "Streets of Paris" and the "Dugout" on South Liberty street that year?

"National defense" was the convention theme.

The outstanding feature was one of the biggest parades ever seen at a Legion convention in Oregon. About 6,000 participated, between 50,000 and 75,000 spectators saw the marchers. Nearly two hours were required for the parade to file past the reviewing stand. Once the line of march was disrupted by city fire trucks dashing to a fire.

French Cab Here in '39
A battered old French taxi showed up in the 40th and 8th parade. It was reported to be one of the last remaining vehicles of the historic "taxicab" army which advanced on the Marne to repulse the Germans and save Paris.

Brazier Small was commander of Capital post in 1939. Bert Victor was chairman of the 40th and 8th convention and B. E. (Kelly) Owens, now department commander, was parade chairman.

Despite a blistering 99 degrees the air circus, barbecue, golf and pistol tournaments, dances and business sessions were well attended.

post had its first meetings in the armory, then post activities were transferred to a hall over Miller's store, which since has become part of the business.

Meetings next were held in the Fraternal temple on Center street, now the Labor temple. The first hall owned by the post was bought in 1940 from the Unitarian church, located at Chemeketa and North Cottage streets.

As USO Center
During the past war this hall was used as USO center for servicemen, providing many of the men stationed at Camp Adair with lounging, toilet and recreational facilities during their brief passes in Salem.

Following the war hundreds of new veterans joining Capital post swelled the membership to such proportions that the hall was no longer adequate and the present building was bought. The old hall was sold to the First Church of Christ.

History of the present clubhouse dates back to 1939 when Viesko and Hannaman, contractors, built the building as a mortuary for a stock company led by Dale J. Taylor, who operated the mortuary for a time. Taylor was succeeded by Thomas W. Ladd who was in charge of the establishment until it was closed early in the 1940's. The building remained unused until late in the war when Michael Flax completely remodeled and opened a night spot called the Normandy manor. The manor was popular during the more lush days of 1946 and 1947.

Many Renovations
Since that time more than \$35,000 has been spent renovating the building and converting it to Legion use. At present there is a large main dining room which converts into a meeting hall, several smaller private dining rooms, lounge, bar and game rooms.

A complete, modern kitchen is operated daily providing some of the finest food in Salem, causing the club to become a favorite place for legionnaires and their families to go for special events.

Legion's Own To Help Police At Convention

This American Legion convention in Salem this week will be well policed.

Although police committee chairman Jack Cutler and Frank Grimm said just prior to the convention that all details for the committee had not been worked out, it was known that a group of legionnaires would work with city police during the convention.

Of course, the atmosphere will not be so simple as it has been in the past. The joint police force has a task all its own.

It aids legionnaires in various ways during the sessions. The police direct strangers, regulate traffic during the parades and other activities, police streets, meeting halls and entertainment centers.

During any convention police keep a wary eye open for offenders who are not legionnaires. These range all the way from unauthorized novelty salesmen to pickpockets and other criminals.

Salem Police Chief Clyde A. Warren said his force would not be augmented during the convention. However, if parades and other night-time activities warrant it, some police may work double shifts on certain days.

A number of legionnaire police work in cooperation with the city's regular police force. At the 1939 convention in Salem the police committee was praised for setting up "almost perfect police protection." No arrests were made and no "discourtesies" were reported.

Seven Seas Post To Form Auxiliary

PORTLAND — Seven Seas Post 144, American Legion, is busy forming the most necessary aid to its happiness; an Auxiliary unit. Much time has been devoted to Commander Jim Scarlett, Bill Peratro and Larry Reid in having the post's unit in operation by fall.

Thousands of Delegates Pack Accommodations in Local Sector; Series of Dances to Start Tonight

By Robert E. Ganware
City Editor, The Statesman

Oregon's 31st annual American Legion convention is off to a rousing start, with the capital city of Salem primed for the part of host.

Legionnaires were registering by the hundreds as early as Tuesday and Salem hotels and auto courts began hanging out no-vacancy signs. All indications pointed to an overall attendance of many thousands for the state convention which opens today and continues through a packed program of business and fun until Saturday night.

Salem streets and stores are bedecked with welcome signs and bunting to mark the occasion of this city's first state Legion convention in 10 years.

Greetings Extended
Greetings have been extended by Salem Mayor R. L. Elfstrom, who issued a statement welcoming all Legionnaires and lauding the local Legion posts for their hard

Two 'Dugouts' Established for Legionnaires

An old standby of American Legion conventions are the traditional "dugouts" where legionnaires can get together and raise their glasses in a reminiscent toast to the experiences they shared through two world wars.

Every battle from Chateau-Thierry to Iwo Jima will be re-fought this week and, like the smoke-filled rooms of political conventions, the dugouts may help map campaign strategy during this convention.

Veteran legionnaires recall the "Streets of Paris," as the dugouts were named at the last convention in Salem in 1939.

Admission to this year's dugouts will be gained by presentation of the official legion badge or payment of a 10-cent admission charge. Although some entertainment is planned, the dugouts will function mainly to dispense refreshments to thirsty convention delegates.

There will be two dugouts this year, (one near the corner of Commercial and Court streets, next to the Quisenberry pharmacy, and the other across from the armory near the corner of Liberty and Ferry streets.

Legion Meetings at these Salem Locations



Courtesy Car System to Provide Free Transportation

work in preparing an elaborate convention for the guests. The Legion convention commission has worked out a courtesy car system to mark cars of Legionnaires and those of Salem citizens who are offering conventions rides to the various meeting places.

Today's convention activity features recreational events, registration, 40th and 8th society doings and numerous state committee sessions.

Dance at Armory
The first of four nightly public dances under official convention auspices will be at 9 o'clock tonight in the downtown armory.

Women's activity will center in the events of the state Legion auxiliary convention which starts with a ritualistic contest at 8 o'clock tonight in the Willamette university gymnasium and a district presidents' breakfast at 7 a.

m. Thursday in the Senator hotel.

Principal sessions of the convention proper will be in the state capitol building, with other events scattered throughout Salem.

First mass event of the Legion convention will be Thursday morning reveille at 8:45 at the Marion county courthouse in the center of Salem's downtown district. The 2nd infantry band will play here as flag raising ceremonies precede a memorial service to be conducted

ed in the Elsinore theatre jointly by Legion, auxiliary and 40th and 8th.

Opening Session
Following the memorial service will be the official convention opening session in the same theatre, with welcoming speeches and first appearance of convention headlines.

Among the many dignitaries sharing honors in convention duties and appearances are Salem's own B. E. (Kelly) Owens, Oregon department commander; Portland's Mrs. Hubert Goode, the national Legion auxiliary president; two past national Legion commanders, Frank N. Belgrano of Portland and Stephen Chadwick of Seattle; Mrs. Mitchell Thorn, the state auxiliary president; Oregon Gov. Douglas McKay, himself long an active Legionnaire; Portland's woman mayor, Dorothy McCullough Lee, active in the auxiliary program.

Kerrick Chairman
John C. Kerrick is general convention chairman, with Carl Gabrielson as vice chairman. Onas S. Olson is executive secretary for convention headquarters. Commanders of the host posts of Salem are Charles Huggins, post 9; Kenneth Potts, post 136; and Mrs. Harriet Belcher, post 149.

Big parades, always convention highlights, will be featured during the convention here, with the 40th and 8th parade scheduled for 5:30 p. m. today, the junior Legionnaire parade at 1:30 p. m. Friday and the grand convention parade at 7 p. m. Friday.

Salem Mayor Extends Hand To Delegates

Mayor Robert L. Elfstrom of Salem greeted the American Legion convention in Salem this week with this statement:

"Ten years have passed since the City of Salem has been privileged to play host to the state American Legion convention.

"Many citizens recall the enthusiastic, energetic, fun loving Legionnaires who evoked the hospitality of our city in 1939. Many will recall also the messages and forecasts that those Legionnaires left with us after many long-houred sessions of serious work.

"Welcome back to Salem, Legionnaires.

"Since that meeting ten years ago, a war has been fought and won, and some of those youthful spectators of the parades and frolics of that earlier time are now veterans and have joined your ranks. They will be coming to a Salem American Legion convention for the first time and will play an important part in your future. To these young men and women and to the veterans of the first World War, Salem extends a most gracious hand.

"Salem is proud of your local host Legion organizations who have prepared a worth while and entertaining program of the delegates representing your more than 30,000 Oregon Department members. Posts 9, 136 and 149 have worked hard and well.

"Billed as the host with the most, Salem has put on her party dress. Our streets and buildings are gaily decorated, our accommodations for lodging are prepared and our eating establishments are in readiness to serve you. Everyone is cooperating to make your visit complete, comfortable and convenient.

"As a representative of the citizens of Salem, I welcome you and enjoy you to share our beautiful city with us.

Public Invited to Legion Meet Events

The general public will be permitted to share in a large measure in the American Legion state convention here next week.

"In addition to providing fun and business for official Legion delegates and other Legion members, this convention also is designed to be a benefit to the public," a convention official said.

Anyone, whether a member of the American Legion or not, may register for the convention. When he plunks down his \$3 he receives a convention kit containing a badge, program and other literature.

The badge entitles him to a number of services and performances free during the convention. This includes a noon lunch Thursday at the airport Friday at 3 p. m. Salem chapter 6, Disabled American

Veterans, will conduct children's contests, with prizes, on the courthouse lawn Friday morning at 10 a. m. The children's parade will begin at 1:30 p. m. that day with children and their pets and in their favorite costumes participating.

Tickets also are available to the public for the Friday night vaudeville "family-type" show at the fairgrounds. It is to include acts, animals and a circus.

Legion guides will conduct the public on hourly tours of the state capitol building dome during the convention days.

Non-Legionnaires Can Register, for \$3

Commercial street. At other functions the registered one is entitled to admission on payment of the federal admission tax only.

But, badge or no badge, a number of events during the convention are open to the public whether registered or not.

These include the parades through Salem streets, the business sessions of the convention at the capitol building, the grand ball Thursday and subsequent official Legion dances during the convention and the free air show at the airport Friday at 3 p. m. Salem chapter 6, Disabled American

Dayton Post Led By Ernest Beichel

DAYTON — Dayton American Legion post 69 delegates to the state convention in Salem will be Louis Schultz, Arthur Dresselhaus and Ernest Beichel. Alternate delegates are Tom Huffman, Harold Lichtenhaler and Carl Francis.

Auxiliary delegates include Mrs. Tom Huffman, Mrs. Louis Schultz and Mrs. Edgar Thornton. Alternates are Mrs. Arthur Dresselhaus, Mrs. Blanche Ruffener and Mrs. Agnes Merrill.

Ernest Beichel, jr., is commander of the Dayton post.

Salem's 1949 Edition of the State Legion Convention Boasts Long List of Distinguished Notables



GOVERNOR DOUGLAS McKay, Convention Spokesman

STEPHEN F. CHADWICK, Past National Legion Commander

FRANK N. BELGRANO, Past National Commander, Convention Speaker

MRS. HUBERT A. GOODE, National Legion Auxiliary President

B. E. (KELLY) OWENS, Oregon Department Commander

MRS. MITCHELL THORN, Oregon Legion Auxiliary President

BRIG. GEN. H. G. MAISON, Grand Parade Marshal; Oregon Superintendent of State Police

JOHN C. KERRICK, General Convention Chairman