

Polk museum hosts pageant display

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

RICKREALL — The spirit of the Rickreall Christmas Pageant is back — or at least the costumes — at the Polk County History Museum through the end of December.

When the pageant discontinued after 75 years of performances, organizers approached the museum to discuss donating the extensive collection of props and costumes to preserve them as part of Polk County history, said David Moellenberndt, president of the Polk County Historical Society.

“This year, the group approached the museum with the offer to develop an ephemeral Christmas display using the pageant materials,” he said.

Past pageant participants Pam Scharf and Sharon Watson decided to set up the manger scene.

“It just seemed to come together beautifully,” Scharf said. “It was kind of bittersweet to be handling the costumes again, but it brought back so many beautiful memories. We were just pleased to do it.”

With so many costumes and props, Scharf and Watson agreed that they could set up a different scene from the pageant each year, but



Costumes from the Rickreall Pageant are carefully hung to show the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

DAVID MOELLENBERNDT/for the Itemizer-Observer

starting with the manger was an easy choice.

“It was just kind of automatic,” Watson said. “When you work with the pageant

for so long, what you want to portray the first year is the birth of the Christ child.”

The costumes were carefully unrolled, ironed and

hung, complete with backdrops and props formerly used in the pageant.

“We put one little angel costume behind the dark

curtain of stars,” Watson said. “It just shows God is there, observing.”

Watson started with the pageant as a singing slave

See the display

What: Rickreall Christmas Pageant display.

Where: Polk County History Museum, 560 S. Pacific Highway W., Rickreall.

When: The museum is open 1 to 5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Closed Christmas Day.

Admission: General, \$5; seniors, \$4; students with ID, \$1; children younger than 6, free; centenarians, free.

For more information: 503-623-6251.

girl for 27 years, and got re-involved in the tradition when they asked her to help with the costumes.

Now, both Scharf and Watson are happy to see the costumes and props being used again to keep the memory of the pageant — and, more importantly the story of the birth of Jesus — alive.

“I was honored to be asked to help,” Watson said. “Because we knew we were at the end of a line of wonderful people who have given time and money and made this happen for 75 years. It took a lot of people.”

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Evangelical Bible Church presents
“The Hope of the Ages”
Performed by the Choir
Congregation singing and small group performances also included in the program.
December 24th at 4:00 pm
Evangelical Bible Church
1175 SE Howe St, Dallas
503-623-2331

Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve
5:30 - 6:30
“Hope was born this night”
45 min of Christmas Carols
Calvary Chapel
628 SE Jefferson St. • Dallas
For more information 503-831-1074

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th
Family Style Candlelight Services ~ 9:00 & 10:45 am
Childcare 0-5 years, 1st-5th in service
No Evening Service
GRACE CHURCH
598 E Ellendale Ave, Dallas graceindallas.org

Christmas Eve
Add meaning to your Christmas season by celebrating the birth of Jesus in worship.
7 p.m. Candlelight Service
10 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion
Coffee & Cookies after each service
All are welcome. Come as you are.
Trinity Lutheran Church
320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas
503-623-2233
www.dallastlc.org

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
10 am December 24
Last Sunday in Advent...Eucharist
7 pm Christmas Eve
Choral Eucharist
1486 SW Levens, Dallas
503-623-8522 • www.stthomasdallas.org

St. Hilda's Episcopal
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Carols and Eucharist
Everyone is welcome!
245 W. Main St. • Monmouth
503-838-6087

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
AN INCARNATIONAL Christmas
MORNING 10:50 AM WORSHIP GATHERING (Childcare Provided)
EVENING 5:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (Childcare Not Provided)
SALT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH | 15075 SALT CREEK ROAD
PH: 503.623.2976 | www.saltcreekchurch.org