

# The Social Side of the Grand Lodge Convention



*A general view of the parade which concluded the Seventy-second Grand Lodge Convention at Los Angeles*

All the color, pomp and ceremony of tradition marked the Grand Lodge Reunion which convened in Los Angeles, Calif., on Monday, July 13, 1936. Prior to the official opening meeting of the 72nd Grand Lodge Convention, however, a round of memorable social events occupied the time of the Grand Lodge officials and delegates. Trains, planes, automobiles and private cars brought thousands to the gathering of the Elks at Los Angeles.

Early arrivals included Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan, of Queens Borough, N. Y., Lodge, who reached the Southern California city on an eight-car special train packed with guests from the Knickerbocker State via the Santa Fe Lines. With a flash of color and a martial refrain of music by Los Angeles Lodge, No. 99, bandsmen, he was received by official greeters and officers, and a tumultuous reception. Among the hosts of the Convention at the station were Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Shannon; Grand Esquire John J. Doyle; Exalted Ruler Robert S. Redington, of Los Angeles Lodge, and Trustee Robert Casey.

Late in the afternoon Governor David Sholtz, of Florida, who was later elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Order, held a conference with Judge Hallinan and planned for wide-spread activities of an Elks Americanization campaign during the next twelve months.

In brilliant regalia drill teams paraded in Westlake Park, Elk bands played patriotic music and the quiet of the Los Angeles Sunday evening reverberated to the effervescence of the delegates priming themselves for the important and spectacular events of the week.

On Monday, the 13th, the first day of the official Convention, many important events took place. In the morning the 54-hole golf tournament started with eighteen holes medal play and a daily handicap at the Westward Hills Course. Other activities of the morning were the National Ritualistic Contest, the Bowling Tournament at the Lodge Home, and auto tours, including sightseeing at universities, Westward Hills, motion picture studios and other local points of interest. Grand Lodge registration took place



at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

At noon the arrival of the Purple and White Fleet, Good Will Ambassadors of THE ELKS MAGAZINE, was celebrated. The six cars, bearing greetings from 600 Lodges which they had visited throughout their tour of the United States, were received with a flattering demonstration.

In the afternoon a practice trap and skeet shoot was held at the Santa Monica Gun Club.

### Opening Public Session

At 8 o'clock in the evening the official public opening meeting of the Seventy-second Session of the Grand Lodge was held in the magnificent Home of Los Angeles Lodge. The program was an elaborate one marked by many highlighted events. With P.E.R. John G. Mott, of Los Angeles Lodge, presiding, the meeting came to order to hear an organ prelude by Wade Hamilton. A choral interpretation of "America the Beautiful" was sung by the audience and the celebrated Chanters of Los Angeles Lodge, under the direction of J. Arthur Lewis. The invocation was given by the Rev. Arthur O. Sykes, Grand Chaplain. Next Sigmund Romberg's famous "Desert Song" was sung by a trio of the Chanters.

The first speech was a greeting of welcome delivered by E.R. Robert S. Redington, of Los Angeles Lodge. Mr. Redington's remarks were followed by another musical number, "Carry Me Back to the Lone Prairie," by the Chanters. The Welcome from the City of Los Angeles

duce Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan.

Sounding the basic keynote of the structure of the Order, Judge Hallinan rededicated the fight of the Elks to destroy communism and all other "isms" opposed to the present system of government. In a stirring address Judge Hallinan urged the entire membership of the Order to continue its fight for true Americanism. "The fight must be carried on," the Judge declared, pounding the speaker's rostrum enthusiastically. "We have shown great progress in this battle during the past year. We have continued sending out petitions to Congress asking for legislation. We have given our vigorous support to the McCormick bill making it a crime to distribute anti-American literature in army and navy bases.

"I may say to the President of the United States and to the Governor of your state and to every one else that the best asset America has today in its struggle against communism and every other kind of ism is membership in the B. P. O. E.

"To preside over an organization

that has only the principles of Americanism for membership requirements, that welcomes to its doors the rich and poor alike, that takes into its membership, the Catholic, Protestant and Jew, is indeed a rare pleasure."

Judge Hallinan, a New York Supreme Court Justice, was wildly cheered as he struck at the subversive influences at work in the nation. He also reviewed activities of the Order during the past year, pointing with pride to a gain of 8,500 members in the 1,200 Elks Lodges of the nation, compared with a loss of 33,000 members during the preceding year.

"During the past twenty years," he reported, "the Order has distributed \$20,800,000 in charities. In the depression years an average of \$2,000,000 annually was spent."

More than 5,000 persons heard Judge Hallinan's words cheered by the distinguished assemblage. Seventeen Past Grand Exalted Rulers of the Order sat in dignity on the platform. Their names and Lodges are as follows: Joseph T. Fanning, Indianapolis, Ind.; John K. Tener, Charleroi, Pa.; Rush L. Holland, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Raymond Benjamin, Napa, Calif.; Edward Rightor, New Orleans, La.; Fred Harper, Lynchburg, Va.; Bruce A. Campbell, East St. Louis, Ill.; Frank L. Rain, Fairbury, Neb.; William M. Abbott, San Francisco, Calif.; J. Edgar Masters, Charleroi, Pa.; William H. Atwell, Dallas, Tex.; Charles H. Grakelow, Philadelphia, Pa.; John F. Malley, Springfield, Mass.; John R. Coen, Sterling, Colo.; Floyd E. Thompson, Moline, Ill.; Walter F. Meier, Seattle, Wash., and Michael F. Shannon, Los Angeles. Joseph T. Fanning, the Dean of Past Grand Exalted Rulers, was given the escort of honor to the dais.

Judge Hallinan's remarkable address was followed by two interpretations by the Chanters, "Friendship," and "To the Elks." The opening public session closed with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the Chanters and the large audience.



Left: The precise Drill Team of Sacramento, Calif., Lodge which won the National Drill Team Contest

Below: The handsome float of the Indiana State Elks Association which won the prize for all floats entered in the parade outside California

was delivered by Frank L. Shaw, Mayor of the city. His speech was followed by a Welcome from the State of California ably delivered by Frank F. Merriam, Governor of California. The guest soloist of the opening session was the renowned baritone, Nelson Eddy, well known to opera-goers, motion picture enthusiasts and radio listeners.

In a glowing tribute, Past Grand Exalted Ruler William M. Abbott next took the opportunity to intro-



*Tuesday's Activities*

On the following day, Tuesday, July 14th, the principle event of the program was the first official session of the Grand Lodge which was held at the Biltmore Hotel and which was recounted in the Convention story as it appeared in the August issue of THE ELKS MAGAZINE.

Early in the morning the National Golf Tournament resumed its play at the Rancho Golf Course. The National Bowling Tournament was continued at the Lodge Home and those at the Santa Monica Gun Club saw the National Trap and Skeet Shoot get under way. In Lafayette Park an excited crowd witnessed the Drum Corps Contest.

At the Home of Santa Monica, Calif., Lodge a Fiesta Mexicana was held and thoroughly enjoyed by many Elks who had journeyed there to join in the celebration. Early in the afternoon Santa Monica held its Pioneer Days historical parade.

Meanwhile, back in Los Angeles, the State Association Presidents and Secretaries met at the Biltmore Hotel, afterward going to the vesper organ recital in the Lodge Room of the Home.

That evening more than 3,000 Elks with their wives and families gathered at the Palomar for the Grand Ball and entertainment presented as a prominent social feature of the Convention. The brilliant throng alternately danced throughout the evening and applauded the seemingly endless succession of special numbers provided for their entertainment. Dazzling screenland beauties, a spectacular review, music by Benny Goodman's Band, plus the traditional Convention contest and the selection of Miss Liberty, contributed to the gaiety of the Ball. As Miss Liberty, the winner of the beauty contest which was held at the Ball, Miss Shirle Hilf, of Seattle, reigned on the Americanism float at the beautiful Electrical Pageant the following night.

*Wednesday's Activities*

The morning of Wednesday, July 15th, found many of the delegates occupied by the second official session of the Grand Lodge at the Biltmore Hotel. Other Elks witnessed or participated in the Golf Tournament which this day was held at Sunset Field Golf Course, the Bowling Contest, the National Handicap Trap and Skeet Shoot and the National Drill Team Contest which took place in Lafayette Park. In the afternoon another business session of the Grand Lodge Convention at the Biltmore was held. In Westlake Park the National Band Contest drew hundreds of auditors and again in the afternoon a vesper organ recital provided a peaceful moment in the Lodge Room of Los Angeles Lodge.

That night was "City Hall Night," including an inspection of America's finest municipal building, exhibition of pistol shooting and entertainment and dancing in the marble corridors.

*Thursday's Activities*

Thursday morning opened with the Grand Lodge Session at the Biltmore Hotel. Various activities of an entertaining and educational nature occupied the hours of the delegates prior to witnessing the Grand Parade which took place that afternoon and the Elks' Motion Picture Electrical Pageant which was presented that evening in the Coliseum.

With bands playing, flags flying, drill teams swinging through convolutions, floats and pretty girls, glittering uniforms, mounted men and thousands of marchers, the Parade of the 72nd Grand Lodge Convention and delegates took place. Promptly at two P. M. aerial bombs burst, flags fluttered high in the air and the Parade swung into motion past the City Hall. Police estimated that at least 100,000 persons were massed

*Below: The smart drum and bugle corps of Anaheim, Calif., Lodge which was judged the best at the National Convention*

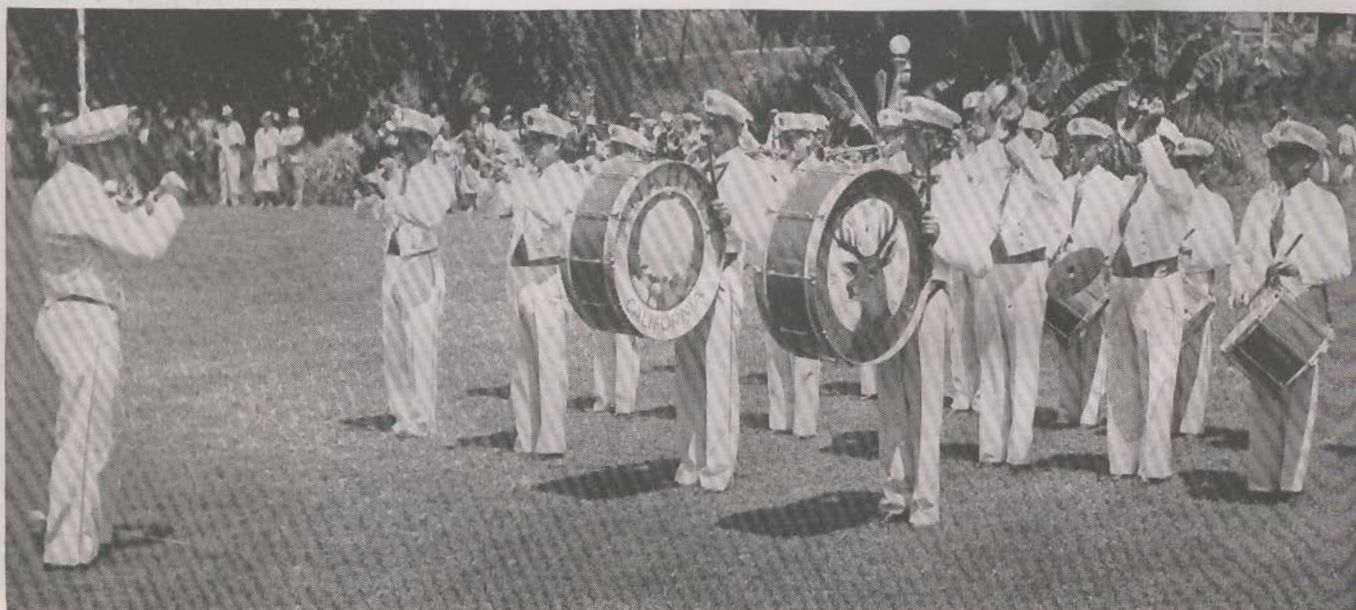
along the line of march with other thousands filling every window in the flanking buildings.

Drill teams and drum and bugle corps kept military smartness, but there were a score of comedy entries and in the marching delegations hundreds of Elks paraded joyously along under the inadequate, but welcome, shade of every known type of parasol. Led by the police motorcycle escort swooping and circling in amazing maneuvers, came Grand Esquire John J. Doyle and Lieutenant Harold William Roberts, Chief of Staff. Next, escorted by the Florida Color Guard, came the two men for whom this Convention marked a milestone—Grand Exalted Ruler David Sholtz, Governor of Florida, and Past Grand Exalted Ruler James T. Hallinan. Governor Frank F. Merriman and Mayor Frank L. Shaw rode next in line. There is not sufficient space to include a description of the many costumed bands, drill teams, drum and bugle corps and delegations which added color, atmosphere, humor and beauty to the glittering spectacle, but perhaps the biggest hand of the Parade went to the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of Decorah, Iowa. They were very small and young, those kilted drummers and buglers.

In this parade of the Seventy-second Convention of the Grand Lodge the Elks were out to put on a good show and they scored a remarkable success.

The winning floats in the Parade on Thursday were that of the Indiana State Elks Association, representing states outside California, and the float from Huntington Park, Calif., Lodge, representing the floats of California.

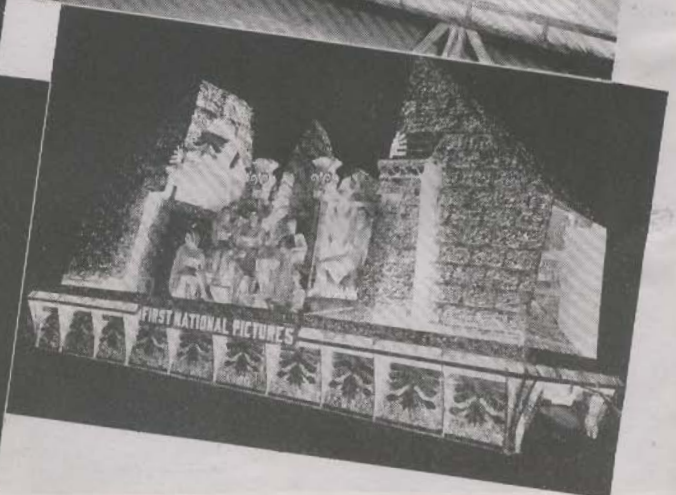
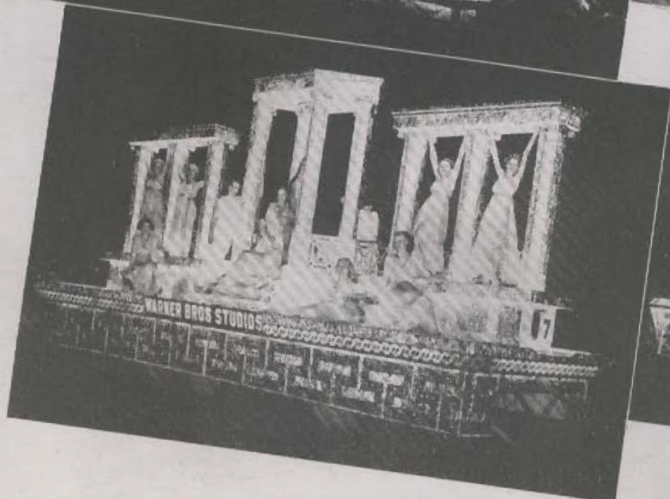
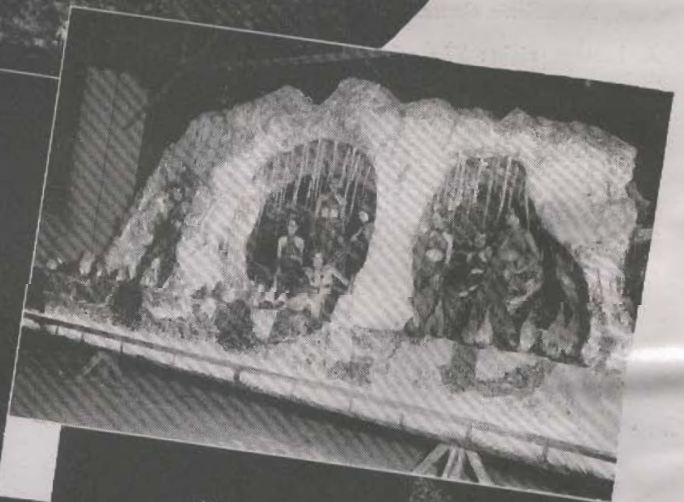
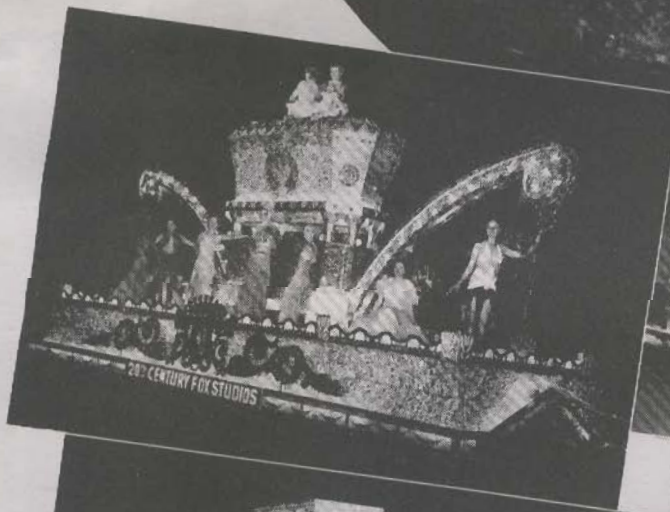
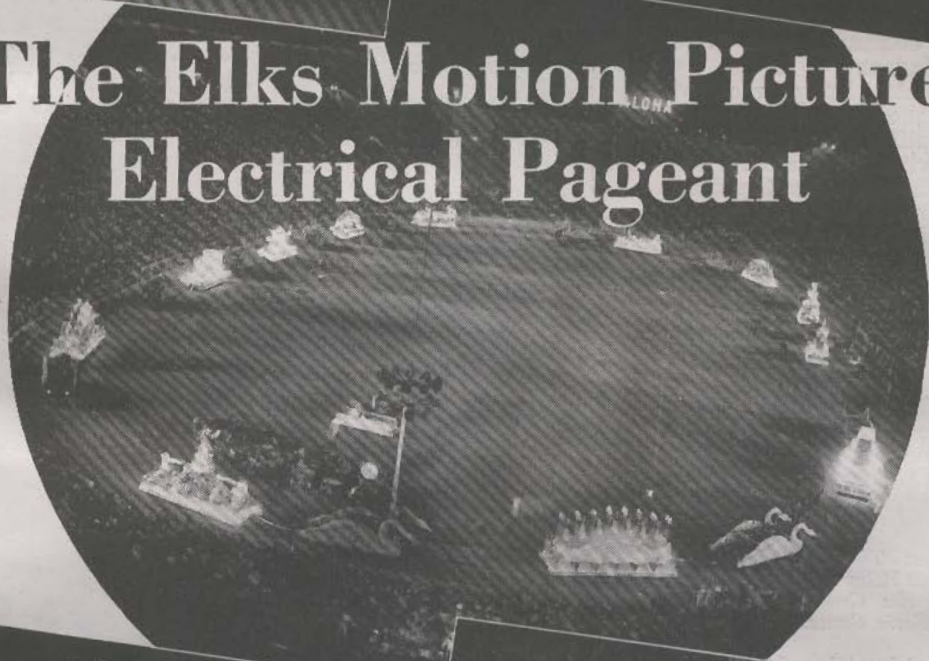
The various contesting groups in the many other contests held throughout the conclave were as follows: The Drum and Bugle Corps Contest was won by the Anaheim, Calif., Lodge Team with 89.1 points; Anaconda, Mont., Lodge placed second and Long Beach, Calif., Lodge placed third. The Band Contest was

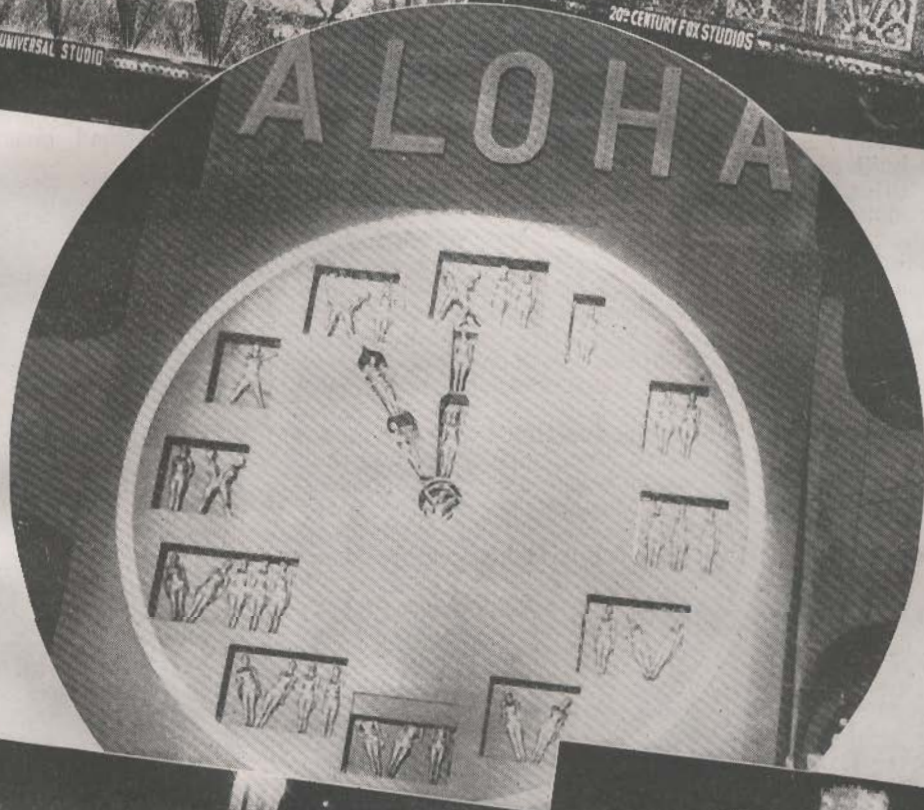
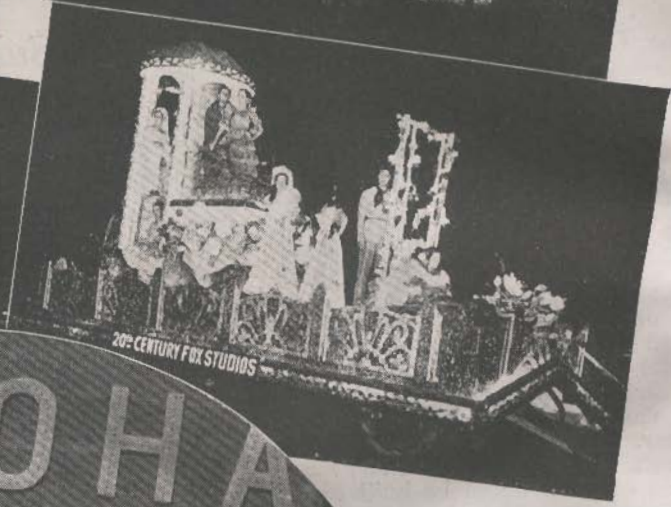
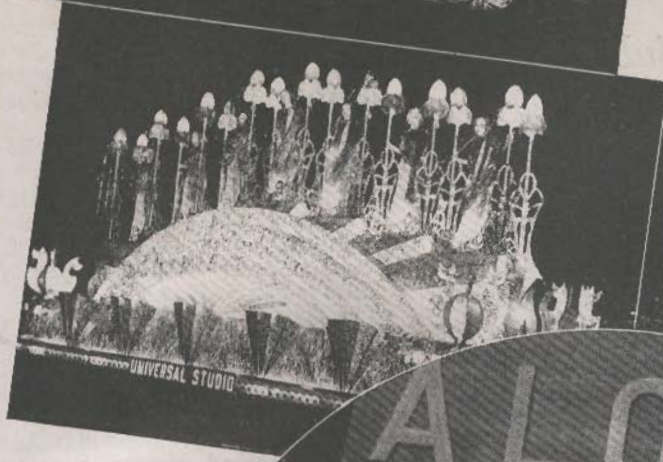
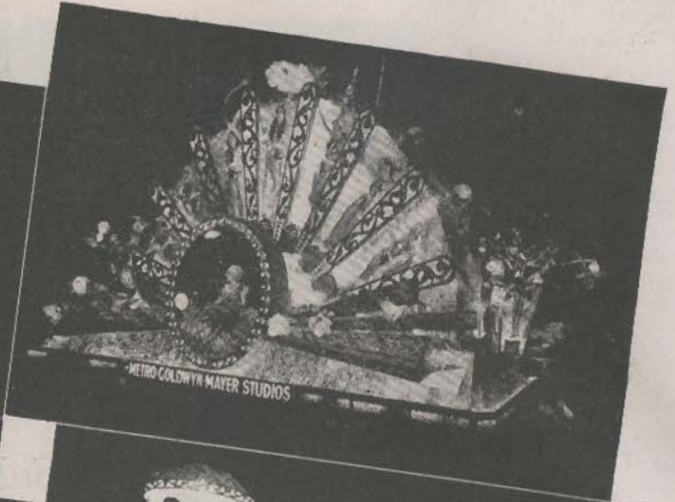




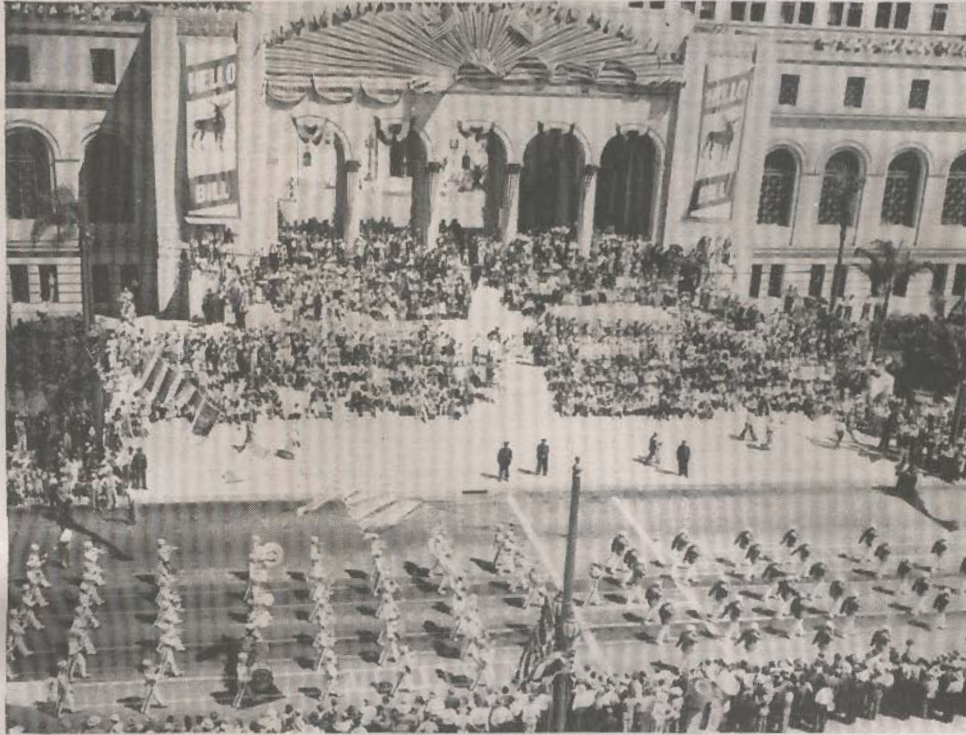


# The Elks Motion Picture Electrical Pageant





Photos by Carroll Photo Service and Wide World



Wide World Photo

The Elks Grand Lodge Convention Parade passing the reviewing stand in front of the Los Angeles City Hall

## The Social Side of The Grand Lodge Convention

(Continued from page 23)

Other social activities which took place during the four days of the Convention included a dinner given by Grand Exalted Ruler David Sholtz at the Ambassador which was held before the Grand Ball.

More than 100 Elks and their wives were also guests at a breakfast and program given by the Kentucky delegation to the Convention at the Biltmore. Governor Sholtz, newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler, was the honored guest and principal speaker. Prof. Henry C. Curtis, of Lexington, was Toastmaster. The Grand Lodge Officers attending included Past Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Campbell, Grand Trustee Henry C. Warner, Judge Frank B. Leonard, of Champaign, Ill., Chairman of the Grand Lodge State Associations Committee, and Judge H. B. Frederick and D.D. Caspian Hale, of Florida.

Another social feature of the Convention was a dinner party for Grand Lodge officials and their wives given by E.R. and Mrs. Robert S. Redington.

The ladies of the Convention were magnificently entertained during their stay in the Southern California city with bridge parties, teas, shopping expeditions, sightseeing tours and various other affairs.

Other events included a trip to Redondo Beach, Calif., Lodge, where a huge entertainment entitled "Seashore Day" was enjoyed by hundreds of Elks.

The East District of New York also gave a dinner at the Biltmore Hotel. Among the distinguished Elks present were Judge Hallinan, Charles Spencer Hart, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee, and District Deputy John P. Doyle.

That Thursday night, the last of the Convention, 80,000 men and women stood with bowed heads in Memorial Coliseum and offered a solemn and impressive toast to departed friends, a fitting close to the most successful Convention the Order of Elks has ever known. It was the success of not only the Convention, but of a day filled with spectacular events.

No place on earth but Southern California could stage a pageantry so inspiring as was arranged by the motion picture industry as a tribute to the visiting Elks in the "Elks Motion Picture Electrical Pageant." Millions of candlepower in light were used to transform the field of the Coliseum into a picture from the Arabian Nights. Each of the dozen floats

designed by the major studios of Hollywood was gloriously illuminated. First in the long procession of brilliant floats was that entered by No. 99, "America for Americans." From almost every city of any size in California a beautiful girl was sent as a representative at the pageant.

Among the many motion picture stars on parade were Leo Carrillo, Toastmaster, Shirley Temple, Jackie Searle, Freddie Bartholomew, Francis Lederer, Doris Nolan, Loretta Young, Irene Dunne, Sonja Henie, Cesare Romero, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Anita Louise, Pat O'Brien and Jack Benny.

Suddenly out of the blackness a great shaft of light from a million-candlepower searchlight picked out the enormous purple clock dial. As the chimes continued to strike the hour, great gold numerals inscribed by living figures appeared. Conrad Nagle, motion picture star, proposed the Eleven O'Clock Toast, while the multitude stood with heads bowed in silent tribute. The spectacle came to a conclusion with the throng singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Thus ended the 72nd Session of the Grand Lodge, one of the most memorable meetings in its long and honorable history.