

*Revised*

#17B  
Feder 20

O. E. S. GRAND  
CHAPTER LIBRARY

4-A-25.

THE GAY NINETY DREAM.

This slightly humorous ceremony honors the Past Matrons and Past Patrons of the Chapter, and is easily put on. It is much more effective if those taking part can be dressed in the fashion of the gay nineties, but not absolutely necessary.

A manikin is required, and may be any size, from a department store manikin to a doll... according to what is available... but, of course, the larger the better. Also needed, and may be made if not available, is old-fashioned underwear, a moth-eaten wig, a fan with crooked and separated slats, a shawl or feather boa, (a home-made one could accent the ridiculous), a bonnet with feather plume, if possible, a lace-edged handkerchief, and lace gloves, or mitts without fingers. Members will have other excellent ideas which may be worked in. The finished doll or figurine should be a reasonable facsimile of a well-dressed lady of the gay nineties.

After a short recess, preceding the Good of the Order, the Chapter is called to order, then declared at ease.

Worthy Matron: Tonight we wish to honor our Past Matrons and Past Patrons. These Members who have given us a past of such excellent worth that each succeeding Matron and Patron can build and work with confidence. Our present success and future promise are directly responsible to the labors of these Past Officers, Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will present these honored Guests for greeting.

They are escorted back of Esther's chair, where each is presented with a tiny old-fashioned nosegay of flowers, and Worthy Matron continues,

Worthy Matron: It makes me very happy to have you with us. Your untiring efforts are a staff for every serving Matron to lean upon. Meet with us as often as you can, for you add to our joy by being with us. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will escort these honored Guests to the East.

They are escorted East, where seats have been prepared for them.

A rap is heard at the door, and Worthy Matron instructs the Warder to attend.

Warder: Worthy Matron, we have visitors who desire to honor our Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

Worthy Matron: We are most happy to admit any who come with such an agreeable purpose.

A small group of Sisters and Brothers enter. (According to size of Chapter. In larger Chapter, there may be one Member for each article of clothing.) A Brother carries the manikin, while some Sisters try frantically to keep her covered with an old lace curtain... which later is used to curtain a dressing room. One Sister begins breathlessly,

Sister: Worthy Matron, we ask that we may use the Chapter room to clothe this lady who will honor these dear Guests.

Worthy Matron nods assent, and Sister continues...

Sister: Of course, some things must be put on in private, because, my dear, in our day it was not delicate to mention...er...a... underwear... Oh, my goodness!" she hides her face, blushing.



The confusion continues hurriedly and awkwardly behind the curtain,- and at one time the curtain accidentally drops, revealing ancient corset and pantalettes. Then curtain is held in place, while a befrilled petticoat is put on. Finally the manikin is brought out, ready for the final gowning. The moth-eaten wig is curled and fastened with an ornate pin.

A Brother: She looks a little pale, don't you think?  
2nd Sister, (piously), In our day, I'll have you know, nobody who was anybody used rouge, (lowering her voice), except those who were a little... fast. (Then, looking thoughtful), but, when you consider how much was done by these Past Matrons and Past Patrons, they must have been a little fast, too, don't you think? Perhaps we can permit a little rouge. (This is done.)

A Brother steps forward with high buttoned shoes, and speaks as he puts them on manikin.

Brother: What fine shoes. There is a button for almost every year of service by these Past Officers.

A Sister rushes forward, bringing a gown of old-fashioned splendor.

Sister: Let us make haste. It is not proper to have this lady not properly gowned. We must remember that our Past Matrons and Past Patrons did all things in a very proper way. That is why we have such a fine tradition in our Order of correct procedure.

Brother: Let me add the shawl. It will protect her from the cold.

Sister: That is quite appropriate. Our Brothers have always been our protectors, and our Past Patrons have a wonderful record in that.

Brother:... And her bonnet... (He begins to put it on, and a Sister rushes forward to stop him.)

Sister: No, no. It is not permissible to wear a hat in our Chapter room. Let it be set aside. We must be correct, that our Pasts will have no reason to deny us.

A Sister puts long gloves on manikin, as she says.

Sister: Another little bit of glamor, to remind us of our glamorous past.

A Sister places a fan in hand of manikin, as she says,

Sister: A fan is so convenient to hide one's confusion in an embarrassing moment. Such moments are always with us. (Several Sisters speak at once)...

"Do you remember the time....?" "Do you remember the Matron, who...?" "I can still see the Patron in 1940, when..." (A Brother raises his hand sternly).

Brother: Hush, I say. Tonight we will only remember the good things, and the fan will be only for show and beauty.

A Sister tucks a faded bouquet of artificial flowers into the belt of manikin, saying,... The ladies were really and finally finished, when they had some flowers tucked into their belt. Each year of past service has been complete,- and a fine gift to our Chapter history. And, thinking of gifts, we have a small remembrance for our Guests tonight.

The presentation may be made by any Member. It is most appropriate if it could be a small snapshot (framed) of the first Chapter room, or of the first Officers.