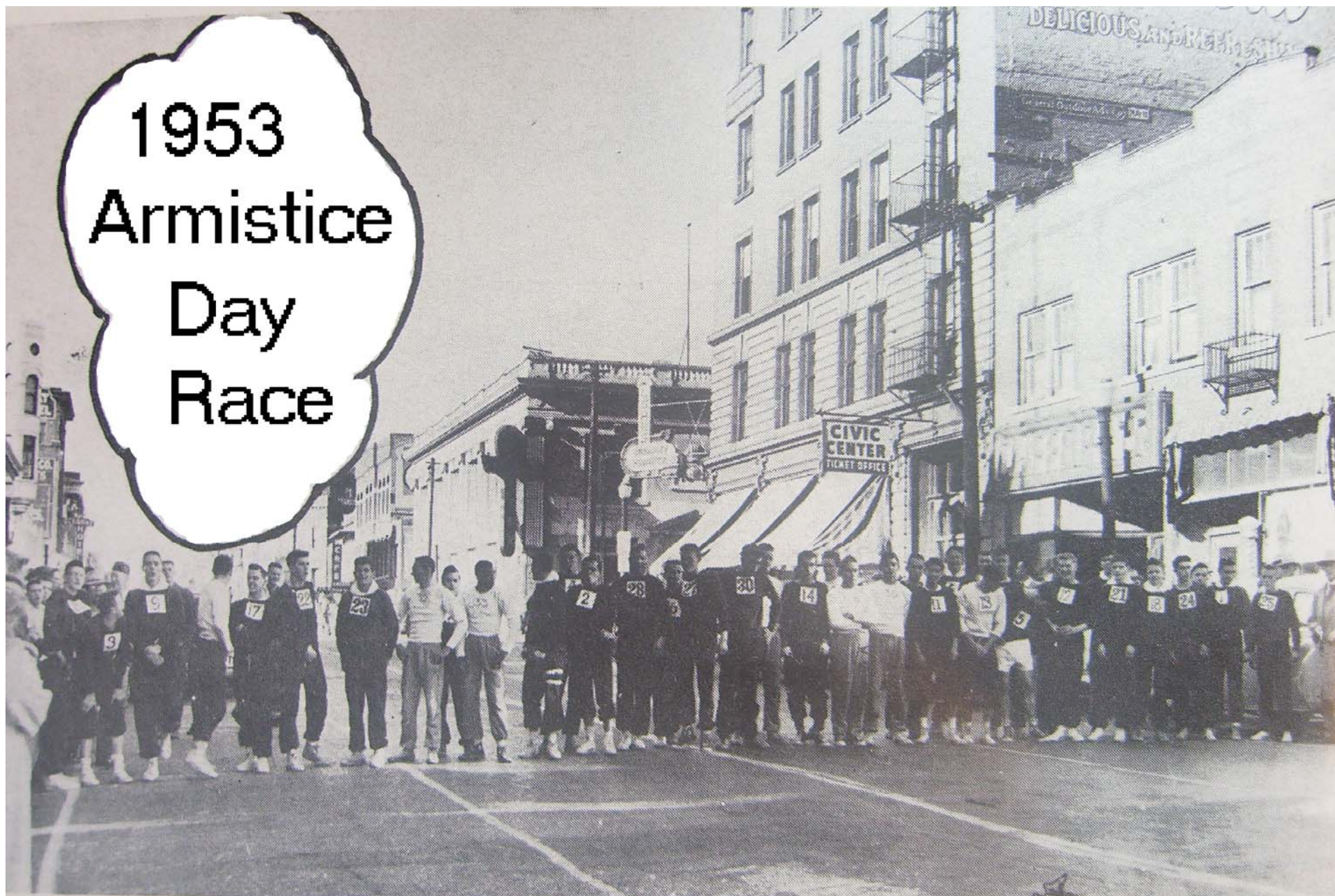


16th Annual American Legion Armistice Day Race

Wednesday, 11 Nov 1953 at Legion Hall in Uptown Butte



Race co-founder C. Owen Smithers chaired another Armistice Day “derby” and the Montana Standard reported that “A large crowd of spectators was on hand to see the start of the race, and at the finish the spectators virtually jammed the street. Police were on hand to keep the running lane open.”

The race was started at 11 a.m., following the 34-year-old traditional firing of an 11-gun salute from the Legionnaires’ small cannon at the corner of Broadway and Main.

At right: Race winner Ted Molthen leads his Bulldog teammate Wendell Glenn through the finish in 16:52. The two gathered all the team points (11) that the Purples would get in taking temporary possession of the Jack Pachico Cup, a trophy that travels annually with the team that wins it, and which is also the object of an ongoing 11-year contest to decide final ownership. Butte Public earned a 1-point (11 to 10) victory over Butte Central, slightly widening its 6-year scoring lead to 4 points (65-61).



The large golden Pacheco trophy was dedicated in 1948 through the joint efforts of Fred Grefig and the Legion Post in honor of Jack Pachico who won the second Armistice Day Race in 1935, and who was later killed in action in World War II.

Awards ceremony pictured from left: Race Chairman C. Owen Smithers next to Ted Molthen (with Pachico Cup), BH, 1st, 16:52; Wendell Glenn, BH, 2nd; Tom Monaghan, BC, 3rd; Vince Garvey, BC, 4th; Dick Roche, BC, 5th; Skip Dunfee, BC 6th; Butte Central Coach James Sweeney; Butte High Coach Swede Dahlberg.



Team Scores: Butte High, 11; Butte Central, 10.

Additional finishers:

BC: Paul Kingston, Dan Crowley, Jim Lynch, Bob Robertson, Tony Muffich, Dan Hanley, Jim Fenlon, Bill Sullivan, John Kingston, Tony Craig, Bill Maloney, Ted McElhenney, Ron McElhenney, Charles Canty, Tim Driscoll, Bill Connors, Bernie Harrington, Joe D’Arcy, Dennis Winters, Tom Sheehan, Emmett Quinn, Bill Hanley, Bill Stanaway, Jim Lester [Not the same Jim Lester who, in later years, would complete more than twenty Vets’ Day Races], J. Sullivan, John Cashell, Bill Burby.

BH: Ralph Bingaman, Stanley Lode, Bob Gordon, John Worcester.