

OUR CENTURY OF HISTORY PAGEANT.

Intelligently planned, conscientiously prepared and adequately presented, the pageant portraying Howard county's first hundred years of history, produced Wednesday evening in the Philips Street Bowl, was a splendidly creditable and richly satisfying example of community loyalty and community enterprise.

Fortunately, the presentation was favored with ideal weather—a star-studded sky and a temperature of agreeable mildness. The evening was one which invited folk out-doors. Their interest had been awakened by publicity given the approaching portrayal of ten decades of local history, consequently, when the weather supplied an additional enticement, they went—went not only in hundreds, but thousands. They were richly rewarded for any inconvenience or fatigue their attendance cost them.

It will not be pretended, of course, that there were no hitches, halts or bobbles, for such things are inseparable from such exhibitions. With this one, however, there was a minimum of such happenings, and none that was marring to the whole. All the slips were humorous rather than serious, adding to rather than detracting from enjoyment of the performance.

The pageant's finest virtue was the fact it portrayed, symbolically yet faithfully, the spectacle of life in each of the periods covered. From music and make-believe, from pantomime and tableau, from recitative and reading, every spectator was able to gather a comprehensive idea of what life had been like in Howard county from the pioneer period to the present. Every person who was there has today a broader knowledge and better appreciation of the county's history than he had yesterday. That is the enduring profit resulting from the pageant.

Unreserved credit is due all the public spirited folk who planned and performed the fine enterprise. They put research, thought, enthusiasm and an almost unbelievable amount of hard work into the undertaking. They caught all that was colorful, adventuresome, romantic, progressive and significant in a century of community life, and presented it in a succession of scenes and songs that will be unforgettable for all who were in attendance.

Yes, it was an achievement well worth while—one which should leave a glowing memory throughout the county's length and breadth. In this connection it should be borne in mind that the success was by the county as a whole. It could not have been accomplished without the cordial support and invaluable participation of the rural communities that took part. They did their full share, and without exception did it well.

As far as possible, both the ideas and materials incorporated in this pageant should be preserved for use in an even more elaborate exhibition of the kind which should be given seven years hence, when the hundredth anniversary of establishment of county government and of the selection of Kokomo as the county seat will be due for celebration. Let the memory of the pageant of September, 1937, light the way for an ever-recurring spectacle in June, 1944.

Kokomo Tribune - September 30, 1937.