

Oh, That Royal Car

Reporter Finds That Getting A Story From The Roaring Elks Confab A Task

(Editors note: The following account of the search for a man and a car, which is the spirit of the Elks national convention, gives a picture of what happens when 25,000 visitors move in on a city.)

By LARRY HOWES
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PORTLAND, July 16—The whole thing started, really, when a man named George Jaeschke called up The Journal from the Portland Elks lodge Tuesday night and said he wanted to tell a reporter a story about a Rolls Royce the King of England had given to Tom Mix's horse.

If the reporter hadn't gone looking for Mr. Jaeschke he probably wouldn't have found the man with the midget trumpet.

At the Elks lodge at first, however, things were pretty quiet. That is, it was quiet considering that a large part of the thousands of Elks in town for their national convention seemed to be there.

Inside, where some of the members of the benevolent and protective order were sipping things in which soda water was a minor ingredient, the reporter inquired at the registration desk for Mr. Jaeschke.

An official said he'd never heard of him. The reporter explained about the Rolls Royce. "He hasn't," asked the official, looking around, "driven it in here, has he?"

The Great Falls, Mont., drum and bugle corps, dressed as clowns, marched into the lodge and out again. The reporter followed the sound of the drums to Hotel Portland.

In the hotel lobby were several hundred people, a number of signs pointing to a free beer dispensary, and Mr. and Mrs. Vick of Raleigh, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. Vick were wearing feathered Indian headdresses.

"When in the West," explained Mr. Vick, "we do as the Westerners do."

A. B. Apperson of McMinnville said he had attended conventions here in 1912 and 1925 and reported, "I think the old ones beat this a little. But you better say," he added, "that this is just as good. Maybe it'll sound better."

He asked to have his friend, Chester Campbell, also of McMinnville, mentioned in this story.

"We," said a man, coming up with his wife in tow, "are from Georgia." "Georgia, that is," said his wife.

"Newnan, Georgia," said the man. "I'm the youngest ruler in the whole country."

"That was last year," said his wife. "Maybe there's a younger one now."

Outside a cool breeze was blowing the banners and street decorations which bore the Elks' emblem and the Elks' traditional greeting, "Hello, Bill." A teen-age boy stood staring into a darkened store window, two poppies in his hand. Beneath the fluttering banners marched a group of renegade Elks, shouting in unison, "Hi, Jack!"

There was another rest haven in a basement at SW Broadway and Stark street. At one of the tables sat Gobby Claggett of Seattle, watching a friend of his blow tentative notes on an incredibly small silver trumpet, complete to the last valve and split drain, but not more than 12 inches long.

"It's mine," said Claggett. "I had it specially made. I play it in the orchestra."

There was nobody there named George Jaeschke, and there were no Rolls Royces in sight.

At SW Broadway and Morrison street Ben Holland of Vermont stood in the middle of the roadway directing traffic.

At SW Broadway and Yamhill street a 1919 Chevrolet moved slowly along. There was nothing odd in that except, perhaps, that it was on the sidewalk. Herb Edmonson of Huntington Park, Cal., was at the wheel.

After traveling a block or so the car jolted over the curb. U-turned on Broadway and sped north.

The reporter walked back up to the Elks lodge. A man standing at the hat-check counter straightened up. "Say," he said, "are you a reporter? I'm George Jaeschke of Indio, Cal."

"Our lodge," he continued, leading the way outside and pointing at an ancient Rolls Royce, "has a car that was made for the king and queen of England."

"Tom Mix went over there and he wanted a little souvenir. So they gave him a souvenir. They gave him a diamond. His horse they gave a Rolls Royce."

"A little fellow we've got down there in Indio bought it for \$75 from Mix's estate. We bought it from him for \$300. We drove it up here and we'll drive it back. She'll do 70 easy, and she'll do 90, but you're driving her then."

"See that upholstery?" asked Mr. Jaeschke, pulling open the door and punching the cushions. "The king and queen of England sat on that."

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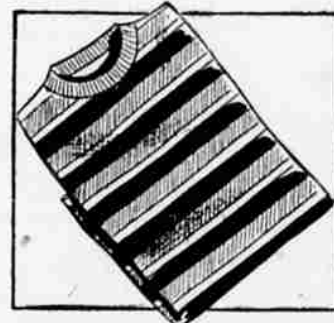
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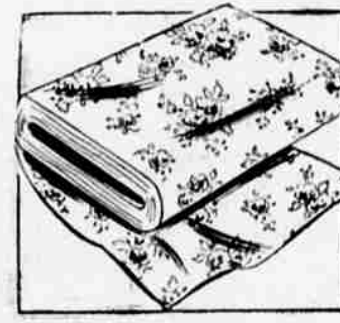
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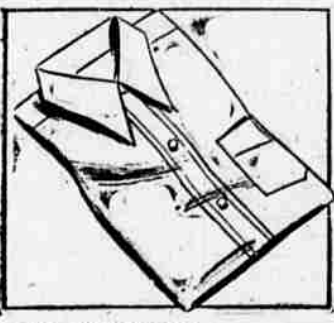
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