



Capital Journal



SECTION 3—Salem, Oregon, August 2, 1949—Special American Legion Convention Section

Welcome Mat Out for Legion

Friday Night Parade Huge And Colorful

Featuring a military keynote, the long and colorful grand parade of the 31st annual Oregon state American Legion convention will wind its way through Salem's downtown streets beginning at 7 o'clock Friday night.

It is expected the parade will take over two hours to pass any one spot.

The grand parade is always a highlight of any Legion convention, and this year's march is promised to be especially colorful, in that it includes such a wide variety of paraders.

Grand Marshal Brig. Gen. H. G. Mason and his aides will make up the first section of the parade.

Then will come over 1000 snappy military men marching in various groups. Included will be 250 men from the 2nd division at Fort Lewis, and the 50-piece 2nd infantry band, regarded as one of the best military bands in the nation.

Two battalions of the 162nd infantry of the Oregon national guard, made up of over 700 men, follow. Included in this section of the parade are two national guard units from Salem. Many of the National Guards will be armed.

Huge government trucks carrying the very latest in heavy artillery will roll in the parade.

Local Navy and Marine reserve units will also appear.

It's the Legionnaires convention, so the Legion will be well represented in the parade. Drum and bugle corps teams, state Legion officers, auxiliary members, 40 et 8 leaders, etc., will all pass by in review.

Patriotic groups, including Gold Star Mothers, War Mothers, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, will play a big part in making the parade complete.

Local civic organizations will also be represented.

The line of march: Starts at Marion square; south on Commercial to State; east on state to Liberty; north on Liberty to Chemeketa; east on Chemeketa to High; south on High to State; east on state to Winter, disbanding at Willson park.

Second Infantry Band Comes From Ft. Lewis

The Second Infantry band of Ft. Lewis, Wash., a group of military musicians who can play any type of music and do it well, will be on hand for nearly all the principal events of the state American Legion convention this week.

The band is particularly noted for its ability to appear in formal routine. Clad in white bands and white gloves, the machine-like group will make formal appearances at flag-raising ceremonies on the courthouse lawn Thursday morning, and at the drum corps competition at Sweetland field Thursday night.

Douglas McKay, governor of Oregon, is a past commander of Capital Post No. 9, American Legion, Salem.



Beverly Krueger

Miss Oregon Guest of City

Miss Beverly Krueger, formerly of Salem and now of The Dalles, who was recently crowned "Miss Oregon," will appear at nearly all gatherings of the 31st annual American Legion convention in Salem this week. Miss Krueger, a green eyed brunette, will make her first appearance at the ritualistic contest of the Legion auxiliary in the Willamette university gymnasium at 8 o'clock Wednesday night.

She'll also be in the 40 et 8 parade Wednesday afternoon, the drum and bugle corps contest on Sweetland field Thursday night, the Blue Angels aerobic show at McNary field Friday night.

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Convention Highlights

WEDNESDAY

5:30 p. m.—40 et 8 Parade.
9:00 p. m.—Convention dance, armory. Public invited.

THURSDAY

All day—Drum corps, bands, funmaking stunts, etc., on downtown streets.

8:45 a. m.—Flag raising ceremonies, Court House lawn.
9:00 a. m.—Joint memorial services, Elsinore theatre.
9:45 a. m.—Opening joint business session, Elsinore theatre.
12:00 noon—Legion luncheon, American Legion club, 2650 S. Commercial, free to all registrants.
1:30 p. m.—Business session, House of Representatives.
2:00 p. m.—Ritualistic contest, mass initiation, champion team, Elks temple.
5:30 p. m.—Retreat ceremony, Court House square.
6:00 p. m.—Grand Convention banquet, armory.
7:30 p. m.—Band concert, Sweetland field.
8:00 p. m.—Drum corps contest, Sweetland field.
8:00 p. m.—Drum corps contest, Sweetland field.
9:00 p. m.—Convention dance, armory, public invited.
10:00 p. m.—Grand convention ball.

FRIDAY

All Day—Drum corps, bands, funmaking stunts, etc., on downtown streets.

8:00 a. m.—Reveille and flag raising, Court house lawn.
9:30 a. m.—Business session, House of Representatives.
1:30 p. m.—Business session, House of Representatives.
1:30 p. m.—Junior (Legiokana) parade.
3:00 p. m.—U. S. Navy precision flyers, "Blue Angels," McNary field, free to the public.
5:00 p. m.—Retreat ceremony, Court House lawn.
7:00 p. m.—Grand convention parade.
8:30 p. m.—Convention Cavalcade, stage show, State Fairgrounds.

9:00 p. m.—Convention dance, armory.

SATURDAY

8:00 a. m.—Reveille and flag raising ceremonies, Court House lawn.
9:30 a. m.—Business session, House of Representatives.
6:00 p. m.—Entertainment, Legion club, 2650 S. Commercial, free to the public.
9:00 p. m.—Convention dance, armory.

Post 136 Started With Call Published in Newspapers

Salem Post 136 of the American Legion, which now ranks among the largest 15 posts in Oregon with a membership of nearly 700, had its humble beginning in 1946.

A small group of young veterans inserted an ad in the Salem newspapers asking interested World War II veterans to gather for an informal meeting at a designated time and place.

Purpose of this meeting was to discuss possibilities of forming a local veterans' group, and to make a survey of national and state vet organizations with the possibility of affiliating with one of them.

It was decided that the group should be confined to veterans of World War II. Joe Felton, district judge, was named temporary chairman of the organizational committee.

Rex Kimmell, then deputy state's attorney and now a judge in Marion county circuit court, was called in to explain the American Legion organization and purposes.

Kimmell convinced the group that they should become affiliated with the Legion.

The committee headed by Felton then made a study as to whether or not a second Legion post in Salem was feasible. They submitted a favorable written report, and an application was made for a charter.

A temporary charter was granted February 8, 1946, by State Commander Neil Moffatt of Astoria.

Donald D. Goode served as the first post commander and took office with a membership of 121. The permanent charter was obtained in July, 1946.

The post grew rapidly under the commandship of Ty Gillespie, Chester Fritz and Homer Smith, Jr. Its present commander is Kenneth Potts.

Radio and Press to Meet With Notables

A press and radio reception honoring distinguished guests of the 1949 convention of the American Legion, department of Oregon, will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p. m. Wednesday in the Cherrian room of the Senator hotel. The event immediately follows the 40 et 8 parade.

Official press room for the convention is in the office normally occupied by KSLM in the Senator hotel lobby.

Two Former National Commanders Coming

At least two former national commanders of the American Legion will be guests at the Oregon state Legion convention in Salem this week.

They are Stephen F. Chadwick, Seattle attorney, and Frank N. Belgrano, president of the First National Bank of Portland.

Belgrano will give the keynote address at the initial joint session of the 31st annual convention in the Elsinore theatre Thursday morning.

The state Legion convention is held in Salem in every year ending with "9," which means the Legionnaires will be back in 1959.

Records Tumble When Legion Meets in Salem

"We've done it before and we can do it again!"

That might be the theme song of the host commission for the 31st annual American Legion department of Oregon convention which bursts loose in Salem this week.

Two previous conventions have been held in Salem—1929 and 1939. And each of those two conventions proved to be bigger and better than any convention ever held before in the state of Oregon.

So with Salem hosting the 1949 meet, Legionnaires throughout the state are hoping that the town can come through again. And if the enthusiasm voiced by convention commission members is any indication, nobody will be disappointed with the '49 meeting.

Lots Doing All the Time

This year's parade will be particularly big and colorful; the drum and bugle corps competition on Sweetland field Thursday night will be augmented by a number of special attractions; special dedication events, such as the enshrinement of the Oregon boxcar from the French "gratitude train" and the dedication of the Navy air unit at McNary field will add interest and permanency to the convention; a huge vaudeville show at the Fair grounds Saturday night is an added highlight. In short the hosts of the 1949 convention are doing their utmost to make every event a special event, and to add new events to the convention program.

The entire city is unfolding welcome arms to Legion convention delegates. Banners have been hung over every downtown street, and dozens of merchants are placing signs over their doors and windows in welcoming tribute to the thousands of World War I and World War II veterans who are flocking to Salem for the meet.

Courtesy Cars

Salem residents are also offering a helping hand by volunteering to convert their family autos into "courtesy cars" for convention week. Many Salemites have placed "courtesy car" stickers on their windshields, an indication that they'll pick up any delegate who requires a ride in the direction the "courtesy car" happens to be going.

Salem folks are also showing their hospitality by renting rooms to Legionnaires who might be unable to stay in Salem for the convention period.

The keys to the city are yours, Legionnaires. Have fun.

Elfstrom to Welcome Legion to Salem

Mayor Robert L. Elfstrom will give the official "welcome" to the 31st annual state Legion convention during a joint session in the Elsinore theater on Thursday morning.

Appearing as main speaker at that session will be Frank Belgrano of Portland, past national commander. Governor Douglas McKay will also speak.