

Secret Out! Ak-Sar-Ben Show Bared

Inside Workings of Omaha's Summer Mystery, Preserved by Oath of Knights, Exposed.

Shakespeare wrote plays for the amusement of the people of Queen Elizabeth's kingdom. Gus Renze, assisted by a staff of not-quite-Shakespeareans, writes plays for the knights of King Ak-Sar-Ben's court.

And every Monday night, beginning June 1, and ending about September 1, the "show" is put on in the great Den at Twentieth and Burdette streets, where several thousand knights are put through the initiation given the "show" and then fed on hot dogs, cheese sandwiches, far-beer, buttermilk and coffee.

Persons who are not knights of Ak-Sar-Ben will please read no further, for the "show" is secret—oh, very, very secret. You gotta be a knight in order to see it and every knight takes an oath not to divulge what occurs in the Den during the present year.

George F. West, L. B. (letters doubtful, probably light beer), then burned the midnight current putting together the words. A. R. Groh brewed a few lyrics. And behold the brain child took form.

The music was taken from the works of the classical composers (it being decided after some deliberation that Ak-Sar-Ben's own composers could not improve much on these works.)

Oscar Lieben, in private life a costumer, and in public life one of the world's greatest stage directors, began drilling the actors with Bernard Johnson directing the "15-piece orchestra and Dan Butler prompting.

Scene painters were put to work painting the five wonderful stage settings as follows: 1. The Armorer's Workshop; 2. The Robbers' Grotto; 3. The Gardens of the Mikado; 4. The Bull Ring; and 5. The Grand Muffin's Throne Room.

Not a great while thereafter there was dress rehearsal. The wonderful costumes "enriched the stage setting so that it was, in the words of the poet, a "humdinger."

Behold Frank Latenser, his manly form in doublet and hose, as "Captain Rabbittfoot," George "Long in leather apron" as the "Armorer," Marcus Nielsen as "Captain Rottenfellow."

And for feminine beauty, there was a ravishing, pink-checked maiden, who in private life is E. H. Strickler, Stanley Cnovet, six feet, played and sang as "Sweet Little Guttercup" (or was it "Buttercup?")

H. R. Norton as the beautiful Spanish dancer, "Carmencilla," was so ravishing that some of the country knights inquired whether they couldn't get an introduction to "her."

Oh, Boy! And the beautiful "girls" in the chorus Oh, boy! And the pony ballet—14 lovely "girls" named in private life, Clarence, Glenn, Elmer, Robert, Leon, Charles, etc.

Everything is perfectly respectable, too, you assure you. Why, they even have a "chorus chaperon" in the person of William Carney.

The show is "a musical concoction in five streams interspersed with side dishes." It has to do with profiteurs, the income tax, work, and such unpopular things.

In the first act Captain Rabbittfoot sings to a tune from "Ethereal" as follows: I am the hated pro-fitter— A man of nerve without a peer, Whose curse the nation's leaders chant, And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.

When in business I engage Polka beams need with care, But I snag my fingers as my patron's tagline, And so do his sisters and his cousins and his aunts.

My profits all are low, Just a hundred per cent or so, And I pay no attention to the people's trials, And neither do his sisters nor his cousins or his aunts.

In Act IV, the scene being Japan, George Long as "The Mikado" flanked by his executioners, warbles: The man who invented the income tax Who got up that awful blank, My trusty head man To make him a dead man, Shall lop off his punk "think tank."

The Omaha chappie who side-stage Ak-Sar-Ben, I quickly call his bluff, In hottest of oil I condemn him to hell, I'll be yella load, "Enough!"

The voracious Ak-Sar-Ben board of gov-ern-ers, If they don't do what's right, I'll banish them out of sight, To dark Kansas City, Without any pity.

This musical comedy of the court of Ak-Sar-Ben does not consist of the usual professional chorus of "40 under 20" (or "20 under 40") but numbers 62 persons.

Some show, eh? Well, here's the whole program: A MIDSUMMER KNIGHTS SCREAM OR "THE PROFIT TRAMP" A MUSICAL CONCEPTION IN FIVE ACTS INTERSPERSED WITH SIDE DISHERS STAGED BY GUS A. RENZE, ARTIFICER

Ak-Sar-Ben Board of Governors Is Representative of the Brains and Power of Gate City of the West



Every piece of machinery that functions well must have a governing power. This power in the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben is the board of governors composed of 12 men who have been workers in the organization for years. A short biography of each governor follows:

W.D. Hosford, president and governor, became a governor "way back in 1909. Everett, hale and hearty, is head of the Union stock yards in South Omaha and is known for his entertainments. Everett is not the fattest man in the organization, even though he has a splendid midriff development. His powers of speech are equally developed. He makes a mean speech and as a toastmaster is rated among the best.

Runs a Store. C. E. Black became a governor in 1907. Black is potentate of Tangier Temple Shrine and for pastime runs a store on Farnam street, where are sold men's hats, shirts, etc. He is full of pep and is noted for the beauty of his hair.

Generates Power. J. E. Davidson, made a governor in 1918, generates as much power for Ak-Sar-Ben as his big dynamo do in the power plant of the Nebraska Power company, of which he is one of the heads. J. E. is a live wire.

Gould Dietz is considered one of the old-timers, having served as a governor since 1901. Gould sells lumber in the day time and plots things for Ak-Sar-Ben to do at night. J. D. Foster of the Foster-Barker company sells insurance and other papers. He is elected a governor in 1921. He is the "baby" on the board of governors, but when he has anything to say he says it quickly and acts speedily.

Gambols on Golf Links. J. W. Gamble, Omaha National bank, was elected governor in 1919. One evening recently an auto hit one driven by R. B. Myers, charity worker. Myers' gas tank was smashed, and the owner of the other car bought Myers a new one.

Another auto a few days afterward smashed one of the wheels on Myers' machine. A new wheel was purchased for Mr. Myers by the owner of the other auto.

During another collision the windshield on his car was damaged, and Mr. Myers was presented with a new one. "I am hoping some one bumps into my radiator and mashes up my auto. Then I will have almost a new car," said Mr. Myers.

He's a Plowman. W. D. Hosford, elected in 1912, is one of John Deere's right hand men and has sold enough plows in this territory to plow up the Sahara desert. When working on Ak-Sar-Ben affairs he leaves no clod unturned until the job is done, and then "homeward the weary plowman plods his way."

L. Nash, elected in 1913, is of the firm of Burgess-Nash. He is one of Omaha's biggest business men; is noted for his ability to put big things across.

C. L. Saunders, elected in 1916, he is a reactor and owns portions of it. He is a member of the firm of Saunders-Kennedy building, and a reactor. He sells real estate when not otherwise engaged in Ak-Sar-Ben work.

W. R. Wood, elected in 1919, is connected with the People's Ice and Cold Storage company. Wood burns with energy and has carved a name for himself in Ak-Sar-Ben. The governors are elected every year. Governors whose terms expire this year are Foster, Brown and Dietz.

Musical Director: Bernard Johnson. Musical Director: By Olsen's Orchestra. Musical Director: By A. R. Groh. Musical Director: By Theo Lieben & Son.

CAST OF CHARACTERS. Scene I. Principal Soljourner: Lawrence Dadds. The Armorer: George Long. The Robbers' Grotto: E. H. Strickler. The Gardens of the Mikado: Captain Rabbittfoot. The Bull Ring: Kenneth Reed. The Grand Muffin's Throne Room: Foreman of Armorer: George West, Jr.

Scene II. Captain Rottenfellow: Marcus Nielsen. Captain Rabbittfoot: Stanley Conover. Captain Rottenfellow: Stanley Conover. Captain Rabbittfoot: Stanley Conover. Captain Rottenfellow: Stanley Conover.

Advertisement for The Conservative Savings & Loan Association, featuring a knight in armor and the text 'STRENGTH Every man's home is his citadel, and he the ruling knight. Welcome Ak-Sar-Ben Visitors. ABSOLUTE SECURITY'.

USE, BEE WANT ADS—THEY BRING RESULTS

Successive Collisions Help To Re-Equip Luckless Auto. Akron, O., Sept. 17.—Here is a new method—successful, but rather tedious—for obtaining a new auto: One evening recently an auto hit one driven by R. B. Myers, charity worker. Myers' gas tank was smashed, and the owner of the other car bought Myers a new one.

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