

**Grand Rapids Herald
and Grand Rapids Press
Coverage of the
1925 KKK Parade
in Grand Rapids**

SATURDAY MORNING,

KLANS LOOKING FOR 16,000 HERE TODAY. ERECTS TENT CITY

Huge Quantities of Food
Ready to Supply Needs of
Visiting Knights

DELEGATES TO PARADE UNMASKED IN STREETS

A canvas city has been erected over night on the rolling farm lands west of the city on Bridge rd., where the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan are holding their state convocation. Complete electric and waterworks systems have been installed, restaurants erected and all made ready for the thousands which are expected to arrive today to swell the number already encamped on the grounds.

Delegates from 15 counties, numbering 6,000, arrived yesterday and last night, according to officials, and at least 10,000 more were expected to arrive in time for the parade and exercises today.

An idea of the elaborate preparations which have been made, and the scale on which the meeting is being conducted, may be gained from the supplies laid in by the commissary departments, including:

- 8,000 cases of soft drinks.
- 30 tons of hamburger.
- 450,000 buns.
- Two tons of coffee.
- Two tons of sugar.
- 1,200 gallons of ice cream.

The water system which has been installed has an hourly capacity of 2,500 gallons.

Preliminaries Held

The program yesterday was of a preliminary nature, officials said, in view of the fact that the majority of delegates are not expected until today. There were addresses by speakers from the national organization and an imperial representative. Naturalization exercises for both men and women were held, the women's division being in charge of the women's degree team from Lansing.

The parade, which is scheduled to start moving promptly at 3 o'clock today from Lincoln park, where the ranks will form, has been routed as follows: East on Bridge st. from Lincoln park to Monroe ave. south and east on Monroe ave. to Ottawa ave. south on Ottawa ave. to Fulton st. and thence west on Fulton st. to John Ball park.

The parade will be composed of Klansmen, Women of the Klan, Junior Orders of the Klan and the American Crusaders. All will be attired in full regalia, but none will be masked or hooded.

3,000 KLANSMEN PARADE IN ROBES THROUGH STREETS

Throngs Watch the Colorful
Procession of State
Members

AUTOS COVER HILLSIDES NEAR SCENE OF MEETINGS

Marching in military formation, with numerous floats depicting the purposes and principles of the organization, and several bands, 3,000 white-robed Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and affiliated orders paraded in colorful array through the downtown district yesterday as part of the second day's program of what officials declare to be the largest state convocation ever held in Michigan.

The parade began moving promptly at 3 o'clock, forming at Lincoln park. Passing along Monroe ave., it was greeted by throngs which crowded into the street in their eagerness to witness the pageant. The crowd was orderly and for the most part friendly, breaking in to applause frequently as one or another patriotic float passed.

Grouped by Counties

At the head of the procession went a squad of motorcycle police, followed by the Klan realm officials in automobiles, and mounted marshals of the parade, resplendent in scarlet sashes and capes.

The marchers were grouped by counties, each carrying their banner and an American flag, with a contingent of American Crusaders and the Junior Order of the Klan following. Women of the Klan comprised nearly half of the total.

The floats represented the Klan platform. One represented the fire-side of a home, with Mother and the children, labelled "Pure Motherhood." Another represented the Rock of Ages, and another Uncle Sam. The Origin of the Flag, the Little Brick School, America First, and other symbolic tableaux were represented.

Following the marches were a large number of Klan members in autos.

Autos Cover Hillsides

Thousands of delegates who arrived Friday night swelled the proportions of the encampment on Bridge rd., until adjoining hillsides presented the appearance of a sea of automobiles, massed in orderly rows. Many erected small tents beside their cars and others bivouacked on a blanket. Approaching lanes were posted with sentinels, who examined the credentials and guided the arriving members.

The program yesterday was the largest of the three-day meeting. At 10 o'clock the assembled delegates were officially welcomed by

KLAN ENDS SESSIONS; MUCH FOOD LEFT OVER

The three days state convocation of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was brought to a close yesterday with religious services on the grounds of the encampment on Bridge rd., followed by a public meeting in Lincoln park. Officials estimated the attendance at 15,000, the majority being from Grand Rapids, although many out-of-town visitors were present.

The Herald was also requested to announce that a large quantity of foodstuffs remained unused, and would gladly be given to anyone who could use it. Many cans of condensed milk, meat, cans of pork and beans, pies and cakes were among the articles which were not consumed. Neither race nor religious convictions will be considered in distributing this material, officials said, and anyone wishing any of it is asked to call at the grounds.

An automobile that travels on land or swims in water has been invented.

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KNIGHTS OF KLAN INVADE THE CITY

Parade Chief Feature of Afternoon; Camp West of Town.

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who are holding their western state convention in the city July 3, 4 and 5, were scheduled to parade Saturday afternoon wearing full regalia but unmasked.

Ranks were scheduled to be formed at Lincoln park and the parade was to move down Bridge-st. at 3 o'clock. The line of march was to be down Bridge to Monroe-av., up Monroe to Ottawa-av., south on Ottawa to Fulton-st. and thence west to John Ball park. Beside the klansmen there will be women members of the order, the junior orders of the klan and members of the American Crusaders.

Six thousand delegates from 50 counties were estimated to have arrived Friday and the number was expected to be swelled to 10,000 Saturday.

A preliminary program was held at the camp grounds on Bridge-rd. Friday afternoon. Several speakers from the national organization were heard and there were naturalization exercises for both men and women. A degree team from Lansing was in charge of the work for women. Thousands of pounds of provisions have been laid in and preparations made on a huge scale to house, feed and entertain the army of delegates.

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KLAN BREAKS CAMP AFTER ITS MEET

Nearly 3,000 in Saturday's
Parade and Sunday's
Services.

After what is declared to have been the largest state convention ever held in Michigan, members of the Ku Klux Klan and affiliated orders Sunday night broke their camp on Bridge-rd. and departed for their homes throughout the state. Quantities of foodstuffs remaining at the camp Monday were offered free to persons calling at the campground for them.

The parade of the klan Saturday afternoon proved the feature of the gathering. Nearly 3,000 klansmen, members of the junior order, the American Crusaders, and women of the klan participated. Floats representing the principles of the klan platform gave color to the procession.

The arrival of hundreds of delegates Friday night was estimated to have swelled total attendance to 15,000. At 10 Saturday morning the visiting delegates were welcomed by Maj. Wilbur Hyman, field representative for Kent county, and by Mrs. Maggie Elliott, representing the women of the county. Music by klan bands was followed by a patriotic address by James A. Comer, legal adviser of the women's division. Sunday's program consisted mostly of religious services and exercises.

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Klan parade, Grand Rapids, 1925.

