

FIERY CROSS OF KU KLUX KLAN ON CRAGMONT LAST NIGHT

The Flaming Cross of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan burned last night on Cragmont rock.

The presence of the fiery emblem above the city marked the holding of Easter services by the hooded order, nearly 100 men appearing in the full, white hooded regalia of the Klansman and announcements made during the event indicated they were members of the Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond Klans. The event was held at 9:30 o'clock.

So secretly were plans made for the rendezvous that only about 2000 persons and four traffic officers were there to witness the ceremonies. Before the knights appeared those that gathered early looked down on Euclid avenue where a continuous line of motor vehicles puffed up the steep and curving ascent like a parade of glow worms.

The Flaming Cross, symbol of the Klansmen, burned so brightly it could be seen for miles. It made somebody think there was a house burning and at the height of the exercises the moan of several sirens announced the approach of fire apparatus which had nothing to do but to coast back to engine houses to cool off over-exercised motors.

Two "spread lights," the kind that accentuate the musical comedy choruses in the playhouses, were brightly lighting the park when first comers arrived. The audience arrived in pairs, many of them enjoying the excitement of believing they were about to spy on a mysterious gathering of the Klan. It was rather disappointing to these knowing ones to find the stage apparently set for a well planned public pageant.

One or two hooded men paced through the crowd mysteriously before a third shouted in a voice quite human and recognizable; "Richmond Klan over this way." A dozen white forms of men walked to where a small packing box had been placed as a pulpit. Slowly sixty other knights, supposedly members of the Berkeley and Oakland Klans joined their white-robed bretheren from Richmond. A torch was applied to a metal cross wrapped with oil-soaked rags.

Horsemen Arrive.

Then further up in the hills flaring red lights were seen. They moved rapidly down winding streets of houseless blocks. Then came the click of horses' hoofs and in another minute four mounted Klansmen drove within the white circle. Each rider held a torch. It made an impressive picture.

A boy in civilian attire played the introductory strains of "America" and after the Knights had sung that number and the hymn "In the Cross of Christ and Glory," one of the Knights stepped from line to the box pulpit, pulled off his hood and offered up a prayer for the Ku Klux Klan. He followed by preaching a sermon on the Resurrection after a few remarks regarding the order. The speaker stated he was a minister of the gospel. He declared that the Ku Klux Klan had been falsely accused of being a lawless order by its enemies and the enemies' press which delighted in laying all sorts of crime at the door of the Klansman. "The Ku Klux Klan stands for the religion of Jesus Christ," he said, "and the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

He compared the rise of Christ from the tomb to the awakening of Americanism by the Klansmen which he declared stood for Americanism and Righteousness.

It was during the sermon that the sirens sounded and the fire department, responding to a telephone message that a fire was in progress, climbed Euclid avenue's series of hills. The crowd was quick to realize what had prompted their trip and the "spread lights" disclosed many smiling faces. Services were closed by the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers," the crowd augmenting the Knights. The dispersing command was: "Knights will disrobe in the clubhouse."