

## PELHAM, N. H.

### All School Children in Town Join to Present "A Pageant of the Months."

Pelham, N. H., April 23.

Last Friday evening the Pelham Town Hall was filled to its seating capacity and every available vantage point for standing room was occupied by an audience which came to witness the operetta, "A Pageant of the Months," given by the children of the Pelham schools under the direction of Professor John M. Priske.

The performance reflected a high type of credit upon Professor Priske, the director; the teachers who carried out his instructions; and the fine civic interest and support of the School board, Parent-Teacher Association, and townspeople who helped with transportation and other factors in the preparation of such a musical festival.

The performance opened with an introductory speech by "Father Time," impersonated by William Atwood from the high school who looked the part, in his makeup and costume. He was assisted by a town crier of the old type, impersonated by Rofaria Lefebvre of the Gumpus school. Father Time introduced each month's act.

The program began with August, a vacation scene by the pupils from the Highland district school and showed the children enjoying the last month of vacation.

September was a typical school-room scene; a severe teacher portrayed by Mary Koehler and a class that knew how to try her patience. This act was by the Centre district school.

October was a real scene of autumn and Hallowe'en by the Gage Hill school. This group was led by Ellie Rowan.

November, the month of Thanksgiving, was in impressive scene of an early Puritan family at dinner with Indians as guests and was presented by the North Pelham school.

December brought a Christmas scene, with pajama-clad girls hanging their stockings by the fireplace, followed by pajama-clad boys doing a clever pillow drill. Of course, Santa Claus, played by Leo Simonovitz, made a special trip for the event. This act was by the Centre district school.

May found the stage transformed into the court of the May queen, a beautiful queen, jewels, crown, scepter and all, a court full of heralds, train bearers, and loyal subjects, with a real live Maypole surrounded by nimble dancers. The May queen, Dorothy Overlock, wore a beautiful white silk taffeta costume with a long train. Martha Overlock, representing the Maypole wore a pink gown decorated with a circle of sweet peas about her shoulders and a wreath of roses around her waist, with a crown of beautiful pink roses. The heralds and attendants were also in fancy costumes. Roberta Morse was crowned King of the May. The Gumpus school presented this scene.

June, the month of brides, had its wedding, a dainty bit of Lilliputian realism. Guests in summer finery assembled to watch a ceremony which was complete in every detail. The clergyman, Bobby Ouellette, the bride, Muriel Richardson, blushed, the little bridegroom, Charles Hobbs, looked "all fussed up," while confetti was thrown. The best man, the bridesmaids, the ring bearer, and the bride's father were all dressed to fit the happy occasion. The Centre district school was in charge of this act.

July brought the pageant to a striking climax when pupils of the high school, Rita Simard, Dorothy Bennett, and Frederick Garland, impersonating Liberty, Columbia and Uncle Sam respectively, were grouped on a raised platform at the back of the stage surrounded by Boy Scouts. Two of the Scouts held the American flag as a background while pupils from the Highland school, in uniform, performed a snappy flag drill, led by Annie Narniak, which paved the way for a grand assembly of all the school children who had taken part. The "salute to the flag" and the singing of "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" and the National Anthem by the entire assembly was a stirring and impressive scene. Then all schools, joined in a goodbye song which revealed chorus singing ability quite above the average. Practically all the school children in town participated in some way in this musical festival.

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January brought out a cute little New Year baby, 3 year old Betty Cheney, who greeted all with "Happy New Year Folks." She preceded others who were dressed for winter sports. The North Pelham school presented this part of the program.

February, the month of valentines, was gay with red heart costumes. A Cupid with his bow and arrow, was portrayed by Johnnie Boucher and a dainty little dancer, Virginia Worden, did a specialty number. Margery Garland represented a "special valentine to mother." This act was furnished by the Highland district school pupils.

March showed a chorus of an unfriendly mood toward "bluster," who was a troublesome chap with a twisted and red nose, impersonated by Charles Jack, of the Gumpus school.

April represented by a little girl, little Miss Harris and a chorus, had to drive "March and Bluster" from the stage, an occasion for both tears and laughter. This was sponsored by Gage Hill school.