Lined up on Front St. between Alder and Washington, on 4th of July, 1858 parade, are Portland Brass Band, Multnomah Fire Engine Co. No. 2, Willamette Fire Engine Co. No. 1, Vigilance Hook and Ladder Co., Jefferson Guard and Turn Verein Association. (Photo sometimes identified as June 22, 1858, when citizens were aroused early by cannon, bells and gongs announcing Oregon's supposed admission as a state, a report corrected by 11 a.m.)
Oregon Celebrates!

To mark the national, state, and local celebrations of the U.S. Bicentennial, the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* presents photos of earlier Oregon celebrations of many kinds. On many such occasions in the 19th and early 20th century, Oregonians in every hamlet and town turned out with enthusiasm and enjoyment, to celebrate the past, the present, and the future. They were elevated, and they had fun—either or both as suited the occasion.

Professional entertainers were scarce, and there were no radios or TV sets. But there was always home talent, and sometimes a military band from a nearby army post; there were lodge, church, and school programs, fire companies and fairs, visiting dignitaries and other special events that marked what they felt was the progress of civilization. Of all these, perhaps, they relied most on the 4th of July.

Order of Arrangements

For the Celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

At Portland, O. T., July 4, 1850.

The procession will form at half past nine, a.m., near the Portland House, and move thence to Washington street, thence to the grove at the foot of Water street, in the following order:

1. Music.
   - Marshal.
   - Aid.

   - Clergymen.

   - Civil Officers of Government.

   - Invited Guests.


On the arrival of the procession at the grove, the exercises will be:

- Prayer, by Rev. Horace Lyman.
- Music.
- Music.
- Oration, by the Hon. Wm. M. King.
- Music.

Upon the conclusion of the exercises of the day, a dinner will be served at the house of Mr. Wimple; tickets for which can be obtained from either of the Committee of Arrangements:

- A. W. McKinney, Chief Marshal
- W. M. Caldwell
- D. H. Lowndes
- A. W. McKinney, Com. of Arr't.
On April 26, 1872, I.O.O.F. lodges of Portland and East Portland celebrated 53rd anniversary of Odd Fellowship in U.S. The East Portland Brass Band, directed by Thomas Parrott, led the procession to the Courthouse, where M. W. Fechheimer was orator. After band selections ("America" and "Hail, Columbia") and prayer, the parade went on, halting on 1st Street at Washington for the photographer on the balcony of the 1st National Bank. There was a grand ball that evening.

FACING PAGE, ABOVE: News of Lee's surrender reached Portland April 11. The 12th, anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter, was also the occasion of public rejoicing over the end of the Civil War. Businesses closed early to decorate with rows of candles for evening celebration, and leader of parade (center of photo on horse) was Col. John McCracken. After gun salute and ringing of bells, the torchlight procession marched to the Plaza with two brass bands and a military band. "Front Street... was gloriously illuminated..."

FACING, BELOW: "The grandest sight that Portland ever witnessed" was the Sept. 12, 1883, procession, honoring completion of the first transcontinental railroad to reach the city, the Northern Pacific. Three arches were constructed over 1st street (here viewed looking north from Salmon—note horsecar turnout in central distance). The arch at the north end, at Ankeny, represented "the entrance to a feudal castle... surmounted with towers... elegantly adorned with evergreens, streamers, flags and bunting. On either side the word 'Welcome'... Statues emblematical of Europe, Asia, Africa and America... standing in niches... the entire population was drawn out by one sympathetic impulse" to greet Villard and assorted dignitaries.
Above, July 4th footrace at Sumpter, Oregon, about late 1880s. (Hazel-tine Collection.) Below, Graham's Band celebrates Christmas at Lake-view in 1899. (Courtesy Schminck Museum.)
Two sections of Portland Labor Day parade, 1902, forming on Park St. Below, Railway Freight-Handlers Union stands at corner of Park and Main; about two blocks further north are Portland Bakers and Confectioners, followed by restive horses pulling float. First Congregational Church towers are visible. Note unpaved and boardwalked Park Street.
Wasco Warehouse & Milling Co. Warehouse No. 15 is backdrop for July 4th float at Moro in 1902. Little girl at right end is enchanted with photographer.
Fourth of July picnic, probably Moro about 1905. Corner of speaker's stand visible left center, and is that photographer W. A. Raymond's coat hanging on tree? So far even the children have not touched fried chicken, salad, pie and cake.
ABOVE: What special event on this fine day at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905 brought out the navy, expectant crowd, photographers and highly polished carriages for dignitaries? (Angelus Collection.) Photo at right of Exposition’s electrical illumination at night, new feature that remained in memories of most visitors. People on benches are enjoying fine evening. (Ashford Collection.)
Above, Albany parade. Is it 1912 Fourth of July and Welcome to the Oregon Electric Railway? Below, Bend celebrates railroad activity. The fire department, stage and other vehicles participate. Lara's ("Bend the Beautiful Welcomes You") also has gasoline for sale. The railroad was completed to Bend in 1911.
Steamboats *Altona* (left), *Pomona* (center) and *Bonita* (right) brought crowds to Champoeg in 1905 to celebrate founding of Oregon’s Provisional Government. Event below is Eugene automobile parade and rose show in 1912, according to banner. Sporty, white-capped young man in Studebaker is closest to intersection of West 10th St. (*Oregonian* Col.)
Two views of Astoria Regatta, circa 1911. Above, life-saving crew drill; below, fishing boat race.
"Opening day, baseball season, 1910," Portland, looking north on Broadway from Washington. Across from Lyric Theater (left) is Bijou nickelodeon.
Fourth of July parade in Silverton, about 1913, led by Silverton Lumber Co. engine #3. (Drake Collection.) Below, Mrs. Charles Cronin, Burns pioneer, driving last spike on Union Pacific extension from Crane to Burns, Aug. 23, 1924. Official Railroad Day was Sept. 24.
Above, Langlois Fourth of July parade, circa 1915, includes band and Redmen. Burns Fourth, 1913, also has band leading parade on Main Street. (Oregon Journal Collection.)
1908 Rose Carnival parade, Portland, moving west on Morrison between 9th and 10th streets.
Ground-breaking at Vista House site, on June 7, 1916, Columbia River Highway dedication date. President Wilson touched electric button at White House which "unfurled the flag of freedom to the breezes." (Lancaster album, courtesy R. J. Fahl.)