

# Our Greatest Celebration



Four-wheelers of beauties and blossoms  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



Flags adorn every building along Ventura's parade route  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



Parade Grand Marshall William A. Hobson with his deputies ride before the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



The Goddess of Liberty, elected at the grand march and benefit ball held by The Native Daughters of the Golden West on June 25, 1913, presides over her parade float on Independence Day.  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



A horse-drawn float pauses before the octagonal First Christian Church  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives



The Moorpark float parks before the historic Mitchell Block  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives

Over 15,000 people attended a triple dedication celebration on July 4 and 5, 1913, from parade to bridge opening to courthouse dedication and ball. Celebrants were a blend of locals – from the city population of 5,000 and 20,000 for the county – and visitors from Los Angeles and Santa Barbara who drove down the new causeway. Many buildings seen in the background of these 1913 archival photos still stand today: The Mitchell Block, Victorian Rose Bed & Breakfast (originally the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church) and the Apostolic House of Worship (originally First Christian Church).



The armored cruiser South Dakota reached Ventura on July 3 and its almost 900-man crew took part in the parade.  
Photo courtesy of the Hobson/Hoffman/Haley Family Archives