4th Annual American Legion Armistice Day Race

Thursday, 11 Nov 1937 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte

Mindful that guns of war were again firing elsewhere in the world, Butte's American Legion led in celebration and remembrance on the nineteenth anniversary of the World War armistice. The Legionnaires fired sixteen bombs over the city that exploded simultaneously, forming one jarring blast that signaled the 11 a.m. beginning of holiday festivities, matching the exact hour that hostilities ceased in France in 1918.

At noon, the Armistice Day Race was again held as part of the festivities, with a course that started at the Legion Hall on East Broadway and looped over to the Montana School of Mines and then back to the Hall.

James Kearney running for the Sky-High Athletic club won the race in 10:02, and the policeman driving the pace-car reported that the route measured a bit more than two miles on his cruiser's odometer.

Kearney, who took off only his tie and coat for the race, won by two-thirds of a block with his "long legs striding smoothly as he coasted" through the finish tape. Kearney, who had finished second in the race two years earlier while he was still a student at Christian Brothers High School, also had his younger brother Marty in the race who finished third. Butte High's Logan Morgan split the ground between the two brothers, evenly.

Fritz Apostel, the 5th place runner representing Butte High, is the son of a German war veteran who was wounded three times during fighting in the World War.

Fourteen runners raced, and the first 6 finishers will be awarded medals and ribbons at the next Legionnaires' meeting. After the race, a prominent local resident, who wished to remain anonymous, pledged $25 towards the purchase of trophy cups to be used as rewards in next year's race.

Individual standings: 1, James Kearney, Sky-High Athletic; 2, Logan Morgan, BH; 3, Martin Kearney, BC; 4, Frank Veale, BC; 5, Fritz Apostel, BH; 6, Eddie Picard, BC; no additional finishers listed.