

Crazyhorse Pageant
South Dakota

This production was written three years ago, at least it was ready for presentation three years ago, written by a fellow named Robert Hide who nicknamed himself "Rawhide". A few miles from Hot Springs, South Dakota he organized a ^{fit}prophet corporation and raised about \$60,000 in the area to do the production. He bought up some old lighting equipment, mainly in terms of old navy searchlights or searchlights from boats and that type of thing and built a wooden seating area on the side of a slope opening on a small valley or canyon. He used therefore a tremendous area ~~to~~ below for staking out an Indian village and the Battle of the Little Big Horn. This was originally conceived with a rather large cast. It now plays with about 75. However, the sound equipment seems to be fairly decent and the way the production was staged was to put the dialogue on tape, similar to the fashion at the Hill Cumorah Pageant has done, using pretty good actors and then to pantomime the action of the story to the tapes. This uses not only a large number of people but horses for the cavalry and for Indians and the lighting effects are very simple. The production was not too well received and apparently after the first and second summers Mr. Robert Hide was invited out of town by one means or other. Anyway, he went to the West Coast. A large majority of the stockholders are extremely bitter about the production because they apparently had been sold to expect an immediate return to this pageant and were thinking of it in terms of quick monetary return. At the present time the director is the director of drama, and I gather a fairly successful one, at the local high school. The production is being continued largely through the efforts of voluntary citizens, a good many of whom are involved one way or another with this gentleman's high school program. Quite a number of the people participating are high school students in the area and a number of college students at home. The director has practically no

assistance except from two members of the board who had bought most of the stock. My feeling about the production is that there was no real reason, in terms of a significant event to tie this to the locale, although Crazyhorse was in this part of the country. The things he did happened either east or here or north and west of here and although there is no doubt that the Indians were along a particular little river where this project is played, the historical relationship to the actual land is weaker than it should be. Unless quality is added to this production in terms of this 1966 season, I do not think it can continue too long. The scope of it is largely of course panoramic and it is although ~~not~~ scriptic with dialogue, it is essentially a depicting of events rather than a character development drama and it is unfortunate that the local citizens who supported the project were really taken in and taken in I suppose by their own interest in making money much more than if they had decided that this was a wonderful thing that they wanted in their community. It's removed from the town of Hot Springs by about 7 miles. It's on a good road ~~not~~ but there is practically nothing else nearby to slow down traffic other than the location itself.

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