

CULVER BLACK HORSE TROUP, OLD SETTLERS DAY PARADE 1925

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FOR SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 1925, OLD SETTLERS DAY, THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER HAD CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES ABOUT THE CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY, THE CULVER BLACK HORSE TROOP AND THE CULVER MILITARY BAND. THE COMPOSITION OF AN ELABORATE PROGRAM AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FEATURE ARTICLES LET THE READERS KNOW THAT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY WAS COMING TO TOWN.

THE FEATURE ATTRACTION WAS THE BLACK HORSE TROUP, COMPOSED OF SOME ONE HUNDRED OF THE BEST RIDERS OF THE CAVALRY SUMMER SCHOOL. MR E L McLALLEN JR , WHOS SON JACK WAS THE CAPTION OF THE BLACK HORSE TROUP AND WAS THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER IN THE TROOP AT THE TIME, WAS INCIDENTAL IN ATTAINING THE TROUP.

ON TUESDAY MORNING AUGUST 11, THE TROUP MOVED TO COLUMBIA CITY AND PITCHED TENTS IN SHINNEMAN'S GROVE ON THE LAND OF SQUIRE CALEB ANDERSON, ON THE SHORES OF TROY CEDAR LAKE. THE CAMP WAS NAMED "CAMP CALEB ANDERSON".

THAT AFTERNOON SIXTY TROOPERS WERE INVITED TO SWIM AT THE S. J. PEABODY FARM. DIVING PLAIN AND FANCY, RELAY SWIMMIING RACES AND OTHER WATER SPORTS MADE THE AFTERNOON A MERRY ONE.

THE WORD OF THE TROOP'S ARRIVAL SPREAD RAPIDLY AS EVERY RESIDENT ALONG THE ROUTE CALLED HIS NEIGHBOR TO INFORM HIM OF THE TROOP'S PRESENCE. THE TOWNSHIP ROADS WERE LINED WITH EXCITED AND ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 12TH, A NUMBER OF LOCAL PEOPLE OWNING AUTOMOBILES WERE ENGAGED TO DRIVE TO CULVER AND PICK UP THE MEMBERS OF THE FIFTY-PIECE MILITARY BAND. THE BAND MEMBERS SPENT THEIR TIME AS GUESTS IN THE HOMES OF VARIOUS CITIZENS. SIX YOUNG MEN FROM COLUMBIA CITY WERE MEMBERS OF THE BAND. THEY WERE: RICHARD D KISSINGER, JOHN W MARKLEY, JAMES K NORTHAM, JOSEPH BAILEY, ROBERT SMITH AND PERRY WILLIAMSON. AT 8PM, THE PROGRAM WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED WITH A CONCERT BY THE CULVER MILITARY BAND.

AT 3:15 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH, THE BANDS AND THE BLACK HORSE TROUP LED BY JACK McLALLEN MARCHED PAST THE COURT HOUSE AND ON TO CARTER'S FIELD NOW KNOWN AS DeVOL FIELD. AT 3:30 THE TROP PUT ON A "CAVALRY EXHIBITION". ALSO PERFORMING WAS KING THE PONY, AND THE BANDS PLAYED. THE "POST SAID" "THE EXHIBITION WAS THE MOST SPECTACULAR EVER HELD IN THE COUNTRY." THE GROUND IS A NATURAL AMPHITHEATER AND THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE STOOD UPON THE HILLSIDE TO VIEW THE SPECTACLE BELOW. OTHERS WERE BANKED ALONG THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL WHICH IS NOW OLD TRAIL. WHILE SOME WERE OVER THE WEST END OF ELLSWORTH STREET, SOUTH OF THE TRAIL EVERY POINT OF VANTAGE WAS OCCUPIED AND A GROUP OF SMALL BOYS WERE PERCHED ON THE TOP OF THE BIG 24-SHEET SIGNBOARDS, WHICH ARE IN THE EAST PART OF THE FIELD. OTHERS OCCUPIED THE ROOFS AND TREES AND THE GRANDSTAND WAS JAMMED WITH ALL THAT COULD GET INSIDE OF IT. THE CROWD WAS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN TEN AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND!