

Work on Lensic Near Completion

New Theater Will Be Opened June 24; Will Give Dance In Club on First Night

The new Lensic theater, built by Nathan Salmon and John Greer and dedicated to the people of Santa Fe, is rapidly nearing completion and will be opened June 24, Otto Schmit, manager of the theater, announced today.

The Lensic is by far, the most expensive and elaborate theater in the state, comparing favorably with the large costly movie houses in Hollywood.

The construction work is all completed, and the finishing touches are now being put on the interior.

One thousand, one hundred and fifty persons can be accommodated in the theater. Sixty-three loge rockers will be placed on the main floor, while the first three rows in the balcony will be loge smokers. The other chairs in both the main floor and balcony are upholstered in plush and leather. The ceiling is a cerulean blue.

It is the foyer, mezzanine and outer lobby, however, that are the most elaborately finished. The outer lobby is tile-floored, while the walls and ceiling are decorated with ornamental plaster in geometric designs.

The foyer, mezzanine and lounge rooms are now virtually completed; the floor covering is a deep, soft plush carpet; the lighting is from elaborate chandeliers; and expensively-upholstered overstuffed chairs and lounges have been installed.

From the mezzanine a connecting passageway leads into the dancehall on the second floor of the adjoining building, also constructed by Messrs. Salmon and Greer. There is a public entrance from San Francisco street. The hall has been finished in much the same style as the theater and, with the club room, will be handled by Edward L. Safford. The club room is on the third floor of the theater.

Over the driveway between the two buildings is a garden in which chairs and tables will be placed for the use of dance patrons.

The Lensic theater has 14 exits, allowing the emptying of the theater in something less than a minute. In the rear of the theater and dance hall is a parking lot which provides space for some 250 autos. The parking space is provided free to patrons.

Chet Grass and his Frontier Nights orchestra, just completing a year's engagement with the Hilton hotels of Texas, has been secured for the opening night, Manager Schmit said. A three-hour program has been arranged for the theater on the opening night, he stated, and will be followed by a dance. Details of the program for the opening night will be published later.

Mr. Schmit said four pictures have been run off to test the new Western Electric sound equipment, and the results were very satisfactory. The "talkie" apparatus is of the latest and best yet developed.

Pictures will be changed four times a week in the Lensic, said the manager, and there will be three shows a day—a matinee and two shows at night.