

FESTIVAL IN COVENTRY

THAT LADY RIDES AGAIN

Climax to Coventry's Festival Week, Lady Godiva, in the form of Miss Ann Wrigg, rides once again through the streets in the Godiva Pageant and there's a great rush to see the white horse.

There's a big welcome for the Mayor, Councillor Harry Weston, and here's Miss Coventry, 1951 - Beryl Davies. For a whole week Coventry has shown to the world something of what she has done and is doing. Today, with her city crest come to life, she tells in pageant the story of the city.

Foremost is the spirit of Coventry that triumphed through disaster in 1066; the spirit that would sacrifice all for the good of others in greater need ... even as Godiva did for her people nine-hundred-years ago. There are some who say the famous ride is just a pretty story, but there are none who question the good name of the Lady Coventry honours as its founder.

In the two-and-a-half miles long procession are 1,600 men, 450 women.

Women have played a great part in Coventry's history from the days when they drove back the Danes. And here's a reminder of the Freeman and their struggle for the franchise - the right to vote.

Long years ago a Princess Elizabeth visited the city. Daughter of King James I, she was an ancestor of our present King.

Today the Toms peep openly as Godiva rides. But if this was his keyhole, Tom didn't do so badly.

Jesiah Beek got into trouble for employing women. They punished him by making him ride backwards, so he can't see Godiva.

In the industrial section there is a more exciting if less romantic story to tell. Centuries ago Coventry became a great clothmaking centre. Later, cotton from America brought more industry to the city.

Today the great motor industry is Coventry's pride but her great engineering range plays an equally vital part in the nation's life. This is - or was - Monty's car. Fifty years and more they've built cars in Coventry.

Did you ever wonder how they get on these things? Now you know!

And here's how Daisy looked after she'd said "Yes!" In the early days they had some weird ideas but they all led to the very fine cycles of today. Now what's the excitement?

Well done, Coventry! It was a grand show, even if some didn't see much of it!