10,000 Elks strut as crowd of 600,000 view parade

Storm hits, rain stops, skies clear

U. S. Marine unit leads 8-mile-long line of marchers

GRAND PARADE SPECTACLE AMONG THE BEST

Fancy steppers ignore new ban on hip-swaying

By JAMES L. HICKS

CHICAGO, Ill. — (Threatening thunderstorms and overcast skies failed to prevent 10,000 gaily dressed Elks from parading through the streets of Chicago's famed Southside here Tuesday before a crowd which police estimated at from 400,000 to 600,000.

The parade, which was eight miles long and which lasted four hours and five minutes, was without question one of the most spectacular the Elks have staged under the administration of Robert Johnson, but there were those who felt as late as one hour before parade time that it would never be held due to the weather.

The day dawned bright and clear and hot, but an hour and a half before the step off of the parade Chicago was hit by a sudden thunderstorm which gradually settled down to a steady rain as the parade hour approached.

ELK OFFICIALS, realizing that many of the marching units had come to Chicago just for the parade and would be forced to leave immediately after were pictures of gloom as they talked of holding the parade Tuesday night.

Other hardy officials insisted that the parade would move off on time rain or shine, however, and it was still drizzling somewhat when the first contingents began to form at the starting point.

But by the time the first drums sounded for the move out, the sun smiled at the Elks from behind the clouds.

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WHEN THE PARADE reached the Corous Christi Center on South Parkway, the luck of the Elks had prevailed and the sun was beaming down with a new burst of freedom on the great crowds which lined both sides of the avenue at 46th St.

With the sun thus acting as if the marchers were his favorite sons, the Elks burst forth as if they felt they were God's chosen children and the result was the most lively bit of hip - swaying band - playing, trick - marching steps and precision drills seen in many a day.

Despite the spectacular things that followed (and there were many of them) one of the most impressive parts of the parade was the very first unit which greeted the Chicago public.

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THIS WAS A snappy but stern platoon of U. S. Marines — fully integrated in the pattern for which the Elks and other colored groups have fought so long.

It has become the custom in America to put the Marines out in front always — but it seemed doubly impressive to have them marching out there in front of the Elks in the year when the Supreme Court has ordered them to uphold a new birth of freedom in the nation.

Behind the Marines and Old Glory came "The Grand's Band," the crack Joseph V. Calloway band from Robert Johnson's own lodge in Philadelphia.

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NEXT, IN their rightful place of honor, came a beautiful car bearing the three men who guided the destiny of the Elks in past years and still live to reminisce about it — the three living past grand exalted rulers of the Elks, Judge Armond Scott of Washington, T. M. Nutter of Charleston, W. Va., and George W. F. McMechen of Baltimore.

Behind them came tall, statuesque Robert Johnson, "The Grand," riding atop a beautiful float shaped to resemble a trafi of progress and on which sat top officers of the Grand Lodge.

Mr. Johnson carried a huge cardboard gavel in his hand and waved it continuously at the crowd.

For the next two hours after "The Grand" passed by on his float, you could virtually name what you wanted to see and look out into the parade and see it.

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IN HIS MARCH or before the parade Mr. Johnson had stated that he would not tolerate any vulgarity and clowning and "hip-swaying."

There was no vulgarity and not too much clowning. But that part of the order which forbade hip-swaying was the most disobeyed order a grand exalted ruler ever issued.

For youthful pretty drum majorettes seemed to feel that drum majorettes exist for one thing only and that is to try to throw their hips out of joint with every beat of the drum that they precisely what they did.

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AT THIS WRITING the decision of the parade judges as to who had the best this or that in the parade is not available the parade just couldn't see her.

As to drum and bugle corps units nothing seemed to compare with the precision and smartness of the National Drum and Bugle Corps champions of 1946 and 1947 which marched near the head of the parade with the George L. Giles Squadron of Chicago.

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AND FOR JUST plain fun and parade antics, there was nothing to top the efforts of a group of youngsters from Milwaukee who marched under the banner of the Pluribus Unum.

This group was led by a handsome youth and a shapely young miss who did the Conga, the Mambo and the Bunny Hop all over South Parkway to the beat of the drums.

From a standpoint of bands, among the outstanding was the O. V. Cato Lodge of Philadelphia. Floatwise, many votes went to the Ida B. Wells Temple No. 973 which had a float laden with beautiful and colorfully-dressed women topped off by an attractive lady who was very cleverly enclosed in a huge bird cage.

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CHICAGO'S WIDE expansive South Parkway made an ideal march route for the parade. The Southside artery is actually six lames wide with four lanes in the center and two lanes flanking these four lanes on either side being separated from the four lanes by an island of grassy parkway.

Sun - shy Southsiders came to the parade prepared for rain, but when Ol' Sol burst forth in-splendor they dragged out colorful umbrellas which added to the pageant-like atmosphere.

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THE PARADE WAS under the overall direction of Grand Lt. Gen. Henry Berth of Philadelphia. Maj. Gen. Charles Donoway of Atlantic City, headed the eastern division; Maj Gen Hillman Hanley of Atlanta, the southern division, and Maj. Gen. Pascal Taylor of Chicago, the western division.

The parade began on Parfield Dr., went forth on South Park way to 33rd St. and disbanded. The reviewing stand was located at 37th St. and South Parkway.

GEORGE McMECHEN

JUDGE ARMOND SCOTT

MRS. BERTHA BRAGG

Elks pay tribute to 4 ex-grand exalted rulers

CHICAGO — Judge Armond W. Scott of Washington, George W. F. McMechen of Baltimore and T. M. Nutter of Charleston were honored by the Elks as past grand exalted rulers during the 55th annual convention.

The Elks also paid special tribute to Mrs. Bertha M. Bragg of Washington with the Grand Temple bestowing upon the attractive Pentagon editorial clerk the honor of past grand daughter ruler of the Grand Temple.

The three men honored by the Elks, the only living men who previously have led the organization, were cited by Grand Secretary W. C. Hueston who made special presentations to each of them.

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IN SPEAKING of Mr. Nutter who was the ruler from August, 1913, to August, 1916, Judge Hueston said: "Brother Nutter is father of a long and distinguished career in public life.

"From 1919 to 1923 he served as an elected member of the West Virginia House of Delegates. His four year term as a state senator was marked by the passage of legislation authorized by him for the benefit of our people.

"One of the most notable contributions made by him to the security and stability of our order was an action taken by him in concert with our grand lodge in 1915.

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"THE MATTER concerned the settlement of friction in Florida between the Elks and the Lodge of our white brothers over our right to operate and use the name Elks.

"Some of our brothers in Florida were arrested and an attempt was made to develop a case against the order. Brother Nutter and his grand legal advisor carefully prepared an excellent defense. Hearing about our careful preparation the BPOE quickly dropped the case and the victory was won for our order.

Judge Scott who followed Mr. Nutter as grand was extolled in the following terms by Judge Hueston:

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"IT WAS DURING his first term in office that he played a leading role in helping us to resolve finally, the problem that had plagued the order for so many years.

"While our grand lodge was in session in Philadelphia, the grand lodge of our white brothers filed suit against us. The purpose of that suit was to forever prohibit us from using the name Elk. I have already told you about Brother Nutter's contribution to this fight in Florida. This, then, was the critical issue facing our order when Brother Scott took office.

"Within two weeks after the convention, Brother Scott was back in Philadelphia, participating with Owen F. Roberts of the law firm of Roberts, Shoemery and McKeehan, in drawing up an answer in the suit.

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"IT HAPPENED that while Brother Scott was being elected grand, our white brothers were electing Col. Fred Harper. This was a happy coincidence for both men were born in the same town of Wilmington, N.C.

"Brother Scott's father owned a livery stable and Brother Harper's father ran a feed mill. Brother Scott's father bought feed for his horses at the feed mill owned by Brother Harper's father."

Judge Hueston then told how the two men had a conference in Lynchburg which resulted in Harper recommending that the white Elks dissolve the suit.

HIS RECOMMENDATION was unanimously adopted and the suit was dismissed. Judge Hueston pointed out that it was also under Judge Scott that the Grand Lodge of Elks first officially recognized the women's Grand Temple.

Judge Hueston praised Mr. McMechen, who served from 1919 to 1921, by using the words of the late Jim Kelly who wrote a history of the Elks.

Mr. Kelly wrote of Mr. McMechen: "His tenure of office closed as gloriously as it had begun. He had to his credit a record of 62 lodges made under his administration, the largest number ever organized in two years."

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MR. HUESTON also brought out that it was under the rule of Mr. McMechen that the Elks gave $1,800 to other Elks who suffered in the Tulsa Oklahoma race riots. He also was given credit for erecting a monument over the grave of B. F. Howard, founder of the Elks.

Mrs. Bragg, who was honored along with some 40 others, has been active in the Elks since 1947 and is a member of Columbia Temple 422.

Elks' Health Fund shows slight increase for 1953

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The Health Fund, one of nine funds set up by the Elks grand lodge and maintained from taxes paid by members of the order, showed an increase of $184 at the end of the grand lodge year, July 31, 1953, according to the minutes of the 1953 grand lodge session, recently distributed.

The sum of $6,026 was brought forward from the previous grand lodge year, $4,169 was received during the year and $2,986 disbursed, the report of the grand treasurer, Judge Perry B. Jackson of Cleveland, shows.

The principal expenditures included the following:

July 20—Dr. Carter L. Marshall, New Haven, Conn., grand medical director, expenses to funeral of Dr. E. T. Belsaw, Mobile, Ala., $200; Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Washington, executive secretary of health commission, expenses for health department at convention, $274; Dr. Marshall, expenses of telephone, printing, and supplies, $660; Dr. Marshall, grand lodge convention expenses, $134;

Nov. 14—Dr. Brown, mileage and per diem, grand lodge convention, $71; James T. Copper, Chicago, expenses, funeral of Charles E. Hall, Washington, $162; Dec. 10—Dr. Brown, expenses for September, October and November, $90;

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FEB. 17—Dr. Marshall, salary for typist, expenses, $118; May 22 — Dr. Marshall, expenses, January to April, $98; W. C. Hueston, health cards to lodges, $66;

July 20—Dr. Marshall, training and compensation of clerical help, X-ray project, $250; Dr. Marshall, donation to National Dental Association, $200; Aug. 11 — Dr. Marshall, expenses for May, June and July, $75.

A Lucky Pic worth $5 and a $5 Lucky House are in this edition of the AFRO. Look for them, you may be a winner.

Elk beauty contest won by Chicago girl

By JAMES L. HICKS

CHICAGO—Gertrude Slaughter of Chicago, who likes dress and Professional baseball but wants to be a professional model, won the first place in the Elks' annual beauty contest Wednesday night which featured two hip-swinging South Parkway Ballroom. The 23-year-old shapely manicurist, who is scheduled to wed Alston Curtis, a Chicago policeman, Nov. 21, won the $500 prize by a unanimous decision of the judges and the general acclaim of the crowd.

Second place went to Polly Scales, 17-year-old pupil of Melrose High School in Memphis, Tenn., and third place was won by 22-year-old Rhoda Nash of Huntington, W. Va.

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MISS STRAUGHTER, whose vital statistics came nearer to the Elks' model figure than any other contestant in the race, parraded a 34-inch bust, a 23½-inch waist, 36½-inch hips, 20 inch thighs, 8½ inches around.

She told the AFRO she would use the $500 first prize money to further her ambitions to become a professional model.

The winner represented Chicago's own Greater Dearborn Lodge and her victory in her home town was popular not only with local citizens but with visitors as well.

The second-place winner, Miss Scales, represented Bluff City Lodge in Memphis and also has ambitions of becoming a professional model.

The third-place winner, Nash, said she thought she should have won first prize and this writer agreed with her. It should be pointed out, however, that the Judges' decision was popular with the crowd. Miss Nash represented Eureka Lodge of Huntington.

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THE PARKWAY Ballroom, one of the finest spots on Chicago's southside, was the scene of a gay carnival-like atmosphere as the candidates paraded before the crowd.

They first appeared in formal dress and then changed to bathing suits. There was dancing for to be sure, but there was enough in between and this interluded with a floor show beauty contest Wednesday night which featured two hip-swinging South Parkway Ballroom. shake dancers.

Joe Christian of Segram Distillers saw to it that the press table was amply provided with refreshments.

The queen was crowned by Jimmy Fultz of Newark, N.J.

The judges were given a card on which was listed what the Elks apparently consider a perfect female. The measurements on the card said that the perfect figure has a 34-inch bust, a 24-inch waist, 36-inch hips, 20-inch thighs, 14-inch calves and ankles 8½ inches.

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CONTESTANTS WERE not rated entirely on their figures, however, Judges were instructed to rate them as follows: 50 points for figure measurements, 20 for personality, 15 for poise and posture and just plain beauty rated only 15 points.

Judges for the contest were Fletch Martin of the Chicago Sun Times, Carmen Murphy of the House of Beauty in Detroit, Jackie Ormes, the cartoonist, and Betty Lightsey of the Crest Modeling School here.

Stock car races tonight at Ritchie

Stock car races will be held tonight (Friday) at the Ritchie Raceway, located between Glen Burnie and Brooklyn, on the only one-half mile track in the area.

Admissions have been reduced for the races which begin at 8:30 p.m. Six races will be held including a novice race in which anyone can enter and a disc jockey race.

The Ritchie Raceway is the largest in the area.

Elks election

(Continued from Page 1)

told the Elks in a matter of fact statement that the order is spending more money than it has taken in and that if this continues it will face bankruptcy.

Following his report, Tommy Freedman of Philadelphia moved to suspend the rules and re-elect Judge Jackson. The motion was unanimously carried amid thundering applause and by this time it was clear that the Elks machine was rolling on to unanimous victory.

Following the election of Judge Jackson, civil libertiesdirector, Hobson Reynolds presented his report.

The same action followed when the Reverend J. Winmore Mason of Harrisburg offered a motion to suspend the rules and re-elect Judge Reynolds.

Then in an unprecedented action Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Johnson arose and asked for the floor to second the motion for Judge Reynolds' re-election.

There was of course no doubt about the outcome after the Grand had personally put his stamp of approval on Judge Reynolds and the passage of that motion was a matter of form.

Next came the report of George W. Lee of Memphis, grand director of education. Mr. Lee, himself an orator, made his own most effective campaign speech while rendering his report.

Again the rules were suspended and Mr. Lee was re-elected by acclamation.

Following Mr. Lee's election, Dr. Charles Wesley, president of Central State College, presented the grand lodge with a synopsis of a 350-page history of the Elks which he has written at the direction of Grand Exalted Ruler Bob Johnson.

It is the first complete history of the order ever written and Dr. Wesley said it would be ready soon on the bookstands about the time of the Elks mid winter convention.

The convention voted approval of funds to publish the book.

TUESDAY'S PARADE was headed by Gen. Henry Berth of Philadelphia and the Elk Anlered Guard. Hillman Hanley of Atlanta was Major General of the Southern Division, Pascal Todd of Chicago, Western Division, Charles Donoway, Atlantic City, Eastern Division.

George McRee, Chicago Labor Leader, is general chairman of the convention. Thurgood Marshall was presented the Elks' Lovejoy Medal Monday afternoon at a civil liberties meeting presided over by Judge Hobson Reynolds.

Top officials of convention are housed in the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Others stayed in downtown and Southside hotels. There was no housing problem.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

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ALONG THE AVENUE

THE CLUB TIJUANA, "Baltimore's Home of Modern Jazz," has introduced another fine group to local music lovers in the Oscar Pettiford Quintet which is entertaining there this week.

The club has been crowded each night this week as the group, headed by the former Duke Ellington bassist, has been putting out some of the easiest listening music heard around these parts in some time.

With Oscar are Ron Jefferson on drums, George Butcher on piano, Charlie Rouse on tenor sax and Julius Watkins on (dig this) French horn. That's right, I said French horn and believe me some of the coolest tones we've heard.

This group has just completed an album for Debut Record Co. which in all likelihood will sell well. You better hurry if you want to catch the boys.

And when visiting the TIJUANA you'll be greeted by Wahseola Wilson, the charming hostess and William Parker, the manager. Both will see that you enjoy yourself.

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AT THE COMEDY CLUB the TNT Tribble outfit is closing out it's run on Sunday after rocking here for a week and on Monday the new jazzy Irvin Bean Quintet makes its appearance.

This smooth group features vibres, piano, sax, drums and brass and is one of the smoothest sounding groups around today.

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DOC WOINGUST emceed the big package show at the Armory Friday which was given by the Shriners.

OVER 10,000 PERSONS crowded into the place to hear Bill Doggett, Ruth Brown, the Paul Williams orchestra and the Crickets, who substituted for the Clovers.

A group of female impersonators from Washington and Baltimore also entertained for the huge crowd as did the Temptesters. Bill Dixon and J. Gene Payne promoted the affair.

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THE SOUNDMASTERS, headed by King Draper's smooth tenor sax, are in their last week at RICTOR'S RED FOX LOUNGE. They close out Sunday night so you'd better hurry if you don't wish to miss this group.

Incidentally, Tilghman is now serving in the RED FOX ROOM where it is most relaxing and most entertaining at all times. It's always nice at RICTOR'S RED FOX.

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LOU BENNETT and his Hammondtones continue to play in their exciting style over at TILLIE'S, Fayette and Wolfe Sts.

This group has gone far and is still on the upgrade. We expect greater things out of these boys in the future.

Del Kelly, Baltimore favorite hostess, is the one who will see that you have an enjoyable evening at TILLIE'S.

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IN BILLSBORO is the show business bible, the record of the week is "Annie Had A Baby," a new waxing by the Midnighters. Billboard says this platter is "moving fast."

It's heard around Baltimore everywhere, too.

Personally this corner prefers Sammy Davis Jr. singing "Hey There" or Louis Armstrong's version of "The Whippenpoof Song."

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THE CASINO has the new Billy Bowen and the Butter Ball Quintet satisfying the customers there nightly.

These boys leave Sunday also, which should serve as a reminder to you to come out and listen to some music that satisfies.

Personnel of the group includes Clyde Austin on guitar, Horace Brown on piano, Melvin Moore on drums, Eddith Thompson on bass and Billy Bowen on the alto sax.

Over at the CLUB AMBASSADOR the Seven Tilters opened on Monday with the largest group ever to appear in the Eastside bistro.

Straight from Wildwood, N.J., the Tilters are really pouring out good jazz for music lovers and their dishing it out seven nights a week.

The rest of the local entertainment picture lines up like this:

Lawson Vessels and Jerome Berry at CLUB 1017; the Jo-Jo Mambo Group at Jones' Cocktail Lounge; the Valentino Trio at the Knotty Pine Club; the Live Tones at Twin Pines.

That's it for this week. Have fun.

PLAN TOUR—Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five open an ambitious three months tour of the south on August 29 in El Paso, Texas. The jaunt, Jordan's first in two years, will cover Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida, West Virginia and Virginia. Shown here are members of the troupe: J. Kirkwood, B. Mitchell, B. Payne, C. Loine, Jordan, S. Jay and C. Hastings.

25 Md. couples seek licenses to wed in county

TOWSON, Md. — Twenty-five persons from Maryland, including 16 from Baltimore, and from Georgia and one from Kentucky secured marriage licenses from the Baltimore County courthouse here this month. The applicants were:

CARTER-THORNTON — Samuel H. 19, and Mary B., 19, both of Baltimore.

RICHARDSON - RICHARDSON —Isiah, 43, and Anita E., 27.

SAMPLE-JACKSON — Calvin W., 25, and Bessie, 22, both of Baltimore.

COLSON - FOSTER — James E. 25, and Artraelle P., 22, both of Baltimore.

CLASH - JONES — George S., 22, and Gladys, 21, both of Baltimore.

McNUTT - HARRIS — Gilbert G., 22, and Earlean J., 21, both of Baltimore.

BROOKS-GRIFFIN — Thomas H., 66, and Effie, 55, both of Baltimore.

MADDEN - SMALLS — James H., 25, of Cockeysville, Md., and Georgia S., 18, of Baltimore.

STOCKTON - FRAZIER—James H., 26, of Glasgow, Ky., and Ethel, 25, of Baltimore.

BARD - CLARK — John O., 42, of Reisterstown, and Audrey L. 23, of Union Bridge, Md.

BARNER-PARKER — William, 23, of Americus, Ga., and June 20, of Towson.

GREGG - LEVERE — Herbert V., 25, and Flora T., 21, both of Hydes, Md.

MADDOX-SMITH — James W., 22, of Atlanta, Ga., and Emily M., 23, of Lutherville, Md.

CROMWELL-SAUNDERS — Wilmer R., 31, of Monkton, Md., and Mildred L., 29, of White Hall, Md.

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