

# Maid of Honor from Out-of-Town Serve Well the Queen

**T**HINK of the thrilliest thrill that you ever experienced; then you'll know how the young woman out of town feels when she receives an official-looking document with gorgeous coat-of-arms and brilliant lettering in red and green and gold inviting her to be

a maid of honor at the Ak-Sar-Ben ball in Omaha. Why, to be chosen maid of honor to the queen of Ak-Sar-Ben is next best to being the queen herself; and it is a pretty sure sign that the honored young woman is queen of the particular part of the state which she has been selected to represent at the big court festivity. In addition to these flattering considerations, there is the anticipation of being present at the ball, which counterbalances everything else.

But the fair daughters of the Antelope state who are chosen to attend the queen on the occasion of her coronation, are especially interested, for the glory of Ak-Sar-Ben is reflected throughout the state. The chosen young woman gets out her prettiest gown, what is more likely, one made especially for the ball with all the dainty trappings to match. When the time of the event arrives, she takes the train amid the envious glances of her girl friends and bounds along to Omaha.

To many of the out-of-town maids, as well as to many Omaha young women the Coronation ball is the largest and most brilliant affair which they have attended. And you may be sure that the out-of-town maid, especially if it is her first ball, misses not a detail of the splendor of the occasion, and is just as interested in the mystery of the identity of the king and queen as any one there. This young woman, tagged with the red, green and yellow badge, which distinguishes her from ordinary citizens present, does not waste much time in speculation, however, but proceeds to make the most of her own part in the gaiety of the affair.

The charge has been brought against the local bachelors that they do not introduce the out-of-town maids nor pay as much attention to them as they ought. But a trusty corps of Omaha knights loudly deny this accusation. Among these is Charles Beaton, who for fourteen years has done faithful service as a member of the floor committee at the ball. Another knight who has won the spurs at showing the out-of-town maids a good time at the ball is Stockton Heth, who for a dozen years has never once shirked this pleasant duty. Gould Dietz, Samuel Burns and Harry Tukey have done their duty in this respect like the true and loyal knights which they are and have never been known to shirk.

Several of the Omaha knights have even found the attractions of the out-of-town maids greater than those of the local daughters. One of these young men has Ak-Sar-Ben to thank for his wife, who was an out-of-town maid at the ball four years ago. Another prominent bachelor met his fiancée at a recent coronation.

Although there is an occasional romance in con-

nection with the ball, there are also some tragic happenings. Year before last, a pretty miss, chosen to be maid of honor from out in Cheyenne county—a young woman who had never been to one of the Ak-Sar-Ben festivities before—landed in one of the Omaha stations alone and unknown. She had expected that there would be some one delegated to meet her, and when no one arrived, she became confused and rather scared and finally telephoned the Ak-Sar-Ben office. Miss Katherine Hughes, Samson's first lieutenant, was the only one there. She sent some one to the station for the fair traveler and took her under her wing for the rest of the evening.

Another young woman from out in the state had a similar experience. She arrived in Omaha late on the evening of the ball. There was no one

to meet her and she was finally discovered by the Ak-Sar-Ben officials, who delegated two faithful knights to escort the out-of-town maid to the ball. There were no carriages to be had at that late hour, so one of the knights had his automobile sent to the station and the young woman was whisked out to the Den.

Though an occasional maid of honor drops down upon the Ak-Sar-Ben out of the clear sky, most of the young women are guests of friends in Omaha at the time of the ball and they are royally entertained during their stay.

The first year in which the Ak-Sar-Ben officials made an especial effort to show the visiting girls a good time was in 1906, when the bachelors of the realm were pledged to pay particular attention to the out-of-town maids.

## Queens of Ak-Sar-Ben

(Continued from Page Fifteen.)

W. V. Morse, was the fifth queen of Quivera, and she now resides in Omaha with her parents. She is described as a very lovely queen, in a gown of white gauze, embroidered in gold over satin and with the long blue robe of royalty. The account states further that she was "one of Omaha's most beautiful and estimable young women."

When Miss Mildred Lomax, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Lomax, was given the highest of all honors that can come to any maiden in the Kingdom of Quivera we are told that "with gentle dignity she mounted the throne and knelt at the king's feet." She wore a white satin gown with pearl trimmings and the regulation blue robe.

For several years Miss Lomax has studied vocal music in Berlin with the idea of becoming an opera singer. She is now in the United States and is with her parents, who have changed their residence to San Francisco.

Miss Edith Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Smith, is the Ak-Sar-Ben queen who has lived in many places since wearing the royal robes. Her marriage to Captain Clarence Richmond Day took her away from Omaha and to different residences in army stations, following one another in quick succession. Miss Smith was garbed in white satin with jewel embroidery and with a train of wondrous length and she carried a bouquet of American Beauty roses. The accounts of the coronation say that "right royally did she carry the honor" of being crowned queen of the gas festival.

The eighth coronation ceremony marks two changes in the customs of the realm. At this time the color of the royal robe was changed from blue to crimson velvet and the queen was provided by Samson, the high chamberlain of royal affairs, with a crown jeweled in the red, green and yellow of the kingdom.

Miss Ella Cotton, whose beauty placed her first among the maidens of the realm in 1902, was queen

that year, and we are told that no more charming queen had ever graced the throne. Her gown was an imitation of that of another sovereign—Empress Josephine. It was of ivory color crepe de sole, elaborately ornamented in crystals, pearls and turquoise.

Miss Cotton, the daughter of Mrs. Herman Kountze, is now the wife of Jerome Magee, an enthusiastic golfer of Quivera. She has two children, Fredericka Nash and Marshall Magee.

Miss Bessie Brady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Brady, was the ninth Ak-Sar-Ben queen, and very gracious was she in a gown of white tissue trimmed in jewels and lace and the royal robe of crimson velvet edged with ermine. She is married to Thomas L. Davis, one of the prominent young bankers of the realm, and has one son, John Frederick, named after his two grandfathers.

Following Miss Brady's reign came that of Miss Ada Kirkendall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Kirkendall. She was a stately queen in her handsome imported gown of Renaissance lace over white satin. Discarding the crimson robe which had done service for the two preceding coronations, this queen wore a train of white satin ornamented with bands of Renaissance lace over satin ribbons. Miss Kirkendall was married to Mr. Glenn Wharton and lives in Omaha.

Another of the recent queens to remain in Omaha is Miss Mary Lee McShane, daughter of Mr. John A. McShane, having married Mr. Willard Hosford, who went into business in Omaha a few years ago.

The description of this, the eleventh queen of Ak-Sar-Ben, says that Miss McShane was "aristocratic and charming" and that her gown "glistened like cloth of gold." She was more elaborately gowned than any former queen and in place of the crimson robe she returned to the color first chosen by Samson and wore a robe of turquoise velvet, edged with ermine.

Miss Margaret Wood, daughter of Mrs. B. B. Wood, brought the number of queens of Ak-Sar-Ben up to an even dozen. Clad in white satin, with bands of jeweled lace and the long blue robe, she was one of the daintiest of the queens. Miss Wood

was followed next day by a luncheon at the club. Saturday the young women were taken to the station by their charitable hostesses and went home worn-out, but declaring enthusiastically that they had had the time of their lives.

Two years later Ak-Sar-Ben made a special effort for the out-of-town maids. The army officers were in Omaha on their way to Des Moines from St. Joseph, and entertainments for the two visiting forces were combined. One of the memorable events was the reception given by General and Mrs. John C. Cowin at their handsome residence; another was the entertainment by General and Mrs. Charles F. Morton at the Field club. That was the year when the counties instead of the towns had representatives at the ball.

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asked by every loyal subject in the Kingdom of Quivera.

## Illumination of the City


(Continued from Page Sixteen.)

ber of merchants the benefit of the lights. If we had more money to spend, it would be well to have more lights all over that portion of the city now covered annually by the lighting.

"As it stands at present, however, I think our streets have a carnival appearance that is creditable to the city. We of Omaha get so used to the lights that we don't think much of them, but visitors who come to Ak-Sar-Ben are much impressed and speak very highly of the arrangement and the number of lights."

The added lights this year will be on Farnam, from Twentieth to Twenty-fourth, a section of street which has not been specially lighted in former years. The streets that are lighted with Ak-Sar-Ben illumination are: Tenth, from the Burlington passenger station to Farnam; Farnam, from Tenth to Twenty-fourth; Douglas, from Twelfth to Seventeenth; Harney, from Fourteenth to Sixteenth; Howard, from Fourteenth to Sixteenth; Sixteenth, from Webster to Jackson; Fifteenth, from Douglas to Howard; Fourteenth, from Douglas to Howard.

W. L. Burgess of the Burgess-Granden company suggests that individual property owners do more in the way of lighting, not only for Ak-Sar-Ben, but permanently, and cites as an example the ornamental posts, with high power lamps, that are being installed in front of the new Wellington hotel. In the way of temporary lighting, also, he says, many of the merchants could do, with advantage to themselves, more than they are in the habit of doing. The Bennett company has secured from the Burgess-Granden company, for lighting its windows during Ak-Sar-Ben, eight big chandeliers.




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