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PASSION PLAY

At Ober Ammergau

Re-enacted During Summer Months of 1910

No spectacle in the history of the world, ancient or modern, has compared with the Passion Play presented every ten years in the picturesque village of Ober Ammergau. Four times in the last forty years the devout villagers have reenacted the scenes incident to the closing days of the Saviour's life. During the Summer months of 1910 the quaint Bavarian villagers of Ober Ammergau will re-enact this greatest of all religious plays, in accordance with the solemn vows made by their ancestors many years ago. Thousands of people from all nations are now preparing to visit Ober Ammergau next summer—in fact, the Passion Play will attract the elite of the most highly civilized nations of the world.

The story of the origin of the Passion Play is of great interest. Two hundred and seventy years ago, at the time when the long thirty years' war was devastating Germany, a disastrous attack of plague swept the villages and valleys of the Bavarian Tyrol. The plague hit Partenkirchen, Mittenwald and indeed all the larger towns, which were devastated by it and the cities were depopulated as thoroughly as though blasts of fire had burned the life from every street and alley. So, through scenes of horror, all the larger towns became infected with the fell disease; but in the little village of Ober Ammergau there was no plague. It was an oasis of life and happiness in a desert of suffering and disease.

In order that the infection of the desert might not enter this isolated village of Ober Ammergau, the village authorities drew a cordon about the hamlet already protected by nature by its circle of mountains and forbade anyone to pass from the happy valley into the perilous outer world, while the conditions, of course, included that none should penetrate from the plague-stricken regions into the charmed circle thus exempt. As it happened, however, a native of the village who had been for some time working at Eschonjoh, a village at the foot of the Ettalberg, where the plague was raging furiously, was seized with a sudden homesickness, and unknown to any of the village magnates, returned, finding his way by night over the mountains. Three days afterwards he lay dead of the dreaded plague and no less than forty of his fellow villagers succumbed to the same cause.

It occurred to the villagers, in their agony of terror, that a pious vow might possibly propitiate Heaven and turn the vengeance from their hearths and homes. They then and there, in solemn assembly, consulted as to what act of theirs would be most pleasing to the Almighty, and finally it was resolved that then and every ten years afterwards should be performed with all due reverence and solemnity a play which would set forth the life, death and mediation of the Redeemer. From that time it is asserted, the plague was stayed in the village and the vow has been kept strictly and re-

ligiously, the decennial connection, being only once broken since 1634 in order to establish the performance at the beginning of every decade; for which a fresh start was made in the year 1680.

The Passion Play consists of eighteen acts or scenes, together with a prologue. The play begins with Christ's entry into Jerusalem; and, as the play develops, the spectator witnesses a series of tableaux, portraying the driving of the money-changers from the temple; the sons of Jacob plotting the sale of Joseph; Tobias taking leave of his parents; the bride bewailing the loss of the bridegroom; Christ in Simon's house; Mary anointing the feet of Jesus; King Ahasuerus exiling the proud Queen Vashti and elevating the humble Esther to the throne; Christ telling the destruction of Jerusalem; Christ sending two of his disciples to prepare the passover; the decision of Judas to betray his master; the feeding of the Israelites with manna; and the last supper. This will be in addition to the tableaux showing Jesus before Pilate, before Herod and climaxing with the crucifixion and the resurrection. Any person witnessing this Passion Play enacted by the humble, devout and faithful villagers of Ober Ammergau cannot help being instilled with a longing and a desire to lead a better life and to embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. Words cannot express the grandeur of this great Passion Play, which must be seen to be appreciated.

The Chicago Examiner, realizing the great advantage a trip to Ober Ammergau would be for the school teachers, has arranged to include the Passion Play in the tours of Europe which will be given the five most popular teachers of Evanston, Wilmette, Kenilworth, Glencoe, Winnetka, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, North Chicago and other North Shore-suburbs.

The citizens of the North Shore towns and the boys and girls of the schools of these towns will decide as to the popularity of the teachers to take the tours. In addition to the tours of Europe for the teachers, the Examiner will award 58 beautiful prizes, valued at \$1,500.00, for the boys and girls who collect the most votes on special ballots for their teachers. The first prize is an inner-player piano valued at \$850. The second prize is a Browniecar, a real automobile, the smallest of its kind in the world. Other prizes are a gold watch, encyclopedia, course in a business or musical college, golf set, sweater jackets, sweater coats, roller skates, ice skates, etc., etc.

It is up to the citizens of the North Shore towns and the boys and girls of the schools to elect the five most popular teachers and to win these 58 beautiful prizes. An early start in this election is essential if you wish your favorite teacher to win. Literature on the subject and full information will be sent upon request. Address The Chicago Examiner, 626 Davis Street, Evanston, or phone Evanston 1776. Do not delay.

Vol. XIII

Highland Park News-Letter

Miss Mame Reed week end with Mr.

Miss Lillie Bell assistant teacher

Miss Lawrence the guest of the M

Miss Helen Cor an attack of the m

Miss Blanche guest Miss Doris

The marriage of Miss Margaret S kart.

The Delta Tau hosts last Thursday entertained their party.

Mrs. Thayer of was hostess on N she entertained a in honor of her guest Miss party.

A costume wa the Highland Park eve. Several out present.

Mr. Raymond day from Cincinnati visiting his gran While there sever given in his honor

Mr. William Monday from La had been visiting Underwood.

Over eighty-five entertained on N Woman's Club. was in charge of was beautifully de was given favors b Henry M. Hyde. spent in playing Mr. Bourne leg the evening the an lion took place for

Mrs. Benjamin issued invitations Mrs. Campbell an tin for Tuesday th Herotin will sp Club after the lun "Three-Queens" ben presented.

A marriage of ir Park people is th son of Mr. and M Highwood, and M ricka which occur Mr. and Mrs. Pea ment in Edgewater

We regret to hea Grace Howell, wh gone an operation hospitals. Miss getting along very

Misses Belle and have been spend holidays at the ho Henry K. Coale, h City, where they Academy.

Mr. William H from Detroit wh business trip.

Miss Harriette L remain at home University of Wis

Miss Pearl McC of the Elm Place High School stud she sang several s