

(Special to The Herald)

Pacolet, May 11.—"The Wizard of Oz," a pageant presented by the community of Pacolet, held upwards of 3,000 persons spellbound by its sheer beauty tonight.

The event, which has grown from humble beginnings, showed that it has assumed gigantic proportions from the point of interest by the undivided attention of the thousands who witnessed it. Half an hour before the pageant began all available seats were filled and streams of people from the homes in the community, nearby neighborhoods and from Spartanburg continued to add to the audience.

There were more than 400 children participating in the enormous pageant, leading parts being taken by Ruby Holmgren, Wilma Whitlock, Lloyd Compton and Bertie May Ledbetter.

Smooth Performance

That they had labored upon the production of the community pageant since Christmas was evident in the smoothness of its performance. Its uniformity was striking. There seemed to have been no main worker in its production but to have arisen spontaneously from community enterprise. Even the smallest child took such interest in the production that the witness noticed not the slightest mark of lack of discipline.

There were many prominent mill men present.

The cast was attired in artistic costumes, well chosen to conform with the general color motif of green, blended with the background of the rolling hills and smoothly flowing Pacolet river.

The stadium is constructed into a hillside with the stage in comfortable view of all spectators. The Pacolet forms a background. At the beginning of the pageant it was still light, but as it proceeded twilight deepened, stars appeared and a few lights in the distance twinkled.

Useful and Artistic

The mill to one side represented the useful, the purpling hills on the other hand the artistic.

An introductory strain was played by the Pacolet Mill band, followed by a series of perfectly executed formal callisthenics by some 200 children, directed by a wife of a fellow. As the commands were snapped out by an athletic director, the lines of children performed with dumb bells and in other forms of exercise in perfect unison.

The beautiful Wizard of Oz then held the attention of the thousands. It is a story of Dorothy and her dog, Toto, who lived peacefully with an uncle and aunt until a sudden whirlwind takes away their home and sets them upon a series of adventures.

A scarecrow is taken from a cornfield represented by myriad children attired in green and a rusty tin woodman and a lion are taken as companions. The woodman is found in a forest children bearing boughs but he has no heart; the lion has no courage and the scarecrow no brains.

The principals move into a deadly poppy fields where the children, dressed as poppies, lull all who enter into sleep. The lion is rescued from his predicament here by a troop of field mice—barefoot children ingeniously dressed to resemble the animals and carrying long tails. Taking tiny steps, they appear to be in a force of thousands.

Land of Winkles

The adventurers next move into the land of the Winkles—these characters costumed in yellow and golden costumes being employed industriously with hoes and rakes enslaved by a wicked witch. She orders her minions to ensnare the adventurers. The wicked witch, however, puts on an enchanted slipper of the girl and dies, shrinking up when Dorothy sprinkles her with water. All the Winkles are freed.

A magic cup put on the adventuring Dorothy, 40 little monkeys with wings swing into the sight of the audience. She then has an apparition of china dolls, of girls representing princesses, of shepherds and shepherdesses, little pierrots and pierrotesses and finally the clowns. The whole forms a picturesque group, the tall girls representing dolls of Sevre in the background and the smaller groups in the front.

The magnificent emerald city is approached by the adventurers, being received by guardians armed with spears, at the gates. Four girls—whom Ruth St. Denis would envy—come dancing with a square of silk to take the Wizard of Oz. Their performance was a highlight of an eventful evening.

As the annual pageant grows in importance, the community of Pacolet is finding itself well able to cope with proper entertainment of the thousands who are its guests. Down to the handling of traffic the entertainment was faultless, cars of visitors being di-