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RESTORING OLD FORT RALEIGH

Other Scenes of Early Colony
Days Being Re-created on
Roanoke Island

By D. V. MEEKINS

Down on Roanoke Island things are moving swiftly to complete all preliminaries to the filming of the Lost Colony episode of North Carolina history. With the old fort practically rebuilt and most of the characters secured for the picture, rehearsals are going on at a rapid pace, and on the 20th of this month another epoch will be created in the chronicles of the state when the silent pageant enacts the story of Raleigh's colonists, before the moving picture camera. Handicapped by limited funds the project would not have been possible without the splendid co-operation of the people of the section who have fallen into the spirit of the undertaking with heart and hand. All sections of the island are enthusiastic; Wanchese will furnish 20 characters; Skyco is taking part and Manteo, the only a village of 400, will furnish with its environs, over 100 characters in the pageant.

About 150 people will take part; two thirds of this number will represent Indians and the rest will represent the English colonists sent out by Raleigh in 1585. The costuming of this immense cast is being undertaken in the special workshop in the Roanoke Hotel.

The Indian costumes will be made from outing which resembles doeskin, and will be trimmed with furs. Many untrimmed furs and skins will be utilized, and at least one ox will lose his hide in the costuming of A. J. Willis, who will represent Insinore, one of the Indian chiefs. Shredded strands of hempen rope will be dyed for Indian wigs, and beads will be made from crepe-hair, bought by the yard and dyed. For the complexion a special dye made by one of the big film companies and costing \$5 a gallon will be used. This is applied with a sponge and is easily washed off.

At least one Indian costume has been worn. When one of the girls blushingly donned the abbreviated garments, so beautiful was the outing in its resemblance to deerskin with trimming of real fox fur, that the absence of conventionality was utterly forgotten amid admiration of the sheer beauty of the thing.

Needless to say, historical accuracy has been somewhat modified under the protests of those whom nature has especially adapted to assume the character of Indian maids. The costuming will be done under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth Grimball, of New York, who will also supervise the photographing on the 20th.

Many difficulties have arisen in the work. Chiefly among these was the finding of a suitable vessel to play the role of the "Admiral," the ship which brought the colonists. It was finally decided that a boat belonging to A. D. Etheridge could be made to do, and the little vessel is being fitted out in the unique rigging of earlier days.

Another handicap was the finding of sufficient characters suitable for the parts of Indian men, since everybody on the island was engaged in fishing. However, only a few are now lacking and they will probably be supplied in a day or two.

Miss Elizabeth Grimball, of New York, is directing the work and has expressed herself as being extremely pleased with the types she has found on the island, some of which, in her opinion, will easily lend themselves to the role of both colonist and Indian. Miss Grimball declares, on the strength of a recent visit to England, that nowhere else in the world is the English type so easily duplicated as on Roanoke Island, even going so far as to say that the Cockney accent is most decided and

is especially noticeable among the people of Wanchese.

Among the leading characters in the play is Dr. Fred Drane of Edenton. Dr. Drane is a son of Dr. R. B. Drane of that city, one of the directors of the Roanoke Colony Memorial Association. Young Dr. Drane is a recently returned Alaskan missionary, who has spent several years among the Indians, and who has familiarized himself with many of their tribal customs.

Carl S. Pugh, of Wanchese, is expected to assume the role of the chief, for whom his village was named; and Percy Meekins, of Manteo, is to represent Skyco, another chief. Mrs. Joe Greenleaf, of Elizabeth City, is to be the wife of Granganimeo.

Some of the English characters are Dr. Horton, a Raleigh dentist, who will assume the part of John White, governor of the colony; R. M. Jennett, of Manteo, as Geo. Howe, assistant governor; D. E. Evans, T. S. Meekins, A. H. Crisp, Dr. F. P. Gates, W. E. Lennon, Archie and Pope Daniels, Ralph Pool, of Elizabeth City, is slated for the part of Annanias Dare, father of Virginia Dare; and Miss Mabel Evans has been selected as Eleanor Dare, daughter of Governor John White and the Mother of Virginia Dare.

The names of the entire cast are too many for this article. However, it is composed of native born Roanoke Islanders in almost its entirety. Some of the members are students of the University of North Carolina, but Dr. Chase, the President of the school, is so much interested in the outcome of the picture that he granted those students permission to remain in the east until the filming is over.

The fact that \$3,000 of State money will be used in the picture might cause some comment among the uninformed who would suppose this money was taken from the already depleted school fund. However, this is not the case, and to allay the fears of any who might think so, it should be stated that this amount was taken from the appropriation for School Extension Work, in order that these phases of North Carolina History might be perpetuated in visual form for school children throughout the state.

In order to supplement the ridiculous sum with which the project was undertaken, it has been found necessary to take advantage of the co-operation tendered by many agencies. The State Fish Commission has offered the use of its boats; the U. S. Coast Guard will furnish small boats for landing purposes; and Plymouth, Windsor and Edenton will supply dugouts such as were found by the colonists when they arrived in 1585.

So far is the story of the undertaking down to date. Miss Elizabeth Grimball, of New York, Miss Mabel Evans, of Manteo, and W. C. Crosby, director of the Extension Division of the Department of School Extension, are directing

and selecting the cast for the pageant. J. B. Williams, Director of the Extension Division, is looking after the construction work.

REVIVAL POSTPONES OPENING OF SCHOOL

Owing to the revival on in the community at present, the opening of Poplar Branch High school has been postponed one week beyond the usual time. The school opens this year on Monday, September 12th. This will give the pupils and people of the community an opportunity to attend the meetings regularly and will also enable our work to go on without a break after the opening of school.

The patrons and friends of the school will be glad to learn that Poplar Branch High School is now a Standard high school. The State Inspector of High Schools has placed it on the list of accredited high schools. This is a great advantage to the pupils graduating here as they do not have to take any examinations on entering college nor do they have to take the regular state examinations if they are planning to teach.

The school is looking forward to one of its best year's work the coming season. Everything about the building has been put in as good shape as possible. An unusually good corps of teachers has been secured and with the same

heartly co-operation on the part of the patrons accorded in the past, we can look for a very successful session.

The poetical contest which was to have been held at the Court House Wednesday night had to be postponed on account of illness of R. M. Lee of Edenton.

Get your exhibit ready for the Elizabeth City District Fair, Oct. 4, 5, 6, and 7.

SPENCE—PRICE

The following news item of local interest is from a Newport News, (Va.) paper:

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd D. Price was the scene of a pretty, though quiet wedding, Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock when their daughter, Elizabeth Lorene, became the bride of Walker Lee Spence, the son of the late Thomas L. and Mrs. Lella Walker Spence, of this city. The ceremony took place in the living room, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with palms, ferns and tall baskets of golden rods.

Miss Dorothy Drumwright rendered the wedding march as the bride entered the room with Miss Ruth Johnson, her only attendant, followed by the groom with Douglas Goode as best man.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wilbur P. Page, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist church, the beautiful rite ceremony being used. The bride wore a becoming traveling suit of blue with accessories to match, with a corsage of bride's roses. Her attendant was attired in a gown of peach colored organza, and carried an arm bouquet of Orbellia roses. The ceremony was witnessed only by relatives and the intimate friends.

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