



Here They Come, 500 MPH, Blue Angels in Flight—Regarded as the best precision flying group of all time, the world-famous Blue Angels, pictured here in flight, will appear at Salem's McNary field at 3 p.m. Friday. Admission is free and 1,002 thrills per customer guaranteed.

**THRILLS AND CHILLS**

**Those Blue Angels, They Will Do the Unbelievable**

By CHRIS KOWITZ, JR.

Pull in your chimney, chum; the Blue Angels are coming to town.

Four airplanes, flying in such close formation that their wing tips appear to be bolted together, streak across the sky at 500 miles an hour!

They perform intricate loops, rolls, Cuban Eights, and other precision stunts, while maintaining tight formation. And they do it all at breathtaking speeds and low altitudes.

Their attack on an "enemy" plane is so realistic that audiences are left limp with excitement.

The Blue Angels will perform their full regalia of aerobatics over Salem's McNary field during the dedication of the Naval reserve facilities at 3 p.m. Friday. It is an official event of the 31st annual American Legion state convention.

In their demonstration, the Blue Angels fly the Grumman Bearcat, the plane that made them famous, and vice versa. The Bearcat, a carrier based Navy fighter plane, at 500 miles per hour is the fastest propeller driven plane in use today.

**Climbing Rate Amazing**  
It has a phenomenal rate of climb, and you can bet your bottom dollar the Blue Angels know how to climb it. In the Cleveland air races in 1946 a standard Navy Bearcat took off from a standing start and exactly 100 seconds later was flying at 10,000 feet.

Though over 10 million spectators at leading air shows and civic events throughout the country have been scared to death by Blue Angel performances, the Angels do not consider themselves daredevils.

"It's just precision flying," they say.

And precision flying it is, we assure you. At first you'll see three planes take off and flit about the sky in formation. You'll wonder how in heaven's skies they fly so closely together without clipping each other.

Then, believe it or not, a fourth plane takes off and squeezes in the middle of the other three, and from there on spectators hang onto their hearts and their hats. The boys cut loose with mad motor mayhem that would make the Wright brothers' wildest night-made a gentle dream.

**Shoot Down the Enemy**

One of the highlights of the routine is a mock attack upon an "enemy" fighter plane. Painted a brilliant yellow, compared to the bright blue of the Angels planes, the "enemy" plane is the subject of attack of the roaring Bearcats. Those Angel-piloted Bearcats dive and loop around the "enemy," and the "enemy" goes through all sorts of action in an apparent attempt to evade his pursuers.

The "enemy" is finally shot down, and begins plummeting to earth in a careening spin. The "pilot" bails out, and his white parachute opens with maneuvering planes buzzing all about him.

You'll just have to see it to capture the ferocious fury involved.

**Noted Military Leaders Guests**

Legion conventions are traditionally a meeting place of military leaders, and the 31st annual department of Oregon convention in Salem this week is no exception.

Distinguished military men on hand for the affair include Gen. Robert McClure of Vancouver Barracks, commanding general of the Northern division; Admiral Thomas L. Gatch, of Portland, now retired; and several commandants of western states military units.

Many more government notables have indicated they "will attend if possible." Among these is Gen. Mark Clark, commanding general of the famous Sixth army.

Over 1000 officers and enlisted men will participate in the grand parade, beginning at 7 o'clock Friday evening.

**Headquarters in Tent**

Convention headquarters for the American Legion is located in a tent on the Marion county court house lawn. There will be attendants on duty during every day and evening of the convention.

And to give you an idea as to how fast the Blue Angels fly those Bearcats, they can — and probably will — travel the entire length of State street, from the Willamette river to the state penitentiary — in just a shade over 12 seconds!

Lt. Com. R. E. (Dusty) Rhodes is leader of the world-famous Blue Angel team. Other pilots are Lt. (jg) H. C. MacKnight; Lt. (jg) H. R. Heagerty; Lt. (jg) E. R. (Fritz) Roth; Lt. (jg) J. H. (Jake) Robcke; and Lt. (jg) G. W. Hoskins.



On Friday Night Show—Tato the Clown and his pet chimpanzee, Cheeta, will be featured in the Convention Cavalcade, a stage show production scheduled for the fairgrounds outdoor stage at 8:30 o'clock Friday night. The show is an event of the 31st annual American Legion convention.

**Communism Seminar Is 'Secret' Session**

One of the "secret" sessions of the 1949 Oregon state American Legion convention will be the seminar on communism at the Salem Chamber of Commerce at 8 o'clock Thursday night.

Only Legion members in good standing who show their membership cards at the door will be allowed to enter.

In Legion meetings, during the roll call of past commanders, the chaplain answers for all deceased past commanders.

**Hop In, Vet**

Need a ride across town, Legionnaire? Just watch for a "courtesy car" sticker on the windshield of a car, and stick out your thumb. The driver of that vehicle is one of Salem's hospitable citizens who offered to haul you around during your stay in Salem.

**Kool-Aid**  
MAKES 10 BIG COLD DRINKS  
6 FLAVORS

**BROWNING BROS**  
AMUSEMENT CO  
and their  
CARNIVAL ATTRACTIONS

Welcome to Salem, Legionnaires, and to children of all ages. Will see you at Marion Square all this week

**STARTING TONIGHT**

RIDES PRIZES