

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY IN THE STATE

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9,000 PEOPLE ENJOY MINOT'S BIG PAGEANT OF PROGRESS

Conquest of Frontier Commemorated and Hopes of Future Visualized in Series of Beautifully Staged Episodes by 450 People

PIONEERS OF NORTHWEST SEE DAYS OF OLD RE-ENACTED

Crowds aggregating nine thousand people from Minot and many points in the Northwest attended Minot's wonderful Pageant, depicting the progress of the Prairie, staged in this city Friday and Saturday nights. Mere words cannot possibly describe the beauty of the scenes and those who failed to see it, will never have an opportunity to enjoy another just like it. In no other city, could this pageant have been staged in exactly the same manner, lacking the unusual setting for the natural stage. The hills in front of the stage teamed with thousands of people who had carried their blankets and cushions, with which to make themselves comfortable, while enjoying the scenes of the early days depicted. Even those who sat on the most distant point on the hill, could plainly hear the words of those who sang or spoke in the beautiful valley below. To those who have lived in Minot for years, they have come to realize for the first time the indescribable beauty of the coulees surrounding the city, and the possibilities for our city building a wonderful stadium for out-of-door entertainments.

The affair was given at this time, to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the settlement of the Mouse river valley. The Pageant was first conceived by James Milloy, secretary of the Association of Commerce, who suggested it at a meeting of the board of directors of the Association some weeks ago.

"I believe that I can make a success of this Pageant," declared Mr. Milloy, when seeking the sanction of the members of the board, who at first were inclined to consider the matter a little risky. That Mr. Milloy succeeded beyond all expectations is shown by the financial report. Alto an admission of only 60 cents for adults and 25 cents for children was charged, after paying all expenses, the Association of Commerce has more than a thousand dollars tucked away in its treasury, its share of the proceeds.

Mr. Milloy proved that he is a first class organizer. He worked like a Trojan and he is receiving congratulations on every hand for his unusual work. He gives the credit to Melvin Johnson, a Minot young man, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson. Melvin has been connected with the John B. Rogers Producing Co. of Fostoria, O., for several years, working in the bicycle of the vintage of four decades ago, headed the procession. Many of our boys had never before seen the old fashioned high wheel bike. The Boy Scouts followed and then came the Harvey band. This is a 26-piece organization and they furnished some great music under the direction of Alderman J. O. Smith. A score of automobiles from Harvey were in the procession, all bearing cards: "Harvey, the cob of the corn belt and Home of the Tuber". The Harvey band played an enjoyable concert from the Leland hotel Friday night after the Pageant.

A band of Indians from the Elbowoods reservation came next, dressed in native costume. A faithful old horse drew a typical Indian pole sled, which carried a charming copper colored maiden. The old timers were represented by Clarence Parker, one of the "discoverers" of Minot, and others, wearing cow boy suits, chaps, and all, as they did in the days when this part of the state was young. Then followed the Hell Creek cow boys, who rode their horses 450 miles all the way from Montana to take part in the Pageant. John Bober, owns the only yoke of oxen in this section of the state, tho in the early days oxen were more common than horses. John brot one of his oxen all the way from Douglas and drove it hitched to a cart in the parade. The prairie schooner, an old affair, held together with wire, rattled along the streets just as it journeyed along the trails of olden days. Old buses, drawn by horses,

carrying Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson and other old timers followed. The Woman's Relief Corps was represented with two beautiful floats, one carrying the remnants of the G. A. R. and the other depicting child welfare work. These floats were built with much work and considerable expense. Mrs. W. H. Parker, one of Minot's earliest settlers was seen in the parade. The writer notice Judge Murray and J. H. Charlebois, but a great many of the old guard were missing. The hustling little city of Glendburn did its full share to make this affair a complete success. Glendburn had an unusually pretty float in the parade, advertising to Minot the Meti-goshe trail. To see the Glendburn band marching spryly along and playing soul stirring marches, one would hardly have realized that the day before that organization played at the Cornduff fair over in Canada. The band is a great credit to Glendburn. Its director is Hugo Toll, for nineteen years first cornetist with the Chicago Symphony orchestra. Mr. Toll grew weary of the big cities some years ago and came to the northwest. He liked the people and settled down in Glendburn. That city is fortunate. If their citizens ever hear of Toll's leaving, they threaten to put him in ball and chains. The Glendburn band is made up of: Hugo Toll, director, cornet; Bert Hartman, John Carroll, Gus Schaefer and Leland Forgeson, cornets; Hugo Prevey, alto; Joe Miller, baritone; Earl Beam and Roy Hartman, trombones; C. V. Ferguson, saxophone; Cecil Gilbertson, clarinet; John Hoellinger, baritone saxophone; Arch Dayton, tuba; Clarence Rhodes and Clair Tompkins, drums.

Members of the Minot lodge, B. R. C. A. formed quite a large section of the parade. John Strommen, pioneer member of the Minot volunteer fire department drove the old hose wagon purchased in 1894. The hose truck purchased by the city in 1913 was tuned up and puffed along the way. The first hose cart owned by the city in 1888 was in the procession together with the splendid engines purchased in 1921.

Case engines and threshing machines, Allis Chalmers tractors, Wallis tractors, and various makes of automobiles formed quite a section. The Kiwanis and Rotary clubs were represented with appropriate floats. The Methodist church displayed a very unique float, showing the many activities of the modern seven-days-a-week church, distributing thousands of circulars, inviting folks to come to church. The Glendburn band played an enjoyable concert at the Leland hotel balcony just before the opening of the Pageant Friday evening, and at the opening of the Pageant, the Minot Community band, under the direction of Dr. Anderson, played a fine concert.

Just before the opening of the entertainment, the Montana cowboys gave a thrilling exhibition of riding their horses up the steepest hills, back of the natural amphitheatre. G. R. Pavey, of Ray, one of the state's very best soloists, sang "Out Where the West Begins", Friday night. This proved one of the most enjoyable features of the entertainment.

The Prophecy of Father Time, which part was taken by Atty. V. E. Stenersen, was especially well handled. Mr. Stenersen possesses an unusually strong voice, his enunciation is clear and as an orator, he has no peer in our city. The dancing of the old Virginia Reel added much to the performance. The following dancers, clad in costumes of several decades ago danced to the tune of old fashioned fiddle music: Messrs. and Mesdames Fay Perry, W. J. Kieley, J. E. Devereaux, C. A. Johnson, J. A. Charbonneau, A. J. Trankle, Dr. and Mrs. Housholder, Mrs. J. H. Greenhalgh and C. B. Mills.

George A. Benson, representing the Grand Forks Herald, was in the city and wrote such a wonderful description of the Pageant, that the Independent is taking the liberty to print it in complete form as follows: "The historical pageant, commemorative of the work of the first settlers who passed over these trails forty years ago and tamed the wild prairies of the northwest, was repeated tonight before an audience much larger than last night's. Before 7 o'clock hundreds of visitors from every section of this beauty corner of Dakota trudged up the high hill and into the bowl which nature had carved upon its

west side, where they saw re-enacted some of the scenes of a day long ago. "In the audience were many who had come into this territory behind an ox team and who had struggled against the terrible forces of plain and hill, forces which they saw visualized in dance and in word. Today they are old men, their work done, but a part of the life and the success of this city and its territory. They wrote the history of the Mouse River Valley, and it is a golden page in the life-story of the northwest."

Nature's Theatre "Those who were not here cannot realize the beauty of the scene. The amphitheatre was made by nature for just such a purpose. Human hands fashioned the stage out of the earth at the foot of two hills which came together at their base in a small valley. From the top of the rear wall of the stage rises a hill almost a hundred feet, and upon its top grow a group of beautiful trees and some clusters. Near its brow is an old buffalo wallow, made years ago, but still there, a bit of hard-packed, burned earth, for the spade never has gone in on this hill and no man has ever cultivated it. So there was the wallow, edged by a huge rock and made by animals whose ilk has all but vanished, to give a bit of historic color to this performance.

Over this hill came the Indians yesterday, and over the hill tonight came the modern Indians to depict the old raids, the old dangers which faced the pioneers. It was a picturesque sight when the camp fires flared red upon the brow of the hill and the Indians poured down its side upon the make-believe camp of the white men. And it was an inspiring sight when a little later Lewis and Clark, sent into the unknown by a president of faith and vision, came over the same hill to fly the Stars and Stripes for the first time over what is now North Dakota.

Nature did wonders for this pageant, and the Minot folk an amphitheater and its appointments and then, as though offering a benison at the end of a noble task, she filled the sky with color as the opening picture of the performance. I stood upon the brow of the hill, above the thousands who sat in a gently sloping bowl beneath me, and watched the sun dipping behind a far-away hill. It went down, a huge, swollen ball of red, falling as it were in some great container and splashing many colors all across the western sky. These colors hung over the amphitheater for a while and then disappeared, and the stars came out. It was an inspiration, that brief glimpse of nature before the work of men's hands and minds was unfolded beneath us. And it was an inspiration to see that crowd upon the side of a hill paying tribute to the men and women who first came this way.

The Pageant Story Came then the performance itself: The interpretation of the story of the pioneers. It was an excellent visualization, and it had much of beauty, of poetry and of life about it. Its symbolic scenes were inspiring, and its episodes depicting the struggles of the first settlers were dramatic. The story had sequence and cumulative interest; it began modestly and developed smoothly into the scenes depicting the building of Minot and America, the melting pot of the nations.

A Beautiful Climax The finale was one of the most beautiful I have seen in pageant or play. First came a group of Boy Scouts, carrying the flags of the Allied nations. They did a drill, and then stood at attention back stage, while French girls, sailor girls, Belgians, Dutch, Chinese and Italian came in groups and danced the dances of their respective countries. Then while they stood in uniform and picturesque groups, came the flag girls, each dressed in costumes of the Stars and Stripes, and interpreted a dance and drill, which symbolized America at the protector of all the unhappy folk of foreign countries. Here was a picture worth while, a picture of beauty and of hope which gave the spectators the inspiration that comes only from a great work of poetry, a noble picture of one of nature's austere sunsets. To George Miles, representative of the John H. Rogers Producing company of Fostoria, O., goes the credit for this episode, for it was he who trained and directed the many young women who took part.

Frontier Life Picture The episode dramatizing the building of Minot was also good. While Percy Hancock of Minot sang "Out Where the West Begins", the tent city sprang up, almost unseen by the spectators, for they were so intent upon the singer. Not until the cowboys and the pioneers poured into the town did they realize the change the stage had undergone. It was a brief glimpse of life in the frontier town they gave, but it was picturesque, especially when the camp fires were kindled and the men and women gathered round and sang the quaint old songs which cheered them on in the early days.

In this episode came the parade and celebration in honor of the election of James H. Scofield as Minot's first mayor. W. M. Smart, the present mayor, was there too, and he

gave an excellent address, speaking first from a period thirty-five years ago, and then from the present period, showing the progress that Minot was to make and the progress she is to make in years to come. In the third episode, dramatizing the coming of the pioneers and their struggles, fine interpretations were given by Wm. F. Gettleman as the pioneer man, Ida M. Brevard as the pioneer woman, Isabel Aaberg as Fever, Alcinda MacDonald as Famine and Denver Perry as Death. This act was a realistic part of the dangers that lurked in field and forest and river, and of the hardships that faced the pioneers. It was a tribute, too, to the women who came here in those days and brought success to the men by their faith and prayers. Without them many a pioneer would have died or turned back, for the women gave them encouragement and hope and love, and that was all they needed to conquer.

Young Girls Are Delight Miss Jeanne Fuller, was a delightful will-o-the-wisp, the spirit of the prairie. Seldom have I seen a girl so young with such a fine combination of technical and interpretative ability. She is an excellent dancer, and she will go far in this work.

Miss Caroline Loomis, elected by popular vote, was a delight to the eye as "Miss Whynot Minot", and Miss Phoebe Tice made an excellent Miss Columbia. With their court of honor they sat at the foot of the hill in a reserved spot and watched the pageant. Miss Helen Burns made a fine Sakakawa.

It is impossible to catalogue the names of all those who contributed to the success of the pageant, for over 400 young people took part. Most of them are from Minot, but many of them came from Adams, Arnegard, Balfour, Barton, Benedict, Berthold, Bismarck, Bottineau, Bowbells, Carpio, Coleharbor, Denbigh, Des Lacs, Donnybrook, Douglas, Dogden, Foxholm, Grandville, Kenmare, Kief, Kramer, Lignite, Mohall, Makoti, Montana, New Rockford, Norma, Nowich, Orrin, Penn, Ray, Rolette, Rugby, Ryder, Stanley and others.

Johnson and Milloy Credit must be given though, to Melvin B. Johnson, who directed the performance, and James Milloy, secretary of the Association of Commerce, who had charge of all the arrangements. Mr. Johnson did an exceptionally fine bit of work as director, and Mr. Milloy worked long and hard to make it a success. They had the cooperation of all the people of Minot.

Pioneers Return from California Mr. and Mrs. Michael Muir of Santa Monica, Calif., arrived last week to visit at the home of their daughter, Mrs. A. B. Hills and to look after their 520 acre ranch near Burlington. The Muirs who were pioneer Ward county settlers moved west some years ago and have been living in California for four years. Mr. Muir says that living expenses are quite low in California. He rents a two room flat with kitchenette for \$22.50 a month, which includes the general laundry work. The gas bill for cooking amounts to a dollar a month. No water is required during the year. Mr. Muir enjoys fishing off the pier, and is quite successful in landing mackerel, halibut and the yellow tail fish. Two black bass or Jew fish, weighing 305 and 480 pounds respectively, were caught off the pier recently.

Mr. Muir came to Ward county in 1883 driving an ox team from Grand Forks. L. S. Foote came at the same time with an ox team. Mr. Muir had driven a team of horses from his old home, Monmouth, Ill. to Grand Forks and when he came to this county, the Great Northern had built as far as a point 20 miles east of Devils Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Muir will remain here until October. Mr. Muir is talking of selling his fine ranch, which contains some of the finest hay meadows in this section of the state.

Six Wide Awake Towns Co-operate to Advertise Communities Six wide awake little cities in northwestern North Dakota have joined their forces and are preparing to issue collectively 10,000 28-page booklets, advertising the resources of those towns and surrounding communities. S. N. Miller of Benedict, C. Colvin of Ruso, Art Steinhau of Max, A. C. Stringer of Kief, N. J. Krebsbach of Kongsburg and R. A. Pence of Dogden, visited Minot Saturday and held a meeting at which plans were perfected.

The Ward County Independent will print the booklets at an early date. Each town is to be given four pages in the booklet and each community will show two scenes. The cost for each community has been reduced to a minimum and it is believed that this co-operation will bring good results. This is a rather unique idea in co-operation and the outcome will be watched with interest.

The representatives from those towns inform The Independent that the crops are immense thruout their respective localities and they look for quite an influx of settlers either the coming fall or early in the spring.

N. D. Sons of Norway Elect Grand Forks—J. O. Engesather of Petersburg, N. D., was re-elected president of the Fourth district, Sons of Norway, at the closing session of the convention of that body here. C. Pederson, Fargo, was elected vice president; O. Vaskvick of Grand Forks, judge; John K. Sveen, Minot, secretary; J. E. Hagsteg, Hillsboro, treasurer and Gilbert Haugen, Bismarck, trustee. Devils Lake was selected for the 1923 convention.

SPECIAL RATE OF \$5 TO HARVEST HANDS FROM TWIN CITIES

As an incentive to secure labor for the harvesting and threshing of North Dakota's bumper crop, railways are offering a special rate of \$5 for fare to any point in North Dakota from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Superior effective August 1 to 15. Parties of five or more must apply in a group to obtain the special fare. The special rate was secured thru the activities of Governor R. A. Nestos, who called a conference of general passenger agents and traffic managers of the Northern Pacific, Great Northern, Soo and Milwaukee railways at St. Paul last week.

"An enormous amount of labor will be needed to handle the 1922 crop," declared Governor Nestos at the capitol today. "The Federal bureau of crop estimates places our prospect at July 1 at 94,000,000 bushels of wheat, 24,000,000 bushels of rye, 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes and also big crops of oats and barley. Preliminary surveys indicate that 25,000 laborers will have to be obtained from outside sources to handle this crop.

"The state department of agriculture and labor, in cooperation with the North Dakota extension division, has mapped out a campaign to bring the necessary number of qualified laborers into the state and distribute them where needed. The reduced rate offered by the railways, the first for harvest hands since 1909, and the lowest for many years, should be a big incentive for the young men of the farms in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin to come to North Dakota, see what the country produces and at the same time make a stake.

"We are carrying on an advertising campaign in newspapers in the district from which we are trying to draw laborers, and the state department of agriculture and labor will establish headquarters at 117 Marquette avenue, Minneapolis, where the men will be directed to the points where they are needed in this state. In this way we hope to attract laborers who will do an honest day's work at a reasonable wage. Even tho we have 'bumper crop' prospects, prices of farm products at the present time are so low that labor must be performed efficiently and economically if the farmers are to make a profit on what they produce."

J. W. Haw, county agent leader at the North Dakota agricultural college, will perfect organizations in each county, working principally with the county extension agents, to handle the demands for labor and send them to the state office in Minneapolis.

"Under our plan the county agricultural agent will act as a clearing house for the demands from the county," declared Mr. Haw. "Farmers will phone in to the county agent's office telling the number of men they need and making arrangements to advance the fares where necessary. The county agent will wire to the Minneapolis office where men will be assembled in groups of five to fill the requisite number and placed on board train with their tickets to the particular destination, where they will report to the county agent and be distributed.

"In the few counties which do not employ county agents, orders will be accepted and filled from bankers or other responsible persons, but there will be no special organization within these counties to handle the situation, and they will have to depend to a greater extent on the regular floating supply."

Thru the activities of the farmers, business men, bankers and county agent, a county-wide labor board has been formed for Cavalier county with a paid secretary to handle the labor situation, according to C. B. McMillan of Hannah, banker and farmer who attended the recent conference at St. Paul.

"We have an organization that will work like clockwork in gathering the requests for labor from each community, send in our order with the cash advance for fares to the state office in Minneapolis, meet the men when they arrive here, and get them out to the farms. We have already set our wage scale for the season, \$3 per day for shocking, and for threshing wages \$3.25 for field pitcher, \$3.50 for teamsters, \$3.75 for spike pitchers where two men are used to the rig, and \$4 where only one spike pitcher is used. We feel that these are good wages for the work involved, fair for the laborer who has no swivel chair job by any means, and fair to the farmer who has a good crop to market at a low price."

R. G. Catron, deputy commissioner of agriculture, will have charge of the Minneapolis office of the state department of agriculture and labor.

Governor Nestos today makes the following appeal to the people of North Dakota. "The best Dakota is about to harvest the north general average crop which has been grown since 1916. Practically every resident of this state is directly or indirectly dependent upon the net profits from our farming operations. Whether we can harvest and thresh this crop without loss or damage depends to a very considerable extent upon an adequate supply of experienced farm labor which can be relied upon to deliver a day's work for a reasonable day's pay. A poor class and an inadequate supply of farm help employed at high wages can dissipate the profit over cost of

production of the 1922 crop. People generally in the state appreciate that even a large crop at prevailing prices does not leave a sufficient margin of profit to warrant exorbitant harvest wages. The farm help which we need can be found among the farm boys and farm hands in the areas of dense farm population in the states to the east and south.

"At a recent conference with officials of the four railroads operating thru this state they consented to the making of a \$5.00 flat rate from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Superior to any point in North Dakota effective between the dates of August 1st and 15th, in parties of five or more. This concession was made because of a realization of the importance of adequate, competent help at reasonable wages to the successful harvest of the North Dakota crop and the prosperity of the territory thru which they operate. The making of the rate was not with the expectation of it producing direct revenue. With this rate soon to be in effect it now is incumbent upon each and every citizen of the state to exert his utmost effort in any cause which will result in a recruiting of such farm boys and experienced farm laborers to take advantage of the rate and come out here and work in our harvest.

"No better means could be found of disseminating full information in regard to the opportunities for employment in our harvest and the railroad rates in effect than personal letters from the residents of this state to their relatives and friends in other states, notably Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Illinois. May I not, therefore, make the suggestion that every community, city and village allot itself a quota of not less than 25 such letters? Is not the situation of such importance as to warrant a gathering of public spirited citizens in every community, city and village called for the purpose of making specific arrangements for an organized effort to secure the writing of such letters and to perfect a system of uniform wage scales and handling labor on arrival?"

"Have we ever had a better opportunity to display the resources and advantages of our state than is presented during this harvest period? Is there a better group of people to cooperate with North Dakota possibilities than the enterprising youth from the farms in the states to the east and south? Many will stay and those who do not will return to their homes with an account of our good crop and the opportunities for the farmer of modest means."

"Our State Department of Agriculture and Labor is to maintain an office advantageously located in Minneapolis to route prospective harvest hands to points in the state in need of help during the period in which the rate is in effect. Full and detailed plans are being worked out to otherwise facilitate the distribution of men to all sections of the state irrespective of their remoteness from the Twin Cities and the head of the Lakes."

"Let every good citizen of North Dakota do his full share in providing a plentiful supply of harvest help ready to render a fair day's work for a fair day's pay and incidentally advertise the golden opportunity for the industrious, enterprising farm youth on the prairies of North Dakota, the resources of which have not yet been scratched."

Carnival With 15 Shows Engaged for Ward County Fair A live and up to date carnival will be one of the many attractions at the Ward County Fair in Minot Sept. 12 to 15 inclusive. The management has just booked the well known Greater Sheesley Shows to appear at the fair during the gala week of the fall, and the company with its long special train will come down from Canada where it is playing a notably successful season.

The Greater Sheesley Shows is a good sized aggregation and includes five rides, 15 shows of various kinds and a long string of 50 or more concessions. It comes highly recommended and will be an item of much general interest at the fair. A lively and colorful Midway will be arranged.

The fair management is working out a program of races which is expected to include horse, automobile and motorcycle competitions and local men and others in this part of the northwest. Horsemen and others interested should communicate immediately with the secretary of the fair or with A. J. Brunner or C. H. Parker of the committee on races. No large purses will be offered this year but there is a good deal of interest in races and some good events are expected.

Oklahoma Insurance Man With Minot Concern George L. Johnson, who has been connected with a large insurance concern in Oklahoma, has arrived to accept a position with the Union Insurance Co. Mr. Johnson will be engaged in the work in and out of the city, being in charge of a number of agencies which business will be developed. Mr. Johnson is a returned soldier.

Many farmers were in their rye fields with binders Sunday, the grain being so ripe they feared to delay the cutting.