

MRS. HADEN'S POEM ON PYTHIANS' IDEAL "OVOCA"



Mrs. Kathrin P. Haden, the well known literary and club woman of this city, has written the following exquisite lines, inspired by the beautiful Cascade Falls of "Ovoca"—the Pythian Home, near Tullahoma, Tenn.

The poem has attracted much attention since its publication in post-card form, the rhythmic lines being beautifully inscribed on a picture of the falls, and the Pythians of Tennessee are especially proud of it.

This proposed "Ovoca" is entirely an impersonal undertaking, one in which it is the ambition of those who have it nearest at heart, that it shall become a purely Pythian movement, and indeed ideally "conceived without craft." But, as all such undertakings must, perforce, have a beginning—a commencement—a suggestion—a conception—the simple truth requires and demands that this suggested "Ovoca" originated with W. D. Fox, grand recorder of records and seal of Tennessee.

This movement was born of a recognized need of "something worth while" being done by the order in Tennessee. It was thought to find some basis upon which every phase of the order could meet and co-operate, and from which the principles of the order might be disseminated thoroughly, practically, and efficiently throughout the grand domain. Naturally, the widows' and orphans' home idea, the fostering of which is now so popular throughout the order, furnished the

"OVOCA"

Through ages of primeval beauty

Thy song through the woodland hath rung,

O silver-bright stream of Ovoca,

As now from thy cataract flung.

In the dulcet flow of thy music,
In the foaming dash of thy spray,

A new strain is heard, and its rhythm

Proclaims, in its dawn, a new day—

An era of promise and guerdon,
The dauntless shall win, and the true

Far, far in the dim future blending

Thy sweetest old song with the new.

—KATHRIN P. HADEN.

basis of thought, as perhaps no other means could.

The plans of "Ovoca" contemplate a return to the farm, to the village, to manual labor—to everything that conduces to simple and honest life. It is

truly said that a Pythian home should be a place where every Pythian should feel at home, and in which he should feel a personal interest. "It should be not only an abiding place for a family, but a place where that family can surround itself with the fruits of every art that contributes to higher conceptions, better living, and wider thought."

The location of "Ovoca" is in the central part of Tennessee, some four miles from Tullahoma, the home city of Mr. Fox, having a population of about four thousand inhabitants. It consists of four hundred acres of land, which has been given outright to the order, and is in the highlands, "where the nights are cool, the days pleasant, and the air and water unsurpassed."

The property has been sought by Protestant and Catholic for the location of educational and religious institutions, and it is indeed a favorable omen that the location has passed to the Knights of Pythias, an organization that knows no church distinctions.

At the inception of the movement, only individual members of the order in Tennessee interested themselves in the undertaking, and from them the plans proposed found favor among the lodges. The grand lodge had nothing whatever to do with the undertaking, but it so grew in favor that this body, at its recent convention, endorsed the project almost unanimously, and voted to hold its next annual convention at "Ovoca."