

9th Annual American Legion Armistice Day Race

Monday, 11 Nov 1946 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte

World War II Over! Butte's World War II "GIs" joined the "doughboys" of WWI in remembrance of great sacrifices and in celebration of peace, in a way that carried much of the color of the city's celebrations of a few years earlier, starting Sunday night with dinners and dances, and continuing Monday with the American Legion's race, and open houses. On Monday stores remained open, but banks and government buildings were closed. There was no mail delivery, except for special deliveries and perishable items. Law enforcement remained on duty.

At 10:59 a.m. Monday, there was the traditional moment of silence and remembrance for all war veterans, including those who recently gave their lives and who are now buried in the soils of France, the South Pacific, and elsewhere.

The Armistice Day Race had been suspended for the last four years while the nation was at war. Less than a month after the 1941 race, the Japanese bombardment on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into the war.

At 11 a.m., today, the Legion's race was rekindled, with C. Owen Smithers again at the helm after returning from his second world war. Smithers reported inviting teams from both Butte high schools as well as from the Butte Business College, Whitehall, Boulder, and Deer Lodge. A police car led racers through the course, and Legionnaires manned the street corners along the route, ensuring runners safely through the "about 2.5 miles." The route was not recorded but it started and finished at the Legion Hall, and it include parts of Wyoming and Idaho Streets.

Marty Kearney, a Central grad, having returned to Butte follow his service in World War II, attempted to win back the race title that he had won in 1940. Kearney led the race's first two miles, but was then overtaken by C. S. Renourd, Jr. of Butte Central, who was the first runner to finish in 15:06. Renourd won a trophy cup for his effort. Kearney finished third, winning a medal as did the other three finishers.

2.5 mile: 1, Claire J. Renouard, BC, 15:06; 2, Fred Harvey, BH; 3, Martin Kearney, BC Alumni; 4, Charles Sternes, BH; 5, James Reardon, BC.