

City Ready to Blow Lid Off 250th Anniversary Festivities

Two-hundred-fifty-year-old Albuquerque begins a spry celebration of her anniversary. The mammoth birthday party will continue through July 14.

A huge fireworks display touches off the celebration tonight at 8 at the State Fairgrounds. The display is sponsored by the High A. Carlisle Post 13, American Legion.

And Albuquerqueans will be informed "officially" of the big celebration at the Fairgrounds tonight when C. O. Blasdel, a 28-year-old American Railway Expressman, gallops in on his pony. The 1956 model Pony Express will deliver a proclamation from Gov. John F. Simms opening the big event.

Sailors to March

The California Naval Training Station Drum and Bugle Corps and Drill team, San Diego, will give an exhibition tonight prior to the fireworks display.

Hotels and motels were filling up with visitors for the celebration. Albuquerqueans are playing hosts to hundreds of friends invited here from coast to coast.

Chamber of Commerce personnel report a 50 per cent increase in requests for rooms and anniversary information in the last three weeks.

Albuquerque's bearded men will get their first share of the spotlight tonight at 7. A preliminary judging of beards will be held at Fourth and Central.

The main anniversary pro-

gram opens tomorrow with a Fourth of July parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. at Oak and Central and will go west on Central to San Pasquale.

Feature Floats

La Reina de Albuquerque, Charlotte Goodwin, and her court of honor and La Princesa Maxine Hill and her attendants will have the feature floats in the parade.

Lt. Gov. Joe Montoya will crown Mrs. Goodwin tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the opening performance of Enchantorama at Zimmerman Stadium.

Tonight's elaborate fireworks show is aimed at both children and adults.

The youngsters . . . and those not so young . . . will thrill to see fireworks depicting Bugs Bunny and his unicycle, a dancing skeleton, Davey Crockett shooting a "bar," and a flying saucer.

The picturesque displays will include a rose garden, a fiesta square in honor of the city's

Spanish tradition and an American flag opening from a parachute.

"It's all for free," a Legion spokesman said today. Collection boxes will be placed at various points in the fairgrounds so that any voluntary contributions may be made. The money will be used to help continue "bigger and better fireworks," the post stated. Usually a Fourth of July event, the fireworks display was advanced one day to prevent conflict with the cele-

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Celebration Program

Today's Program

4 p.m.—Open house at all veterans' clubs for veterans and friends.

7 p.m.—Preliminary judging of beards, Fourth and Central.

8 p.m.—Official opening of celebration at State Fairgrounds with free fireworks show, arrival of Pony Express rider bearing governor's greetings to celebration committee, and drill by Naval Training Station drum and bugle corps.

Wednesday's Program

10 a.m.—Float parade from University section west on Cen-

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Wednesday's Program

10 a.m.—Float parade from University section west on Central to 14th. Santa Fe Railway's display of equipment at railroad yards south of Coal Ave. viaduct.

Noon—Music and entertainment, Fourth and Central.

2 p.m.—Opening of 250th art exhibits at Public Library, University Fine Arts Building, Johnson Gallery, 1909 Las Lomas NE, and Museum of Modern Art, 3800 Rio Grande NW. Opening of Hobby Show, Valley High. Band concert, Robinson Park, Eighth and Central.

4 p.m.—Open house at all veterans' clubs for veterans and friends.

7:30 p.m.—Naval Training Station drum and bugle corps program, Zimmerman Stadium.

8 p.m.—Crowning of La Reina de Albuquerque and La Princesa de Albuquerque by Lt. Gov. Joe B. Montoya, Zimmerman stadium. First presentation of Enchantorama followed by fireworks display, Zimmerman Stadium.