

LEXINGTON, April 27---Neighboring Virginia Military Institute's marching band will be in the van of Washington and Lee University's 1956 Mock Convention kick-off parade Monday, as the school 1,000 students begin a two-day effort to pre-guess the Democratic Party's nominee for president in the November election.

VMI's participation in the two-mile long parade marks the second Mock Convention in a row that the Keydets have helped Washington and Lee get its quadrennial event off to a colorful start.

Behind the VMI band will come the convertible bearing the convention's keynote speaker, Senator Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, the former vice-president of the United States. He will be followed by more than 100 floats and a dozen other bands from neighboring schools and communities.

Feature attraction of the procession will be the appearance of Miss America of 1956, Miss Sharon Kay Ritchie of Denver, Colo., who is taking part as a member of the New Jersey state delegation's parade entry. Miss America will arrive by air in Roanoke Sunday evening from Atlantic City and will spend all of Monday taking part and observing activities at Washington and Lee's 11th Mock Convention.

Convention hall action will commence immediately following the parade, sometime around 4 p. m. After organizational procedures are taken care of, Governor Thomas B. Stanley will introduce the ex-Veeep, Mr. Barkley, who will be in the official role as Temporary Chairman of the convention when he gives his keynote address, in Washington and Lee's Doremus Gymnasium.

Carl D. Swanson, intermediate law student from Kansas City, Mo., the mastermind behind all convention planning, will be elected as Permanent Chairman of the affair at the close of the afternoon session.

Ex-nominee Adlai Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver head the list of more than a dozen prominent Democrats whose names will be placed before the convention. Others include Governors Averill Harriman of New York, G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, and Frank Lausche of Ohio; also Senators Stuart Symington of Missouri and Lyndon Johnson of Texas. Former President Harry S. Truman and Senator Barkley will receive what amount to "courtesy" nominations, along with a number of "favorite sons."

Conducted under as nearly authentic conditions as possible, the Washington and Lee Mock Convention has correctly chosen the nominee for the party out of power six out of ten times since the event's beginning in 1908. This year's convention is the first Democratic one held here since Roosevelt was nominated in 1932.