

# HARTFORD BEGINS WILD CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF ENDING OF THE WAR

## WHISTLES BLOWING AROUSES SLEEPY TOWN

### How the Celebration Began At 3 A. M. and How It Grew and Grew--- Parades, Cheers and Songs

News of the signing of the armistice was received over the Associated Press wires of "The Courant" at 2:50 o'clock this morning. "The Courant" immediately got in touch with Mayor Richard J. Kinsella and spread the glad tidings to him, who got in touch with Charles B. Whittlesey, president of the Manufacturers' Association. He got the news to the different factories and whistles began blowing at once. The mayor also got hold of an official at the station and bells on locomotives were rung.

"The Courant" also got in touch with H. B. Clark, president of the board of fire commissioners and asked him to ring the fire bell, but the box mechanism was out of commission.

A crowd soon collected in front of "The Courant" office where bulletins had been displayed and cheered and sang itself hoarse. Attempts to sing "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner" were made, but cheering was more in their line and they cheered to the limit.

The spreading of the glad tidings was the quickest ever done in Hartford. No time was lost in getting hold of everybody who would get out of bed.

When "The Courant" extras reached the street, there was a great demand for them.

A parade was formed and marched up and down State street. At 4:30 it looked as if the celebration, now well begun, would not let up till the day crowds came and continued it indefinitely.

The real "Americans" could not wait until tonight to celebrate the big victory, but a parade was started in front of "The Courant" office at 4:15 o'clock and headed through the principal streets.

All supernumerary policemen were called out to handle the traffic and crowds that gathered. Tin horns and

other noise-making devices were resorted to, some few teams were pressed into service and flags were thrown to the breeze.

Shortly after 1 a. m. Nunzio Vayana, the artist, came to "The Courant" office and presented with his compliments two quart of sparkling Moscato, and the first toast in Hartford to the end of the war were drunk.

The first person in Hartford to get the news of the signing of the armistice was C. Fred Bennett of The Associated Press, who is stationed in "The Courant" office. He had been on duty since 8 o'clock Sunday morning, waiting for the "flash" that preceded the ending of the great world war and had copied thousands of words, telling of the events that were happening in Europe.

At ten minutes to 3 this morning, there was little expectation of the news coming for hours. At that time the "flash" came: "Armistice signed." Then followed in lightning rapidity the news from Washington and in a very short time "The Courant" was on the street with the biggest news that ever came into Hartford. It was fast work by The Associated Press and its representative in Hartford and ended a nervous strain that has lasted many hours.

Triumphs came up from the East Side with a procession in which the tri-sole was conspicuous. In front of "The Courant" office they played violin and guitar with the crowd around them singing joyfully "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here"—and it was all there with number and volume of noise. Heads were bared as all started "The Star Spangled Banner" and a roar of cheers came at the conclusion.

It was a happy, joyful crowd that filled State street in the vicinity of "The Courant" and the news of the armistice being signed occasioned continual cheering and all kinds of noise.

By 5 o'clock a wildly enthusiastic, cheering throng gathered before the "Courant" office and commenced to celebrate the news in earnest. The crowd has grown to large dimensions. "Three cheers for the 'Courant'" were given with a will. The throng then moved in closer, and a number car-

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# SO GREAT A JAM TRAFFIC IS BLOCKED

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rying the Italian and American flags began to serenade the bulletin board, and the "Courant."

When the big news first reached the Italian population on Front and side streets it soon traveled among the early risers in this section. "No work today," said one Italian. "Today is Liberty Day," said another.

Automobiles with red lights and the crowds with any sort of noise-making instrument were on the streets. Hartford saw a celebration last Thursday, but this morning's celebration was even more filled with enthusiasm.

From east side and west side, from north side and south side a constantly increasing collection gathered before the bulletin, all assembled with a common impulse and for a common cause, all rejoicing in the news that the war was over, that after over four years the world might once more return to that state from which it had departed during those memorable days in August, 1911. Again and again cheers went up, cheers for America, cheers for the world in general. Peace had come; all else was of small moment.

Hundreds of calls were received, at the "Courant" office and often all outside wires were busy at the same moment. "Is it true?" "Is it official?" "Thank God, it's over." These and many other similar comments were received. Many people were skeptical, bearing in mind the false report of a few days before, but when informed that it was official, by the Associated Press, their doubts were dispelled, and almost invariably some words of thanks, oftentimes a "Hooray," was given in reply.

It was a truly cosmopolitan gathering which was seen in the principal streets of the city, men of all stations in life, representing every conceivable business, and believing in all creeds known to man, were all proud, and hilariously happy because of the good news which had been received.

Smothering households were lighted almost simultaneously by the thousands as the shrieking factory sirens rent the air. Citizens looked out from their windows a bit skeptically and hearing the noise of the sirens continue, hurried from their homes in various stages of hasty dress or undress to the center of the town. Hundreds of peoples phoned in "The Courant" and joined in the pilgrimage upon learning that the armistice terms had been signed.

Individuals, as they hurried toward the center formed into groups, and in groups they came from everywhere, finally organizing into a series of noisy shouting parades in horns, pans and drums adding to the din. As the morning progressed the celebration took on the aspects of last Thursday's wild but premature celebration.

Hundreds of newsboys rushed through the streets with "The Courant" extra, and the papers went like "hot cakes," everybody refusing to believe that the end of the war had come until they saw it in print. In front of "The Courant" bulletin alone thousands of papers were sold within a few minutes. People dropped half dollars and dollar bills into the hands of the newsies and forgot about change or told the newsies to keep the change. They waved the papers and cheered when they had read that the war was over.

About one-half hour after the news had been spread over the city a runabout filled with four men dashed down State street and stopped opposite the "Courant" office. One of the men stood up in it and raising a bottle of wine towards the "Courant" bulletin gave a cheering toast and all drank. The vehicle then surged ahead towards the East Side.

At 5:10 another impromptu parade passed the "Courant" office with a nurse, in full uniform, marching at its head, and with flags, great American flags, and small banners representing the allies, borne directly behind. Hundreds were in line, and as they marched past, happy, enthusiastic and triumphantly proud of the great victory which had been achieved, cheer after cheer went up. The music was decidedly of an informal nature, nevertheless the clash and roar of the drums was as impressive as were the marchers picturesque.

For every hundred celebrators on the street at 4:30 a thousand were abroad an hour later. The central part of the city presented a kaleidoscopic picture, such scenes as were never seen before in the city of Hartford. At 5:15 a large touring car, bearing as its cargo, a half score of men in uniform, passed through Main street; great torches of red fire casting flickering shadows against the walls of the Hartford-Aetna National Bank building. Then came another machine carrying red fire, and torches of green.

## As Dawn Broke.

From the comparatively small crowd in front of "The Courant" bulletin at 3:30 marchers and merry-makers thronged all of the principal streets, and each moment added to their number. Hundreds of autos, filled with cheering, shouting, ecstatically jubilant occupants, passed before the old City Hall.

Directly opposite a veteran of the Civil War stood, his youthful daughter by his side, a triumphant smile upon his face, a small silken flag clasped between his hands. Several young men with several laughing young women stood on the speakers' platform by the Liberty Cottage, shouting and tooting horns.

Autos came by in ever increasing number, each sprinkled with the bright red, white and blue, of the country's flag. Several carrying soldiers had large regimental flags mounted on the rear.

It was on such a scene that the sun, slowly breaking through the leaden colored sky, which rapidly changed to bronze and then to rose, peered over the eastern hills, shining forth the message of a new and happier day.

Later, the Italian-American marchers, still headed by a nurse in uniform, re-passed the "Courant," their number augmented by scores of additional marchers, all keeping in close military formation. In advance walked the marchers, and immediately behind came a solid pla-

toon, the first rank bearing a blue enameled placard with the words, "High class shoe repairing." Directly behind came a youthful but not-out patriot with two pot lids, another booming son of Italy was earnestly pounding upon a dishpan, another was valiantly clamping a tomato can against a broken water pot and kettles, dishpans, of all sizes and shapes, and a stove lid which yielded staccato notes before the pounding of a brick. One marcher carried a small table added to the effect. One marcher carried a small trap drum, another had a cornet, and one was blowing on a paper horn. The steady marching, with the loud cheering, the constant clasp, clasp, clasp of the unusual instruments was as effective as it was picturesque.

First of all the marchers this morning were the employees of the "Courant" mailing room. Immediately after the issuance of the edition bearing the glad news all members of the force marched to the street, presenting not only the first of the many impromptu parades but certainly one which was unusually effective. The "Courant" men were equipped with tin cans, horns, drums, and they pounded away, attracting much attention.

## Sun-up.

As the sun came up the hubbub had extended to distant sections of the city and when the street lights were turned out Main street and vicinity looked like a Saturday afternoon.

The sidewalks in the heart of the city were lined with spectators while impromptu parades passed by, and all cheered themselves hoarse. Automobiles loaded with celebrators who occupied even fenders and radiators went by in a continuous procession. Numerous youngsters and many grown-ups went along in groups, wearing festive caps and tooting horns and beating tin pans and whistling and shouting and cheering. Bells jingled. Flags were held high. Push carts and wagons dragged by enthusiastic urchins carried their loads of cheering celebrators. Red fire lighted the way for some of the marching groups, which carried signs hastily, but appropriately printed: "Down with the Kaiser."

A trolley car moving northward on Main street ran over a bunch of dynamite caps with an accompanying series of explosions that nearly shook the vehicle off the tracks.

Half past 6 and the excitement in the city was increasing.

At 6:30 three sergeants and eight outside men had been added to the force of policemen already in the center of the city. These remained until Squad A came on duty. Chief Farrell will arrange for the distribution of police for the celebration.

## Baby Carriages on Street.

Infants in baby carriages were numerous on the streets. Their little carriages were decked with flags.

One of the most pronounced features of the celebration was the numerous Italian flags displayed on the streets in processions and parades, in wagons, trucks and automobiles. The Latins were among the most jubilant over the signing of the armistice.

In front of "The Courant" office two jubilant old Italians kept the crowd that drew about them in good humor shortly after 7 o'clock this morning. The younger of the two men with a voice that brought into play all the strength of his vocal cords shouted in succession in Latin tongue: "Hurray for Wilson, Hurray for the United States, Hurray for the Allies." In each case he emphasized his enthusiasm by hurling with all his strength his hat to the sidewalk. Then he and the other man with him began a spirited dance. One had a dinner bell, the other the top of two garbage pails that he used for cymbals.

Perhaps one of the most unusual sights of the morning was the appearance of three little girls who walked along arm and arm on Main street. One wore a red Tam O' Shanter, another a white sailor and the third a blue hat. The unusual thing about it was, that the girls did not seem to have worn the three colors intentionally, but just by accident they had selected headwear that made the colors of the national emblem.

None of the New York papers that reached the city had the news of the signing of the armistice.

The girls at the Hartford telephone exchange were very busy answering calls yesterday morning, especially during the first hour between 3 and 4 o'clock. They were helped greatly by day operators who voluntarily came on and took charge of the switchboards.

A Cination patriot informed a "Courant" man that he hoped to have his fellow countrymen in line, to march in celebration of the great victory, which not only brought peace to the world, but which opened liberty, freedom and justice for his own down trodden country, so long oppressed by its Austrian masters.

At 7 o'clock a band in an automobile stopped in front of "The Courant" building and played "The Star Spangled Banner," while the crowd stood uncovered and the policeman stood at attention. At the last bar the crowd broke into cheers.

## Great Day, Today.

Oh, boy, what a celebration this will be today!

At 8 o'clock this morning the sun smiled down on joyous throngs, and there were evidences that the pandemonium would continue through the day, even if people did have to go to work.

Every vehicle that went through Main street had a noise maker, indeed if not several noise makers, at times dragging along trailers in the form of washtubs and ash cans tied with ropes. Joy parties riding in autos sang and cheered and in turn were cheered at by the crowds on the sidewalks.

The great army of office workers smiled its way to work. Shop girls waved flags at those in the street.

One large truck that passed through Main street carried a group of Hebrew elders who waved the American flag and the Zionist flag with an enthusiasm hailing the reclamation of the Holy Land.

A swarthy son of Italy supplied lung power for a big bass horn, as he walked along Main street to nowhere in particular and causing notes that formed no melody in particular. His gait was a joyous one to behold.

One parade that was formed comprised men and women of about a dozen different nationalities.

## Day Off at Pratt & Whitney's.

The Pratt & Whitney workers assembled at the plant at the usual

time, but work was adjourned for the day and shortly before 8 o'clock the entire body of employees was forming in line for the first of a series of parades, which were to begin immediately with the route through the center of the city.

## B. & S. Forming for Parades.

It was said at the Billings & Spencer Co. that the workers there were all intensely patriotic and that there wasn't the slightest chance in the world of the men working during the day. They were forming for a series of demonstrations, independently and in co-operation with other factory workers.

## Up to Employees.

Officials of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Company, the Hartford Rubber Works, and other leading local concerns said at 7:30 this morning that no definite decision had been reached as to whether or not the plants would run during the day, the decision depending entirely upon the number of employees appearing for work.

## Rubber Works Shut.

President Charles M. Whittlesley of the Hartford Rubber Works said at 8:30 that so few of the employees turned up for work this morning that the plant would be closed during the day. The men will march in the great parade this evening, and they were arranging for other demonstrations.

## Tonight's Celebration.

The Colt Patent Fire Arms Company workers are planning to take an important place in the monster patriotic celebration this evening. The firing division, headed by department 281 will sing a patriotic selection arranged by D. F. Hearn, a worker in that department, which will be sung to the air of "Borne by the Red, White and Blue," the words follow:—

America, the greatest of nations,  
The home of the fearless and brave;  
We supplied stricken Belgium with rations,  
To her we can now proudly wave.  
We gave the best blood in our nation for honor,  
That the liberty of the world might be saved,  
Bringing home with us victory forever,  
By the morale of our boys well behaved.

All the factory workers in Hartford are expected to be in line for the great parade, the most impressive demonstration Hartford has ever witnessed.