

All Details Completed in Plans for Opening Program at Palace Theater Tonight

Staff of Marion's New Playhouse Goes Through Rehearsals and Tests To Assure Flawless First Performance; Expect at Least 3,200 in Crowds at Two Shows

At 6:30 o'clock tonight Marion's beautiful new Palace theater will swing open its doors to the public. The opening of those doors will mark the completion of eight months' actual work and the realization of plans of a much longer time.

The last bit of dust was gone this afternoon, the final survey of the house made and the staff of the Young Amusement Co., operators of a chain of 10 theaters, stood ready to handle at least 3,200 persons tonight when the first two performances are presented on the stage and screen.

A rehearsal was held this morning by Manager Albert Sindlinger. The orchestra under Director Elmer Newstrom played its numbers, Banks Kennedy tested the Page organ, the projection machines threw comedy and drama upon the screen and stage hands and electricians revealed that they knew just how their equipment and lights operated.

Vaudeville Rehearsed

As the vaudeville acts came in from other cities Director Newstrom and the stage crew took their various cues and rehearsed the acts.

And, too, the ushers were put through their final paces, wearing their toppy and colorful uniforms.

The management of the Palace has forsaken the wordy and formal opening in the interest of the first nighters, believing they want to see the theater and opening program. Col. George B. Christian will give a short address,

probably not more than a few minutes in length, at the first performance. That's all. Then the show will go on.

Program Features

The opening program will include a feature organogue by Banks Kennedy, well-known Chicago organist who comes here after an engagement at Canton; an overture by the theater orchestra; three acts of vaudeville, headed by Harry Kahne, the mental wizard; the picture, "Excess Baggage," with William Haines, and other short film subjects.

The program has been timed to have the second performance start promptly at 9:15 p. m.

Theater employes worked into the late hours last night completing the stupendous task of getting the theater in readiness for tonight's opening. The chosen few who were permitted into the theater last night found it a palace of beauty as it stood completed.

The colorful draperies, hangings, lights and fixtures, all blending into an atmosphere of old Spain, make the new Palace Marion's showplace.

It is generally conceded that the Palace will, in the language of the theater, "knock their eyes out." For the present, at least, vaudeville and pictures will be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday and pictures only Sunday to Wednesday inclusive.

A small number of invitations were sent to Marion people who were connected in any way with the construction of the theater for the opening performance, it was announced today. These invitations included the recipient and one guest.