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10/12/1990 - Homecoming Parade Set

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOMECOMING PARADE SET

CHARLESTON, IL.--More than 100 entries will be featured in Eastern Illinois University's Homecoming parade at 9:30 a.m. Saturday (Oct. 13).

Fifteen floats and 10 area bands are among the entries. Eastern's Panther mascot is the parade grand marshal. Eastern's 1990 Distinguished Alumnus and Alumni Service Award recipients are among the dignitaries who will ride in the parade.

The bands performing include Eastern Illinois University, Charleston Junior High School, and Charleston, Heyworth, Altamont, Effingham St. Anthony, Stonington, Sandoval, Urbana, and South Fork high schools.

-more-

ADD 1/1/1/1

PARADE

This year's parade route will be the same as last year. Entries will form on and near Seventh Street on the east side of Eastern's campus.

The parade will go north on Seventh Street, around the Charleston Square, and return south on Sixth Street, rejoining Seventh Street behind Boatmen's Bank near Lincoln Avenue, and then return to the Buzzard building on Eastern's campus.

"Blast to the Past" is the theme for this year's 75th annual Homecoming celebration. Floats and cars will be decorated in past Homecoming themes, such as "The Wild Wild West" and "Around the World with Eastern."

Eastern's first Homecoming was held in 1915, and consisted of a two-day celebration, with events beginning on Friday with chapel services and ending on Saturday with a dance.

While Homecoming was not held in 1918 because of World War I and a flu epidemic, it did resume in 1919 as a two-day celebration with a parade, football game and banquet. Chapel services were discontinued in 1934, after the death of Eastern's first president Livingston C. Lord.

In 1937, high school bands were asked to join the parade and continue to participate to this day.

The Homecoming football game was not held in 1943, because the demands of World War II left Eastern with very few male students.

The year 1946 marked the first four-day Homecoming celebration, marked "GI-EI Homecoming."

ADD 2/2/2/2

PARADE

In 1972, Eastern's Homecoming parade, a tradition since 1915, was discontinued in favor of house decorating.

Up until 1986, the Homecoming parade began at Morton Park and travelled down Sixth Street, around the Square, up Seventh Street, and ended in front of Buzzard building, the exact opposite of the parade trail now.