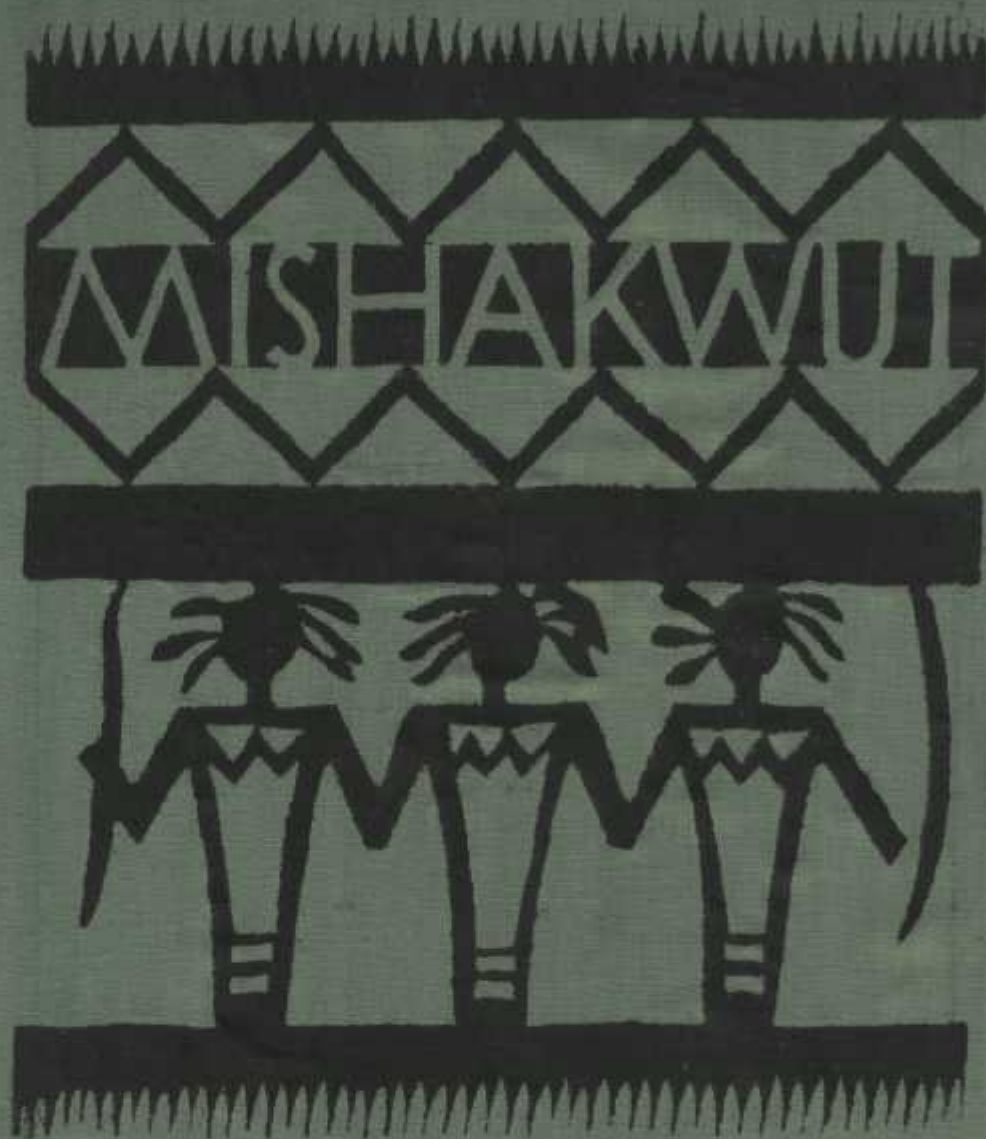




MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

UNITED STATES - Works Progress Admin. -
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Scrapbook concerning production of
a movie, "Mishakwut," depicting life
of the Menominee Indians, a WPA
project sponsored by the Wauwatosa,
Wis. Bd. of Education.

Wis
Mss
KH

BOX NO. 1 vol.

THIS PICTURE APPEARED IN THE MILWAUKEE



AS IT IS DEPICTED IN THE FILM "MISHAKWUT"
PROJECT FOR VISUAL EDUCATION SPONSORED BY

JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 13, 1936



A PRODUCTION OF THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
THE WAUWATOSA BOARD OF EDUCATION .

'Mishakwut' Premiere Packs Tosa Theater

A world premiere and actors who are the boy next door and the girl in your geometry class—combine them and you have a wildly enthusiastic movie audience such as jammed the Tosa theater, 6328 W. North avenue, last night.

"Mishakwut," film tale of the aboriginal Menominee, was having its initial showing. Conceived by Elliott W. Cooley, 137 W. Eighty-seventh street, as a visual education scheme, it was Wauwatosa-sponsored, filmed, directed and acted.

And Wauwatosa, city of homes and community spirit, turned out to a man to see it. Mothers and fathers and uncles and aunts of the half hundred high school students who had a hand in the production were there for the premiere, complete with flood lights, loud speaker and microphone.

Mrs. Philip La Follette, there to say a good word for this WPA project sponsored by the Wauwatosa board of education, spoke into the microphone, but nobody had a

ghost of an idea what she said, so wild was the noise of the crowd. W. A. Torkelson, state WPA director, fared only slightly better.

Children attended an earlier preview, at 6:30 p. m. All but Olive May Timmerman, 2034 N. Twelfth street, full-blooded Mohican baby. As the budding Shirley Temple who portrays the movie's hero in infancy, Olive May enjoyed the dignity of a seat at the regular premiere, and yawned with Greta Garbo disdain at the applause which greeted her appearance.

Wauwatosa Goes Hollywood for Indian Film



FRANK BEHRENS.

LOUISE LAMASON.

Wauwatosa, man, woman and child, eddied around the Tosa theater, 6328 W. North avenue, last night as local and state celebrities arrived for the premiere of the film, "Mishakwut," produced and acted by their fellow-



VIVIAN KERR.

townsmen. Miss Lamason, leading lady of the cast, is shown at the microphone, directed by Frank Behrens, announcer. One of the outfits Louise wears in the picture was donned by Miss Kerr, 7526 Lincoln street, for usher duty.

W13
M63
K11

FOREWORD

IN MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO DEPICT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CELLULOID THE CUSTOMS OF AN ALMOST EXTINCT INDIAN CULTURE, W.P.A. FEELS THAT IT HAS MADE A WORTHY AND PERMANENT CONTRIBUTION TO VISUAL EDUCATION.

"MISHAKWUT : THE STORY OF AN INDIAN BOY" DEPICTS THE LIFE AND CUSTOMS OF THE WISCONSIN MENOMINI INDIAN TRIBE. ONE OF THE FEW PEACEFUL, PASTORAL INDIAN TRIBES, WHOSE TRADITIONS ARE CULTURAL RATHER THAN WARLIKE, THE MENOMINI LIVED WHERE THE MILWAUKEE AND MENOMINEE RIVERS EMPTY INTO LAKE MICHIGAN. THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE HAS NOW REPLACED THEIR TEPEES ON THE BANKS OF THESE TWO RIVERS.

PROJECT 2224 IS SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WAUWATOSA, MILWAUKEE SUBURB.

BY MEANS OF THIS PROJECT, PUPILS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY WILL SOON BE LEARNING THEIR WISCONSIN HISTORY THROUGH THE ATTRACTIVE MEDIUM OF THE MOTION PICTURE.

ALREADY EDUCATORS HAVE SIGNIFIED THEIR INTEREST IN THIS EDUCATIONAL FILM. THEY SAY IT IS THE FIRST FILM ACCURATELY TO DEPICT THE LIFE OF A PARTICULAR INDIAN TRIBE. THEY ADVOCATE SIMILAR FILMS BY WHICH THE WHOLE RANGE OF CULTURES OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN CAN EVENTUALLY BE PICTURED.

"MISHAKWUT" WAS FILMED WITHIN THIRTY MILES OF MILWAUKEE'S BUSIEST METROPOLITAN THOROFARE. A PRIMITIVE SPOT OF VIRGIN TIMBER, FRINGING ROCKY CLIFF FORMATIONS, A STREAM WHICH HAS BEEN UNTOUCHED BY CIVILIZATION, WAS SELECTED BY ATTACHES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM AS AN ACCURATE SETTING.

A LITTLE BAND OF ACTORS (HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS) AND TECHNICIANS (W.P.A. WORKERS) WENT "ON LOCATION" TO THIS PRIMITIVE SPOT FOR THREE WEEKS THIS SUMMER. W.P.A. MANNED THE COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT WITH WORKERS FROM HOT LUNCH PROJECTS WHO WERE TEMPORARILY FREE BECAUSE OF RURAL SCHOOL VACATIONS. W.P.A. RECREATION PROJECTS PROVIDED LEADERS TO DIRECT THE LEASURE OF ALL NOT ENGAGED IN THE ACTUAL FILMING.

ARTISTS ON THE MILWAUKEE HANDICRAFT PROJECT METICULOUSLY COPIED MENOMINEE INDIAN DESIGN FROM MATERIAL MADE AVAILABLE BY THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM AND WORKERS MADE THE COSTUMES. ACCESSORIES WERE CLEVERLY REPRODUCED BY THE SAME PROJECT WHICH ALSO DESIGNED AND MADE THE PROGRAMS FOR THE PREMIERE.

HARRIETT PETTIBONE CLINTON, SUPERVISOR
WOMEN'S & PROFESSIONAL DIVISION
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.



GRAND PREMIERE
MISHAKWUT
WAUWATOSA'S OWN MOVIE ..
TOSA THEATER

OCT 19

50¢



THIS IS A REPLICA OF THE BANNER STREET SIGN
WHICH HUNG ACROSS NORTH AVENUE IN FRONT OF THE
TOSA THEATER FROM OCT. 10 TO OCT. 19, INCLUSIVE.

ANNOUNCING THE PREMIERE OF
WAUWATOSA'S OWN MOVIE

MISHAKWUT
(Covered by Clouds)

The story of a primitive Menominee Indian Boy. The picture has been
carefully checked for accuracy by the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Filmed by - Elliot Cooley and Norman Franz

Costumes designed by - Miss Alberta Johnson, Wauwatosa High School

Costumes made by - W.P.A. Handicraft Project

Characters are played by Wauwatosa school children

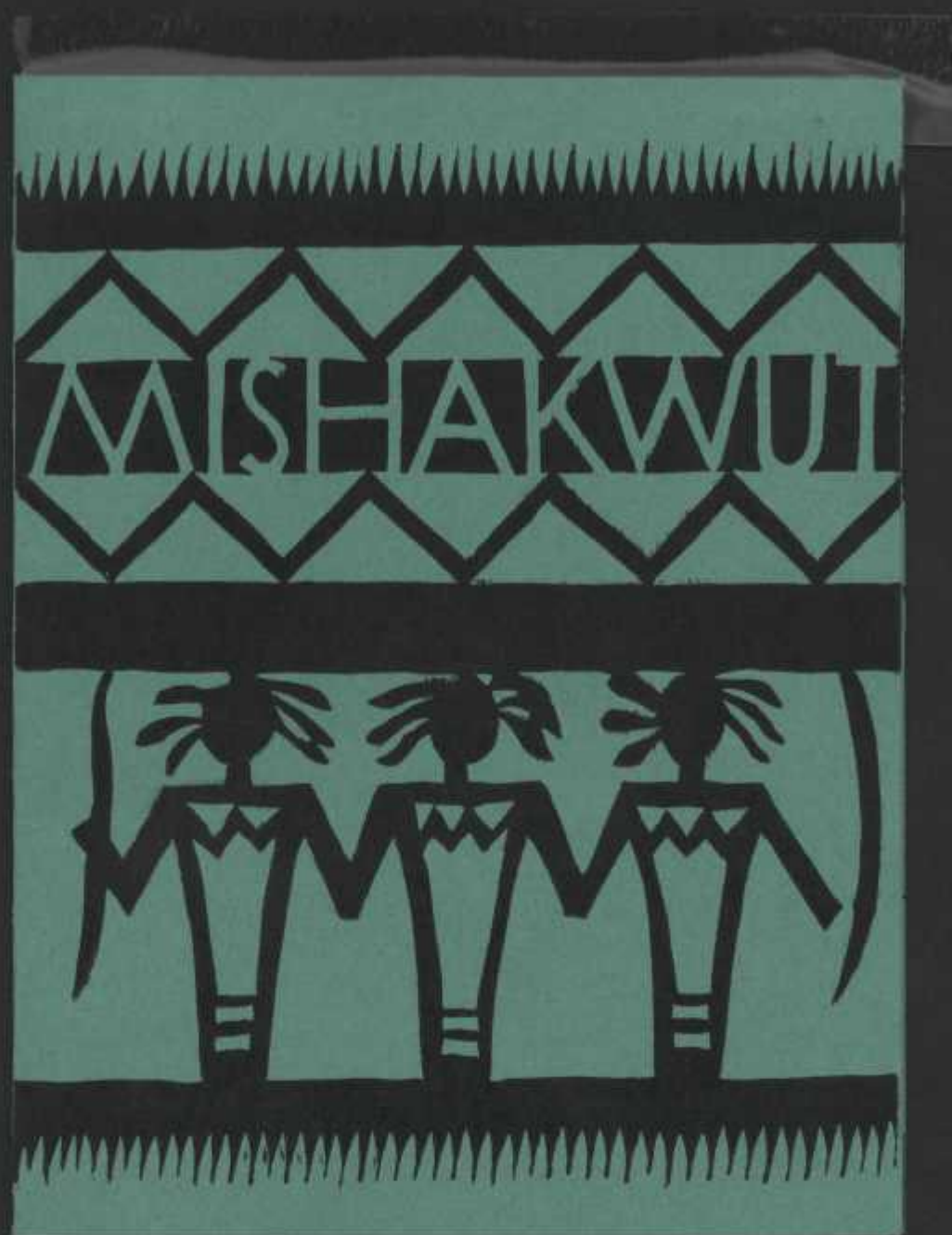
This picture is a production of the W.P.A. Visual Education Project,
sponsored by the Wauwatosa Board of Education.

A preview for children will be shown at the Tosa Theater (6823 W.
North Avenue) on Monday, October 19, at 6:30. Admission - 25 cents.

A Grand Premier with all the formalities of a Hollywood production
will be staged (Tosa Theater) at 8:30 on Monday, October 19. Admis-
sion - 50 cents.

Tickets can be secured from school children.

THESE HAND BILLS WERE DISTRIBUTED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN.



SOUVENIR PROGRAMS, DESIGNED AND
MADE BY THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMIN-
ISTRATION HANDICRAFT PROJECT, WERE
PRESENTED TO FIRST NIGHTERS AT THE
GRAND PREMIERE OF "MISHAKWUT",
STAGED AT THE TOSA THEATER, MONDAY,
OCT. 18, 1936, AT 8:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

for

THE PREMIERE

of

"MISHAKWUT"

An educational picture filmed by



THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

sponsored by the

WAUWATOSA BOARD OF EDUCATION

On the Milwaukee River
Grafton, Wisconsin
July 19 to August 9.

ON LOCATION -

Along the river bank birch-bark wigwams loaned by the Indians who had their village at the Lake Front Mid-Summer Festival gave "Mishakwut" a setting accurate in every detail.

Ceremonial drums, pottery, birch baskets, hand woven mats, animal skins, bear-claw necklaces, medicine bags, stone axes, a cradle board, flint tipped arrows, quilled belts and buckskin accessories added reality to the scenes. Props and costumes which could not be borrowed from private collections or purchased from the Indians on the Menominee reservation at Keshona were painstakingly fashioned by hand in primitive style.

The wardrobe, simple in line, was designed from museum exhibits and from authentic pieces purchased at Keshona and Niopet. Guided by drawings made by Wauwatosa High School stagecraft artists, fourteen women of the W.P.A. Handicrafts Project No. 1170 executed the costumes. The beautiful geometric patterns applied to accessories were hand-painted with surface markings simulating ancient quill work.

The camp at the close of the day, when costumes and props were checked in, resembled a rare Indian museum containing practically every item known to curators of the primitive Menominee.

"MISHÁKWUT"

This educational film accurately portrays aboriginal Indian life in Wisconsin. Many anachronisms distort the common, present day conception of our primitive red man.

The Menomini, who lived in the territory now Wisconsin, was pastoral and peace loving. He was conservative in manner and dress. Little of the colorful drama usually associated with his life finds its source in actual fact.

Mishákwut, a Menomini Indian boy, is the film's titular character. We follow his life from babyhood until he is admitted into the medicine society. In the pictorial chronicle of his life we see a genuine reproduction of the customs and traditions of Wisconsin's woodland Indian. The tribal naming and marriage rituals, the ceremonies of feasting and burial, as well as many others are shown.

Through Mishákwut's dawning comprehension of the beauties of nature, we too learn many valuable lessons in natural history. As he competes in tribal sports and games, we gain unique knowledge of the true way in which the prehistoric possessors of Wisconsin's fertile lands lived.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

For the Educational Motion Picture

"MISHÁKWUT"

Mishákwut -

The baby.....Baby Timmermann
The lad of ten.....Robert Oldenberg
The boy of fifteen.....Eugene Tullbane
The man.....Milton Sommer

Kiwakáwa -

The young girl.....Mary Jane McCarthy
The woman.....Louise Lamason

Kínésa - Uncle.....Anthony Pasbrig

Wanawat - Grandfather.....Robert DeAngelis

Pakóme - Grandmother.....Jane Grossman

Niópet - Brother.....Raymond Keane

Keshíne - Brother.....Robert Keane

Kínóke - Mother.....Jean Ewart

Matchikínéú - Chief.....Arthur Couture

Katish - Chief's wife.....Ruth Dowd

Wapápakó - Medicine Man.....Phillip Grossman

Shawano - Medicine Man.....Warden Weber

CAST OF CHARACTERS (cont)

Shanót.....	Virginia Sommer
Osawin.....	Margaret Hartzke
Okéma.....	Elizabeth Jernegan
Kanoni.....	Lucille Klug

Indian Men -

Jack Richards	Edward Armstrong
Raymond Belz	Robert Konle
Edward Streng	Gerald Cohen
Robert Heuel	Neal Quinn
Robert Scherr	

Indian Women -

Beverly Beerend	Gertrude Veit
Janet Pioner	Bernadine Diedrich

Indian Boys -

Joseph Steiner	Leonard Hayne
----------------	---------------

Indian Children -

Allan Wheeler	Alice Hyde
Betty Mahler	Doris Klug
Lorraine Keane	Merlyn Isenring
Shirley Ann Ryder	Nancy Jernegan
Ray Kiewet	

The name "Mishakwut" is not given to the Indian boy until his first fast has been completed and has proven successful. He is known as "Popakijiso" (Little One) until that time. This name was used not only as a Thunderer gons name, but as a nickname applied to the youngest son in every family, regardless of gons.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Norman G. Franz

Wardrobe By.....Alberta Johnson

Costumes made by the Works Progress Administration
Handicraft Project.

Entire production under the supervision of

Elliot W. Cooley
Directing Cinematographer

STUDENT STAFF

Script Clerks.....Eunice Fish, Alice Fahnke

Properties.....Paul Denehl Lois Flanagan
George Soeets James Kappelman

Make Up.....Bernice Wallack Dorothy Dahnke

Costumes.....Gertrude Veit Jean Tomlinson

Stagecraft Design Committee -

Lorraine Beerend

Beverly Beerend

Dorothy Dietzel

Meredythe Reid

Carol Tadewald

Gertrude Veit

Vivian Kerr

Natalie Soeets

Lila Soeets

Kathleen Post

Roger Kemen

HANDICRAFT
NO 1170
• VNA •
MILWAUKEE
WISCONSIN

Student Film To Be Shown on October 19

**Indian Life Picture Draws a Lot
of Praise From Milwaukee
Museum Officials**

Forty-four grade and high school youngsters will have a chance to see themselves on the silver screen at the Grand Premier of the film depicting the life of the Menomonee Indians which will be shown October 19 at the Tosa theater.

The film, directed by Elliott W. Cooley, was made during the summer, partly at a spot near Grafton and partly in Wauwatosa. Norman G. Franz was technical adviser, and Miss Alberta of the high school faculty, supervised costuming and advised as to authenticity.

The film is a visual education project. It will be used in the schools in connection with studies of Indian life.

School Authorities Expected

At the premier, which will start at 8:30 p. m. visual education authorities, school authorities and WPA authorities are expected to be present. A student premier will be held at 6:30 p. m. on the same night.

There will also be a lobby display of about fifty Indian relics used in the film.

In letters to Cooley, Dr. S. A. Barrett, director of the Milwaukee museum, and W. C. McKern, curator of anthropology, have endorsed the picture as the finest of its kind from every angle. They were shown a preview recently.

"I have appreciated all along your tendency toward great care and accuracy in this work, and so I was prepared to see a fairly accurate product," Mr. McKern wrote.

"However, the accuracy in ethnological detail portrayed in this picture far exceeds my most optimistic hopes."

"I have seen nothing for the woodland area portrayed in commercial films that shows anywhere near the cultural accuracy that characterizes your picture."

Acting Is Praised

"The acting is not only exceptionally good for students, but is free from all those un-Indian traits which characterize most European attempts at portraying Indian characters."

Dr. Barrett said:

"I must confess that whatever I hear of a film of aboriginal life I approach it with very great skepticism because so many attempts have been made to portray various phases of aboriginal life which have been such complete and absolute failures that I am always inclined to think that this is just another of these."

"However, after viewing your film, I must say that you have worked this out with great accuracy and with fidelity to scientific truths, which is most unusual."

"If all directors of motion pictures were as careful to depict the truth as you have been in this production our movies would not need to be censored, I am sure."

RADIO SPEECH

.....

MR. WILLIAM DARLING, Superintendent of Schools
of Wauwatosa

Given over W.E.M.P.

July 10, 1936

1:45 P.M.

FROM: Harriet P. Clinton, Supervisor
Women's and Professional Projects.

ANNOUNCER:

Next fall, the pupils of the Wauwatosa High School will see a moving picture of the Menominee Indians, as they used to live in this part of Wisconsin long before the first white man ever saw them.

The first camera was invented long after a little band of pioneers settled Wauwatosa 101 years ago this summer. And the modern counterpart, which is the motion picture camera, had not been dreamed of.

Mr. William Darling, Superintendent of Schools of Wauwatosa, will tell you how a Works Progress Administration project has made it possible for this moving picture to be taken. Mr. Darling.

MR. DARLING:

We are able to make a picture of the aboriginal Menominee Indian life in Wisconsin because W.P.A. has made it possible for us to do a great deal of research on the subject and gather together replicas of the tools the Menominees used, the dwellings they lived in and the garments they wore.

ANNOUNCER:

Will this be like the usual Hollywood picture?

MR. DARLING:

I'm afraid our boys and girls could not get a very authentic idea of Menominee Indian life from Indian moving pictures made in Hollywood. Hollywood is interested principally in the picturesque and thrilling and often loses sight of the authentic.

If you were to believe the Hollywood movies, you would think all Indians lived in triangular tepees. As a matter of fact no primitive Wisconsin Indians lived in tepees. The Menominees lived in round huts resembling a bee-hive in shape. These homes were constructed, not of gorgeously painted leather, but of a network of twigs and pliable branches, covered with reed mats. It will be this type of habitation you will see in our educational film.

Our Indian village will take shape under the careful guidance of Dr. Barrett, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and W. C. McKern, curator of anthropology. The museum, you know, is pre-eminent as an authority on the subject of Indian folk lore.

ANNOUNCER:

How are you going to costume this picture?

MR. DARLING:

That is another question to which Hollywood has its own erroneous answers. Every Hollywood picture has its Indian chiefs bedecked in an elaborate feathered head piece, which in reality is a war bonnet. As such it was worn only on

martial occasions. Our Menominees were an imaginative people, peaceful and artistic in nature, unassuming in dress. Usually the brave wore only a pair of buckskin leggings, a breech clout and a single eagle feather in his hair. On ceremonial occasions only did he dress more elaborately. For such occasions he wore long fringed leggings, a garter embellished with a few colored quills below the knee, and perhaps a quilled belt, or a bandolier bag, a tobacco pouch or a series of beauty kits in which to carry paint. His necklace, on ceremonial occasions, was of bear claws, small shells, wampum or bright beads. Grey feathers tipped with bright down were worn in his hair or topping a head dress called a *reche*. But mark this: while an Indian might own all of these accessories, he was most punctilious in his taste. He never over-dressed. Seldom did he appear in more than two of these native adornments.

ANNOUNCER:

What about the Indian maidens? Are the Hollywood movies equally far-fetched about the costumes of these dusky princesses?

MR. DARLING:

I'm afraid so. For ceremonials, the Menominee Indian girl wore a buckskin garment of classic simplicity, one-piece fringed just below the knee. Her work dress was a wrap-around skirt tied in the back. Styles did not change from

season to season. The length of the belt fringe, for instance, was invariably the same on all Menominee costumes,-- 24 inches long on the man's and 18 inches long on the woman's costumes.

Our research on costumes and accessories was done by pupils of the Wauwatosa high school under the supervision of Miss Alberta Johnson, teacher of American History and Stage Craft in the Langfellow Junior High School, Wauwatosa. Miss Johnson visited the Menominee Indian Reservation near Shawano and saw, at first hand, what Indian antiques there are left up there. She talked with Grandma Dutchman, small, withered, leather-skinned Menominee matriarch. No one knows how old Grandma Dutchman is. But everyone knows that she holds in great respect the ideals and rites of her ancestors.

We, in Wauwatosa, are attempting to build up an Indian museum. Our first specimens are those purchased from Grandma Dutchman. They consist of a pair of leggings, eagle feathers, baskets, reed mats and an ancient water drum whose tom-tom beat can be heard for fourteen miles. These will all be used in our film. We will, however, need many more authentic accessories. So we have called upon a second W.P.A. project for help. Workers on the Handicraft project, sponsored by the Milwaukee State Teachers' College, are copying Grandma Dutchman's articles and many more which are the property of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Our students have made costume plates from literature on Indian lore. These sketches are in turn copied by the seamstresses on the project.

We find that $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces of spaghetti painted dark blue and white make very attractive and realistic wampum pieces, and that wire frames covered with brown paper mache make effective bear claws for necklaces. Ruches, correctly worn on shaved heads, were originally made of buck tails and porcupine hair. These are being simulated by some hair-fringe once donated to the Handicraft project.

ANNOUNCER:

Will your Indian movie have a name and a plot?

MR. DARLING:

The title is "The Great Mystery". The story is of an Indian boy, Hakadah, and his home. The first scenes will be the Menominee ceremonies of christening. The plot will contain both romance and drama. The picture will show the aboriginal Menominee Indians in their usual habits of life.

Scene subsequent to the christening, will carry the Indian boy through his correct environment, as he plays with his playmates, helps his parents prepare the usual Indian meal, learns how to make bows and arrows, in fact, until Hakadah is old enough to attain the ideal of every Indian boy, - initiation into the exclusive Medicine Society, which is the reward of great physical prowess.

It will be filmed near Grafton, on the banks of the Milwaukee River. Mr. McKern says that this spot with its virgin timber and sparkling waterfall is appropriate to our purpose. It will reflect accurately the environment of a typical aborigine Menominee village.

ANNOUNCER:

What about actors?

MR. DARLING:

Wauwatosa high school students will play the parts. They will be made up with great care and rehearsed in their roles during the coming weeks. Filming will start at Grafton July 20. After the outdoor scenes have all been taken, the finale will be filmed in a Menominee interior which is now being built in Wauwatosa.

ANNOUNCER:

Is your W.P.A. project a project for making movies?

MR. DARLING:

Our project calls for visual aids to instruction. We educators know that the best way to teach boys and girls is to "draw a picture for them". Gradually beginning with the crude work of twenty years ago with lantern slides, the idea of movies as a definite, almost incomparable, instructive aid, has evolved. At the present time, it is common knowledge, outside as well as within the profession that this type of presentation has remarkable results both because of the facility with which the information is absorbed and the ease with which it is retained. The Indian film will be a history lesson on aboriginal Indian life in Wisconsin. We have already released several educational movies which have proved to be highly successful. We have, for instance, a complete visual record of all curricular

activities of the Longfellow Junior High School. This film depicts classroom procedure. It was shown recently at the Visual Institute held at the Bureau of Visual Instruction of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, where it was very enthusiastically acclaimed.

Sixth grade children were used as the actors for another film which shows in detail the construction of puppets and gives complete directions for presenting a puppet show.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

S. A. BARRETT, DIRECTOR

C-O-P-Y

Department of Anthropology,
W. C. McKern, Curator.

October 2, 1936

Mr. E. C. Cooley,
6926 Aetna Court,
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

My Dear Mr. Cooley:

Permit me again to express my thanks for the opportunity to sit in at a preview of the educational movie films produced as a visual education project of the Works Progress Administration, sponsored by the Wauwatosa Board of Education. I enjoyed the picture very much, and it occurred to me that you might be interested in my critical reaction to the accuracy of the ethnological matter represented therein.

I have appreciated all along your tendency toward great care and accuracy in this work, and so I was prepared to see a fairly accurate product. However, the accuracy in ethnological details portrayed in this picture far exceeds my most optimistic hopes. In fact the criticisms that I would make are altogether trivial in character in consideration of the purpose involved in the making of the film. They are not worth mentioning in this letter. I have seen nothing for the Woodland area portrayed in commercial films that shows anywhere near the cultural accuracy that characterizes your picture.

Two other matters impress me. The acting is not only exceptionally good for students, but is free from all those un-Indian traits which characterizes most European attempts at portraying Indian characters. In the second place, I am utterly astonished at the excellence of your film in consideration of the altogether trivial expense involved. I should have gambled that it could not be done.

Permit me to most heartily congratulate you and all others who participated in the production of this film. You have done an excellent job and deserve no end of credit.

Very sincerely yours,

W. C. McKern
W. C. McKern.

Curator of Anthropology.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

S. A. BARRETT, DIRECTOR

Office of the Director

October

Fifth

1936

Mr. E. W. Cooley
Jefferson School
6926 Aetna Court
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Cooley:

I want to thank you for your kindness in allowing me to have a little preview of your Indian film which you made this past summer.

May I say that I was very agreeably surprised with the results you obtained. I must confess that whenever I hear of a film of aboriginal life, I approach it with very great scepticism because so many attempts have been made to portray various phases of aboriginal life which have been such complete and absolute failures that I am always inclined to think that this is just another of these.

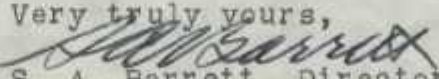
However, after viewing your film, I must say that you have worked this out with great accuracy and with fidelity to scientific truths, which is most unusual.

The personnel of your cast was, as I understand, drawn from your own school classes, and contained no professional actors or actresses. The results you obtained with these young people are really remarkable.

If all directors of motion pictures were as careful to depict the truth as you have in this production, our movies would not need to be censored, I am sure.

Again congratulating you upon this production, I remain

Very truly yours,


S. A. Barrett, Director

C O P Y

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
17 Pillsbury Hall, University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 14, 1936

Adviser
Student Newspaper
Wauwatosa High School
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

In a recent issue of the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, I noticed a photograph taken "on location" near Cedarburg, and which showed work being done on the film which was made by your students some short time ago.

I would appreciate your sending us a photograph on this subject for use in the Scholastic Roto-Review, the rotogravure section that is distributed each month with some 200 high school newspapers. As you know, we pay the regular rate of \$3.00 for all photos accepted for publication.

I am enclosing a copy of the Roto-Review for your inspection.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) FREDERICK J. NOER

FN:EA

Frederick J. Noer
Editor

Enc.

NOTE: This letter refers to the colored roto picture which appeared in the Milwaukee Journal September 13th and which is used as the end papers of this book.

HARRIET P. CLINTON, Supervisor
Women's and Professional Div., W.P.A.

and

WILLIAM DARLING, Superintendent
Schools of Warrenton

Speaking over W.I.S.N.
4:00 P.M.
Oct. 19, 1935.

From:

HARRIET P. CLINTON, Supervisor
Women's and Professional Division
Works Progress Administration

ANNOUNCER:

The personal appearance of an entire movie cast!
Spot lights flooding the theater entrance as the stars
arrive! Socialites and prominent educators introduced as
they step from their cars!

Does this sound like a movie premiere at Sid
Granman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood? It is a movie
premiere, all right, but it is going to take place right
here in Wauwatosa tonight.

All the thrilling technique of the film capitol
will be used to make you feel as though you are in Hollywood.

For a week now, banners have stretched across North
Avenue in front of the Tosa Theater. These banners announce
the first showing on any screen of "Mishakwut: The Story
of an Indian Boy". And, believe it or not, this picture was
made within thirty miles of Milwaukee.

You haven't read of any Hollywood stars being
imported into Wisconsin? Ah . . . these stars live right
here in Greater Milwaukee. They are the sons and daughters
of prominent Wauwatosa families. And they have made a
picture which is unique of its kind.

Most Hollywood Indian pictures are just - - -
well - - - Indian pictures. They are a hodge podge of many
tribal customs and dress, but the accurate reflection of none.

This is the first really authentic picture of a specific Indian tribe which has ever been filmed. It has been made as a Works Progress Administration project for aids to visual education. The Wauwatosa Board of Education is the sponsor of the project.

In the studio with me are Mrs. Harriet Clinton and Mr. William Darling to tell you more about "Mishakwut". Mrs. Clinton is the supervisor of the Women's and Professional projects which include the Wauwatosa project. Mr. Darling is the superintendent of schools in Wauwatosa.

Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Darling.

MR. DARLING:

I certainly do feel, Mrs. Clinton, that you and I can enjoy a few moments of mutual congratulation. When I saw the movie, "Mishakwut", the other night at its pre-view for you and our school board members, I was most impressed. It is indeed a professional accomplishment,-- acting, photography and technical supervision are handled splendidly. Despite all of the research work I had been hearing about, I hadn't dreamed that such a scientific work would be the result.

MRS. CLINTON:

This film, "Mishakwat", is a piece of W.P.A. work of which I am very proud. It is part of a very fine project sponsored by Mr. Darling. We feel that W.P.A. has been instrumental in starting a collection of authentic Indian films which will be a distinct addition to education. And, if I am not mistaken, educators are showing their interest.

MR. DARLING:

I have been surprised at the keen interest with which many nationally known figures in the field of visual education have followed the work being done on this movie. Dr. Edgar Dale, head of the department of educational research of Ohio State University, and Mr. J. E. Hansen, chief of the visual instruction bureau of the University of Wisconsin Extension Division, have both kept close tab on the production of "Mishakwat". They plan to attend our premiere tonight. We have also invited all the superintendents of schools in Milwaukee County and members of the school board of the City of Milwaukee.

MRS. CLINTON:

W.P.A., too, will be well represented. Major Boyer, district director, will be there. Mr. M. W. Torkelson, the state administrator, and Mrs. Torkelson are coming from Madison to attend. Mrs. Esther Haas, state director of women's and

professional projects, will also attend.

But we must not forget the hundreds of men and women whose interest in this film is as great as that of either the Wauwatosa school board or W.P.A. I refer to the mothers and fathers and friends of the many Wauwatosa high school students who are taking part in "Mishakwit".

MR. DARLING:

Almost as interested as the actors and actresses themselves is the rest of the student body. And for them we are having a special student pre-view at the Tosa Theater at 6:30 tonight. Those who attend this student showing will hear the orchestral recordings especially arranged as a musical accompaniment to the picture. And they will see the elaborate lobby display which has been arranged by Miss Alberta Johnson, our stage craft and costume design teacher. This exhibit will include designs sketched by her students for all the costumes. It will also include properties which the board of education purchased for the film at the Menominee Indian Reservation, up near Shawano, last summer. These properties, by the way, form the nucleus for an Indian museum which we are ambitious to build up by our school. Will you explain how the costumes were made on your Handicraft Project, Mrs. Clinton?

MRS. CLINTON:

Yes. From the designs furnished by Miss Johnson and discovered at the public museum and through other sources, the Handicraft Project made the wardrobe for "Wishakwat". During the past year this project has turned out several hundred costumes for public schools. The schools bring in their materials and we make the costumes which then become the permanent property of the schools. In this way, W.P.A. has made it possible for many tax supported institutions to build up permanent dramatic wardrobes. By means of these school wardrobes many families on relief have been able to take part in school dramatic activities, when the costume cost of such participation might well have disbarred them.

MR. DARLING:

The lighting effects for tonight's premiere were also taken care of by you people, I believe?

MRS. CLINTON:

Yes. Flood lights will be placed so that the entrance to the Tosa Theater will be brilliantly illumined. These flood lights are being loaned by the Milwaukee County Park Commission recreation project. We must have plenty of light, you know, so that all of the celebrities will be readily

recognized by the radio announcer who will introduce them as they arrive.

MR. DARLING:

Inside, Phil Grossman, one of our alumni, will introduce each of the stars - - - in real life Wauwatosa high school students. After these personal appearances, Dr. Barrett, of the public museum, will vouch for the authenticity of the production. Museum officials have been very generous with their time in checking the film for scientific accuracy. We are most grateful to all who have helped to make possible this notable contribution to visual education.

MR. A. W. KRUEGER
Principal,
Jefferson School, Wauwatosa

Speaking over W.I.S.N.
2:00 P.M.
Oct. 16, 1936.

From:

HARRIET P. CLINTON, Supervisor
Women's and Professional Div.

ANNOUNCER:

Plans for the grand premiere showing of "Mishakwut", an educational Indian motion picture, made by Wauwatosaans, have excited great interest. The film was produced by the Works Progress Administration project for visual education. This project is sponsored by the Wauwatosa Board of Education.

Next Monday night the film will be shown for the first time at the Tosa Theater in Wauwatosa. All of the accoutrements of a professional first night have been planned as these Wauwatosa high school students make their debut as cinema stars.

Mr. A. W. Krueger, principal of the Jefferson School in Wauwatosa, has been very closely connected with the production of this W.P.A. film. As he is also an enthusiastic exponent of visual education we have asked him to discuss this educational field in general and the plans for the premiere of Wauwatosa's own movie in particular. Mr. Krueger.

MR. KRUEGER:

The almost daily projection of the movie into our homes and our lives has created the impression that visual education is nothing more than the use of movie films. While films do predominate, they do not embrace the whole field.

Visual education is not a new idea. It is as old as time. We are reasonably certain that picture language was the forerunner of our modern alphabet. Visual education is merely

the conveyance of impressions from one to another through the medium of sight. Let me enumerate the outstanding phases of visual education.

Beginning with the school child we have class room experiences and blackboard illustrations; observation of various things on the school journey; plays and pageants depicting many scenes, including particularly pantomime; models, specimens, charts and diagrams; maps and globes, prints and photographs; the stereograph, lantern slides, the opaque lantern through which is shown pictures on every conceivable educational subject. More recently we come to the still film, the film slide, and, finally, the motion picture.

Each and every one of these instruction aids has its place in educational development. I could not recommend one type of visual sensory aid above another except in specific cases where one would serve more effectively than another. To illustrate: One would not use a moving picture to study still life.

Experience shows that each of these devices properly used by trained instructors makes it possible to teach the child more in a given time; to teach him more thoroughly and to aid him in the permanent assimilation of the material presented. Children having the advantages of visual education are as much as 40% above the standard of those who do not have such an opportunity. Visual education is not at all confined to the

work done in schools. The industrial world makes constant use of it. Captains of industry have repeatedly found that the motion picture, the slide, the photograph and the chart are highly important in illustrating manufacturing processes. The motion picture affects the daily life of individuals with a force surpassed only by the combined influence of the press and radio.

In the Journal of the American Association of University Women this statement recently appeared: "Each week seventy-seven million people in the United States attend motion picture theaters. A vehicle that reaches two-thirds of the American people fifty-two times a year must play a vital role in shaping the thinking of citizens as well as the social customs of the nation. Moreover, the visual approach plus the dramatic presentation of the motion picture film makes the movie important as a molder of attitudes."

We, who are working entirely in the education and training of the youth of the nation -- our future citizens -- feel our responsibility to them and seek to prepare them for the problems of later life.

To that end states have established visual education departments. Bureaus provide loan services to schools which cannot afford films.

We in Wauwatosa have included aids to visual education in our W.P.A. school project. With the aid of W.P.A. we have been able to produce six educational movies. I will tell you about three of them.

A cocoon was brought in by the children last fall. Early last spring this cocoon produced a beautiful cecropia moth. This exciting phenomenon in zoology became the subject of our first W.P.A. film. An increased interest in nature study was immediately apparent.

Puppet making, with a puppet show as the finale, made another splendid picture. It proved an excellent means of inciting interest and bringing out the possibilities of children whose timidity heretofore had over-shadowed their interest in the subject.

And now to our Indian film! It is a feature length motion picture, made with the showmanship which belongs to Hollywood. But the spectacular points of this film you will see when you attend its premiere at the Wozz Theater next Monday night.

And, by the way, I understand that this event is drawing a large number of prominent persons. Mrs. La Follette, wife of Wisconsin's governor, is coming from Madison, as are State W.P.A. Administrator M. W. Torkelson and Mrs. Torkelson, also Mrs. Esther Haas, Director of the Women's and Professional Division, educators from the universities of Wisconsin and Ohio are coming. It is their reasons for interest which I want to emphasize.

Visual education has long passed the experimental stage and has proved an invaluable asset in education of youth. I quote a line from Dr. Hoban's address before the National Educational meeting:

"I predict that the next ten years will witness one of the greatest contributions in the development of visual instruction that has been made in the history of our country."

We in Wauwatosa feel that W.P.A. has made it possible for us to make such a contribution.

Youngsters Will Make Movie Depicting Life of Menomonee Indians

Fifty-Nine Will Go to "Little Hollywood" Near Grafton

Fifty-nine Wauwatosa grade and high school pupils will soon do something that every child has dreamed about at some time or other—make a moving picture.

On July 26 they will go to a spot near Grafton, Wis., about 22 miles away from here and work on a picture depicting the life and customs of the primitive Menomonee Indians, the largest of the Wisconsin tribes. Their "Little Hollywood" will break camp about July 31.

The moving picture is an educational and non-commercial project backed by the board of education, which is supplying the necessary materials, and the W. P. A., which is supplying the labor. It was undertaken because of the prominence of Indian lore in the high school instruction. The film, to be shown next fall after the new term opens is intended to aid the instruction in Indian culture in the high school.

Elliot Cooley Photographs

Elliot W. Cooley will do the photographing, and Norman G. Franz will be the technical director. Miss Alberta Johnson of the high school faculty, is authenticating and supervising the custom design.

All departments of the Milwaukee museum are giving their help. Dr. Barrett, museum director, and W. C. McKern, are checking the entire project to guard against anachronisms and other inaccuracies.

The picture will depict the life of a Menomonee Indian from babyhood through childhood, maturity and old age. It will show primitive Indian modes of life, dress, ceremonies and habits.

Mohican Papoose, Too

Four or five young people will play the part of the central figure. The baby, however, will be played by a full-blooded Mohican papoose. Medicine men, a grandmother, children, and other braves are also included in the cast.

More persons are needed, however, Cooley said. He especially wants boys of high school age and boys and girls of junior high school age. They must have dark brown or black eyes, and dark hair if possible. Dark skin is also an asset.

Cooley asks those interested to report to Room 207 at the senior high school Monday and Tuesday from 11 a. m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 2 p. m.

In addition to the cast, about thirty others are designing costumes and doing other work in connection with the production. The W. P. A. has furnished fourteen seamstresses for costumes; two recreational directors to take care of the younger children at the camp, and two cooks.

Costumes to Be Simple

The costumes, according to Miss Johnson, will have the simple designs of the Menomonee aborigines. The every day costumes will be buckskin. Fancy belts, trimmings, etc. will be added to costumes for ceremonial purposes.

A motley collection of supplies has been purchased: buckskins, leather straps, lintels, lima beans, and spaghetti. Why the Latin food? To make a wampum belt, Miss Johnson explained.

The W. P. A. woodworking department is carving out a supply of claws, horns, bear teeth and wolf fangs.

However, a number of things are still needed, and if some kind citizen wants to donate them, the school administration will be grateful. Among the needed articles are eagle and hawk feathers, horse hair, squirrel tails, snake skins (rattlers preferred) porcupine hair and deer hair.

INDIANS' LIFE IS RECORDED IN PUPILS' MOVIE

Authentic Picture of Menominee Habits Is Garnered.

"On location" out near Grafton are a half hundred Wauwatosa school children, recording and making history without half the excitement expended on a good report card or a trick dance step.

Their motion picture, being filmed on the banks of the Milwaukee river, pieces together for the first time on celluloid the customs of an almost extinct culture, that of the Menominee Indians. What is more, they are setting precedent: As far as is known, it is the only school-produced and -acted movie ever to be attempted in this country.

Not that these amateurs, from the bona fide Mohican baby on up to the adults, are impressed with the imposing "firsts" they have a hand in establishing. It's all in a day's vacation. There is not a boy bothered about whether he has a Gary Cooper profile. Nor a sweet young thing intent on giving Joan Crawford a run for her money.

PICTURE IS AUTHENTIC.

But where to get birchbark strips for the bee-hive wigwags when there is a law against stripping the trees, or whether soap is a better material than wood for imitation claws—now there are a couple of problems to perk up young interests.

Not how they do it in Hollywood, but how they did it centuries ago in pre-white man Wisconsin is what these juvenile actors and technical assistants want to know. Like their bosses—Elliot W. Cooley, 137 N. Eighty-seventh street; Norman G. Franz, erstwhile RKO sound man, and Miss Alberta Johnson, 2435 W. Wisconsin avenue—they are determined this will be one picture that is authentic.

\$113 FOR COSTUMES.

And that with a costume expenditure for the entire cast of 50 that would not begin to see Norma Shearer through her first scene—\$113.37.

The whole idea was Mr. Cooley's. A firm believer in visual education, a photographer of no mean attainments and a man who had discovered the error of his ideas about the Menominee, he "sold" the Wauwatosa board of education on the proposition of making a film that would correct popular misconceptions of the culture of Wisconsin's largest Indian tribe, and of showing this film as part of the school curriculum.

WPA officials were impressed. Women working under the WPA Handicrafts project, supervised by the Milwaukee State Teachers college, at 793 N. Jackson street, turned out most of the "wardrobe" from designs furnished by Miss Johnson and eight of her high school stagecraft students.

NO GAY BLANKETS.

There is not a highly feathered war bonnet in the lot, nor a gay blanket. And for a very good reason: the primitive Menominee did not have them.

Messrs. Cooley and Franz and Miss Johnson spent long hours combing the available literature on the tribe, worming information out of the handful of old timers on the Shawano county reservation who still cling to vestiges of the old culture, and then checking everything with Dr. Samuel Barrett and W. C. McKern, public museum authorities on the American Indian.

So—the hero, Mishakwat (Covered-by-Clouds) and the other braves, play lacrosse, but not as a game. Originally it was a medicine dance. They will carry beauty kits. How the squaws looked seemed to be a matter of little concern. But their husbands toted combs of bone, encased in deer antler cases, together with comb-cleaners of porcupine quills.

TASKS ARE DIFFICULT.

Jason searching for the Golden Fleece had a snap compared to the job of Miss Johnson and Mr. Franz, property man. The few Menominee who have eagle feathers prize them above high heeled slippers, and waumpum is scarcer than gold in circulation.

Two of the few old authentic things they have been able to round up were bought from ancient "Grandma" Dutchman on the reservation: a ceremonial roache (ceremonial head gear) and a water drum.

For a good share of the rest, they have allowed themselves pictorial license. Spaghetti, strung and painted, looks like bone waumpum. Experimentation has resulted in a painting technique which simulates the ancient quill work—porcupine quills inlaid in buckskin. Flannel photographs like buckskin. An old fur coat was cut up to make the money bags patterned after the authentic mink ones lent by Edward C. Honey, 322 W. Michigan street, of the United States bureau of entomology.

CHILDREN BRAID BELTS.

Carted out by bus when they are needed for scenes, members of the cast turn a hand to whittling out la crosse sticks, braiding belts, stringing painted beans on string for beads, and what not.

Cast as Mishakwat in the various stages of his development are Robert Oldenberg, Eugene Tullbans and Milton Sommers. Mishakwat's dark-eyed wife is pretty Louise Lamason. The chief is Arthur Couture; the uncle, Anthony Pasbrig; the grandfather, Robert De Angella, and the grandmother, Jane Grossman. Philip Grossman



LOUISE LAMASON

and Warden Weber are cast as medicine men.

Operating from the costume tent under the watchful eye of Miss Johnson are Gertrude Velt, Vernice Gilmeister and Lorraine Beerend. Dorothy Dahne and Bernice Wallick preside over the makeup boxes. Jean Tomlinson is custodian of wigs.

RECREATION FOR CHILDREN.

In the property tent next door are Paul Derschl, George Sceets and Jim Kappelmann. Busy in the lean-to office adjoining the sleeping quarters of Mr. Cooley and Mr. Franz are the script girls, Eunice Fish and Beverly Beerend.

It was Beverly and her sister, Lorraine, who did most of the designing, along with Dorothy Dietzel, Lila and Natalie Sceets, Maredythe Reid, Vivian Kerr and Robert Kernen.

But all activity is cut short by the noon dinner bell when Mrs. Ida Oakes and Miss Augusta Kiel, cooks, come into their own. And Mrs. Violet Janek, recreation director, has a free hand at swimming time in the deep hole above the dam.

Movie Making Is Big Job :- Looking Over Script on Indian Life



ANTHONY PASBRIG

(Sentinel Photos.)



EUNICE FISH

ELLIOT W. COOLEY.

Turning out a movie that is sharpshooter proof is a big job, and a satisfying one, 50 Wauwatosa school students are discovering. Enlisted by Mr. Cooley, 137 N. Eighty-seventh street, the co-author and director of the film about the Menominee Indians, they are acting and assisting in the several technical departments. At the upper left, Anthony Pasbrig, 7010 W. Wells street, personifies Keshine (Swift Flying), uncle of the hero, Mishakwat. With the addition of a wig of long black braids, the school girl, Miss Lamason, 1844 N. Sixty-ninth street, becomes Kiwakawa (Wandering in Clouds), wife of the hero, lower left. As the filming progresses, changes are necessary in the script. Mr. Cooley was just designating one to Miss Fish when the "still" photographer came upon them.

IN INDIAN LIFE PLAY



Louise Lamason, 7720 West North avenue, Wauwatosa, who will be the star of Wauwatosa moving picture of primitive Indian life among the Menominees, a production of the WPA visual education project.

(TRIBUNE Photo.)

CHICAGO SUNDAY TRIBUNE: OCTOBER 11, 1936.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND THE

P r e m i e r e

OF WAUWATOSA'S OWN MOTION PICTURE

"Mishakwut"

(THE STORY OF A MENOMINI INDIAN)

AT THE

Tosa Theater -- October 19

EIGHT-THIRTY O'CLOCK P. M.

MEET THREE GOOD INDIANS



LOUIS LAMASON.

WARDEN WEBBER.

JEAN EWART.

Preparing the lobby display of items used in the production of "Mishakwut," Indian historical and educational movie by students at Wauwatosa High school, for Monday night's premiere presentation at the Tosa theater, are Miss Lamason, 5220 W. North av., who took the juvenile lead in

the movie; Webber, 6118 Washington circle, the head medicine man, and Miss Ewart, 2459 Lefebvre av., who was the "mother" of the leading man, "Mishakwut." International News Photo by Wisconsin News Photographer.

WISCONSIN NEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1936

City Awaits Its Indian Movie

'Mishakwut' to Be Shown at Tosa Theater Monday Night, For Adults and Pupils

Last minute arrangements are being made at the Tosa Theater, N. Sixty-ninth street and W. North avenue, for the showing of Mishakwut, the high school movie portraying authentically the life, history and customs of the Menominee Indian tribe Monday.

The picture is presented in conjunction with WPA (Works Progress Administration), who turned out the costumes, which are really authentic, according to critics.

According to Miss Alberta Johnson, teacher of American history and stagecraft, at the Wauwatosa schools current films are very much amiss in authentic Indian garbing, producers and directors dressing their performers to please the popular conception of how an Indian should be dressed, rather than historically correct portrayals. W. C. McKern, curator of anthropology, at the museum, acted as advisor of the native costumes.

WPA women workers, under the handicraft project, sponsored by the Milwaukee State Teachers college, at 793 N. Jackson street, turned out the wardrobes, from designs furnished by Miss Johnson and her staff of eight high school stagecraft pupils.

Almost Extinct Culture

This motion picture, filmed on the banks of the Milwaukee river, near Grafton, depicts for the first time in celluloid the customs of an almost extinct culture, that of the Menominee Indians. The cast is composed of Wauwatosa High school students. As far as known it is the first school-produced and acted movie to be shown in this country. At Grafton, the locale of the film, tents were put up from July 6 to 18 for student actors and workers.

With the entire costume expenditure but \$113.37 these juvenile actors and technicians were determined this was to be one picture that was authentic. They sought to portray Indian life,—not how it is lived in Hollywood, but as it was centuries ago.

The whole idea for the scrip belongs to Elliot W. Cooley. It was he who sold the Wauwatosa board of education on the production of a film that would help to correct misconceptions of the life and culture of Wisconsin's largest Indian tribe, and of showing the film as part of the

Miss Johnson and Cooley and Norman G. Franz, former RKO sound man, also engaged on the film, spent long hours combing all available literature on the tribe, conferring with the few remaining old timers of the tribe out on the Shawano county reservation, and checking everything with Dr. Samuel Barrett and W. C. McKern, public museum authorities on the American Indian.

Here's the Cast

Robert Oldenberg, Eugene Tullbane and Milton Sommers are cast as the hero, Mishakwut, (covered-by-clouds) in the various stages of his development. Louise Lamason is Kiwahawa, (wandering-in-clouds), Mishakwut's pretty dark-eyed wife. The chief of the tribe is Arthur Couture; the uncle, Keshine, (swift-flying), Anthony Pasbrig; the grandfather, Robert De Angellis, and the grandmother, Jane Grossman, Phillip Grossman and Warden Weber are cast as medicine men.

Costuming is under the direction of Miss Johnson, assisted by Gertrude Veit, Vernice Gilmelster, and Lorraine Beerend. Dorothy Dahnke is in charge of make-up, while Joan Tomlinson is custodian of wigs.

Property men are Paul Dernehl, George Scoets and Jim Kappelmann. Scrip girls are Eunice Fish and Beverly Beerend.

Beverly Beerend and her sister, Lorraine did most of the designing of the costumes, along with Dorothy Dietzel, Lila and Natalie Scoets, Meredythe Reid, Vivian Kerr and Robert Kernan.

SEE THE MOVIE PREMIER

We urge all who can to see the premier of the Wauwatosa's home-spun movie, "Mishakwut" which is showing at the Tosa Monday night.

The forty-four odd young folks who will appear in it, plus their parents, neighbors and friends need no urging. They'll be there, all right. But other folks who want to get an early glance at one of the most up-to-date developments of education, owe it to themselves to see it.

The showing of this film marks a high-point in Wauwatosa's educational pioneering. As the film is to be used in classwork to demonstrate how the Menominee Indian tribe lived, it will probably be shown for some years hence.

When authorities like Dr. Barrett and Mr. McKern of the Milwaukee museum mete out such praise as "the finest of its kind" we can be sure that it is no second-rate job. The film and the work the young folks and the directors have done on it deserves the city's applause.

WAUWATOSA NEWS - OCT. 15, 1936

WPA Film of Indian Life Opens Oct. 19

Sponsored by the Wauwatosa board of education and produced entirely by the works progress administration project, "Mishakwut," educational film, based on the life of a primitive Indian boy, will have its premiere at the Tosa theater in Wauwatosa at 8:30 p. m., Oct. 19.

Depicting the ceremonies, feasts and burial rites of Wisconsin's Menominee tribes, the picture was filmed against the scenic background of the Wisconsin Delta.

Elliot Cooley and Norman Franz, works progress administration artists who have four other successful educational films to their credit, wrote, directed, produced and filmed. The costumes were designed by Alberta Johnson, instructor in stage craft at the Wauwatosa high school.

The cast principals, composed of the sons and daughters of prominent suburban families, include Robert Oldenburg, Eugene Tullhans, Milton Sommer, Mary Jane McCarthy and Louise Lamson.

Other characters are played by Anthony Pasbrig, Robert DeAngelis, Jane Grossman, Raymond Keane, Robert Keane, Jean Ewart, Arthur Couture, Ruth Dowd, Philip Grossman, Warden Weber, Virginia Sommer, Margaret Hartzke, Elizabeth Jernegan and Lucille Klug.

Jack Richards, Edward Armstrong, Raymond Belz, Robert Kenle, Edward Streng, Gerald Cohen, Robert Heuel, Neal Quinn and Robert Scherr are in the roles of Indian men, while Beverly Berrend, Gertrude Veit, Janet Flenor and Bernadine Diedrich portray Indian women.

In the roles of Indian children will be Ray Kiewert, Allen Wheeler, Alice Hyde, Betty Mahler, Doris Klug, Merlyn Isenring, Shirley Ann Ryder, Lorraine Keane and Nancy Jernegan.

A public address system in front of the theater will broadcast interviews with noted educators attending the "first night."

An early performance for school children will be held at 6:30 p. m. of the same day.

WISCONSIN NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1936

W.P.A. Indian Movie Premiere Monday Night

Formalities of a Hollywood Opening to Accompany First Showing

Personal appearances of an entire movie cast; spot lights flooding a theater entrance; a radio announcer at the curb introducing cinema stars as they arrive—these and more in the Hollywood tradition of a professional first nighter will be in Wauwatosa soon.

Wauwatosa's own movie "Mishakwut," believed to be the only given of its kind, will have its premier showing at 8:30 on Monday, October 19, at the Tosa Theater. A special preview for children is set for 6:30 the same evening. A loudspeaker system will be used to introduce celebrities as they arrive. The original cast will also be present.

"Mishakwut," filmed, directed, and supervised by Elliot Cooley, was completed on August 19, 1936. The purpose of this movie is purely educational, and the film is to be used in the schools of Wauwatosa for visual instruction.

Last May the idea for the making of a motion picture of the Menominee Indians was born. Mr. Cooley chose the Menominee Indians because they were the largest and the most peaceful tribe in the state of Wisconsin. The story is laid between four and five hundred years ago and every detail has been checked for accuracy by the Milwaukee Public Museum. Research on the Menominee Indians was done at the public library and the museum.

After Mr. Cooley completed the story, the Wauwatosa Board of Education approved the plan for its filming as a W. P. A. visual education project. Labor for the props and costumes was secured from the W. P. A., mainly the cooks, athletic directors, and fourteen women to work on the costumes. The costumes were designed by Miss Johnson and her committee: Lois Flamigan, Jean Ewart, Bernice Wallack, Dorothy Dahnke, Gertrude Veit, and Vernice Gillmeister.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 2)

Students Design Costumes Worn in Indian Picture

(Continued From Page 1, Column 1)

The water drums, the gourd rattle, birch baskets, and the leave mats were purchased from real Indians on the Menominee Reservation. The other implements and stage props were made according to sketches by Paul Dernehl and George Sceets.

Wigwams used in the movie are original Indian wigwams similar to the ones used by the Menominee Indians and were rented from the Indians at the Indian Village that was at the Lakefront during the Midsummer Festival.

Production started on July twenty-first at Grafton. A regular camp was established on the Milwaukee River. The meals were prepared by W. P. A. cooks, and the school children were transported out to the set each morning and taken home again at night. The work at Grafton, where all of the outdoor scenes were shot, lasted from July 21 to August 7.

Indoor scenes were shot in the Community House on August 19 and 20. These included those taken inside the medicine lodge and the wigwams. Finally the film was cut and edited, and titles were constructed.

In the movie the whole life of Mishakwut is traced step by step; the care he received, the making of his first fast, the banquet given by his relatives at the end of his fast, playing lacrosse, wedding and funeral ceremonies of the Menominee.

The technical director for this production was Norman Franz. Geraldine Kappleman arranged the musical score. The characters were all school children from high school or grade

school and graduates, except the baby who portrayed Mishakwut as a papoose.

The technical staff members are as follows: Paul Dernehl, George Sceets, James Kapplemann, Dorothy Dahnke, Bernice Wallack, Jean Tomlinson, Alice Dahnke, Lois Flanagan, Eunice Fish, Gertrude Veit, Lorraine Beerend, and Vernice Gillmeister.

The proceeds from the showing of the film will help defray the cost of producing.

CARDINAL NEWS
WAUWATOSA HIGH SCHOOL
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
OCT. 16, 1936

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1936

Suburban Board Approves Movie Filmed by WPA

After a pre-view of the Indian movie, filmed under their sponsorship by a WPA (works progress administration) project for visual education, members of the Wauwatosa board of education Monday night approved the plan for a premiere public showing of the picture at the Tosa theater Oct. 19.

The film, which depicts the life of a primitive Indian boy among the pastoral, peace loving Menominees, was made on the banks of the Milwaukee river at Grafton, Wis., and in a specially built tepee in Wauwatosa. Norman Franz and Elliott Cooley wrote, directed and photographed the picture. Wauwatosa High school students were the actors. Costumes were designed by Miss Alberta Johnson, teacher of stagecraft and design at the Wauwatosa High school, and made by workers on a WPA project.

"Here is a picture which treats, not of Indians as a race, but of the traditions and customs in a certain tribe, Wisconsin's woodland Menominees," said W. T. Darling, superintendent of Wauwatosa schools, after viewing the picture. "Perhaps we have by this work begun a trend of specialized, pictorial chronicles of the various tribes in America. At any rate, the picture marks definite progress in the field of visual education. It is an accomplishment which would have been impossible without the WPA."

Wauwatosa Gets Requests for Film

The WPA (works progress administration) motion picture, "Mishakwut," depicting the life of an early Indian boy, which was filmed under the sponsorship of the Wauwatosa board of education, may have a national showing after its premiere at 8 p. m. Monday at the Tosa theater, Wauwatosa.

Requests to show the film in other parts of the country have been received by the Wauwatosa school board, which has indicated that the film may be loaned after several showings in Milwaukee county. One of the requests was from Mrs. Ernest L. Hoffman, former Milwaukeean, now a Brooklyn (N. Y.) public school teacher.

The film portrays the life of early Wisconsin Indians. It was filmed near Grafton, Wis.

State and county WPA officials and prominent educators have been invited to Monday night's premiere.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1936

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1936

Plan Premier Of WPA Film

Several educators, prominent in the field of visual education, plan to attend the premier of "Mishakwut," the works progress administration film, at the Tosa theater, Wauwatosa, Monday at 8:30 p. m.

Among the expected are: J. E. Hansen, head of the bureau of visual education of the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Edgar Dale, who is in charge of educational research at Ohio State university; M. W. Torkelson, state works progress administration administrator and his wife, and Mrs. Esther Haas, state director of women's and professional works progress administration projects.

Mrs. Ernest L. Hoffman, formerly of Milwaukee, has requested the film to show at her school in Brooklyn, N. Y.

A Hollywood Premiere Slated for WPA Movie

Notables who attend the first showing of "Mishakwut," a WPA (works progress administration) project Indian film at the Tosa theater, Wauwatosa, Oct. 19 will get all the attention given movie stars at a Hollywood premiere. A radio announcer will introduce the notables at the curb and members of the cast, all Wauwatosa high school pupils, will be introduced on the stage. The project for visual education was sponsored by the Wauwatosa board of education.

Dr. Edgar Dale, head of the educational research department of the Ohio State university, is among the educators who plan to attend. The film depicts the life and customs of the Menominee Indians.

WPA Indian Film To Appear Here

"Mishakwut," a WPA educational film depicting the life of a Menominee Indian boy, will be shown tonight at the Tosa theater, 6323 W. North avenue, for the first time. A student preview will be given at 6:30 p. m. and a second showing at 8:30 p. m. Included in the list of invited guests are Mrs. Philip F. La Follette, wife of Governor La Follette; M. W. Torkelson, state WPA director, and Mrs. Torkelson; Mrs. Esther Haas Madison, state WPA director of women and professional projects, and J. E. Hansen, head of the visual education bureau of the University of Wisconsin extension division.

OCT. 11, 1936

Indian Chief Entertains School Assembly



MARGARET HARTZKE.
CHIEF WHITE FEATHER.

EUGENE TULLBANE.

JANET PIERNER.

(Sentinel Photo.)

Wearing his full tribal regalia, Chief White Feather appeared before the assembly at Wauwatosa High school yesterday in pro-

motion of the educational motion picture produced by the school depicting the lives of the chief's forefathers in this area.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL,

OCT. 17, 1936

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BADGER SPOTLIGHT,

A DAILY RADIO FEATURE OF W.T.M.J., FOR THE WEEK OF

OCTOBER 13 to 19 (INCLUSIVE)

All of the attractions of a professional premiere will have their counterpart in the first public showing of "Mishakwut", an educational Indian picture enacted by Wauwatosa high school students and produced by the W.P.A. visual education project. Monday, October 19 at 8:30 is the time. The place is in Wauwatosa.

Wauwatosans will have the opportunity to attend the premiere showing of their own movie, Monday, October 19, in Wauwatosa. This motion picture, "Mishakwut", is a W.P.A. production of the visual education project. Wauwatosa high school students comprise the cast. The picture was filmed at Grafton, Wisconsin, and in Wauwatosa.

"Mishakwut", an Indian educational film, will have its first public showing Monday, October 19 in Wauwatosa. This motion picture is the result of the W.P.A. visual education project sponsored by the Wauwatosa Board of Education.

Effective counterparts of all the dramatic trappings of a true Hollywood premiere will be seen at the initial showing of "Mishakwut" an educational picture depicting the life and customs of Wisconsin's Menominee Indian. The opening will be staged in Wauwatosa, Monday, October 19, at 8:30 P.M.

Social and educational circles are keenly interested in the plans of the Wauwatosa Board of Education to hold a truly professional first night performance when "Mishakwut", Wauwatosa's own movie, is shown. The date has been set for Monday, October 19, in Wauwatosa. The motion picture, with Wauwatosa students comprising the entire cast, was filmed by the W.P.A. visual education project.

Personal appearances of the stellar cast, specially arranged musical score, special lighting effects flooding the entrance, are among those attractions planned for the initial public showing of Wauwatosa's own movie, "Mishakwut", the story of an aboriginal Indian boy. Monday, October 19, is the date. The place is in Wauwatosa.



ACTRESS—Miss Jean Ewart, 2449 Le Feber av., Wauwatosa, displays the programs for the works progress administration film, "Mishakwut," to be shown for the first time at the Tosa theater tonight. Miss Ewart has a part in the picture.

WISCONSIN NEWS .

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1936

ATTEND PREMIERE



FRANK BEHRENS 4

MRS. PHIL LA FOLLETTE

Wauwatosa residents turned out by hundreds for the premiere of "Mishakwut" at the Tosa theater, 6328 W. North av., last night. The film, a works progress administration project, was produced by Wauwatosians, all actors also being residents of the suburb. Announcer Frank Behrens introduced Mrs. La Follette, wife of the governor, to the sidewalk audience crowded around the public address system. International News photo by Wisconsin News photographer.

WISCONSIN NEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1936

WPA Film Premiere Attracts Notables



A FILM of Indian life with Wauwatosa High school pupils as its principals and the Milwaukee river near Cedarburg as its locale had its premiere at the Tosa theater Monday night. It was filmed as a WPA (works progress administration) project. Among those attending the showing were (left to right) Arthur W. Torkelson of Madison, state WPA director; Mrs. Philip La Follette, wife of the governor, and Mrs. Torkelson.

[Journal Staff Photo]

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1936

Suburban Crowd Cheers Premiere of Indian Movie

A first night audience that was anything but blasé turned out Monday for the premiere of "Mishakwut," film of the Menominee Indians, at the Tosa theater, 6823 W. North av. Six hundred Wauwatosa residents jammed the theater and cheered at the slightest provocation, for every spectator had at least one friend in the cast, which included only Wauwatosa residents.

"Mishakwut" was presented with as much ceremony as a premiere in Hollywood. Mrs. Philip La Follette and Martin W. Torkelson, state WPA (works progress administration) director, stepped into the spotlight to say a good word for the picture. Elliott W. Cooley, 137 N. Eighty-seventh st., who directed the WPA film, and some members of the cast were introduced.

Conceived and planned by Cooley as a visual education project under the WPA, "Mishakwut" tells the story of a Menominee Indian boy's life in Wisconsin three centuries ago.





W.P.A. HANDICRAFT
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