

Miami celebrates the "Orange Festival" - an American version of our "Cup-tie fever". The traditional prelude to an Orange Bowl Stadium football classic, the parade includes fifty floats and sun-tanned Florida beauties. ^{Why} It's enough to make the fans miss the kick-off.

Another sporting curtain-raiser in California, with Beauty Queen "Miss Universe" riding the Long Beach Float in the Pasadena "Tournament of Roses". Despite ~~heavy~~ heavy rain, a million and a half watched America's most beautiful floral pageant.

But the best sport of all was found in Philadelphia, where the ^{annual} ~~traditional~~ Mummers' Parade greeted the New Year with fun and frolic.

To the music of twenty-one string-bands, ten thousand performers, men, ^{well} and women, and - ~~and~~ - both - made their merry way through four miles of streets.

The wonderful costume presentations, by the thirty Mummers' Clubs, shared over £18,000 in prize-money - Philadelphia's happy augury for a Prosperous New Year.