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10-29-1956

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Nelson H. Fritz awarded certificate of appreciation by the Alumni Association" (1956). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 1714.

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Dwyer
10-27-65

PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE BEFORE 8 P. M. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29
(We don't want to spoil the surprise for Nels)

Nelson H. Fritz, who masterminds the University of Montana Homecoming parade, was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the UM Alumni Association at singing-on-the-steps Friday.

The citation was presented to "Nelson Fritz, parade boss extraordinary, with gratitude and total astonishment at the uniformly high quality of his annual productions for these many years."

Fritz, a life member of the Alumni Association, earned a B. S. degree in forestry at the University in 1929. After spending many years in the practice of forestry in exotic lands, including Taiwan and Korea, he returned to Missoula nine years ago. Since then he has worked at the UM Associated Students' Bookstore, with an occasional time out to accept short-term forestry assignments in Mexico, South America and Canada.

He is adviser to Bear Paw, sophomore men's service honorary, and a member of Phi Sigma, zoology honorary; Druids, forestry honorary, and Phi Delta Theta, social fraternity. As an undergraduate he belonged to Silent Sentinel, senior men's honorary, and was active in University theatrical productions, winning membership in the elite Royal Masquers.

Fritz' flair for showmanship continues to find expression in the parades he has staged for Homecoming for the past seven years. He rides herd on a mass of detail in assembling the units of the parade and meshing them with a smoothness and precision that make the performance seem almost effortless. Behind this deceptive appearance of ease lie hours of planning and work.

(more)

RELEASE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

This year, besides the floats entered by two dozen UM living groups and many campus departments and organizations, the parade will have 709 musicians marching in 11 bands from the University and several Montana high schools. Occupying a prominent place in the procession, but not in competition for a prize, will be the float bearing the Homecoming queen and her attendants.

The spectacle will center around the theme "A Night in Las Vegas," chosen by the students for the scope it offers for originality in constructing floats.

Led by Parade Marshal Theodore Jacobs, the 1965 parade will leave the Northern Pacific Depot Saturday at 9:30 a. m. and proceed south on Higgins Ave. to University Ave. and along University to the campus.

The highest accolade the association can bestow, will go to Frank Brute, '29, New York, N. Y., Associated Press correspondent; M. C. Gallagher, '18, retired Billings school superintendent; George M. Gosman, '16, Dillon, retired pharmacist and former lieutenant governor; William G. Long, '16, retired Seattle, Wash., superior court judge, and S. H. Smith, '29, Washington, D. C., administrator of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Consumer and Marketing Service.

Chosen by the Alumni Council to receive Athlete of the Year awards are gridiron star Paul Connelly, Muskegon, Mich., co-captain of the Grizzly football team, and champion skier Eleanor Bennett, 1964 alumna, who directs girls' physical education at Charles M. Russell High School and coaches the city ski team in Great Falls.

Norman Claypool, Great Falls, president of the association, will make the presentations.

(over)