

Presenting His Majesty . . .

No one could be more excited about Cotton Carnival's new look than King Owen Tabor.

"I think this is not the end of the old Carnival spirit, but instead, allows everyone to have a better time and lets Carnival continue to be meaningful and fun."

For the first time in Cotton Carnival history, the King is a practicing orthopedic surgeon and therefore not directly associated with the cotton industry.

Although not a native son, he is heir by adoption to the benefits of the cotton industry and to the civic and cultural advantages which cotton historically brings to Memphis and the Mid-South.

The new King feels Cotton Carnival not only spotlights King Cotton, but also draws attention to the other resources the city has to offer.

"Our educational system, our parks and our people are all to be celebrated," he said. "Memphis is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Cotton Carnival is a way to celebrate the people here."

King Owen was born in Philadelphia 43 years ago, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dillard Tabor of Tifton, Georgia. He is a grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Edmund Tabor of Toccoa, Georgia, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hardy Britt of Tifton.

The 1981 King is married to the former Margaret Walker Wellford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander White Wellford of Memphis. The Tabors have four children, Margaret Kyle Tabor, Mary Britt Wellford Tabor, Owen Britt Tabor, Jr., and Alexander Wellford Tabor.

The King's love affair with the Cotton Carnival began in 1966 when he participated in his first carnival; his growing appreciation for Memphis and the Mid-South



King Owen has a hug for the "Forgotten Woman," wife Margaret.



A musical family, the Tabors often gather around the piano. Left to right: Kyle, Wellford, King Owen, Mary, Margaret, and Owen, Jr.

has developed from the time the Tabors moved to the city when King Owen began an orthopaedic residency at the Campbell Clinic.

Quickly recognizing that Memphis is "a place of good abode," the King determined that he and his family would be Memphians.

His affiliation with the Cotton Carnival began as committeeman of Osiris. He was King of Osiris in 1979 and Master of Ceremonies of the 1980 Crown and Sceptre Coronation Ball. His wife was Princess to the Memphis Country Club in 1957 and Queen of Osiris in 1958. His son, Owen Jr., served as Page to King Hallam Boyd Jr. in 1977; his son, Wellford, was crowned King of Chi Omega in 1977 and served as Page to King Goodloe Early in 1978. His daughter, Kyle, is Lady in Waiting to the Little Garden Club of Memphis. His nephew, Alexander Wellford III, is Page to the King.

King Owen graduated from The William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia in 1955, and received a bachelor of arts degree from Wesleyan University in 1959. He received his medical degree from Duke University Medical School in 1963. He was discharged from the Navy in 1967, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander and from 1967 to 1970 was a fellow at The Campbell Clinic. He has been in private practice since 1971.

Active in many civic organizations, the King is also a talented pianist. He is a member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church and an instructor at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences.