

# A lakeside town's pageant crosses religious boundaries

By Richard A. Kiley

In the small village of Aurora, a Christmas newest-born baby in Aurora or the surrounding hamlets, was awarded to an adopted Korean child.

The children's Christmas pageant, which began with a cast of only 10 more than 20 years ago, has blossomed into an ecumenical production encompassing more than 60 youths from as near as King Ferry and as far as Korea.

That's right — Korea. This year, the role of the infant Jesus, which is usually given to the newest-born baby in Aurora or the surrounding hamlets, was awarded to an adopted Korean child.

Katie Jordan, who arrived in Aurora just in time for Thanksgiving, graciously accepted the part and — not surprisingly — stole the spotlight in this year's December 23rd pageant.

"We just loved having her around," said Claire Morehouse, who has been helping organize the pageant for more than a decade. "She seemed to love all the children being around her and all the attention she received."

Katie's mother, Yvonne, said she was happy to oblige when Morehouse asked if Katie could play the part.

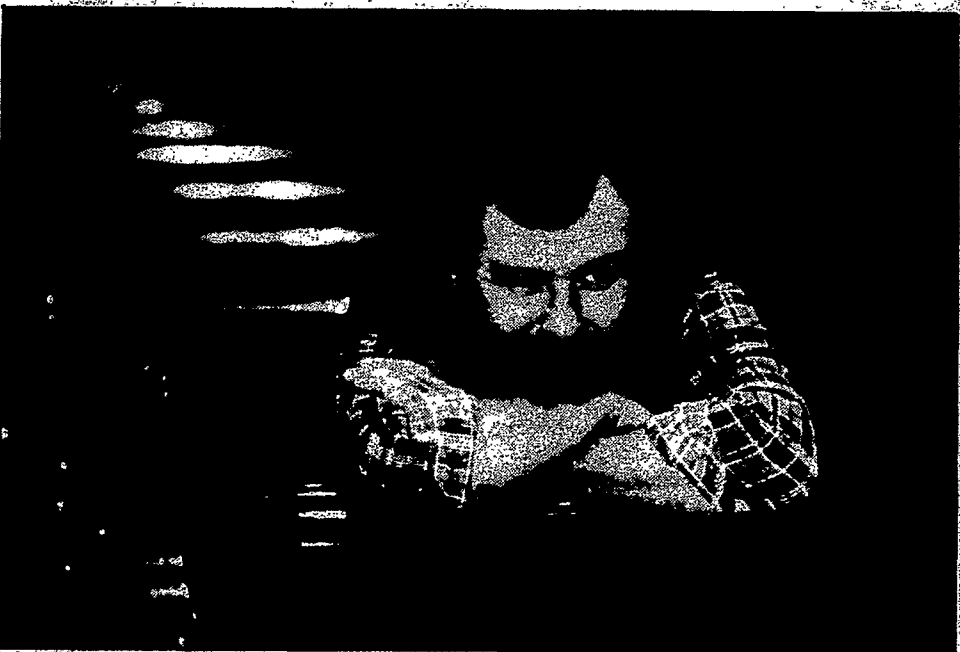


Kim Lowery, who plays an angel, listens to instructions from director Claire Morehouse.



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

During a rehearsal of the annual Aurora Christmas pageant, Claire Morehouse shows her cast of angels the way to exit the altar at the conclusion of their parts.



Alan Connors watches rehearsal from a back pew in Aurora's United Ministries Church while waiting to take his children home.



Shepherds and their animals gather at the feet Katie Jordan and stand-in Erin Connors — as Jesus and Mary, respectively — during the rehearsal for shepherds and angels.



Marie Taylor (left) and Andrea MacNicol adjust Heather Mathison's Wise Man costume during dress rehearsal. Many of the costumes were made by parents during the pageant's early years.

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