

The Shrine Today

The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine are best known by non-members for their colorful parades, the East-West Shrine Football Game, and the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children.

From earliest times any city fortunate enough to play host to an Imperial Shrine Conclave was inclined to sum up their reactions as did the *Indianapolis News* in 1919:

There are conventions and conventions — but only one Shriner's convention. It is unique, unsurpassed and unsurpassable, inimitable, incomparable, sovereign, unparalleled, supreme. Indianapolis knows. Weeks will be required for recuperation. The streets will seem temporarily a morgue.

The same feeling was expressed by "Old Bill," a Noble from Alamas Temple in Washington, D. C., after witnessing the Des Moines Conclave in 1921:

I've seen the best parades at the annual conclaves in years past and the only one that beats the Iowa conclave parade will be a parade of the future.

It takes the corn state fellows to put things over. Iowa never fell down on anything yet. I'm for the state where the tall corn grows.

Over the years the annual East-West Shrine Football Game has been one of the most colorful

spectacles in the United States. Viewed on television, or heard by radio, this contest has become a classic enjoyed by countless millions. The proceeds from this exciting contest go to the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children.

From the day each hospital opened its doors to December 21, 1961, the seventeen Shriners' Hospitals have treated and discharged 124,846 patients, who have spent an average of 87 days, at \$6.72 per day, or a total of \$587.80 per patient. The magnitude of the work involved is demonstrated by the following statistics:

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Number of Beds | 1,048 |
| X-Ray Photos | 772,392 |
| All Operations | 189,789 |
| Braces | 105,221 |
| Physio-Therapy Treatment | 2,892,572 |
| Clinic Visits | 1,043,751 |

The rules adopted by the committee on rules and regulations provided that:

. . . to be admitted a child must be under fourteen years and from a family unable to pay for the orthopedic treatment received; must not be mentally incompetent; and must be, in the opinion of the surgeons, one who could be cured or improved. The hospitals were not to become asylums for indigent incurables. The above rules are still in effect. No patient has ever paid one cent for treatment received in a Shriners' Hospital and the doors have been open equally to Jews, Catholics, Negroes, Mohammedans, foreigners and even an occasional child of a Shriner.

Little wonder that a Shriner, like Noble Edgar Guest, can proudly display his badge and write:



The Badge of a Shriner

Noble Edgar Guest

By the scimitar and crescent you wear upon your coat,
You proclaim that you're a Shriner. It's a sign for men to note.
It's a symbol that your fellows have abiding faith in you;
They believe that you are worthy and they trust in all you do.
But I wonder, fellow Noble, as I meet you here and there,
If you've really caught the meaning of that little badge you wear?

Are you mindful of its splendor? Are you watchful of its fame?
Are you careful as you travel not to bring it into shame?
You proclaim that you're a Shriner, every passer-by can see
That you've pledged to do the right thing wheresoever you may be,
But, world-wide, your brothers suffer loss and injury from you,
If you do a wrong act which a Shriner wouldn't do.

By the token you're wearing, you're expected to be fine;
We have taught the world it's something to be chosen by the Shrine
And the man who wears its emblem has his fellow's guarantee
That a gentleman of honor he is known and pledged to be;
And if he shall fail that standard by some thoughtless word or whim
All Shriners, wide world over, shall be put to shame by him.

By the scimitar and crescent which so proudly you display,
You are bound to live and travel in a bigger, better way.
You must dignify the emblem, so none whom you may meet,
Be he friend or foe, may whisper that the Shrine is but a cheat.
You must play the man at all times, you must keep your conduct fair
And be worthy of the crescent and scimitar you wear.



SEVEN ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS AT ZA-GA-ZIG 1963 SPRING CEREMONIAL

For the first time in history, with the initiation of C. B. "Chet" Akers by Za-Ga-Zig on May 5, 1963, every elected State Official of Iowa was a member of the Shrine. Left to right: Evan Hultman, Attorney General; L. B. Liddy, Secretary of Agriculture; M. L. Abrahamson, State Treasurer; C. B. "Chet" Akers, State Auditor; Melvin D. Synhorst, Secretary of State; William L. Mooty, Lieutenant Governor; Harold E. Hughes, Governor.

SOME NOTABLE SHRINERS

IRVING BERLIN
CLAIRE L. CHENNAULT
MARK W. CLARK
TY COBB
GORDON COOPER
CECIL B. DeMILLE
JACK DEMPSEY
THOMAS E. DEWEY
JAMES H. DOOLITTLE
ARTHUR GODFREY
EDGAR GUEST
WARREN G. HARDING
J. EDGAR HOOVER
BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER
ERNEST J. KING

KARL KING
HAROLD LLOYD
VINCENT LOPEZ
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR
DICK POWELL
EDDIE RICKENBACKER
ROY ROGERS
SIGMUND ROMBERG
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
RED SKELTON
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA
HARRY S. TRUMAN
JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT
EARL WARREN
PAUL WHITEMAN

SHRINE MEMBERSHIP — DECEMBER 31, 1962

The total United States membership was 828,161, with Al Malaikah of Los Angeles the largest with 28,339, followed by Syria of Pittsburgh with 26,575, and Medinah of Chicago with 21,423. Membership in Iowa was 19,492, divided as follows: Za-Ga-Zig — 6,875, Kaaba — 4,652, El Kahir — 4,050, and Abu-Bekr, 3,915. The four Temples initiated approximately 500 in the 1963 Spring Ceremonial.