Dedication of Infant as Chapter Mascot

A PAGEANT

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INTRODUCTORY.

(This may be made a double ceremony if two Eastern Star Mothers have infants the chapter desires to honor.)

Present this ceremony before opening of chapter and with floor cleared of furniture to allow free passage of the cortege.

This as planned carries out the motif of The "Slumber Boat" song which is used in connection. Any other desired plan for presenting the infant may be used without detriment to the ceremony proper.

If the idea of a boat is to be carried out as was done in the original program, make a float by forming around the body of a child's Express Wagon of size suited to the purpose the shape of a canoe or boat.

Paint the wheels and tongue of the cart white.

For the foundation of the boat use corrugated shipping or packing paper or some pliable and substantial substitute. Allow sufficient length to provide for the shaping of the prow and stern of the boat fore and aft.

Cover first with heavy white paper, then with white crepe paper. Fasten by means of wires around the body of the cart.

Ornament the prow of the boat 011 each side with a large silver Star or a circle of small stars.

Line the inside with white.

It might be possible if more convenient to form the boat around a child's hath tub placed in the body of the cart.

OTHER PROPERTIES – ACCESSORIES

A trumpet or bugle.

Two paddles about four feet in length.

Four batons or wands, about 22 inches long, wound with crepe paper, one each of blue, yellow, green and red, with a fall of the cut crepe paper streamers approximately one-third the length of the wand cascading from the top.

Five 18-inch lengths of baby ribbon, one each of blue yellow, white, green and red for Star Points to tie on baby's arm in the ceremony.

A gold ring for baby's finger if the ring feature is used in the ceremony. (This is optional but is a pretty gesture.)
CHARACTERS:

EASTERN STAR MOTHER AND CHILD.

WORTHY MATRON, CHAPLAIN, STAR POINTS, and ONE EXTRA PERSON to even the south line.

A TRUMPETER (outside), Two SMALL BOYS in middy suits and caps who act as convoy to the boat, carrying the paddles over outside shoulder and drawing the Float.

FIVE SMALL CMRLS dressed in Star Point Colors. Four of these carry the wands as described above, each of the color corresponding to that of her dress.

The third or center girl in white carries no wand but drives by means of the long ribbon reins, the ends of which are attached to the outside arms of the two sailor boys in front. She wears a band of silver around her head across her forehead, Roman fashion.

These comprise the "Baby Mascot's" escort, the four in colors walking at the side, not too close to the float.

The girl in white who drives forms the apex of the figure and should not walk too closely in the rear.

Before the beginning of the event station some person at a convenient point to notify the bugler (outside) of the proper moment to pipe the heralding notes which precede the entrance of the cortege. This will be when the Worthy Matron finishes with the words "It is well."

PRELIMINARY:

Organist in station plays a march and the Marshal enters followed in the following order by the Worthy Patron, Worthy Matron and Chaplain.

Advance down North aisle and across East. Each officer stops at her station, the Marshal last.

The Worthy Matron seats the others but remains standing to deliver her address.

ADDRESS OF WORTHY MATRON:

SISTERS AND BROTHERS:-

I am especially glad to address you upon this most interesting occasion.

In the present day every organization of note adds to its ensemble for "luck" a "Mascot."

Up to the present time our chapter has neglected this provision and yet has more or less miraculously escaped dire disaster.

It is not deemed prudent, however, to further tempt the fates by omitting this very important adjunct.

The word "mascot" is derived from the French word "masco," meaning witchery, and implies powers which in the present instance are to be invoked for the protection of our chapter.

It is recorded that when through the prophet Isaiah God foretold the coming of Christ and through him the establishment of "Peace On Earth" symbolized by amiable relations between the leopard and the lamb, two definitely antagonistic forces in nature, he also made the declaration that "A little child shall lead them."

Tonight we are offered an opportunity to repair our oversight in a most delightful manner.
Sister ........... is offering to present in our chapter for dedication to the principles of The Order of The Eastern Star, and to the protection and love of our chapter, an infant son (or daughter), (name of infant).

In reciprocation surely we may count upon this infant personality to act as a "mascot" for us. If "mascot" means witchery, what could be more bewitching than this tiny bit of humanity!

Sister Marshal, You will escort Sister ......................... to The East.

(The mother is escorted to face the Worthy Matron who addresses her. Chapter summoned to rise.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Sister ................... this is a momentous occasion for your chapter and we trust a happy one for you when (name chapter) is permitted to receive your infant (son or daughter) into the Eastern Star fold.

With privileges, we know, must be assumed responsibilities, and to enter into this solemn covenant pledges must be given and received.

Does this dedication of your infant (son or daughter) as heretofore set forth meet with your full approval? And do you pledge yourself to train this young life in the paths of rectitude and according to the principles of The Eastern Star?

(Mother responds "I do," and is turned to face the chapter.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Sisters and Brothers, you have heard the proposition stated and have listened to the obligation taken by the mother of this child, (name of child).

Are you willing to accept this trust, to watch over the welfare and protect from evil insofar as opportunity is afforded of this Eastern Star Baby, to the best of your ability?

(Chapter response: "We do." Seat Chapter.)

WORTHY MATRON:

It is well.

(A trumpet call is heard in the distance, coming nearer.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Hark! — I think that trumpet call heralds the approach of our "mascot" and her (or his) train. Swing wide the gate that they may enter.

As the doors open, the Star Points and one extra person to equalize the lines enter in the following order: —
Advancing to The East they form a semi-circle with the Star mother in the center, facing west. The extra person has no function other than to even the line and simply enters with the rest, stand; during the ceremony and retires with the line at the finish.

The completion of the semi-circle formation is the signal for the soloist to sing "The Slumber Boat," the music continuing until all are placed in The East.

**THE SLUMBER BOAT**

Baby's boat's the silver moon  
Sailing in the sky.  
Sailing o'er the sea of time  
As the clouds go by.

Sail, Baby, Sail!  
Out upon that sea,  
Only don't forget to sail  
Back again to me.

(Repeat chorus until all have arrived and taken their places in The East.)

Through north or south door according to convenience and arrangement of hall enters the "mascot" sitting or reclining in the bed of the float, accompanied by the escort and convoyed by the two sailor boys as outlined.

Moving slowly and with stateliness befitting royalty they advance down the hall to The East, move to center in front of the mother and stop.

The mother takes the baby in her arms and holds her (him) during ceremony.

The Star Points deliver their lyrics tying the ribbon, each of her color, on the baby's arm while doing so.

**STAR POINT LYRICS**

**ADAH:**

Dear little Mascot, with your eyes so true  
Life's Fidelity ever be given and received by you.

**RUTH:**

Dear little Mascot, fervently I pray  
That Constancy illumine your path  
From our Yellow ray.
ESTHER:

Dear little Mascot, in all worldly strife
May the ray of "Purity" follow you through life!

MARTHA:

Green is the symbol of life in its spring —
To you, little Mascot, rich joys may it bring!

ELECTA:

Mother-love, deep and warm, speaks through the red,
Hovering ever so close o'er your bed;
Dear little Mascot, fate bring you no harm,
Sheltered by mother-love, tender and warm.

The Worthy Matron and Chaplain from their respective stations now pass
around to positions in front of the others.

The Worthy Matron gives her lyrics, at the same time placing the ring (if
used.) on the baby's finger after which the Chaplain advances to usual
position west of altar and offers prayer. (Summon chapter to rise.)

WORTHY MATRON:

Darling little Mascot, heaven's choicest gift,
Sailing in your tiny barque on life's sea adrift,
May the tender mercy that shields the lamblet shorn
Guide you through the breakers
And save you in the storm.

For your safe arrival fervent prayers shall rise,
Ours the arm to help you, counsel and advise:
That your aims be lofty, clear like crystal spar,
Tinted by the radiance of the Eastern Star.

And if you by your magic, tender little sprite —
Can invoke the fairies with their mystic rite.
Don't forget to ask them, to wave their magic wand
And bring to ....................... Chapter
a message from beyond.

(Placing ring on baby's finger)

And with this circlet golden
Our pledges to renew,
Darling little "Mascot"
We plight our troth with you.

The Chaplain now advances to usual position west of altar and offers
prayer. (Summon chapter to rise.)
PRAYER

Dear Father, thou who knowest
   All thy children, do
Grant that this our mission
   Favor find with you.

Help us keep our pledges
   To this baby dear—
   Safely through the breakers, Lord.
   This frail barquelet steer.

In the name we ask it
   Of thine only son
Who came to earth a tiny babe
   Like this little one. — AMEN.

The baby is again placed in the "slumber boat" and the cortege retires
through aisle opposite the one used in entering.

The officers follow in single file.

Music accompanies all movements and the following suggestion for the
retiring is appropriately carried out by the entire assemblage singing, and
continuing (repeating) the following lyric, supplied to the familiar tune,
"Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Copies may be typed and distributed prior to
the opening.

RETIRING SONG

(Tune: "Let Me Call You Sweetheart")
Welcome little Mascot, we're in love with you,
   May your joys be many and your troubles few;
   Wave your magic wands and bring us fortune true,
   And we'll be as loyal in our love to you.

(Type copies of retiring couplet and pass among audience so all may join
in singing. Sing and repeat until all have left the room.)