

MYSTIC KREWE OF AQUARIUS

Parade February 14, 1998

Valentine's Day Celebration of "The Roaring Twenties"



1998 King Ron Dyda & Queen Betty Jo Dyda



Marc & Rita Hopkins



Willie & Becky Johns & Joan Brown



Valerie Mancuso & Gary & Sheila Kesling

Boasting one of the largest and most colorful Parades of Galveston's 12-Day Mardi Gras celebration, the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius will kick-off the Island city carnival season with a spectacular eighty unit parade on Saturday, February 14, with a Valentine's Day celebration of "The Roaring Twenties" at 12 noon along Seawall Blvd. from 14th to 59th streets. This will be their 11th annual parade.

The Krewe's Inaugural Parade was in 1987 when Galveston's Mardi Gras was extended to two weekends. This new and enthusiastic Krewe presented the first and opening daytime parade. The tradition continues today.

In celebration of the Roaring Twenties theme, the 1998 parade will feature ten Krewe floats. The themes will be: "The Hollywood Dinner Club," "Gambling on the Gulf," "White Lightnin'," "Birth of the Blues," "The Crystal Palace," and "Bugsy's Crew." Two new multi-level floats will be unveiled this year, and there will be more pageantry and theatrics than ever before.

190 costumed Krewe members, including the splendid Royal Court, will be featured in the pageantry. Reigning over the 1998 festivities will be their majesties King, Ron Dyda, and Queen, Betty Jo Dyda.

The parade will showcase some 30 marching units with high school bands from Waltrip, Booker T. Washington, Milby, Scarborough, Jack Yates, Reagan, Kashmere, Jeff Davis, Austin, Forest Brook, Sam Houston, M.B. Smiley and Furr. Also, marching from Houston will be the Bayou City Drum and Bugle Corps. and Houston City-Wide Drum Corp. and Drill Team. Galveston's new GT Marching Band and Drill Team will be making their Mardi Gras debut. The Ball High Tornettes, Central Dancing Dolls, and Weis Owlettes will also participate.

The Starlite Dancers, Scroggins Toe-Tappers, and Katy Kids from Houston will dance their way along the parade route with the "Southern Belles" of San Antonio. The Milby High School 150-member Cadet Corp. and Color Guard will lead the parade.

Mardi Gras revelers will be showered by thousands of Aquarius collectibles like monogrammed cups, doubloons and special heart beads in celebration of Valentine's Day.

On Tuesday, February 24, in the final hours of the 1998 Mardi Gras, Aquarius will parade their annual Tuesday procession "We End What We Began" downtown and the Strand district. There will be marching groups and hundreds of costumed revelers.