

Shriners Win City With Colorful Parade, Drill

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By GREG HARRIS

There are 10,000 very tired, but happy people in Chicago this morning.

The Shriners had a day for themselves Wednesday that they, and Chicago, will never forget. The third day of the week-long meeting began with the strains of

of the week-long meeting marching music and the commands of drill leaders ringing through the spectator-packed convention site at Chicago's Coliseum.

Dressed in their ceremonial finest, eight drill teams competed for the \$1,000 cash award which was won by Detroit's Marrica Temple No. 13.

THE JUDGES

When the judges, officers of the 178th Regimental Combat Team, finished their tallies, the final lineup was as follows: second place, Mecca Temple No. 10, Washington, D. C.; third, Medina No. 19, New York City; fourth, Alla Baba No. 53, Columbus, Ohio; fifth, Egyptian No. 5, Los Angeles; sixth, Persian No. 6, Indianapolis, Indi-

ana; seventh, Arabic No. 44, Chicago and eighth, Kabala No. 177, Raleigh, N. C.

At 1 p.m. an estimated 7,000 Shriners begin putting their best feet forward in one of the most spectacular and colorful parades staged in Chicago. For two and a half hours, marching clubs, bands, delegate laden convertibles, mounted units and floats marched down South Parkway from 31st St. to Washington Park at 51st St.

Both sides of the boulevard were packed with well-wishing, cheering Chicagoans as the red-fezzed Nobles put on the biggest public event scheduled for their 57th annual meeting.

TWO MILE STROLL

City, Park District and Sheriff's Police were hard pressed to keep the eager, pushing crowd in check. Several times along the route enthusiastic Chicagoans attempted to join the Nobles on the two-mile stroll.

Following the parade the Shriners feasted in a fashion that would have put one of ex-King Faurok's house parties to shame. Upwards of 2,500 fun-loving Shriners pack-

ed the Parkway Ballroom as guests of the National Brewers Foundation.

According to Parkway's personnel "it looked liked Christmas had come four months early." One fun bent conventioner even took an unscheduled tour of the down stairs Chicago Metropolitan Mutual insurance company.

While the rest of his Order were relaxing at the party, Imperial Potentate Booker Alexander, of Detroit, Michigan, met with newsmen.

POTENTATE TALKS

Alexander, a tall, soft-spoken man, was generally non-committal in most of his remarks. On one occasion however he did seem sure of his ground. Asked if what he thought President Eisenhower should do if new violence breaks out at Little Rock's Central high school, the Potentate said, "The President should send the troops right back to the school. The only thing that really matters is that the children be allowed to attend school."

Although the Shriners have an estimated \$100,000 in deposits in Negro managed banks, Alexander said there were no plans under consideration to establish a "civil rights fund" similar to the Order's medical research foundation.

Thomas F. Poag, Imperial Chief Rabban of Winston-Salem, N. C.

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Shriners

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revealed that since January the Shriner's "register and vote" campaign had been very successful. According to Poag, more than 50,000 new voters had registered in Tennessee alone this year. The Tennessee registrations had been accomplished primarily through door to door canvassing and even by taking citizens to registrations locations.

CITES FIGURES

In connection with voting, Alexander made a point of mentioning that Negro migration from the South would probably cause a reduction in Congressional representation in at least 3 states. Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi were cited as probably losing at least one representative each.

The seemingly tireless Shriners left their Parkway feast and returned to convention hall where at midnight they were still balloting on the selection of The 1958 Shrine Princess. twenty-one girls from temples across the nation the nation were vying for the honor.