

Omahans Assist In Initiation of K. K. K. at Lincoln

High-Powered Cars, Speeding Over Lonely Highways, Carry Local Members to Lincoln Rites

The Ku Klux Klan is in Omaha. Omaha men were in automobiles which Friday night slipped out of the city secretly and took the trail to Lincoln where 75 candidates were inducted into the secret order of the Ku Klux Klan.

Utmost secrecy has surrounded the activities of 22 Klan organizers who have been working in Nebraska since May 18 and yesterday for the first time pictures and story of the initiation ceremonies, were made public.

Permission was granted for an Omaha Bee reporter and camera man to make the trip to Lincoln Friday night, under oath that the identity of the men they saw and met should be kept secret.

Gives Names of Towns.
Then it was that the King Kleagle of Nebraska made known the names of Nebraska and Iowa towns where Kaverns now exist. These towns are:

Omaha Council Bluffs
Lincoln Fremont
Hastings Grand Island
Sutton Minden
Neligh Holdrege
McCook Sioux City
North Platte Nebraska City

The reporter met the King Kleagle by appointment early Friday evening.

He was introduced on Farnam street to a man with whom he drove to Lincoln.

Such was the experience of the camera man, only in separate car. On arrival in Lincoln, the reporter again was met by the King Kleagle and led to a building in the heart of the business section of the city.

Men sat around the room, smoking and talking.

Knock at Door.
A knock at an inner door, and the reporter was told the ceremonies were to start. The men filed through the door and the reporter and camera man were left outside—to wait.

No sound came from the closed room and after a short wait, the King Kleagle appeared, said the initiation was over and invited the camera man into the lodge room to take posed pictures of initiation ceremonies.

Then the King Kleagle allowed the reporter the first interview ever made public north of the Mason and Dixon line.

Active in Lincoln.
The Klan has been active in Lincoln for several weeks and already the city numbers more than 300 Klansmen, according to the Kleagle. Friday night the "aliens," as candidates are called, took the same oaths of allegiance to the United States, its constitution and the Invisible Empire as did the original Klansmen in the caves and pine forests of South Carolina in 1865.

Ceremonies were to have been conducted in Robbers cave, a huge underground cavern south of the city, but at the last moment the plans were changed and the "aliens" were "naturalized" in a building in the heart of the business district of Lincoln.

King Kleagles of North Dakota and Nebraska officiated with Omaha and Lincoln Kleagles.

This is the first ceremony held in the north to be followed by official statements regarding the inner workings of the Klan.

Lawlessness Forbidden.
On the statement of the King Kleagle of Nebraska in the oath to which the Klansmen swore last night, there is nothing which permits violence or lawlessness.

"The Klansmen swear allegiance to the United States, its constitution and the Invisible Empire," the King Kleagle said.

"The order is open to any man born on American soil, gentle, and who owes or has taken no oaths of allegiance to any foreign ruler or power, civil, military or ecclesiastical.

"The Klan does not sanction violence or lawlessness of any nature. Any Klansmen found guilty of such misdeeds is immediately banished and the Klan helps the officers of the law in bringing them to justice," said the King Kleagle.

"There are many humorous statements made in application," he continued.

No Need for Horse.
"Recently I received an application from a man who stated his qualifications as a horseman. I immediately told him there was no need of horsemanship in the order, that if he was looking for or expected to do any night riding on a fiery steed he would have to join an order that did such things."

According to the description of last night's ceremonies by the King Kleagle of Nebraska, they are profoundly impressive with a deeply religious and patriotic strain throughout.

"The 'aliens' are brought before the flag-draped altar and the fiery cross from an adjacent room. There they are confronted by the Kleagle in robes, the exact replicas of those worn in reconstruction days. They kneel before the altar, on which is a Holy Bible opened at the 12th chapter of Romans, across which rests a sword."

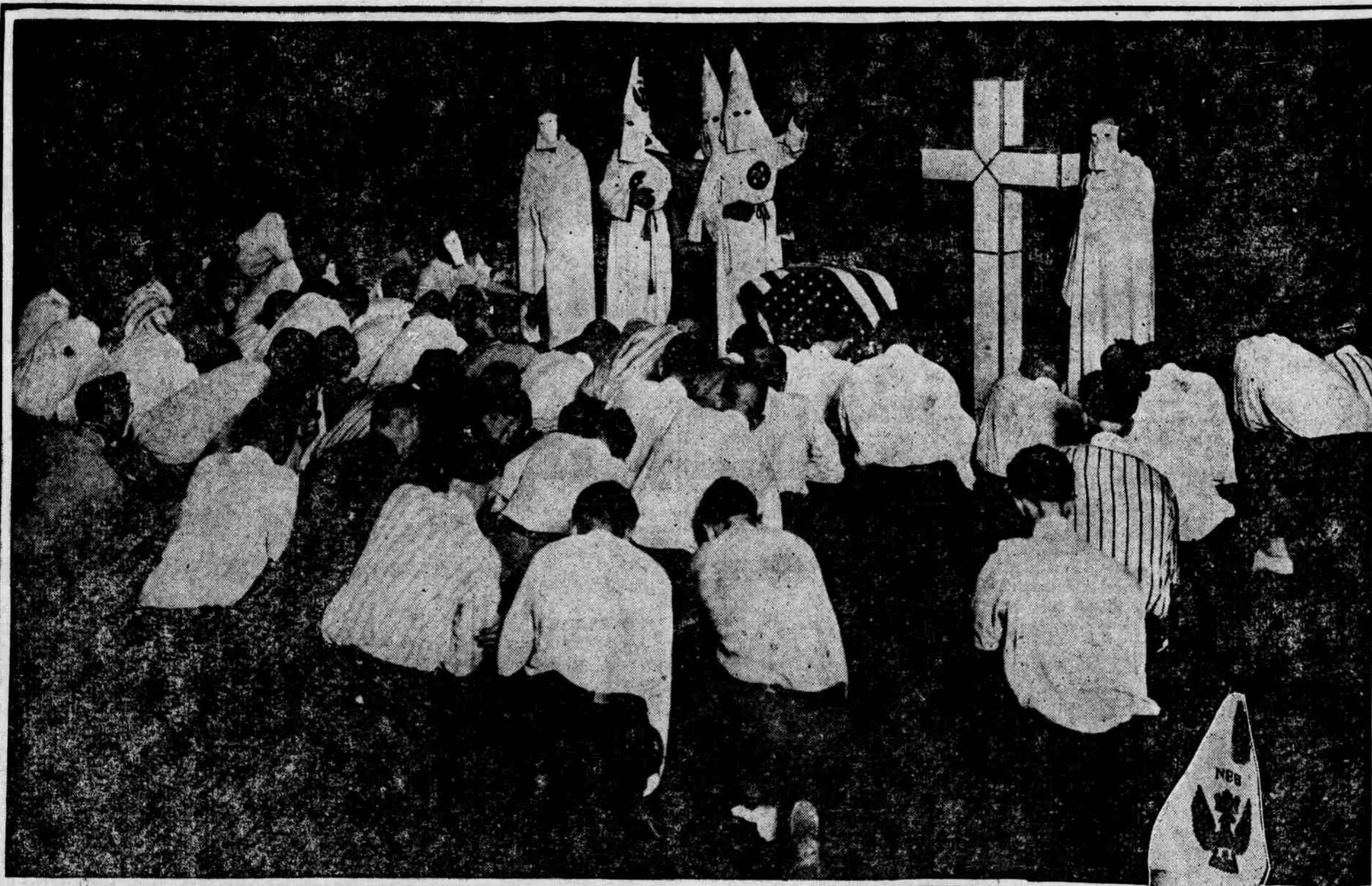
The robes of the Kleagles are white, trimmed in various colors, red, black, yellow and purple. On the breast of each is the fiery cross. A tall white cap of conical shape trimmed in various colors from which a long white mask descends, obscures completely the face.

A majority of the ceremonies is conducted in a semi-darkened room, illuminated only by the light of the fiery cross. No names are spoken and no Klansman reveals his identity to another. After Kaverns or lodges have been established, all Klansmen wear the white robes.

"When real Americans discover the real purposes and hopes of the Ku Klux Klan and how it combats un-American influences emanating from foreign and domestic radicals they all will want to don the regalia of a Klansman," the King Kleagle declared.

Define Purpose of Order.
Under "objects and purposes of the order," contained in a pamphlet

Exclusive Pictures of First Ku Klux Klan Initiation in Nebraska



These photographs, which appear exclusively in The Bee, were taken Friday at Lincoln where the first initiation ceremony of the Ku Klux Klan in Nebraska was held.

The upper picture shows a class of candidates kneeling before the Kleagle, who has charge of the initiation ceremony.

The lower picture, on the left, shows the Kleagle administering the oath of the order to a candidate. On the right is a closeup of the Nebraska Kleagle in his costume.

The photographs were taken by a photographer for The Bee through special permission given by the Nebraska Kleagle.

regarding the order, the following section is found:
"The object of this order shall be a common brotherhood of strict regulations for the purpose of cultivating and promoting real patriotism toward our civil government; to practice an honorable clannishness toward each other; to exemplify practical benevolence; to shield the sanctity of the home and the chastity of womanhood; to maintain white supremacy; to teach and faithfully inculcate a high spiritual philosophy through an exalted ritualism, and by a practical devotedness to conserve, protect and maintain the distinctive institutions, rights, privileges, principles and ideals of pure Americanism."
"Section 2: To create and maintain an institution by and through which the present generations shall commemorate and memorialize the great sacrifice, chivalric service and patriotic achievements of our original society, the Ku Klux Klan of the reconstruction period of American history."
According to the King Kleagle the

The King Kleagle of Nebraska came to Omaha May 18 from Richmond, Va., just after he had naturalized 2,000 new citizens in the "invisible empire." Names of eligible men in Omaha had been furnished the King Kleagle by the Imperial Wizard at Atlanta, Ga., and with these few men the Omaha Kavern was started.
After investigations more members were naturalized until now there is a membership of several hundred in the Kavern, the Kleagle declares.
22 Organizers at Work.
In Nebraska 22 organizers or Kleagles are at work instituting new Kaverns. The membership now is almost as strong in the north as it is in the south, the King Kleagle declares.
In answer to attacks made on the Klan, the Grand Goblin of the domain of Missouri sent the following message recently to the King Kleagle in Kansas City which he forwarded to Omaha.
"We are taking active steps today to counteract the vitriolic slanders which our enemies the past two

weeks have been hurling at us, and you can rest assured that the present nationwide volleys being fired at us will be met with the same strong situation as other attacks and will amount to nothing but mere flurries."
Stands for Law.
"Keep clearly in your mind that this organization stands only and solely for the supremacy and majesty of the law and that violators of the law, whether they are members of this organization or outsiders, will receive no consideration at our hands and will be prosecuted through the regular channel of the law without fear and without favor, regardless of whom it may concern."
"We are taking active steps to have the message given out generally into the public prints but you should get this message to all men in your territory and let them spread it."
When asked why he permitted pictures to be taken of the initiation, the King Kleagle said:
Time for Secrecy.
"There is nothing secretive in the workings of the Ku Klux Klan, and

it is time now for the order to become better known. When we began organizing in the north we knew we would encounter many obstacles and we decided to be as secretive as possible until we had gained sufficient numbers to demand recognition."
"There is nothing but pure American principles taught. Men in the Klan practice nothing but patriotism and the love of country their forefathers practiced before them."
"In Omaha, citizens are being naturalized in the Invisible Empire in large numbers each week," the King Kleagle declared, "and now that we have decided to make a more open and intensive campaign for members I have no fear that in a short time Omaha will have one of the largest Kaverns in the north."
Reports that the local department of justice had been investigating the work of the Klan with an idea of preventing its organization here were denied by the King Kleagle.
Photography is 82 years old next August, the secret of the first pictures, those of Daguerre, having been disclosed in 1839.

Mexican Congress To Study Oil Law

Compromise Plan Provides Article 27 Is Not Retroactive.

Mexico City, Aug. 6.—Consideration of article 27 of the Mexican constitution, nationalizing petroleum deposits, will begin in the Mexican congress next Monday. A committee of the lower house, appointed by the liberal-constitutional party, which forms a majority of the chamber, has submitted to President Obregon a project for the immediate settlement of oil problems.

The project submitted contained six fundamental points upon which legislation relative to oil might be built and the president expressed the opinion that they might be reduced to only three, one of which would

state that article 27 was not retroactive in its effect. The committee decided to begin immediately a study of the problem for early decision at the president's suggestion.

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