

Klansmen Conduct Weird Ceremonials While Throng Watches in Wonderment

Robed and White-Capped Men March Like Mysterious Spectres Around Moonlit Field as Part of Initiation of Class.

Wind whistled through the pine trees and across the open places last night, while a crowd of about 500 persons, witnessed a weird spectacle at the Miami Country club golf course in which white capped and robed men, silent and solemn, paced up and down in front of the spectators and others on horseback constantly patrolled the grounds to see that no outsider, broke into the councils of the Ku Klux Klan, conducting an open-air initiation.

Sixty to 70 men, in civilian garb, marched on to the field in the bright moonlight, but from the distance at which the crowd was held in check, it was impossible to ascertain more exactly their number. Suddenly as they reached the center of the field on which the ceremony was held, they vanished and cries went up from the crowd: "They've disappeared. Where have they gone."

In a few minutes these darkly garbed figures, looking like the shadows of white capped Klansmen, made their appearance from an opposite direction and, marching around in a circle, stood in the solemn presence of the Grand Cyclops of the local Klan and began the initiation which made them members of the secret order, known to the world

as the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Silently the horsemen, with redoubled caution, kept their vigil, and, on foot, also silent, and with greater care than before, the footmen watched the crowd to see that none approached more closely to the little coterie gathered near the flaming cross before the Grand Cyclops. Like long wings, two lines of shadowy white clad figures stretched out on the field, one of either side of the neophytes.

Snatches of the oath taken by the candidates for membership could be heard by the crowd, not clearly because of the humming of motors on the highway close behind; but with enough distinctness to indicate plainly that they were taking no oath that smacked of disloyalty to country or flag, or of opposition to the Christian religion.

Kneel for Oath.

After several minutes during which the candidates stood and responded to questions concerning their beliefs, convictions and their qualifications for membership in the order, they were required to kneel and take the oath of membership.

Motion picture men with their cameras

KLANSMEN STAGE WEIRD CEREMONY

Continued from Page 1.

in the best possible positions to film the scene, ignited torches and because of the brilliant light given by these flares were able to obtain pictures of a scene even more weird than it had been before. The white capped figures stood out against the background of trees in the distance, and their darker clad and new-made brothers on bended knees were sharply defined by the brilliant light.

Overhead, white clouds of smoke drifted in the strong wind. Horses, feeling the effects of the chilly weather, champed at their bits, the silent guardsmen paced restlessly to and fro and the men in the center of the field continued their work of making mysterious Klansmen of plain, ordinary citizens, while the crowd watched the spectacle with amazement and wonder.

Spectres Scatter.

The new-made Klansmen arose to their feet and more films were obtained; then suddenly, and to the crowd it seemed without warning of any kind, the white-clad spectres and their darker fellows scattered in all directions. Some rode on horseback, a few walked, but the majority left the vicinity in automobiles.

The three hundred or more Klansmen in the distinctive garb of their order gathered on the ground soon after 8 o'clock and many citizens were on hand almost as early; some were there in advance of the Klansmen, having read in The Herald that many candidates would be inducted into the mysterious rites of the order last night.

In the center of the field, where the silent Klansmen gathered, placed where the rays of light from the fiery cross could fall on it, was an American flag. An altar, or what appeared to the crowd to be one, stood near by. What part these had in the ceremony could not be seen from the distance.