

Veterans Day Parade



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The first Armistice Day event took place in Auburn on 11 November 1918 with the end of World War I. It was a spontaneous, quickly organized parade. Photos of the event show people wearing masks due to the flu pandemic.

In May, 1919, the Richard W. Townsend Post 84, American Legion, began making preparations for the Armistice Day observance for November of that year. Committees were organized for an evening dance at the Freeman Hotel and a parade. An Armistice Day parade was scheduled each year until 1939. In 1940 and 1941 it was called the Defense Day parade. In 1942 it was called Victory Day Parade. There was a War Bond Drive parade on 1 November 1943, but no parades in 1944 and 1945. In 1954 the name was changed from "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day" and was made a national holiday.

A parade has been held each year since 1946 to the present. The parade starts at the top of Lincoln Way and proceeds to Central Square where a short ceremony takes place including the singing of the National Anthem, a dove release, and three volleys by the honor guard. The parade continues to the Gold Country Fair grounds for a lunch and tribute to veterans.

Nomination Form

Unpublished paper by Chuck Spinks