

PRETORIA GOES FLORAL FOR ANNUAL FETE

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The South African administrative capital became one huge garden of flowers. 40,000 Jacaranda trees in full bloom clothed the city in rich mauve raiment and Pretoria celebrated Jacaranda week. Taking the crown from ~~the~~ ^{last} reigning beauty ~~of last year~~ ^{year} the Mayor placed it ^{on} upon the lovely head of Elbie Van Zyl, Jacaranda queen of 1947. Fleur Harley, her rule over, ~~was~~ smiled encouragingly as the new ~~queen~~ queen acknowledged the honour.

In the procession of floats through the city afterwards the Jacaranda queen was cheered. The festival marks the beginning of the South African summer. Looking at all this ~~it~~ almost makes us forget that it's winter over here.

The African sun ~~set~~ ^{went down on} Pretoria clad in blossom, and in festive mood.