

Ku Klux Klan Must Find New Haunt in Omaha

Dr. Harold Gifford Orders Local Chapter Be Refused Right to Meet in Lyric Hall.

(Continued From Page One.)
men, some even appeared to be little more than boys. They did not appear at all imposing.
The only person of any prominence in local affairs to enter the meeting room was a lawyer who took a part in the election last spring by making stump speeches for a defeated candidate.
Lone Sentinel Stands.
In front of the door stood a lone sentinel, a tall, slim young man who apparently did not relish his task. Neither did his sense of duty overwhelm him, for after acting as the faithful watchdog for a little more than an hour he finally entered the meeting place and left the corridor unguarded against snooping eyes, despite the fact that a dance at which half a hundred couples were in attendance was in progress on the same floor.
The dancers, however, were blissfully unaware that the most powerful secret, non-political organization in existence, one that has "most unobtrusively in history," was holding a meeting only a few feet away.
But then perhaps they wouldn't have cared particularly anyway.
Barred From Building.
But last Friday night's meeting will be the last the Omaha chapter of the Ku Klux Klan will hold in the Lyric building. Dr. Harold Gifford has said so.
Dr. Gifford is the owner of the Lyric building and he has announced that the meeting had taken place in his property was taken when so informed by a reporter for The Bee.
"The Ku Klux Klan is an infernal nuisance," declared the doctor with considerable emphasis.
"I shall not permit any more meetings held there. I shall take the matter up at once with my agents, Harrison & Morton."

Agent Also Acts.

It also is quite evident that Dr. Gifford need not have a check of cooperation on the part of his tenants.
Even before informing Dr. Gifford of the meeting a reporter for The Bee had carried a similar message to George T. Morton.
Mr. Morton was as positive as Dr. Gifford in asserting that the Lyric building would not be a meeting place of the order.
"The halls of the Lyric building are not open for meetings of the Ku Klux Klan, the I. W. W. or similar organizations," he said.
When the hall was rented for the Friday night meeting, it was understood that the Ku Klux Klan was to assemble.
The hall was rented by Manager Boyd to an organizer for the Klan who did not reveal his vocation. Manager Boyd told a reporter for The Bee that he would not give a kind of a Woodmen meeting.

Office Down Town.

The Ku Klux Klan maintains an office at Nos. 18 and 19 Baldridge, west building, Twentieth and Farnam streets, but this office is not large enough to accommodate more than small committee meetings.
It is in this office that F. C. Maxey, King Kleagle for Nebraska, makes his headquarters.
Maxey is the principal organizer for the state. He came to Omaha from Atlanta, Ga., where he is headquarters of the order and the home of W. J. Simmons, the imperial wizard.

Maxey returned to Omaha yesterday from a point out in the state where he said he attended an organizational meeting.
He told a reporter for The Bee yesterday that the organization was completed and officers elected.
"The publicity we have been getting the past few weeks is showing itself in the results of the election," he continued. "I received a telegram from this town Thursday to come there and organize a Klan at once. No citizen of the town ever had been a member before."

Likes Publicity.

Commenting upon the announcements of Mayor Dammann and County Attorney Shotwell, which appeared in The Bee last week, the organizer asserted that parades and demonstrations are not allowed by the imperial wizard except in cases of necessity and then only by his permission.
"We never hold parades except when the moral effect may be of benefit to the community and Klan," he said.
"I was glad to hear of the statements made by the county officials regarding law enforcement. The Klan never has or attempted to take law and justice out of the proper hands."

Courts Investigation.

"When there are public officials who are conscientious enough to enforce the law and justice regardless of who might be concerned, the Klan is for those officers. The klansmen stand at all times ready to cooperate with these officials and give any assistance possible in enforcing the law."
Maxey also declared the Ku Klux Klan courted investigation.
"I only hope that if any investigations are made they will be made in a fair-minded way and that the findings will be made public. So many investigations are started but somehow the findings always get in the discard."

Ready to Assist.

"I stand ready at all times to assist in any investigation. If the investigators find any evidence of lawlessness in Omaha, they can forward their report to Colonel Simmons in Atlanta and the charter of the Klan in Omaha will be revoked and the Klan disbanded. The Klan will not countenance any violence of any kind by its members."
Maxey declares the publicity being given the Klan is bringing new members into the organization.
"New klans are being formed in Nebraska and more members are joining the klans already formed in Omaha. The membership is growing rapidly. There are still fair-minded persons who see the absurdity of the charges made against the Klan."

For and Against the K. K. K.

The following article compiled and written by the Literary Digest reviews in brief recent developments in the organization of the Ku Klux Klan:

"Publicity which is bringing us in \$500,000 a year," is the way one official of that much-discussed organization, the Ku Klux Klan, describes the sudden, violent and widespread press attack on the Klan's methods. Other sources report that the Klan's "imperial wizard," Mr. William Joseph Simmons, of Atlanta, contemplates a \$1,000,000 libel suit against the New York World for its part in the general attack. Some 20 newspapers, headed by The World, recently began the simultaneous publication of a series of sensational exposures, and half a dozen weeklies, at about the same time, came forward with attacks under such headlines as "A Nightgown Tyranny," "Imperial Lawlessness," "Applied Violence," and "The Ku Klux Klan—The Soul of Chivalry." The last title, intended to be ironic, heads a particularly bitter attack by Albert De Silver in The Nation (New York). "A child conceived in the tradition of a lawless past, and brought forth in the extravagant obscenity of present-day prejudice," De Silver writes, "The World and its associated papers present these more specific points: It has grown from a nucleus of 34 charter members to a membership of more than 500,000 within five years.

"Its 'domains' and 'realms' and 'klans' have been extended until they embrace every state in the union, but Montana, Utah and New Hampshire. It practices 'censorship of private conduct behind the midnight anonymity of mask and robe, and with the weapons of tar and feathers.'"

"Its members are not initiated but 'naturalized' by a ceremony which includes an approximation of Christian ceremony of baptism."

Negro Side Issue.

The World's series of syndicated articles charges further that—
"When it was organized it was directed against the negro. Now the Klan has become a side issue. Today it is primarily anti-Jew, anti-Catholic, anti-union and it is spreading more than twice as fast through the north and west as it is growing in the south."

How has it managed to spread so widely and so rapidly?
First, by appeal to local or sectional prejudices and hatreds. On the Pacific coast it has beckoned to Japophobes and whispered in their ears that the yellow man is plotting to incite the black man in America to rise against the white man. In the cities of the central west it has pretended to devote itself to stamping out radicalism. On the Atlantic coast it has preached that an alien-born man or woman, even though naturalized, has no place in America. Everywhere it has banned Jews from membership and made anti-Semitism one of its main missions. Everywhere, also, no less positively but not as frankly, it has barred and attacked Roman Catholics. Wherever a prospective member lives, he has been promised that his pet aversion will be made an object of Klan action.

Second, it owes its growth to the employment of a large number of professional department agents in the country in an up-to-date sales organization and peddle memberships on a basis of \$4 for every member taken into the Klan. These paid organizers or kleagles, collect no initiation fees, but each new member makes a "donation" of \$10, of which the kleagle keeps \$4 and the rest goes to the Klan. The remaining \$5 valets into the "imperial" treasury of the order. Furthermore, the Klan itself owns the company manufacturing the regalia, which is sold to the members for \$6.50 and costs \$2.25 to make.

In the hands of professional drive leaders, whose sole interest in Ku Kluxism is in the "split" just outlined.

In the last five years membership "donations" and sales of regalia have yielded at least \$5,000,000—probably a considerably greater sum. Ku Kluxism from the inside has been a paying enterprise and its lucrative possibilities have recently been increased by the decision to admit women as well as men to membership. The sisters can now come on in with the brothers—at only \$10 per-com-
Woman Answers.
"Any fraternal order has the unquestioned right to select its membership," replies one of the society's high officials, Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, grand chief of staff of the women's division. "And this organization is no more anti-Catholic than the Knights of Columbus are anti-Protestant, and more anti-Jew than the Sons of Israel are anti-Gentile. The Klan stands throughout for true, pure-blooded Americanism, declare its defenders, for the Americanism of the old sort, which has been threatened by our flood of immigrants and by other alien influences here at home. Answering further a question, widely repeated by the press, that the Klan has been responsible for mob violence in various parts of the country, Mrs. Tyler said, as quoted by The World:
"The thing the Klan has had to fight hardest is the mob violence that has been the result of the mob, or at least on the side of explanation, the New York Telegraph presents this incident:
Recently in a town of considerable size south of here, a young wife, a man preached anarchy before a throng of people. He spoke these words: 'You see those folk living up there in fine houses on the hill; we are as good as they are and entitled to as good things as they go. We have nothing; they have everything. Look at their automobiles and their expensive clothes. Why shouldn't we have them? We don't say that we want as good automobiles as they have—we want their women! We do not say, either, that we want as good women as they have; men, we want their women!'"
This scoundrel should have been arrested and sent to prison for a long term. But he was not; he went his way, for the moment unscathed. For the moment, we say, in that city is a brand of the Ku Klux Klan, and two days after his speech this preacher of anarchy and violence disappeared. No one has seen him since; perhaps, he never will be seen

"He was in charge of a great Harvest Festival in Atlanta that brought more people to Atlanta than had ever been there before.

"I was interested in hygiene work for babies, sort of a 'better babies' movement. I had taken a course in a medical course to fit myself for the work of visiting among the tenements and advising mothers about their babies, and in the Harvest festival, we had a 'Better Babies' parade, of which I had charge. It was through that that I met Mr. Clarke."

Wizard in Trouble.

"After we had talked over many business enterprises, he formed the Southern Publicity association. It was associated with the Y. W. C. A. doing publicity work during the war, and Mr. Clarke was affiliated with the Y. M. C. A. I financed the Southern Publicity association and stayed in the office, and he had industry and working out publicity campaigns of one sort and another."

"We came in contact with Colonel Simmons and the Ku Klux Klan through the fact that my son-in-law joined it. We found Colonel Simmons was having a hard time to get along. He couldn't pay his rent. His receipts were not sufficient to take care of his personal needs. He was a minister and a clean living and thinking man, and he was heart and soul for the success of his Ku Klux Klan. After we had investigated it from every angle, we decided to go into it with Colonel Simmons and give it the impetus that it could get best from publicity."

"It was my idea that we would get a little local publicity throughout the south or through our section and that the order would grow by degrees. But the minute we said 'Ku Klux' editors from all over the United States began literally pressing us for publicity."

One result of the growth of this movement, writes William G. Shepherd in Leslie's Weekly, is that "there are districts of the United States as lawless and as liable to witness horrible happenings as any district in Russia or Italy or upset Germany or topsy-turvy Poland, or any other European land which we Americans look on as inferring from after-the-war lawlessness." The writer, recently returned from the undisciplined lands he mentions, proceeds with his indictment:
"The long and short of the matter is that an organization which calls itself the Ku Klux Klan is active again in the south. Good citizens are protesting against its outrages; the press of the south is almost solidly against its activities; state legislatures are passing laws against it, and officers of the law are doing their best to make a careful investigation of the members. It is thriving with difficulty in many communities, and yet, if we are to trust the word of its officials, it is growing in membership, both north and south, at the rate of 5,000 members a week."

Record in Texas.

The Texas record of activities of the men in white robes for the past half year, according to Mr. Shepherd, includes such cases as:—
"White men were seized and punished without due process of law. The punishments, which included tarring and feathering, beating, hair clipping, robbery and branding, were caused by alleged misdeeds ranging from the rape of a negro woman to the murder of a white man. In one case, a white man was seized and punished for the offense of not wearing a white robe. The punishments, which included tarring and feathering, beating, hair clipping, robbery and branding, were caused by alleged misdeeds ranging from the rape of a negro woman to the murder of a white man. In one case, a white man was seized and punished for the offense of not wearing a white robe. The punishments, which included tarring and feathering, beating, hair clipping, robbery and branding, were caused by alleged misdeeds ranging from the rape of a negro woman to the murder of a white man. In one case, a white man was seized and punished for the offense of not wearing a white robe. 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