

7th Annual American Legion Armistice Day Race

Monday, 11 Nov 1940 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte

Growing public somberness, and military consciousness, with regard to the prospects of sending American troops into Europe's current war prevailed as Butte celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the armistice that ended "the war to end all wars."

The normal litany of Armistice Day activities unfolded, plus the efforts of Legionnaires to reach the younger generation through public speaking in local schools. For example, at the School of Mines, past Legion Commander Earle Genzberger spoke on "A Future to Win." Speakers also visited Girls' Central, Butte High, and the Christian Brothers Boys' school.

Despite inhospitable weather, the day's festivities were also marked by increased participation and enthusiasm under swelling national fervor, which the Montana Standard described saying "...Americanism is as strong today in Butte as it was when the men marched away 23 years ago."

Shortly after the day's traditional 11 a.m. volley of mortar blasts, the Legion's 2-mile race again starting and finishing on East Broadway in front of Legion Hall. Marty Kearney, representing the Sky High Athletic club, won the race in 13 minutes flat. Kearney is a Christian Brothers graduate.

2 mile: 1, Martin Kearney, Sky High Athletic, 13:00; 2, Frank Veale, School of Mines; 3, Jack O'Neil, BC; 4 (tie), John Montgomery, School of Mines & George McCarthy, BC.