

Queen Will Wear \$100,000 Pearl

When "Miss Great Bend of 1954" is crowned as one of the high-lights of the Fall Opening here Friday night, upon her will be bestowed a thrill seldom experienced by any young woman anyplace.

The queen, to be selected from among 12 candidates, will wear a pearl reported to be valued at \$100,000. The pearl, in a heavy gold necklace, is the "Star of Celebes", a huge jewel almost the size of a hen's egg on loan from the Imperial Pearl syndicate, Chicago, to the Morrison Jewelry store here for the occasion. According to Joe Goldstone, president of the syndicate, the pearl is the largest ever found in the world and weighs 600 grains.

The gem arrived Thursday by air express and will be given a tight police security guard during its Fall Opening visit.

Crowning At 9 p.m.

Crowning of the queen will take place at the bandshell in the court house square at 9 p.m., with Mrs. Fred Aden, 2420 Forest, as chaperone for the contestants. Following that ceremony a square dance with cash prizes of \$50 will be held south of the bandshell on Lakin St.

It will be a busy and crowded day Friday as the Fall Opening officially begins at 9 a.m. that morning with registration by the public at participating business firms for a \$100 cash prize. The American Legion Drum and Bugle corps will be presented at 1:45 p.m. at the bandshell followed by an address by Dr. P. H. Stephens, director of the Farm Credit District of Wichita. A free movie will be given at the Crest theater for children at 2 p.m., same hour as Dr. Stephens' talk.

The day's program will also in-

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THE LARGEST PEARL in existence is examined here by Mrs. Laura Morrison at the Morrison Jewelry store Thursday morning shortly after its arrival from Chicago. The pearl is being loaned to the store by the Imperial Pearl Syndicate of Chicago for display in the Fall Opening promotion Friday night. The girl chosen as Miss Great Bend will wear the \$100,000 pearl as she receives her crown. (Tribune Photo)