

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Program

THE GREAT HINCKLEY FIRE

AN HISTORICAL PAGEANT-DRAMA MEMORIAL

"THE HINCKLEY FIRE CYCLONE OF 1894"

by Bert Merling

Adapted and dramatized from historical documentaries, survivor interviews and imagination; enacted in pantomime with players' lines voiced off-stage; backgrounded with music from the masters; as a Memorial Remembrance to the Known, and Unknown, numbering 418, who died in the greatest of all Minnesota forest fire holocausts, and one of the ten worst in the nation.

Presented by the Village of Hinckley at the West Hinckley-Grindstone River Ampitheatre

SATURDAY EVENING - - - AUGUST 14
SUNDAY EVENING - - - AUGUST 22
1954



(Note: Brief Intermission Between all Scenes)

DIRECTORIAL

Pageant Director-Narrator .. Bert Merling
President Emil Besch
Vice-President Robert Nelson
Secretary Lee Guptill
Publicity Marjorie Lehman
Historical Research Frances Hurley
Music (Organ) Bunny Just
Publisher C. G. Mann

CO-DIRECTORS

Prologue Eddie Burk
Episode 1 - Scene 1 R. A. Ness
Episode 1 - Scene 2 Eleanor Schaefer
Episode 2 Eleanor Schaefer
Episode 3 Alida Bjerke
Episode 4 - Hinckley & Sandstone..Marjorie Lehman
Episode 5, Scene 1 Gertrude Nelson
Episode 5 - Scene 2 Pine City
Episode 5 - Scene 3 Pine City
Episode 6 - Scene 1 Elizabeth Schade
Episode 6 - Scene 2 Elizabeth Schade
Epilogue - Finale Eddie Burk
Address of Welcome .. Mayor J. P. Hurley
Opening Overture - "Dear Land of Home"—Sibelius

Organist - Bunny Just

Prologue - Scene One

Chippewa Indians return in Processional from Canoe Pilgrimage

Prologue - Scene Two

Symbolic Farewell and departure of Indian, from Minnesota's sovereignty.
Buglers James Williams, Willis Irons
Ghost of Minnehaha Geraldine Dunkley
Hiawatha David Bork
Nokomis Mabel Noble
Off Stage Voices—Mrs. Tom Bowe, Sharon Bowe, Mrs. Henry Wobbema
Solo: "Land of Sky Blue Waters"—Audrey Martinco
Braves: Richard Bailey, Chuck Schneider, Thor Moen, Bud Sewall, Dick Cabak, Ed Rypkema, Jim Cabak

Indian Women: Mesdames Ted Widdes, John Dunkley, R. A. Ness, George Fara, Joe Martin, Earl Seitz; Misses Penny Nyline, Virginia Mortenson.

Indian Children: Janet Widdes, Jackie Dunkley, Jerry Dunkley, Darell Reitan, Marcella Dunkley, Sharon Reitan, Donald Dunkley.

Episode One - Scene One

Lumberjacks clear village site for Hinckley.
Spirit of Lumberjack George Hermann
Lumberjacks: Doliver Pearson, Art Pearson, John Lyon,, Jim Pavelka, Ed Kroschel, Harvey Schroeder, John Shober, Dick Mitten, John Miller, Bill Alm, Art McClaren, Glen Zeman, Tony Pruissen, Clarence Wicklund, John Schrade, Kenny Abrahamson, Paul Marudas, Lawrence Irons, Ralph Rohweder.

Episode One - Scene Two

First Hinckley family settlers, and homesick Immigrant pioneers, join hands in "Auld Lang Syne."

Off-Stage Solo: "Home, Sweet Home—Luella Loftness

Michael Dunn Hilding Hokanson
John Leaf Herman Zaudtke
William Beames Vernon True
Mary Mullens Mrs. Bud Sewall
Robert Riley R. S. Skelton
Dutch Family Gene Bassett Family
German Family—Mr. and Mrs. F. Jarvis and Blaine Mueller

Swedish Family .. Rudolph Johnson Family
Norwegian Family ... J. D. Brennan Family
Irish Family—Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Von Rueden and David Whyte

Danish Family—Mr. and Mrs. Avald Smith, George Hokanson and Dick Hokanson

English Couple Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brodal

Scotch Family—Mr. and Mrs. Russel Hills, Mary Hills, Bryan Paulson

Off Stage Voice Carol Dufek
Solo: "Auld Lang Syne" ... Luella Loftness

Episode Two

General Custer stops off at Hinckley in 1876
at Camp Comfort Depot Restaurant
General G. A. Custer Lee Guptil
Custer's Aides—Max Lehman and Clarence
Schmidt

Proprietor and Wife—Mr. and Mrs. Harry
Schoell

Lumberjack Quartette—R. A. Ness, Eddie
Burk, Reynold Erickson, James Wickstrom
Waitresses: Ruth Ann Shultz, Penny Adams,
Carol Guptill, Marcella Gerdes, Cecelia
Chalupnik, Marilyn Pearson

Bouquet Girl Phyllis Gruett
Off Stage Voice Jo Ann Martin

Diners: John Shober, John Stradal, Ray Pro-
chaska, Jim Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Ru-
dolph Johnson, Arthur Johnson, Gary
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Brennan, Hild-
ing Hokanson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ma-
ser and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ten-
quist, Mrs. Frank Adams, Mr. and Mrs.
Howard Ledin, Mary Ann Sullivan, Mr.
and Mrs. Jim Brodal, Mr. and Mrs. Joe
Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swanson,
Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Mann, Karl Johnson,
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Besch and Mr. and
Mrs. Chas. Bork.

Episode Three

Hinckley, accustomed to fighting and con-
quering yearly forest fires, feels strong
enough to combat any inferno.

Captain of Fire Volunteers Joe Martin

Reverend Father Lawler Bernard Lappe

Minister Rev. Eugene Strinden

Editor Cliff Mann

Doctor Dr. H. G. Swennes

Song "Holocaust," composed and written by
Eddie Burk and Bill Henschel, sung by
Eddie Burk.

Living Fire Survivors—One will speak for
group.

Interviewer Robert Nelson Sr.

Shoppers and Neighbors: Bernice Miller, Ma-
bel Lammerts, Henry Gimpl, Kenneth
Hallbeck, Shirley Schroeder, Bob Nelson
Jr., Eleanor Hallbeck, Phyllis Westberg,
Leonard Westberg, Mr. and Mrs. Wm.
Hulke, Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Johnson,
Mrs. Robert Stevens, Mary Ann Peterson,
George Dean, Mary Heuer, Frank Pat-
rick, Esther Schrade Adeline Nieboer,
Jack Nieboer, Eddie Jackson, Al Moen,
Neva Ellstrom, Frances Hurley, Clarence
Schmidt, Helen Hermann, Helen Peter-
son, Allen Thorne, Arloine Patrick, Le-
roy Heuer, William Lammerts, and Ruth
Jendro.

Episode Four

The evening before September 1, 1894. The
Charity Ball in the Opera House. A pre-
monition in Chopin's waltzes. Hinckley's
great-hearted Dr. Stephan saves a child's
life.

Doctor Stephan Dr. H. G. Swennes
Bob & Roberta (waltzes)—Mr. and Mrs. Renz
Nieboer

Lumberjacks—George Hermann and Clarence
Wicklund

Violinist Eddie Adams

Accordianist Carl Peterson

Three Sooty Logging Men: Lawrence Von
Rueden, George Fara, Les Ausmus.

12-year-old Girl Jo Ann Martin

Dancers: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams, Mrs. and
Mrs. Nels Swendsen, Mr. and Mrs. Wes
Halverson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Prochaska,
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Edin, Mr. and Mrs.
Clarence White, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Wil-
liams, Mr. and Mrs. Mert Loftness.

Off-stage Girl's Voice Sandra Fara

Sandstone - Square Dance

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob
Libra, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Lundorff, Mr.
and Mrs. Lies Jorgensen, Mr. and Mrs.
Adrian Vork, Mr. and Mrs. Henry West-
phal, Mrs. Bill Barnick, Miss Dorothy
Woyak, Mr. Chester Erickson, Mr. Earl
Christensen, Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Jensen.
Caller Mr. Viggo Nielsen

Episode Five - Scene One

September 1, 1894, at Hinckley, when with
an 1800 degree forest fire heat, the air
itself became Fire!

Father Lawler Bernard Lappe

People Fleeing from the Fire: Mr. and Mrs.

Joe Cabak, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Berndt,
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swanson, Mr. and
Mrs. Henry Wobbema, Mr. and Mrs. Otto
Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Ab Wollan, Mr.
and Mrs. Doliver Pearson, Mr. and Mrs.
Art Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pavelka,
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mitton, Mr. and Mrs.
Bill Alm, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Zeman, Mr.
and Mrs. Tony Pruissen, Mrs. Al Thorne,
Mrs. Nels Swendsen, Mrs. Art McClaren,
Mrs. Henrietta Wenholz, Mrs. Anna Burk,
Mrs. Mae Davidson, Mrs. Ruth Kub, Mrs.
Lawrence Irons, Mrs. Ralph Rohweder,
Mrs. Helen Brandt, Mrs. Willis Gysbers,
Mrs. Em Skelton, Mrs. Joe Pavelka, Mrs.
Eddie Jackson, Mrs. Ethel Carrigan, Mrs.
Vern Maser, Mrs. Clarence Schmidt, Mrs.
Ted Swedlund, Mrs. Marion Hooker, Miss
Ellen Johnson, Miss Molly Reed, Miss
Constance Fosvick, Miss Margaret Fix,
Case Nieboer, Ernie Schmidt, Bill
Schmidt, Nick Marudas, Al Moen, Ted
Widdes, Joe Lorentsen, Danny O'Dono-
van, Mary Sue Wobbema, Joe Wobbema,
Dennis Pearson, Rex Pearson, Jimmie
Pavelka, John Pavelka, David Mitton,
Paul Mitton, Lois Mitton, Mr. and Mrs.
Clarence Wicklund, Gale Kub, Gary
Kub, Vincent Gysbers Carmella Gysbers,
Mark Wicklund, Marjie Skelton, Dorene
Clark, Lois Bailey, Ruth Ann Bailey,
Sandy Fara, Wesley Halverson, Jean
Halverson, Karen Halverson, Cynthia
Halverson, Barbara Jendro, Sharon
Schroeder, Barbara Schroeder, Maxine
Schroeder, Gloria Williams, Claire Jean
Schmidt, Lynn Bassett, Dennis, Vernet-
te, Gloria and Sharon Maser.

Episode Five - Scene Two

Pine City to the Rescue - First to reach
destroyed Hinckley and aid survivors.

John F. Stone (newspaper correspondent)—
George I. Clem

A. J. Armstrong (telegrapher)—Harold An-
derson

Courier Cecil Blanchard

Off Stage Voice (for Stone) Dick Kiel

Off Stage Voice (for Armstrong)—J. P. Miller

Episode Five - Scene Three

Leader of relief band (James Hurley)—R. G. Arimond

Doctors: Dan Boo, John Crooker, V. L. Vanstrom

Nurses: Mrs. Richard Hegman, Mrs. Edna Nilsson, Margaret Shumway

Recue Workers: Louis Shumway, Jim Gillespie, Fred Hodge, George Novak, Mason Peterson, Ed Gillespie, Richard Hegman, Clyde Shumway, James Gillespie, Gordon Rupp

Survivors: Frank Gottry, Raymond Schultz, Stewart Clem, Tommy Gillespie, Jimmy Vosika, Mary Ann Holetz, Kathy Gillespie, Mary Lou Peterson, Martha Gillespie, Georgiana Gillespie, Mary Neilsson, Kay Nelson

Costume Committee: Mrs. J. P. Miller, Mrs. Myrtle Larson, Mrs. A. Herdina and Mrs. A. A. Hoberg.

Make-up Committee: Mrs. George Clem, Mrs. Jack Trollen, Patricia Phillipson, Marie Peloquin

Co-ordinator Mrs. Clyde Shumway

Episode Six - Scene One

The Burial of Hinckley's Unknown dead in 4 trenches Symbolized in one Burial.

Clergymen: Rev. Eugene Strinden, Mr. Eddie Jackson, Mr. Bernard Lappe, Mr. Herman Schmidt.

Bereaved husband Mr. William Hulke

Six-year-old son Gary Dupre

Off Stage Voice for Minister—Mr. Reinhold Erickson

Off Stage Bugler Willis Irons

Friends of the bereaved: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dupre, Mr. and Mrs. George Haines, Mr. and Mrs. John Stradal, Mr. John Fix, Mr. William Fix, Mr. Gerald Von Rueden, Mrs. Charles Adams, Mrs. Doris O'Malley, Mrs. Herman Schmidt, Mrs. Frank Armstrong, Mrs. Reynold Erickson, Mrs. Luella Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnson.

Episode Six - Scene Two

Hinckley starts anew in the ashes. The first Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ausmus, Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Christianson, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin

Guptill, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Guptill, Mr. and Mrs. Mandus Nyberg, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rabe, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Zaudtke, Mrs. Ray Haase, Mrs. Herman Schmidt, Miss Betty Roscoe, Miss Evelyn Sawatzke, Arlene Aumus, James Brennan, Mary Lou Dupre, Nancy Edin, Carol Haase, Joey and Judy Jarvis, Marie and Lois Johnson, Earla Jean Myer, Joanne Nyberg, Jerry Paulson, Robert Peterson, Allan and Ricky Rabe, Kathy Wilcox, Gary Zaudtke, Mr. Eddie Jackson, Mr. Bernard Lappe, Mr. Herman Schmidt, Rev. Eugene Strinden, Marlene Gilliland, Margaret Ness and Richard and Gary Lee Robinson.

Dr. Ernest Stephan Dr. H. G. Swennes
Off-stage Soprano ... Miss Audrey Martinco

Epilogue - Finale

The Spirit of Modern Hinckley and her attendants Present Memorial Salute to the Hinckley Forest Fire Dead.

Spirit of Hinckley Dorothy Nieboer

Girls in White: Hinckley—Virginia Mortenson, JoAnn Williams, Janice Barto, Beverly Hills, Audrey Martinco, Joan Reed, Beverly Currie, Phyllis Maygren; Pine City, Elaine Hedin; Beroun, Esther Bell; Sandstone, Alice Ness; Finlayson, Nancy Ellson; Mora, Betty Lou Krayiescki; Askov, Elsie Molgaard and Brook Park, Sharon Fleming.

Statue of Liberty Susan Nelson

Abraham Lincoln Roy Peterson

Color Bearers ... Hinckley Memorial Squad

Costume Chairmen

Prologue—Mrs. John Dunkley, Mrs. A. W. Nylene

Episode 1, Scene 1—Mrs. Wobbema; Scene 2, Mrs. R. S. Skelton

Episode 2 Mrs. Bob Bailey

Episode 3 Mrs. James Williams

Episode 4 Miss Charlotte O'Malley

Episode 5, Scene 1—Mrs. Roy Peterson; Scenes 2 and 3, Pine City.

Episode 6 Mrs. Roy Peterson

Epilogue - Finale Mabel Noble
Mrs. Carl Tideman will assist with make-up.

LEST WE FORGET

"Eternal Vigilance is Our Duty in Keeping Our Forests Green. Hinckley's Fire Holocaust is Classic as a Tragic Example of the Destructive Power of a Forest Fire and a Warning to All for All Time to Come."—Brendon J. Connelly.

IN APPRECIATION

To the people of the surrounding communities, many of whom also lost everything in the Great Fire of 1894, Mr. E. M. Besch and Mr. R. A. Nelson and the entire group of Chairmen and Committees, extend sincere appreciation for the interest and co-operation in making this Pageant possible. Brook Park people have a monument in honor of their dead in the holocaust. We extend a special thanks to Brook Park, Sandstone, Pine City, Askov, Beroun, and all other surrounding communities for their assistance and co-operation in this Sixtieth Year Commemoration.

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Off Stage Voice (for Stone) Dick Kiel
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Hinckley Fire Survivors at their annual Reunion in 1944.