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ARDEN SHORE FROLICS IN HISTORIC PAGEANT

Longfellow's Hiawatha Is Basis Theme of Fete Participated in By Campers

By Rutheda L. Pretzel

*By the shores of Gitchee Gumee,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
Stood the wigwam of Nokomis,
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis,
Dark behind it rose the forest,
Rose the black and gloomy pine-trees,
Rose the firs with cones upon them;
Bright before it beat the water,
Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.
There the wrinkled, old Nokomis
Nursed the little Hiawatha.*

Something of the sweep and solemnity of Longfellow's great poem crept into the hearts of the poor, thin little children and the tired mothers, out at Arden Shore camp on Wednesday afternoon, August 10, as they played their parts in the pageant of Hiawatha's life under the tall trees, in such a setting described above. All of the very tiny tots, the bigger boys and girls, and the mothers, took part in the pageant, which was whipped into shape in hardly more than a week's time. Miss Reba Rosenthal, camp theatrical director, arranged the pageant, and Miss Pauline Houck, camp pianist, arranged music for it from some of our greatest composers. Several members of the Great Lakes band assisted Miss Houck. Miss D. V. Smith, who assists the camp superintendent, Miss Anna Belle Ferrer, also took an active part in supervising the production of the pageant.

Campers Prepare Pageant

Those who took part, and who did most of the work on the pageant and the making of costumes, are the campers themselves, who took this opportunity of showing publicly their appreciation for the week of sunshine and good food given them. Everyone knew his part perfectly, and all was done with a slow, sober manner that matched the red man's own majesty. It was very effective, because the spirit of the thing had been caught.

Two Indian braves opened the pageant by lighting a huge fire in the center of the clearing on the bluff. It seemed the natural thing to watch a long line of lovely Indian maidens and much-blanketed squaws march out and sing an Indian lullaby. There stood old Nokomis (played by Mrs. Reuter) holding the infant Hiawatha in her arms, singing in a remarkably sweet voice a special lullaby, while on the backs of their mothers real Arden Shore "papooses" nodded and blinked sleepily. A dance by the girls to a tom-tom ended that episode.

Frolic in Forest

"Hiawatha's brothers," little red-winged fire-flies, gray squirrels with elegant purple tails (a special variety found at Arden Shore!), bland brown bears, slender grey deer with imposing horns, and young Indian braves ran

out to frolic in the forest. Hiawatha, now a boy full of questions and fun, ran out to play with them and to learn their secrets.

William Hunt played Hiawatha in the succeeding episodes. Hiawatha, as a chief, called an Indian council, and from all directions came running the braves in their war paint and abbreviated costumes. Here, "in the drowsy, dreamy sunshine, they smoked the calumet, the Peace-Pipe," and Hiawatha asked the blessing of the Great Spirit. Two chiefs, played by Herbert Kolb and Sydney Trice, gave a war dance, after which eight lads with bows shot imaginary arrows, and shouted with blood-curdling yells when the invisible foe was vanquished, thus exhibiting the prowess of the Indian.

After the council was adjourned, and all the members had dispersed in picturesque snake-dance fashion, old Nokomis watched Hiawatha set off to the land of the Dakotahs, for a bride. "Striding over moor and meadow," Hiawatha arrived at the wigwam of the arrow-maker, and asked the hand of Minnehaha. The beautiful Angeline DiRago, who played Minnehaha, wore a marvelous deeply fringed costume that looked like white doe skin from a distance, and suspiciously like a cleverly remodeled sleeping bag near-by. When the young couple returned to Nokomis, about thirty very tiny Indians greeted them with garlands of flowers.

Medicine Man Fails

The last episode was the coming of Famine and Fever, two girls in grey who waved malevolent draperies about. Lovely Minnehaha "lay down on her bed of Silence," and even a Medicine Man (disguised by a sheepskin) couldn't dance the evil spirits away. Many moons passed (graceful white-clad girls with silver streamers), and Hiawatha called another Council. When the clearing was again filled with the half-naked bodies of his tribe, he told them he must say farewell. Just then the black-robe chief, the priest of prayer, the pale-face" and other pale-faces, entered. John Lennen, as the white man, was received cordially by Hiawatha, for it was noticed that wherever the white man trods, there grow flowers and the land is again a "pleasant land and peaceful." Telling his tribe to listen to the pale-face's wisdom, Hiawatha said farewell, and went to the "Islands of the Blessed." The pageant ended with the entire group singing the red man's desire to be one nation with the white man, "one strong nation everlastingly."

Chairmen Are Hostesses

After the performance, the officers and town chairmen of the Arden Shore association were hostesses at a tea. Mrs. George Richardson of Lake Forest poured, and she was assisted at the table by Mrs. Donald Wells. Among those present were Mrs. Bruce MacLeish, Mrs. Mark W. Cresap, Mrs. F. D. Parmelee, Miss Helen Clow, Mrs. Marston and her daughter Dorothy, Mrs. L. F. Gates, Mrs. Mrs. J. Glidden, Mrs. Maurice Mandeville, Mrs. William Rees, Mrs. J. C. Husted and Mrs. L. T. Wallace.

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