

River Days Provides 'Glorious 4th'



Willamette River Days festival Queen Neva Seema waves and smiles prettily at Capitol Mall as the festival's hour-long street parade got underway Wednesday morning. Queen Neva's court of seven princesses followed her festive highness in gaily decorated boats. One of largest crowds to view a Salem parade in many years lined the marching route. (All photos on this page by John Erickson, Statesman photographer.)



Drawing eyes of all kids in the Wednesday morning parade was the young pair shown above. Girl is Melody Purvis of Monmouth. Girl and colt were with the Monmouth Mounties, mounted group representing Monmouth Centennial observance.



One of features of festive parade, arranged by Salem Cherrians, was string of antique cars entered by Silverton's Silver "T" Club. Photo above shows cars chugging south on High Street. Crowd of spectators was so heavy at some points along route youngsters were boosted to

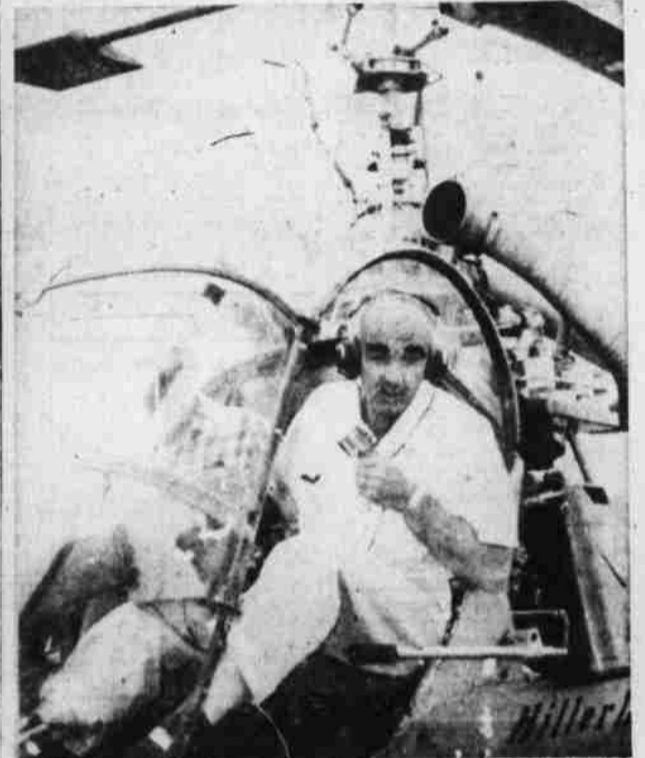
parents shoulders for better view. Parade began at Mall and ended at Bush's Pasture. Well-kept old cars performed tricky maneuvers during line of march. Parade included floats, marchers, mounted groups and several drill units.



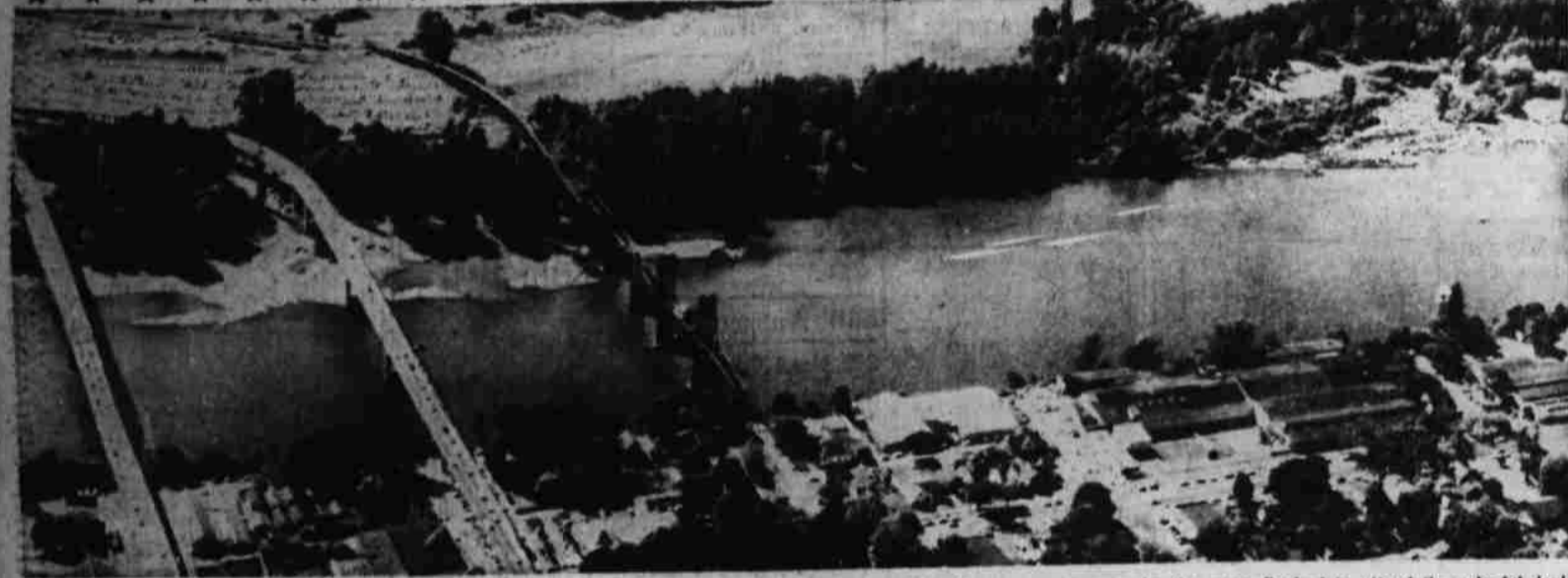
Traditional July 4 program was held at Bush's Pasture Wednesday afternoon with family picnics and games and contests for kiddies. Above shows Charles Barr out in front in one of the older boy foot races. Parents and other contestants are shown in background. Program, which included free treats, was sponsored by Salem Junior Chamber of Commerce.



Families who participated in picnic luncheon at Bush's Pasture were given free drinks, ice cream and potato chips by Jaycees. This photo shows busy Jaycees passing out goodies during noon-time program in southwest corner of park. Good weather brought out many picnickers.



Salem's first helicopter flight was made Wednesday afternoon. Pilot Dean Johnson is shown in photo above. Helicopter was piloted by Robert Reimann. Announcer Dave Hoss is shown broadcasting from the 'copter's seat. Next to him is pilot Dean Johnson of McMinnville.



Remnant of Salem's first Willamette River Days festival was this stretch of Willamette River. Those white streaks on the river (near center) are racing motor boats. Area at upper right shows portions of large race-watching crowd Wednesday. Upper left shows jammed parking lots as area persons by the score flocked to attend the colorful day's ceremonies. (Photo taken from Kreitzberg Aviation Inc., plane piloted by Robert Reimann.)



A crew of workers were kept busy beginning at 3 a.m. Wednesday handling a 300-pound buffalo for hungry racing fans. Here a crew of chefs is busy slicing up the barbecued meat Wednesday afternoon. An estimated 4,000 servings were prepared.



One of the most eye-catching floats in festival parade was the YWCA float shown above. Girls, all Y-Women (from left) Kathie Archer, Phyllis Donnelly, Patti Claggett, Carol Hagena, Mary Wood (seated) and Geraldine Willard.



River Days Princess Donna Eschleman waves to parade watchers on crowded City Hall steps as parade moves through crowded streets. Donna is seated atop cruiser which later participated in river activities.



In playful mood Princess Minnie Neuharth holds up boat life preserver to supply a periscope view of Princess Jackie Hayes seated atop boat just before boats swing into line of parade march.