

8,000 PAY TRIBUTE AT LOGAN COUNTY FAIR TO "WHEATHEART"

Special Ceremony And Parade Was Fair Highlight

(Aug. 10, 1939)

Mount Pulaski Night at the Logan County Fair last night, more than lived up to the expectation of those in charge of the demonstration, which not only paid tribute to its nationwide Harvest Queen, Miss Eileen Stopher, but was another outstanding demonstration of the community spirit and loyalty that brought forth many complimentary remarks.

An estimated crowd of more than 8,000 packed the grandstand and bleachers and lined the sidelines for several hundred feet along the track, awaiting the start of the parade with eager anticipation.

Count Pulaski Lived Again

A gasp and then a spontaneous burst of applause came from the spectators as out of the darkness of the track there appeared a man astride a horse, borne upon a beautifully decorated float in

WELCOMED HOME—

(Continued from preceding page)

pot."

Following a brief interview over the Stoll public address system the Queen ascended her throne, which only a month before, she had presided over as Mount Pulaski's May Queen, but on this occasion as the "Wheatheart of America".

Senator N. L. Hubbard of this city, introduced at this time, made an exceptionally fitting and fine address of welcome.

"It is my great honor to welcome you home to this community," Mr. Hubbard said. "Mount Pulaski, Logan County, and all of Illinois are proud of you. It is altogether fitting that Logan county, distinguished by the United States Geological Survey as the richest soil county in this state, should be the home of the most beautiful farmer's daughter in America."

"You were picked from contestants all over the country for this great honor. James Montgomery Flagg, McClelland Barclay and Peter Arno, three of America's greatest artists, chose you for this distinction. You had to be good to earn that honor."

Parents Congratulated

"Your selection was particularly fitting because you are a real farmer's daughter. And my I take this occasion to congratulate the parents of our Wheatheart, whose charm and loveliness have brought such honor to this community?"

"Newspapermen have called our Wheatheart a 'modern Ceres'. Ceres, as you know, was the ancient Goddess of the harvest. And she has also been called a Cinderella; but our Cinderella needed no golden slipper, and there will be no midnight when she must return to drabness. She is a real Cinderella."

"Many Queens in past years have made history, and now you, Eileen, have made history for Mount Pulaski. In greeting you, I can but quote from the poet, 'Be good, sweet maid, let those who can't, be clever'."

Senator Hubbard also presented Miss Stopher with a gold wrist watch, a token of appreciation from the community.

A beautiful bouquet of gladiolas from Gullet & Sons, was presented, and a mammoth basket of gladiolas from Carl Hembreiker were a gift to Miss Stopher.

Following the ceremony, Miss Stopher spent most of the evening greeting her friends, while the floor was cleared and dancing was enjoyed the remainder of the evening, by old as well as young.

It was an event which will long be remembered and was the high spot in the life of Mt. Pulaski and community for many years past. As one old timer expressed it, "There was only one thing that compares to it and that was when Mount Pulaski won the state firemen's championship."

patriotic array. The float typified Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish General of the Revolutionary War, after whom the city of Mt. Pulaski was named. Astride a dapple gray charger rode E. H. Spiegel in the uniform of a general with sword uplifted. An American flag with 13 stars added to the glory of the scene depicted. This float was furnished in every detail by the Birks Community Club, south of the city.

Two cars containing relatives of the Wheatheart Queen were next in line.

The Logan County Legion Band in spic and span uniforms, and with snappy martial music, made a fine appearance as they preceded the Queen's car. Drum Major George Ohmes, in his striking uniform, assisted by two young girls in colored attire, led this unit.

Queen Draws Applause

The Queen's car containing Miss Stopher, was so simply designed and the beauty of the setting was so striking that it was unusual in its effect.

Queen Eileen, attired in a beautiful white formal which she had worn as Mount Pulaski high school's May Queen, this last June, and wearing the crown of Golden Wheat, which had been placed upon her head by James Montgomery Flagg when crowning her at the New York World's Fair as the most beautiful farm daughter in America, looked worthy of the honor in every respect.

A background of gorgeous gladiolas in a semi-circle which extended only a few inches above her head made it a very effective contribution to the plainness of the sleek beauty of the green Buick convertible coupe.

Former Queens Beautiful

Then came the galaxy of former May Queens of the Mount Pulaski high school on a huge float that made a picture that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

Eight former May Queens, in formal attire, placed on gradually elevated positions and each carrying an arm bouquet of gladiolas, made a gorgeous display of feminine beauty coupled with a wealth of gladioli bouquets adorning the white covered float, spotted here and there with purple and a purple rope which extended from the posts on either side and a mammoth purple heart as a background for the entire setting. Huge letters bore out the words "Mt. Pulaski".

Cars Add to Tribute

Following these high spots in the parade, came one of the finest tributes to the Queen and to

the spirit of Mount Pulaski — some 70 cars semi-decorated, which typified the loyalty and backing of the community. Hundreds of other folks from this section filled the first tier of boxes and were in the bleachers, adding their tribute to the affair.

The County Pulaski float and band did not pause as they passed the grandstand, and as the Queen's car approached the center, it faced toward the grandstand. The track lights were turned out and a spotlight picked up the car as it swung into position facing the stands. John Harold Connelly, announcer from WMBD, who had been carrying on the broadcast from the east side of the track, came forward at this time and took charge of the ceremony, first introducing Lieuten-

ant Governor John Stelle, who welcomed Miss Stopher on behalf of the Fair, the county and the State of Illinois, then presented her to the audience.

Received Diamond Ring

Jimmy Johnson, representing the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, then stepped forward and presented Logan County's Queen with a beautiful diamond ring, which no doubt caused her heart to skip a few regular beats.

Queen Eileen was then escorted, over a grass carpeting, to her especially decorated box seat by Mr. Stelle, who took his seat in an adjoining box.

As the Queen's car drew up into position in front of the grandstand, the crowds along the fences, broke loose on the track and surged around the car until it was almost impossible to con-

tinue with the ceremony. With the spotlight directly on the Queen, and the bower of flowers at her back, it was a picture and setting that was beautiful in every detail.

The spotlight was then thrown upon eight other queens, whose magnificent carriage drew up into position before the stands. It was a beautiful tableau that unfolded as the young ladies arose one at a time from their thrones and daintily tread down the steps of white as they alighted to go to their box seats in front of the Harvest Queen's box.

The May Queens were: Doris Schultz, Geraldine Wible, Virginia Stuart, Barbara Barnes, Eloise Lane Dammerman, Virginia Clear Ey, Virginia Kautz and Lorena McKinney Blackford.

As an additional contribution to the ceremony the band played "You're A Sweetheart", with Russell Miller singing the specially written chorus, using "Wheatheart" instead of Sweetheart. The young Queen, who stood during the song, rewarded the singer by blowing him a kiss.

Special Driving Class

The special driving class which had been entered on this evening in honor of the "Wheatheart of the World's Fair" followed and it was the privilege of Miss Stopher to award the ribbons to the winners.

LIFE-SIZE PORTRAIT MADE OF "QUEEN"

A life-size picture of Eileen was printed by the Times-News photographic department, being an enlargement of the picture shown on this page.

Marion Robson, cameraman at the Times-News, with the spiritual and moral support of the publisher, did a remarkably fine job with the enlargement. Special photographic paper was purchased and a large trough filled with developer for the job.

Keith Rothwell volunteered to furnish the framing of it. The picture was presented to her country school (Birks) and hung there for a number of years.

EILEEN AS SHE POSED IN STATEN ISLAND WHEAT FIELD



JAMES MONTGOMERY FLAGG, Artist, who was one of the judges, is shown with his "false" whiskers, placing a crown of wheat on Queen Eileen's head at a ceremony on Tuesday, July 11, when a quarter of an acre of wheat was cut on

the World's Fair grounds. Mr. Marshall, who sponsored the event, Grover Whalen, president of the Fair, and Peter Arno, noted artist and one of the judges, seemed to be enjoying the ceremony.