

"Mercy Goal"—Shriners Are More Than Madcaps

Not Only Merrymaker With Bead-studded Fez

Who is a Shriner?

To some people he is a madcap merrymaker, wearing a bead-studded Fez, making a fool of himself as though his whole life is aimed at nothing but fun.

But there is much more to Shriners than that.

The first Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, a secret order, is said to have been organized by Kalif Ali, son-in-law of Mohammed, in Mecca in the year 646 A.D.

The modern Order was brought to United States from France in 1872 by an actor, William J. Florence, who had found the ritual of an Arabic society in Marseilles.

Only Knights Templar or 32nd Degree Masons are eligible for admission, even though the Shrine is not a Masonic Order.

Today there are 162 branches or temples, with 675,000 members in Canada, United States, Mexico and Honolulu.

The main project of Canadian and American Shriners today is the operation of their 17 Crippled Children's Hospitals. This work was started in 1920 when the Imperial Council meeting in Portland decided to spend their money on curing crippled children. Since then health and happiness have been brought to the lives of 200,000 children who would otherwise have been helpless cripples.

Their annual hospital budget totals \$3,500,000.

Sixty-seven British Columbia children received treatment in these hospitals during 1951 and twenty-nine so far this year.

Gizeh Temple of B.C. contributes about \$500 each year to the Children's Hospital in Vancouver and to Queen Alexandra Solarium on Vancouver Island.

Pledge

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the country for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

150 INITIATIONS

Last year Imperial Potentate Poterat from Wake Forest, North Carolina attended the Pacific Northwest Shrine Convention in Vancouver and took an active part in initiating 150 candidates.

Shire Circus Draws Many

One of the next big events in Shrinedom in British Columbia this year, will be the staging of the Annual Shrine—PNE Circus, by Polack Brothers, during the Pacific National Exhibition at Vancouver, B.C. — Wednesday, August 20th through Labour Day, Monday, September 1st, afternoon and evening performances for 11 continuous days and nights.

125,000 people saw the Shrine—PNE Circus in 1951. This year's Circus is acclaimed the greatest show in the history of Polack Brothers. There are clowns galore, featuring the inimitable Bobo Barnett and his miniature automobile; highly trained performing animals including dogs, chimpanzees, elephants, horses, camels, seals and penguins; a galaxy of unexcelled, intrepid, daring performers — jugglers, balancing aerialists, high-flying trapeze artists, aerial ballets, trick skating. These acts result in a show full of clean, clever comedy, perfected skill and precision.

Visit the Shrine—PNE Circus! See the engaging new acts—2½ hours of unsurpassed mirth and wonderful enjoyment. Hear the Shrine Bands. See the colourful Shrine Uniformed Units. Take the kiddies!

History of Gizeh Temple

Gizeh Temple, Vancouver, B.C., has for its desert the whole of British Columbia and the Yukon.

It was founded in Victoria, capital of the Province, August 16, 1902, but with Vancouver becoming a large commercial centre with a population approaching the half million mark, it was considered in 1943 to be in the best interests of Shrinedom to transfer it to the mainland city.

Since then Gizeh has increased its membership manifold and as of January 1, 1952 had 1529 Nobles.

The Temple has Band, Patrol, Grotters, Chapters, Camel Corps, Drum and Bugle Band, Temple Guard and Bagpipe Band in Highland uniforms (Buchanan tartan)—which comprise Shrine colors—red, green and yellow.

Live Shrine Clubs are scattered throughout the province at such places as Victoria, Upper Vancouver Island, Nanaimo, Nelson, Trail, Prince Rupert, Okanagan, Kamloops, New Westminster, Chilliwack and East Kootenay.

Appointed Divan

E. A. Simmons, First Ceremonial Master; M. L. Barr, Second Ceremonial Master; Irvin Miller, Marshall; H. A. Borgerson, Captain of the Guard; W. C. Ferguson, Outer Guard; George W. Marshall, Honorary Captain of the Guard; A. L. S. Emsley, Honorary Outer Guard; Reg. Keith, Potentate's Aide; Joe Bennett, Potentate's Aide; J. Dorman, Potentate's Aide; John Johnson, Potentate's Aide; Fred E. Doull, Director of First Section; Bert Galloway, Director of Second Section; Richard Nelson, Ambassador-at-large; Norval Mackay Smith, Crippled Children's Hospitalization.

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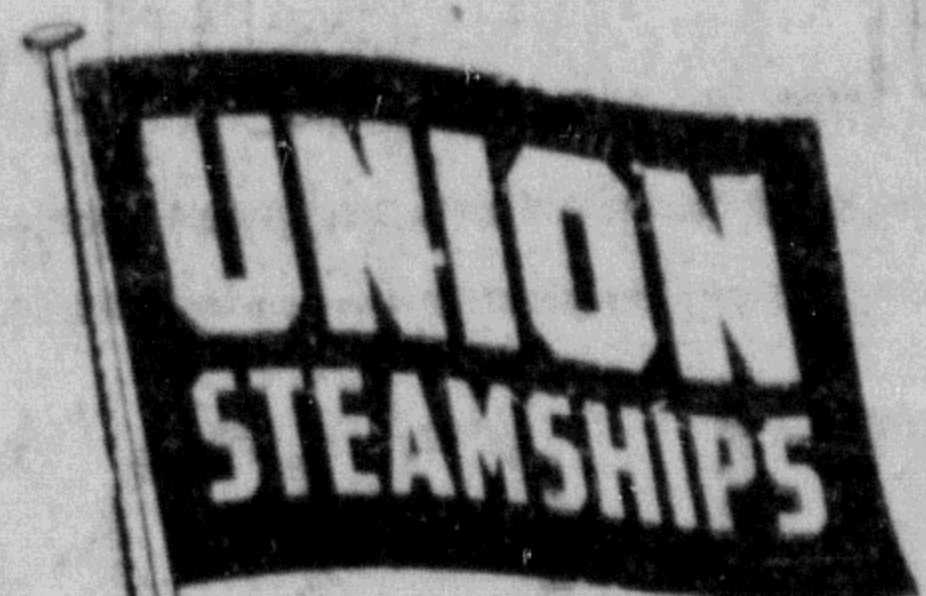
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