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Walla Walla Pioneer Pageant Records

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6-25-1924

The "Pioneer Pageant" Should Live

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THE "PIONEER PAGEANT"
Bulletin SHOULD LIVE 6-25-24

A large and representative group of citizens, at the meeting Monday night, wisely decided to continue the "Pioneer Pageant." This great spectacle must be continued regularly if it is to live. As President Neal stated at the meeting, the Pioneer Pageant has the germ of a great and lasting portrayal. Should Walla Walla give it up even for a year it is already known that at least four other cities will take up a similiar idea and carry it on from where Walla Walla should leave off.

We should profit by our former experience. Walla Walla developed the idea of a "Round-Up," but gave it up temporarily and Pendleton took it up and carried it forward to a large success. In the Pioneer Pageant, we have something bigger, better, and finer than our "Frontier Days" or any similiar event, and now that we have laid the foundation through two years' presentation of the pageant, we should not again overlook the opportunity, which we have conceived and developed.

Portland has its "Rose Show." This event has been repeated thirteen consecutive years. It is very similiar one year after another and yet early this month, this event attracted the largest crowd to Portland, that has ever visited any of its carnivals. Yakima has its "State Fair." Pendleton has its "Round-up." Wneatchee has its "Blossom Festival." Bellingham has its "Tulip Carnival." These are all yearly events and are all uniformly successful.

It is going to require initiative and originality to put on the Pioneer Pageant year after year, if it is finally decided to make this an annual event, so as to bring freshness into each year's Pageant and make it sufficiently interesting for people to come year after year.

When an event receives such flattering and such uniform commendation, as the Pioneer Pageant has received from people of Seattle, Portland, and Spokane and other places, there is little doubt but what we have something here that deserves to live.

The Pioneer Pageant is distinctive. It is instructive. It is elevating. It appeals to the higher and nobler, and both young and old are bettered, for having seen it.

Perhaps the experience of the last two years will find a way to avoid any further deficits. We suggest that the event be made more of a community affair than it has been here-to-fore to include the whole Walla Walla country. When a man like Colonel Weyrauch, will give up his personal business for several weeks and devote his time exclusively to the business management of the Pageant, or a man like Professor Howard Pratt will give so liberally of his time and splendid talents, there is no reason why all who enter into the Pageant should not contribute graciously and freely of their talents or whatever help they can offer, to make the Pageant a success, financially and otherwise. What is said of Paul Weyrauch and of Howard

Pratt could be said of every member of the board of trustees, of Dr. Penrose, who was given so splendidly of his ability to conceive and write the Pageant, of Mrs. Vincent Borleske, to whom is due the credit for the dancing, of Mrs. Ben Hill, of Mrs. G. H. Sutherland and to dozens of other persons, as heads of departments or as individual workers.

The Pioneer Pageant can properly be considered an event of which anyone should consider an honor to be asked to take part in. This idea can be developed to a large extent, in fact, we believe, there are sufficient people in the Walla Walla Valley who will enter into the enthusiasm of the Pageant to the extent that less expense, rather than more should be necessary in future works, for the reason that it is not a money making enterprise but a great uplifting community undertaking.

The Pioneer Pageant has proven to be an event of lasting betterment for large numbers of people from all over the Northwest, furthermore the people of this community have discovered through the Pageant that they can work together and as a result be improved personally as well as profit through community co-operation. The Pageant not only gives the people of the Northwest a splendid and unique idea of the Northwest in early years but has created here a vehicle of very large value. The Pioneer Pageant has given Walla Walla prestige throughout the Northwest, which is not equaled by that of

any similar event put on by any Northwestern city.

Young people have learned more of our early history through the Pageant than in all the books that they could secure. They have learned of the courage and self sacrifice of the pioneers.

Taken all in all, Walla Walla originated and developed an enterprise that should mean more and more to the Walla Walla Valley as the years go on and the Pageant is bettered from time to time.

The "Bulletin" feels that the proper step has been taken by the guarantors, who cheerfully indicate their willingness to not only pay up the deficit but to go ahead and make the Pageant of next year, more of a success and to be seen by larger crowds than have seen it during either the first or second year.

This city will take pride in the reputation that it has brought to Walla Walla, which is worth several times the financial cost, if the value could be reckoned in monetary way.

Let's all get behind the board of trustees of the Pageant and lend a helping hand for making the third year of the Pioneer Pageant its biggest, and best and most profitable, in every way, of any other of the three years of this unusual event. Let's invite and urge the people of all our neighboring towns even as far away as Lewiston to take their proper place in this big annual event of the Walla Walla country.