



Here And There

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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF LIGHT

WHILE A CELEBRATION WAS IN PROGRESS AT ATLANTIC CITY COMMEMORATING HIS INVENTION, MR. EDISON ENJOYED THE HOSPITALITY OF THE UNITY FAIR TEA GARDEN AT ESTERO

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF LIGHT is the attractive name of a celebration being held at Atlantic City, New Jersey (to continue throughout the summer), commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the invention, perfection, and use of the Edison electric light bulb. This invention has made possible a veritable wheel of light around the earth, so that the celebration is continuous and widespread. Through the celebration of the invention being localized at Atlantic City, the value of its usefulness is emphasized. Also thus localized, the focalization of people's minds on the inventor should prove a reservoir of power and health for him.

New Jersey is the summer home of Mr. Edison, but he did not attend the opening of this Jubilee in commemoration of his invention. The celebration at Atlantic City began the first day of June, and while June is the first summer month, Mr. Edison was still in the South, where he plans to attend on June 15 Florida's Golden Jubilee of Light,—the celebration of one thousand days of sunshine in Fort Myers, Florida, his winter home.

Atlantic City is also celebrating the diamond anniversary of its charter, and this most famous seaside resort has a Shore Jubilee continuous throughout the summer. Furthermore, a great auditorium was opened June 1 with an inaugural ball and an exposition and convention of the National Electric Light Association.

At one time Atlantic City, on Absecon Island, was a primitive little settlement of a few people who kept cows and chickens and who had to ferry to the mainland to get supplies. Many of the principal streets of today were then under water at high tide, and people living there either kept boats to pole from place to place or were marooned. The government first built jetties to protect the lighthouse, and this resulted in building more land by such means. Now the city of sixty thousand population is secure from encroaching tides.

While many years have intervened between Atlantic City's period of crude illumination and this later blaze of electrical splendor, it is still within the memory of old inhabitants when the first hotels and homes were lighted by candles and lamps. What a contrast this summer of special illumination will present, with garlands, arches and fountains aglow with rainbows of light!

At Atlantic City on the night of June 1 a colorful

drill under a canopy of light took place, and Creatore's band played the Coronation March at the opening of the auditorium, the Shore Jubilee, the Golden Jubilee of Light, and the National Electric Light Association's convention; but the man whose genius was thus being honored was not present, for Mr. Edison with his wife and friends dined simply by candle-light in a rustic tea garden on the Tamiami Trail at Estero, Florida.

This scene, however, was not without grandeur, exceeding even that created with electric light at Atlantic City, for a tropical rain and electrical storm was raging. The Edison party came out of the Everglades to the south in the pouring rain and took shelter in the unique palm-leaf thatched tea garden at Estero.

This building is octagonal in shape with the center open to the sky. Some banana and other plants occupy the center of the garden, and also a mirror ball. This ball told the story of the night by reflecting the lightning that was unusually brilliant and incessant, as though it played especially for the occasion of the electrical wizard's jubilee. The party, in every comfort and security, enjoyed a home-cooked repast in seclusion, except for the kindly attention of the three hostesses of the rustic tea garden.

This partial out-of-door tea garden is on the grounds of the Koreshan Unity, which is a communistic and co-operative community, whose members feel as comfortable and secure, in the knowledge that they live on the inside of the earth, as did the distinguished guests of the tea garden, who were safe and content within the garden house on the opening night of the Golden Jubilee of Light.

After refreshments Mr. Edison sat in a rocker, with dry slippers on and enveloped in a blue blanket in place of a wet coat. Perhaps he thought of the brilliant jubilee at Atlantic City as the lightning danced about him. He smiled when he plainly heard the thunder roll as he sat there meditating. He might have been thinking of the Koreshan explanation of the universe, for the colored chart of the inhabited earth hangs conspicuously on the wall.

With this conception of the Universe true communism readily accords, as it is plain that in the universe all the warring elements are controlled by the larger force that harmoniously relates all things, from a central sun to a crust or rind that takes its place according to gravity. The social condition, men can soon learn from this compact sphere which includes everything, can be unified as successfully through centralization and stratification as the cellular earth.

To further commemorate the incandescent light invention and the inventor, the government has issued an Edison stamp. Next October special ceremonies with Edison, the President, and others will become part of the Golden Jubilee of Light.