

The journey of three wee kings

Aided by a dazzling array of costumes, dance numbers and choruses, nearly 400 students from St. Pius X School in Chlii joined forces to tell in musical form the familiar story of the three kings from the east who journeyed in search of the King of Kings on the first Christmas.

In this case, however, the seekers were three wee kings known as Mel, Cas and Thaz, and their version of how things happened elaborated substantially on what the gospel accounts tell us.

In the course of their travels, the wee kings kept running into animals, from camels to lions, who considered them-

selves suitable candidates for the position of Promised One.

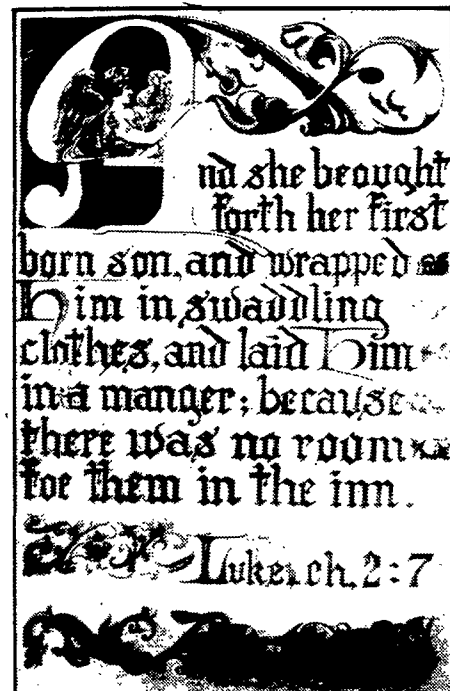
Despite their youthful appearances, the kings were not dissuaded by the animals. They persevered until they at last found Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child in the unlikely environs of the stable.

Directed by music teacher Anne Virgil, the production featured the talents and resources of students in grades one through six, as well as teachers and parents. Weekly rehearsals began before Halloween, Virgil said.

This is the second year that St. Pius the Tenth School has pulled out the stops for a full-scale musical Christmas pag-

eant, written by Daniel Sharp, Betty Hager and Fred Bock. Virgil said she chose the team's work both years for its religious themes, catchy, contemporary lyrics, and telling sound effects (provided by cassette tapes).

On Thursday, December 18, students presented "Three Wee Kings" to the school community and to a group of parish and neighborhood senior citizens. Their final performance for the general public was scheduled Friday, December 19, in the school auditorium.



"Kings" Todd Covert, Josh Sharer and Joe Stasiw arrive at their destination for the play's finale.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
Third-grader Jennifer Firpo quietly awaits her cue to stand up and sing during a production of "Three Wee Kings."



"Shepherds Joseph Pecora and Michael Marron sing with the chorus.



David Chevalier and Shawn Fowler find time for a short chat while portraying billy goats.