

Third Annual



MID-WINTER VACATION

INCLUDING EXPENSES
MODERATE COST
DIRECTION
ILLINOIS
CENTRAL

NEW ORLEANS MARDI GRAS 1916

February 18, 1915.

To the OFFICERS OF I. C. R. R. Co.,
Chicago, Ill.

GENTLEMEN:

We wish to thank you for the efficient service and courtesy shown us by your employes of your Mid-Winter Special to the Mardi Gras held at New Orleans, 1915.

MEMBERS OF THE MID-WINTER
SPECIAL PARTY.

(Signed by sixty-eight individuals)

The parties have included representative doctors, lawyers, teachers and business men, with members of their families; and in addition to the above testimonial, many individual letters of commendation as to the success of those Mid-Winter Vacation Parties have been received, of which the two following epitomize the general sentiment:

CLINTON, ILL., February 25, 1915.

S. G. HATCH, P. T. M.,
Illinois Central, Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR:

I am writing to thank the management of the I. C. R. R. for the delightful trip Mrs. Zeigler and I had aboard the "Mid-Winter Special," and express our appreciation for the courtesy shown us by all the employes. *Absolutely nothing was wanting to make it comfortable, safe and agreeable.*

My father, mother and brother were on the 1914 trip; they were enthusiastic about it, and the wonderful service you gave to all.

* * * * *

I am sorry I can not mention each one individually who helped to make this trip so pleasant. Every one with whom we came in contact eulogized the service, and at meal time all felt it a privilege to meet again the cheerful conductor in charge of the dining car.

Thanking you again, and hoping, if you run a special in 1916, that a very large party will avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity, I remain

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) W. J. ZIEGLER.

February 22, 1915.

MR. J. H. LORD, D. P. A.,
Illinois Central, Springfield, Ill.

DEAR MR. LORD:

As members of the party in connection with your Second Annual Mid-Winter Vacation trip to the Mardi Gras at New Orleans, we are sure we voice the sentiments of the whole party when we say the trip was complete in every respect even to the most minute detail. It was one happy party from the start to the finish and the employes of your company, from the porters to your representative in charge, did everything to make the trip pleasant and enjoyable, and their slogans seemed to be "Safety First" and "Service."

Thanking you personally for the courtesies shown us, we are
Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MR. AND MRS. WARREN LEWIS.



THIRD ANNUAL

Mid-Winter Vacation Special Party

under the Auspices of the
Illinois Central to far-famed

New Orleans and the Mardi Gras

THE Mid-Winter Vacation Tour of the Illinois Central's special party to New Orleans and the Mardi Gras of the last two years, in connection with which "home-like accommodations at a moderate cost" were promised, have gone into history with such an enviable record of perfect success that hereafter such parties will be an annual event. Hence, this is to announce the Third Annual Vacation Party, to make the tour in March of 1916, on specific date mentioned elsewhere.

As an earnest of what it will be in high-grade character, attention is called to the fact that all that was promised for previous similar parties, was not only given in full measure, but even more, and no untoward experiences marred the occasion from start to finish. So well pleased were the participants in those New Orleans-Mardi Gras tours that both years, on the train en route home, they voluntarily drew up testimonials to the Illinois Central; that for last year being as follows:



Why Select New Orleans?

But why, one may ask, was New Orleans particularly selected for these parties, and why again the same point for 1916? Because, in brief, of the fame of New Orleans as a desirable place to visit from a sight-seeing point of view, especially during the winter months; its historic, climatic and distinct individual characteristics not having their parallel in the country. Hence, there are undoubtedly numberless individuals who, having never seen that city, have at least had the thought that they would like to, particularly at the height of its winter season. Song birds and flowers the whole winter through, coupled with a genial semi-tropical climate, are features in the popularity that New Orleans enjoys as a winter resort, although they are but incidental to its many allurements to both the casual and the long-term visitor. It has its old French and Spanish section, teeming with reflections of

A Past Foreign Epoch

of much grandeur, and including quaint little shops having wares with an individuality, fascinating architectural types that hold one's attention, and at every turn examples or evidences of manners and customs peculiar to the section. It also has its American quarter, in which are portrayed the prosperity and

Beauties of the Modern Days

in its palatial homes and settings of semi-tropical foliage and flowers, and its parks and its public institutions. Then there is its business section, with its alluring stores, in which wares can be purchased not to be found elsewhere in the country; also its mercantile establishments, and the external evidences of its mighty river and ocean traffic.

It is not the province of this publication to expatiate more than thus briefly on the many things to be seen in New Orleans to entertain and amuse. Particulars are shown quite comprehensively in

the free illustrated book of the Illinois Central entitled "New Orleans, the Convention City," which can be had on application. But mention must be made of its renowned restaurants and its noted hotels, and, finally, there is its

Famous Carnival Season

ending, for 1916, in Mardi Gras Day, March 7th. This last, the Mardi Gras (more about it will be found elsewhere in this book), is perhaps one of the most impressive and interesting demonstrations in what might be called the show line of anything that occurs in this country. In New Orleans it not only had its beginning in America, but has reached the acme of perfection.

Gorgeous, Spectacular, Entertaining

and instructive, it is an event that should be seen to complete one's liberal education.

But, during the so-called Carnival season, culminating in Mardi Gras Day, New Orleans is extremely busy with visitors and sight-seers, although a big city of about 350,000 inhabitants and although it is well provided with a goodly number of large and first-class hotels, some of them the finest in the land, and with many smaller ones and extensive boarding-house facilities. Hence there are two classes of people who have never seen the Mardi Gras and New Orleans who would like to do so but for what they imagine to be unfavorable conditions incidental to the confusion of a special occasion; namely, those of comfortable circumstances who can afford a reasonable expenditure, but who

Shrink from Possible Uncertainties

of accommodations and opportunities to see all of the events at the expense of valuable time; and those who are so experienced in travel-matters of this nature that, although they would like to see the city and the Mardi Gras, do not longer care to undertake on their own responsibility the experiences incidental to unusual conditions. To overcome the objections and meet the requirements of such, these Mid-Winter Vacations are conducted; and we invite attention to what, in detail, are their peculiar and unusual features that should commend them to the would-be sight-seer, and that have met with unqualified praise from those who have experienced their benefits.

1916 MID-WINTER VACATION

A special party is being formed by the Illinois Central, known as the "Mid-Winter Vacation Party," to visit New Orleans and the Mardi Gras, including a stop at the Vicksburg National Military Park on the return. This party will be carried on a Special Train from Chicago, to which will be added en route Special Cars from St. Louis, Louisville and from Cincinnati, leaving those cities on Saturday, March 4, 1916. The train will be the home of the party from the time of the start until the return. It will consist of sleeping cars having compartments, drawing-rooms and open sections, the latter consisting of the usual lower and upper berths; also observation car, buffet-club car and dining cars. In this equipment, it will be observed, are all the essentials for a complete home;



it covering facilities and accommodations for lounging, sleeping and eating, and, in the case of the compartments, of privacy and conveniences akin to one's own chamber. When in New Orleans the train will be parked at a convenient point near the Union Station, and will serve in lieu of a hotel, as well as being a convenient rendezvous during the day.

The train will be conducted by an Illinois Central representative for the entire trip. He will be an experienced man in the handling of touring parties, and will be available, while in New Orleans, to direct and assist, as far as possible, members of the party in arranging their individual entertainment. While parked in the city a telephone will be installed on the train, and the latter will be supplied daily with the morning and evening newspapers of the city, as well as with other reading matter; the latter also being available during the entire trip. Arrangements have also been made with a reliable laundry in the city for valet, dry cleaning and laundering, for those who may wish such service, at rates guaranteed not to exceed those prevailing in the city, or possibly better. Access can be had at all times during the day to one's trunk, as a train baggage man will be on duty at all hours in the baggage compartment of the buffet-club car. Finally, the dining cars will be parked with the rest of the train, and meals will be served in them *a la carte* during the stay in New Orleans.

THE ITINERARY—COUNTRY TRAVERSED

The itinerary will be as follows, subject possibly, but not probably, to slight change in minor detail. From it, in a broad way, it will be seen that the Mid-Winter Vacation Party will be given an attractive journey and sight-seeing features en route. Its beginning will be a trip on the Illinois Central, starting with the familiar landscapes of the Northland and ending with the novel scenes of the Southland, reaching, en route, a point where flowers are in bloom in mid-winter

and the birds sing the year round. It is a day's run to New Orleans, and on reaching that city of the Mardi Gras, a several day's sojourn will be made therein, during which time the party will be given the following entertainment: Grand stand seats for the evening procession and Grand Pageant of the Krewe of Proteus, for the daylight Grand Pageant of "His Majesty Rex, King of the Carnival," in float tableau, and the evening street pageant of beautiful tableau-floats of the Mystic Krewe of Comus; an excursion trip from the city on the Mississippi River; and an automobile ride through New Orleans. The return will be made from New Orleans via the Y. & M. V. R. R. to Memphis, and thence via Illinois Central; the first stage being a ride through the vast sugar and rice plantations of Louisiana, and a stop-over at Vicksburg, Miss., of half a day, during which time an automobile ride will be given through the famous Vicksburg National Military Park. The great plantations, with their extensive modern sugar mills, fine old mansions and their picturesquely grouped negro quarters, all of which can be seen from the train, are of particular interest, as they are among the few types left of the princely southern plantation of Ante-Bellum days.

At Vicksburg (ask for a free copy of "Vicksburg for the Tourist") is the National Cemetery, the largest and one of the most park-like and pleasingly impressive of all of the eighty-two cemeteries established and maintained by the Government in honor of its valorous dead. But more interesting is the Vicksburg National Military Park, commemorating the great siege and defense of the Vicksburg campaign, which, including events leading directly up to it, extended over a period of from March 29 to July 4, 1863. The general plan and scope of this Military Park is such that it is an intensely instructive and interesting place to visit. Every part of the battlefield is made accessible by park roadways, and the contour of the country is such, as well as the nature of the operations that took place, that with the aid of the descriptive tablets, monuments, memorials and markers, the story of the conflict of '63 will be found particularly easy to follow. For picturesque beauty and historic interest no other battlefield can surpass that now embodied in the Vicksburg National Military Park.

THE SCHEDULES—"MID-WINTER SPECIAL"

From Chicago—Season 1916

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|---|
| Lv Chicago..... | 10.10 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv 43d Street..... | 10.18 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv 53d Street..... | 10.21 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv 63d Street..... | 10.24 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Grand Crossing..... | 10.29 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Kensington..... | 10.38 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Champaign..... | 1.11 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Mattoon..... | 2.12 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Centralia..... | 4.06 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Carbondale..... | 5.35 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Fulton..... | 8.35 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Memphis..... | 12.25 AM | Sunday, | March | 5 |
| Ar New Orleans..... | 11.30 AM | Sunday, | March | 5 |

In addition to the above, train will stop at any point at which there may be passengers booked for the Mid-Winter Party.

Connecting Sleeping Cars from Cincinnati and Louisville

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|---|
| Lv Cincinnati (B.& O.S.W.) No. 15 | 8.20 AM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Louisville (I.C.R.R.) No. 101 | 12.01 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Lv Evansville | 12.50 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Ar Fulton, Ky | 7.30 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |

Connecting Sleeping Car from St. Louis

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-------|---|
| Lv St. Louis, No. 201 | 1.30 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |
| Ar Carbondale | 4.20 PM | Saturday, | March | 4 |

Returning

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-------|----|
| Lv New Orleans | 10.30 PM | Wednesday, | March | 8 |
| Ar Vicksburg | 7.00 AM | Thursday, | March | 9 |
| Lv Vicksburg | 12.00 N'N | Thursday, | March | 9 |
| Ar Memphis | 7.30 PM | Thursday, | March | 9 |
| Ar Evansville | 10.50 AM | Friday, | March | 10 |
| Ar Louisville | 7.50 AM | Friday, | March | 10 |
| Ar Cincinnati | 12.00 N'N | Friday, | March | 10 |
| Ar St. Louis | 7.05 AM | Friday, | March | 10 |
| Ar Chicago | 11.00 AM | Friday, | March | 10 |

(Northbound special train will make same stops as southbound.)

COST OF THE VACATION TRIP

The cost of this Mid-Winter Vacation Trip, which will include all expenses except meals in New Orleans, will vary slightly, according to accommodations on the train, and will be as follows from the cities mentioned, and from other points in proportion:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| From Chicago and return | \$64.00 |
| From St. Louis and return | 53.00 |
| From Cincinnati and return | 55.00 |
| From Louisville and return | 52.00 |

For the amounts named above, the lower berth in sleeping car will be provided, to be occupied by one person; but according to the number of persons to a berth and the nature of the sleeping car accommodations, fares will vary from the above as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Two persons occupying compartment, each | \$ 6.25 more |
| Three persons occupying compartment, each | 2.50 more |
| Two persons occupying lower berth, each | 7.50 less |
| One person occupying upper berth, each | 3.00 less |
| Two persons occupying drawing-room, each | 12.50 more |
| Three persons occupying drawing-room, each | 4.00 more |
| Four persons occupying drawing-room, no additional charge. | |
| One person occupying one section (upper and lower) | \$12.00 more |

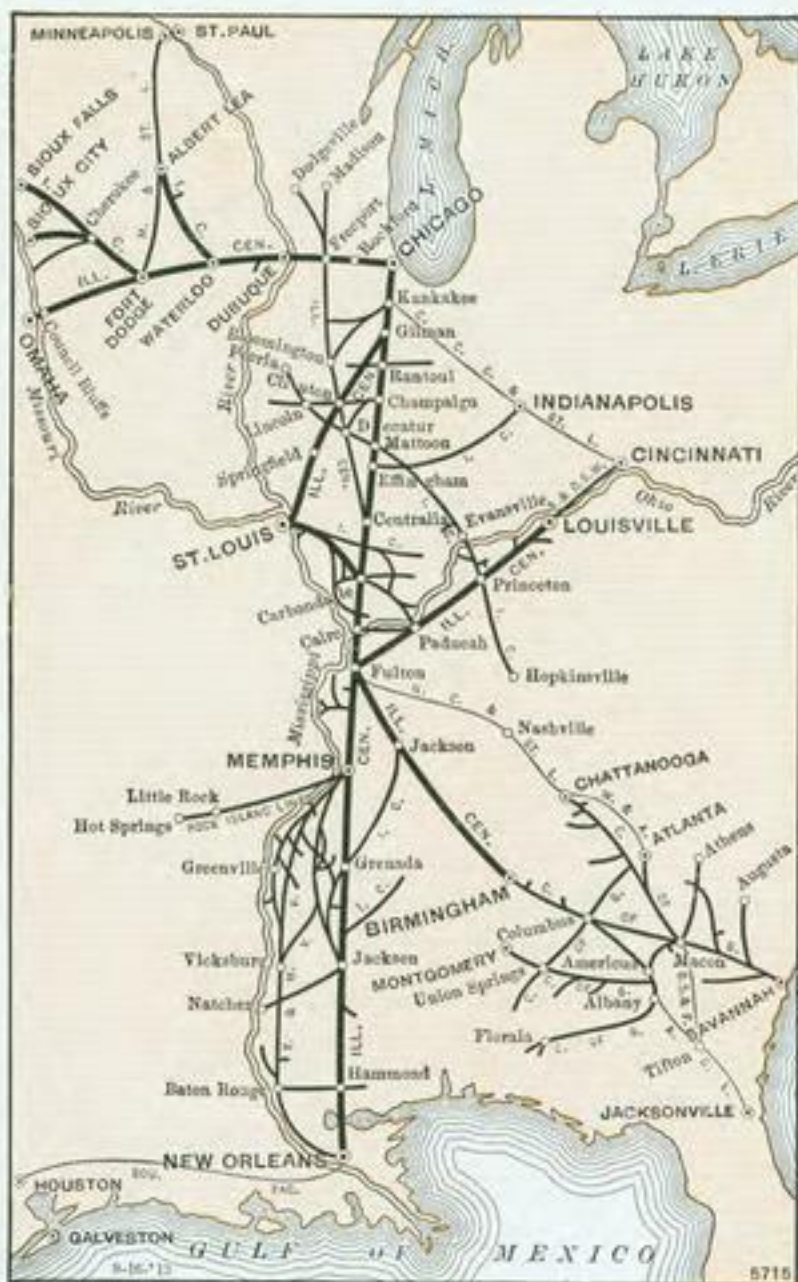
Experience has taught the ideal accommodations to be a compartment or a drawing-room.

Early Application Desirable

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the fact that it is desirable for individuals who contemplate joining this Mid-Winter Vacation Party of the Illinois Central to make application as early as possible, stating the kind of sleeping car accommodations desired; such applications to be made to your local Railroad Ticket Agent or the nearest of the Illinois Central Passenger Representatives mentioned herein.

Local Parties Kept Together

Local parties of sufficient size will be assigned cars by themselves, if desired, on making arrangements to that effect well in advance.



WHAT THE FARES INCLUDE

The fares, as outlined in the preceding paragraph, will include the following:

- Railroad fare to New Orleans and return.
- Sleeping car fare to New Orleans and return.
- Sleeping car accommodations while in New Orleans.
- Meals in dining car while en route.
- Grand Stand seats for three Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans.
- Excursion trip from New Orleans on the Mississippi River.
- Sight-seeing automobile ride in New Orleans.
- Automobile ride through Vicksburg National Military Park.



MEALS IN NEW ORLEANS

In the Restaurants

It will be noted, as has been mentioned and shown in the preceding, that all meals en route are included in the cost of this Mid-Winter Vacation trip, but it does not include meals in New Orleans. The party will undoubtedly be scattered throughout the day, and would prefer, not only to be free to eat when and where it might be most convenient, but to have the opportunity of experiencing the delights of dining in some of the famous New Orleans restaurants; for it is not only proverbial that in New Orleans they know "how to dine," but that the city is noted for its restaurants and cafes, many of them making specialties of certain dishes that cannot be duplicated at any restaurant in the country. The representative of the Illinois Central Railroad in charge will direct members of the party to the various restaurants in accordance with individual tastes as far as possible. Among the most noted of the restaurants may be mentioned the de la Louisiane, Antoine's, Galatoire's, Kolb's German Tavern, Brasco's, The Rathskeller, the "Marins" and Begue's Breakfast House. There are also first-class cafes connected with the larger hotels; the feature places being the "Cave and Forest Grill," at the Grunewald, and the "Italian Gardens," at the St. Charles.

On the Parked Dining Cars

As has been mentioned, the dining cars of the "Mid-Winter Special" will be parked in New Orleans with the rest of the train, and a la carte meals will be served in them to members of the party. This is a matter of convenience, it having proved such to members of previous years' parties. Particularly was it appreciated and patronized for breakfasts, one thus being able to get a proper start for the day's enjoyment.





MATTERS IN GENERAL

Where Cars Will Be Parked

The train that will be the home of the party during the stay in New Orleans will be parked near the Union Station, very near the center of the city—as shown by the accompanying map. Hence, from it incidental trips can be made in all directions. The center of the city, which, broadly speaking, may be defined as the retail section of Canal Street, and around and about which all of the principal hotels are located, is easily reached by street cars in about five minutes. These street cars also reach many of the show points of the city in other directions. If, however, taxicabs are preferred, attention is called to the fact that tickets and arrangements for this service can be had and made at the Union Station. The taxicab fare from the station ranges from 60 to 80 cents for one or two persons to the principal hotels, according to the location of the latter; 20 cents extra for each additional passenger in excess of two. When one reaches the various hotels in the central section of the city, one is within a short distance of the numerous points of interest concentrating around and about the retail section of Canal Street.

Where Mail May Be Addressed

Mail for members of the party, while in New Orleans, should be addressed care of Illinois Central Railroad, 141 St. Charles Street; the latter being the City Ticket Office of the Illinois Central, located at the corner of St. Charles and Common streets.

During the stay in New Orleans, mail, if properly addressed to members of the party, as above, can be secured on calling at the City Ticket Office mentioned. Mail not secured during the day will be delivered on the cars at 7.00 p.m. daily.

MAKE INQUIRIES

or application in connection with this Mid-Winter Vacation Party's trip to New Orleans and the Mardi Gras of your home Railroad Ticket agent. He will obtain any additional information on the subject that you may desire, or arrange to book you for the trip. Or the nearest of the following Illinois Central Passenger Representatives will be pleased to supply any information in the matter that may be desired.

| | |
|--|--|
| BUFFALO, N. Y.—G. B. WYLLIE Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 202 Ellicott Square Building |
| CHICAGO, ILL.—R. J. CARMICHAEL Division Passenger Agent..... | 76 West Adams Street |
| W. W. WILSON, Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 502 Central Station |
| CINCINNATI, OHIO—P. A. MARR District Passenger Agent..... | 418 Walnut Street |
| CLEVELAND, OHIO—J. J. McLANE Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 209 Williamson Building |
| DETROIT, MICH.—W. R. ISRAEL Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 215 Majestic Building |
| DUBUQUE, IOWA—H. S. GRAY Division Passenger Agent..... | Illinois Central Station |
| EVANSVILLE, IND.—G. W. SCHELKE Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 126 Main Street |
| INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—J. M. MORISEY District Passenger Agent..... | 1216 Merchants' National Bank Building |
| LOUISVILLE, KY.—F. W. HARLOW..... | Division Passenger Agent |
| MILWAUKEE, WIS.—W. J. BOWES Traveling Passenger Agent..... | 301 Majestic Building |
| NEW YORK, N. Y.—F. S. BISHOP General Eastern Passenger Agent..... | 501 Fifth Avenue |
| OMAHA, NEB.—SAMUEL NORTH District Passenger Agent..... | 407 South Sixteenth Street |
| PEORIA, ILL.—G. A. SMITH Commercial Agent..... | 329 Main Street |
| PITTSBURGH, PA.—G. G. TRUESDALE District Passenger Agent..... | 902 Oliver Building |
| ST. LOUIS, MO.—F. D. MILLER Division Passenger Agent..... | 306 North Broadway |
| ST. PAUL, MINN.—A. J. McDougall District Passenger Agent..... | Room B, Capital Bank Building |
| SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—J. H. LORD District Passenger Agent..... | Illinois Central Station |

J. V. LANIGAN, Assistant General Passenger Agent, CHICAGO, ILL.

H. J. PHELPS, Gen'l Pass'r Agent
CHICAGO, ILL.

G. H. BOWER, Gen'l Pass'r Agent
MEMPHIS, TENN.

S. G. HATCH, Passenger Traffic Manager



New Orleans Mardi Gras Season

Terminating Tuesday, March 7, 1916

THE Mardi Gras at New Orleans has by common usage become synonymous with "Carnival," except that there is always the Mardi Gras Day which is not only the last day of the so-called Carnival week, but the great day of them all, always occurring Tuesday, preceding Ash Wednesday, and consequently on March 7, 1916. The preceding day, Monday, is also the first of the two great days of Mardi Gras.

In Mardi Gras Day, however, is culminated the grandest efforts of the Carnival Season, and the entire day is given up to a continuous round of gay pageants, masking and merry-making, feasting and terpsichorean assemblies.

The pageants are dignified in the extreme, aiming at the same time at the spectacular. They are the great attraction of all to the visitor, and vary each year as to subjects portrayed by the float-tableaux. The following from the New Orleans *Picayune*, describing the Mardi Gras of a recent year, illustrates the character of these pageants:

"As for the brilliancy of the pageants, the Carnival was maintained at the highest standard it has ever reached." Of the landing of Rex on Monday and his triumphant going to the City Hall to receive the keys of the City, the same authority just quoted said: "The River pageant was one of the most brilliant ever seen, as the number of vessels participating was larger. The military display which accompanied the escort of the king through the main thoroughfares of the city was larger and more inspiring than usual, owing largely to the big body of marines now in the city on the United States transport Hancock. Supplementing the contingent of marines were the bluejackets of the battleship Ohio and the

forces of the local militia, as well as the battalion of regular coast artillery from the Barracks." The paper further adds: "The Proteus parade last night was one of the most beautiful that organization has ever put on the street, and the ball that followed up held the best traditions of the Carnival." It will be interesting to record that the theme of the Proteus pageant was Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered," the story being told in "twenty dazzling cars." On Tuesday, Mardi Gras Day, the mid-day, or Rex, parade depicted the "Drama of the Year," and in the evening, as expressed by local reportorial enthusiasm, "Comus' Conquest, in Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales,' was the carnival's convincing climax."

The Story of the Carnival

In one form or another Mardi Gras festivities have been observed in New Orleans, although at broken intervals, for over three-quarters of a century; and continuously each year since the close of the Civil War. It had its origin in the custom in olden times of Louisiana's planters and merchants looking to France, their mother country, for their fashions, amusements and literature; one of the results of which was the introduction, in 1827, of the first grand street procession of masqueraders in New Orleans by a number of young Creole gentlemen, some of them just returned from finishing a Parisian education. This was followed ten years later by one on a much larger and grander scale on the Mardi Gras of 1837; and from these the Carnival method of festivity may be said to have been fully launched in the Crescent City.

The main springs of activity of the present Carnival festivities are the secret societies organized for the sole purpose of celebrating the pre-lenten period. The names of the principal of these societies appear in the programme of events that follows. Of them Rex, Proteus, Comus and Momus are the four great organizations. Throughout these societies there runs a wonderful system of organization, as complete as that of a well-disciplined army. Although co-operating to a single end, so secret are their proceedings that even the personnel of their membership is unknown outside the council chambers. But they work the whole year through (it is said that as a pageant parades the streets, work on that for the next year is actually in progress), and they spend for such purposes fabulous sums of money. The result is a brilliant succession of costumed tableaux, masked and unmasked balls and street pageants of floats, or cars, on which is illustrated in spectacular gorgeousness some well-chosen and dignified subject. The subjects of these pageants are changed every year, and are kept a profound secret until their actual appearance on the streets.

Varying slightly from year to year, as to the societies participating during the Carnival, the entire season is, nevertheless, one of activity and general festivity, culminating in the so-called Carnival week and reaching its height on Mardi Gras Day.

The Arrival of Rex, King of the Carnival

On the Monday before Mardi Gras Day comes Rex, King of the Carnival, accompanied by his nobles and attendants in waiting, to his "much-beloved Capital." His proclamation, long before posted throughout the country, and familiar to many, shows excellently the mock assumption of regal power, and the spirit in which



the festivities of Mardi Gras are carried out and heartily received by the populace of New Orleans. Rex, usually, although not necessarily, makes his journey to the city by way of the river on his "Royal Yacht," escorted by the "Royal Flotilla"—which royal yacht and royal flotilla vary, according to his whims, from private yachts to visiting war vessels of foreign nations, with accompanying tugs and merchant steamers. The arrival of the gaily decorated flotilla, amid the booming of cannon and the loud sounds of music, is to the stranger an interesting feature of Mardi Gras, and should not be missed. On landing, Rex and his retinue, in brilliant military and civic procession, escorted by his especially selected body-guard—usually some crack military organization, visiting or local—proceeds to the City Hall, where he receives the keys of the city. From then on his rule is absolute, and his "royal standard of purple, green and gold," waves over the city in token of his sovereignty. In the evening of the same day, Monday, occurs the tableau ball of the Krewe of Proteus at the French Opera House, preceded by its grand pageant on the streets.

The Great Day of It All

The next day, Mardi Gras Day, on which a general spirit of revelry prevails, brings the daylight pageant of Rex and the evening pageant of the Mystick Krewe of Comus, the latter followed by a grand Comus ball at the French Opera House, and the Rex ball; or, as announced, "grand reception at the Imperial Palace by the King and Queen of the Carnival and Royal Party, and ball in the Palace adjoining the Throne Room of the Imperial Palace." Then, of course, there are numerous other balls and entertainments throughout the city.

Rex and his queen—for at the social functions he is accompanied by his queen, whose crown and jewels have been on public exhibition for days before—Rex and his queen, after their reception is over and the Rex ball is fairly launched, go to the French Opera House, as a matter of courtesy, it is presumed, to King Comus—for Comus

too, is a king. This ball, the Comus ball at the French Opera House, is the elite affair of the Carnival "—the essence and pinnacle of interest in all the ceremonies of Mardi Gras," is a woman's way of expressing it. At it the extremest of full dress is exacted, and only ladies are allowed to be seated during the period preceding the general dancing, the gentlemen standing in the background. First come spectacular groupings, or tableaux, of the costumed maskers from off the floats of the street parade, after which the music strikes up the first notes of the Lancers. Then the maskers leave the stage, and each selecting from the dress circle the lady of his choice, they return with them to the stage, where, led by the King and Queen, they dance the figures of the old-time Southern Lancers. At its conclusion masks and costumes disappear and the general dancing begins.

THE CARNIVAL PROGRAMME FOR 1916

For those who may desire to visit New Orleans in advance of the Mid-Winter Vacation date, or for the general information of those interested in such matters, the following are the principal events of the Carnival season preceding and including the Mardi Gras:

Thursday, Jan. 6th. Tableaux and Ball, Twelfth Night Revelers.

Monday, Feb. 7th. Tableaux and Ball, Krewe of Nereus.

Tuesday, Feb. 8th. Tableaux and Ball, Nippons.

Wednesday, Feb. 9th. Tableaux and Ball, Artemisians.

Friday, Feb. 11th. Tableaux and Ball, Mittens.

Monday, Feb. 14th. Tableaux and Ball, Olympians.

Wednesday, Feb. 16th. Tableaux and Ball, Krewe of Yami.

Friday, Feb. 18th. Tableaux and Ball, Falstaffians.

Monday, Feb. 21st. Tableaux and Ball, Krewe of Mithras.

Wednesday, Feb. 23d. Tableaux and Ball, The Athenians.

Thursday, Feb. 24th. Tableaux and Ball, Butterflies.

Monday, Feb. 28th. Tableaux and Ball, Oberon.

Tuesday, Feb. 29th. Tableaux and Ball, Titanians.

Wednesday, Mar. 1st. Tableaux and Ball, Krewe of Mystery.

Thursday, Mar. 2d. Street Pageant at 8.00 p.m., followed by Tableaux and Ball of the Knights of Momus.

Monday, Mar. 6th. Arrival of His Majesty "REX," King of the Carnival, at 2.00 p.m. Grand Military and Civic Procession.

At night the procession of the Krewe of Proteus, about 8 o'clock, in Grand Pageant on the streets, followed by its Grand Ball at the French Opera House.

Tuesday, Mar. 7th. *Mardi Gras Day.* At 10.00 a.m. Grand Pageant of His Majesty "REX," King of the Carnival, in Float Tableaux. At night the "Mystick Krewe of Comus" in street Pageant of beautiful Tableau-Floats followed by the Comus Grand Ball at the French Opera House; Grand Ball and Reception at the Imperial Palace Athenæum, by the King and Queen of the Carnival and Royal Party.



The Mardi Gras — What It Is

To those who may be interested in such matters, it may be said that, technically, Mardi Gras is the French expression for Shrove Tuesday, which, being the day preceding Ash Wednesday, makes it easy to follow the analogy of its literal translation—Mardi, Tuesday, and gras, fat—when the further fact is considered that in its application it also stands for the last day of the "Carnival"; the latter signifying in this same connection, "farewell to flesh meat," and finding expression in gala days immediately preceding the beginning of Lent.

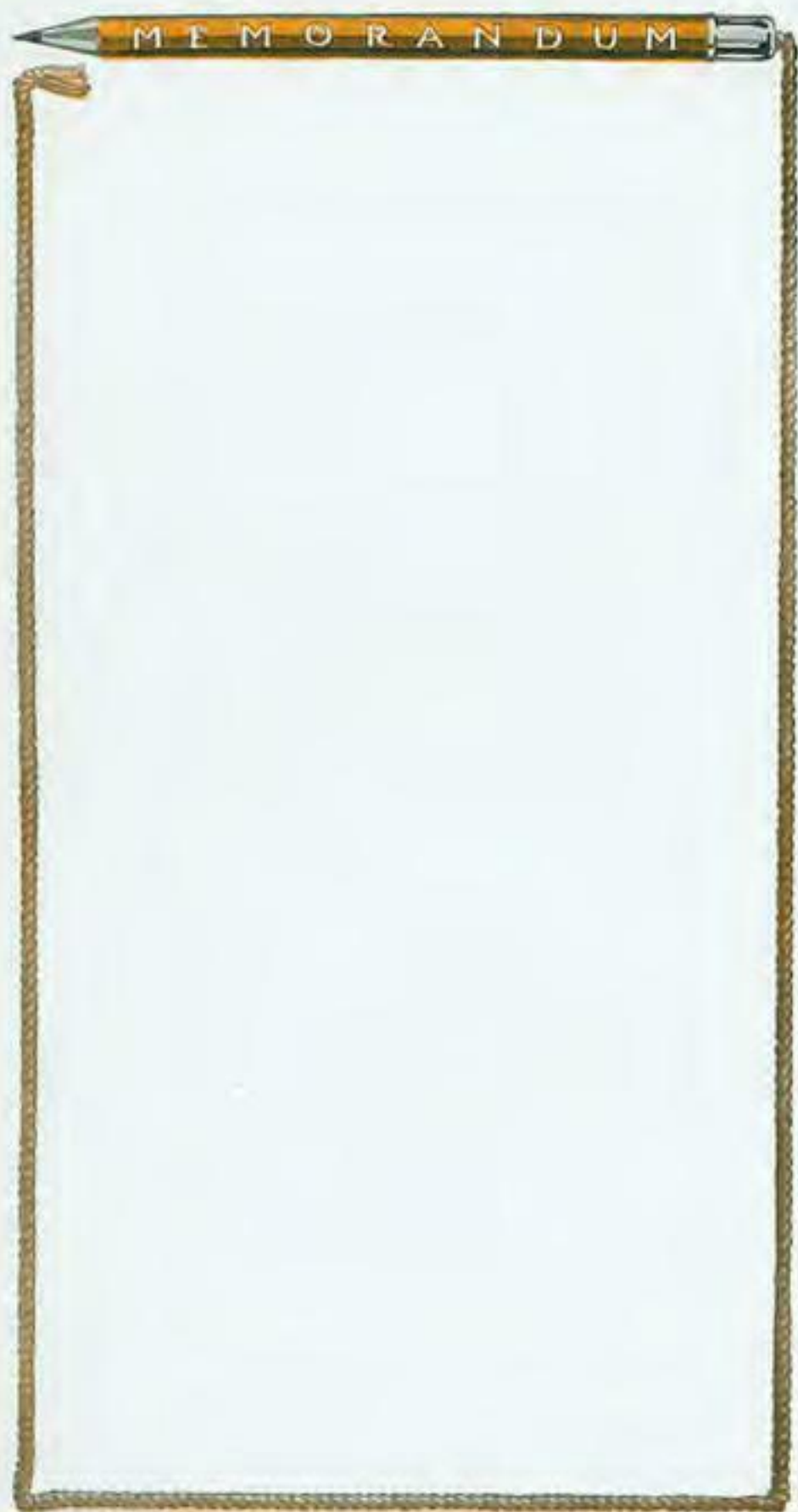
THE RACES AT NEW ORLEANS

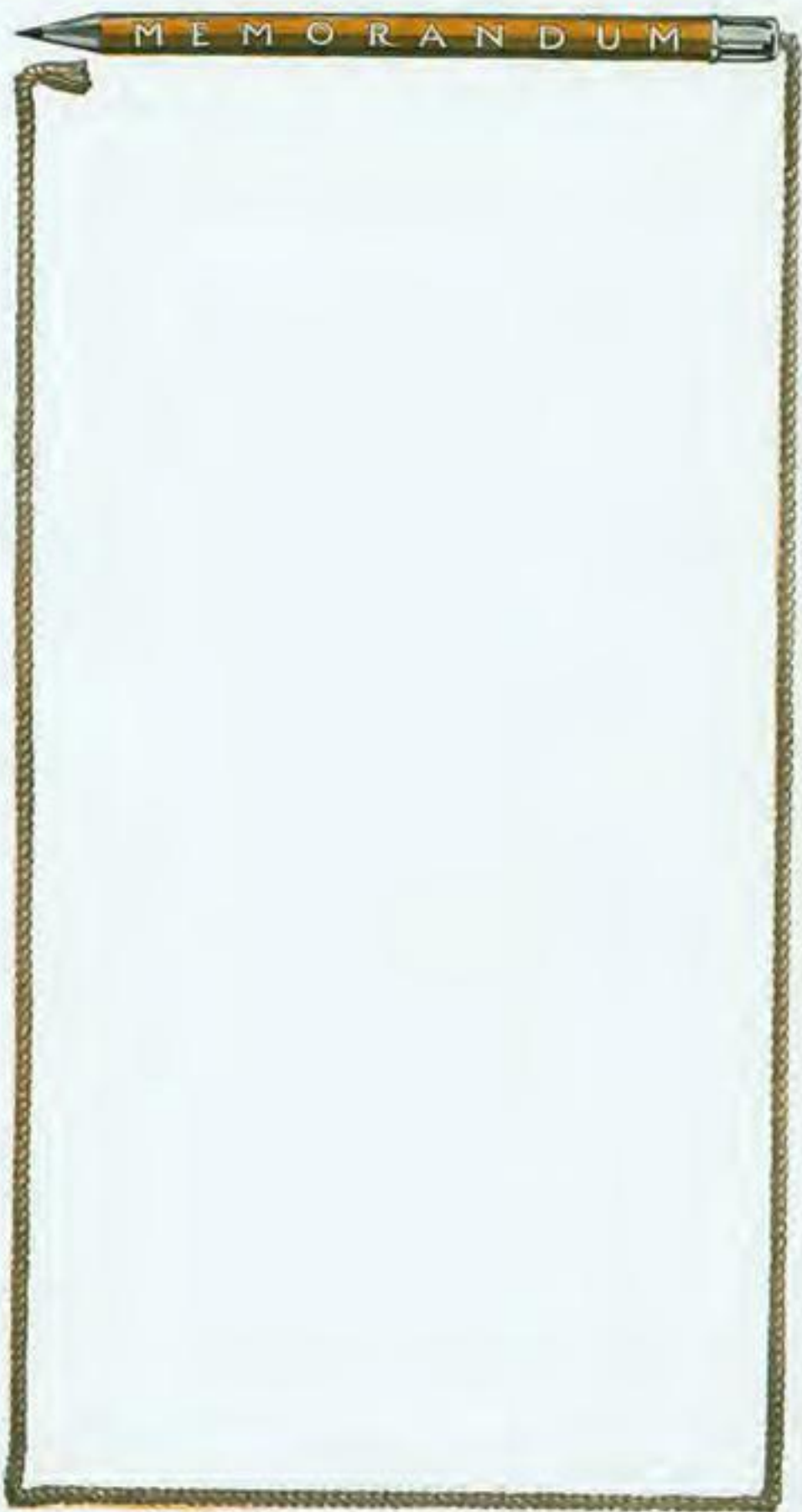
In addition to the above carnival festivities, it may be of interest to some to know that the Business Men's Racing Association of New Orleans will conduct a fifty-seven days' race meet at that point beginning January 1st, at which it is announced that horsemen from all over the country will be in evidence, and that there will be six high-class races daily.













MEMORANDUM





March 7 1916



NEW ORLEANS MARDI-GRAS

MID-WINTER
VACATION
INCLUDING EXPENSES
MODERATE COST

DIRECTION
ILLINOIS CENTRAL