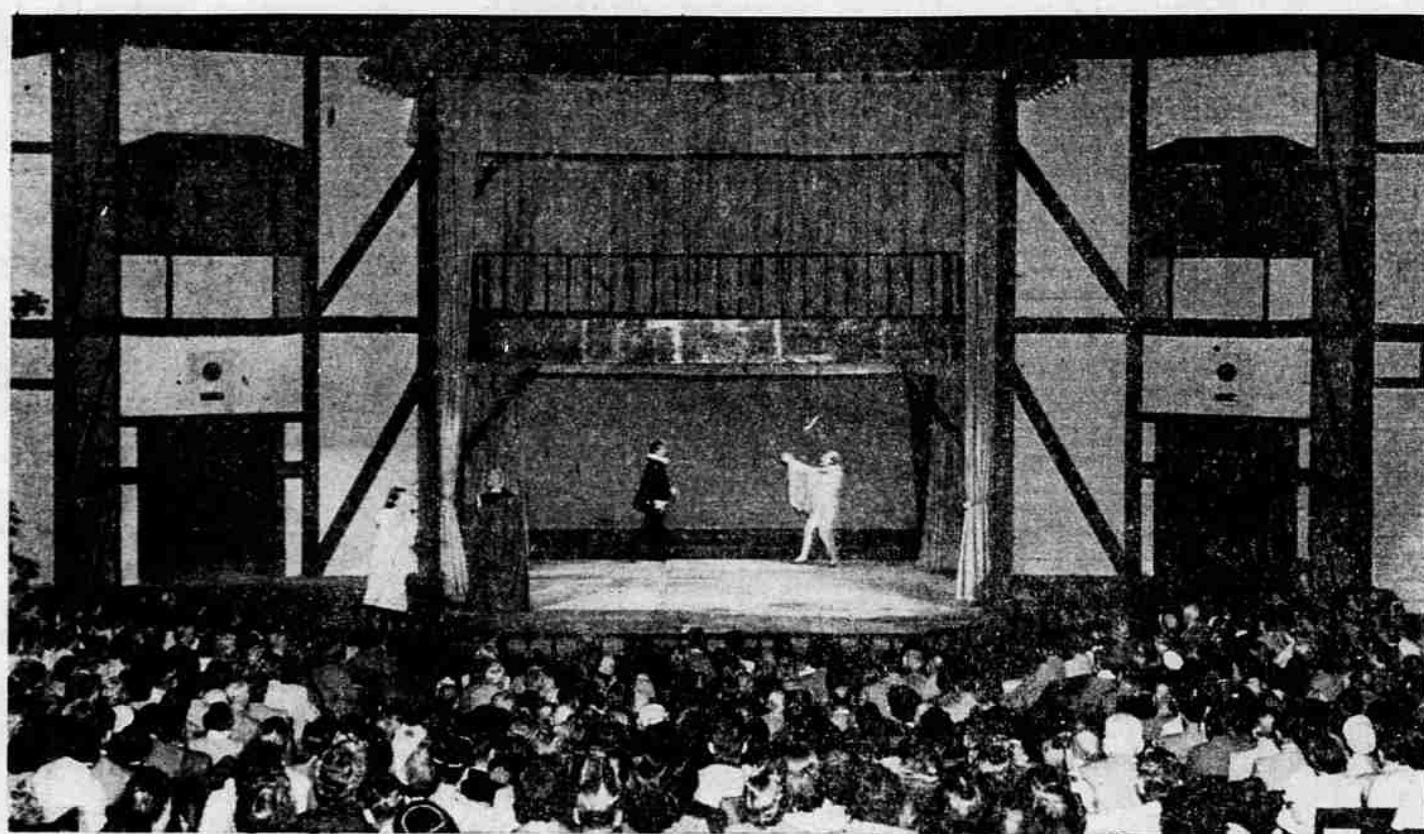




Attention of Valley Focused on Festival

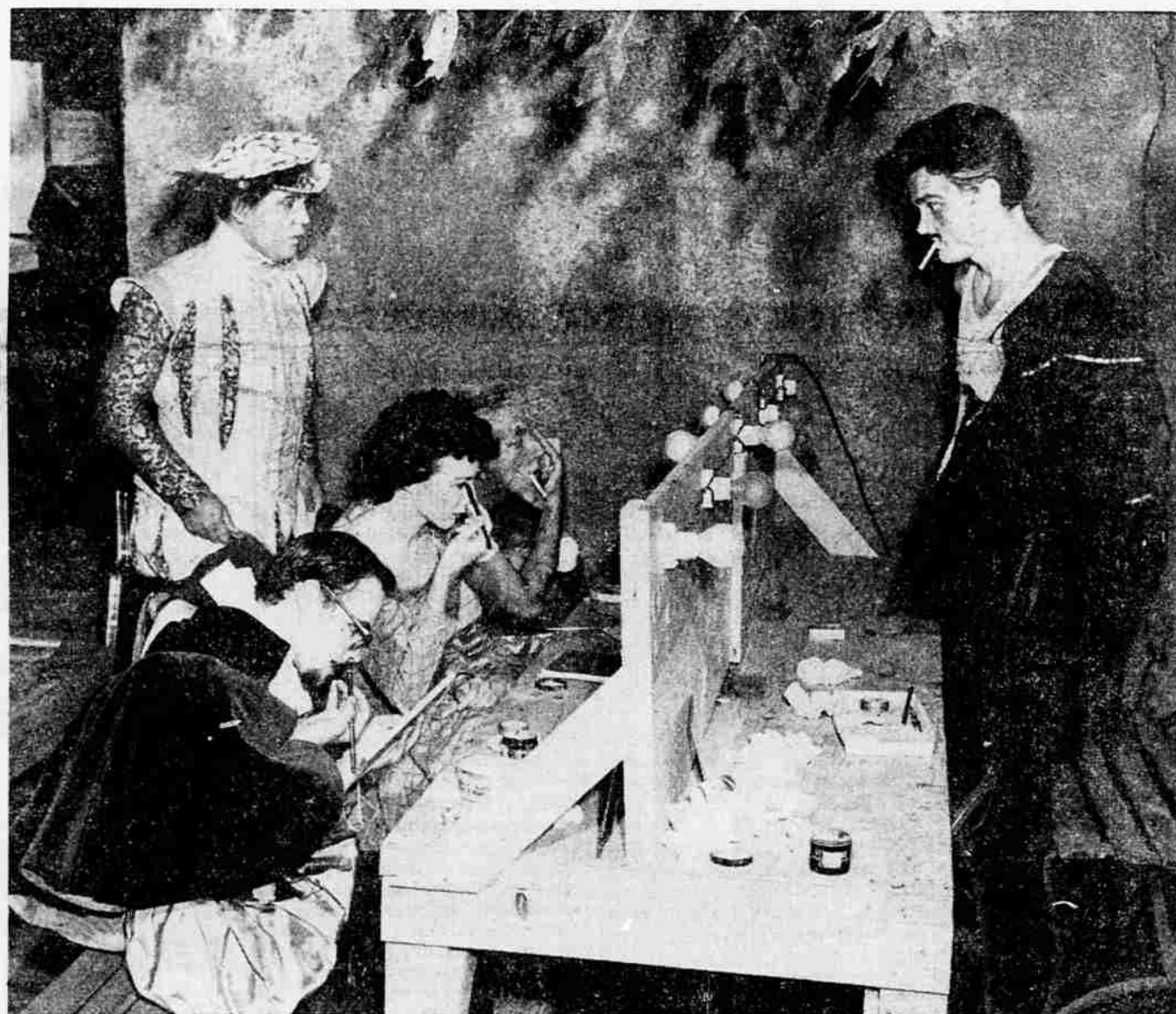
By Olive Starcher

One of the summer's most exciting events for Ashland and the Rogue River valley in general took place August 1 when the twelfth annual Oregon Shakespearean festival opened in the Lithia city. The audience overflowed the 670-seat capacity of the shell, and enjoyed not only the opening play, "The Tempest," but was treated to a concert of Elizabethan music by the festival orchestra and Madrigal singers, conducted by Hans Lampl, festival music director from Los Angeles.

Angus Bowmer, founder and producing director of the festival, was among the officials and dignitaries who extended a welcome to the first-night audience. Mr. Bowmer, (shown upper right as he looked in the role of Hamlet which he once played for the festival) not only directs and acts in one or two of the plays each season, but is the guiding spirit behind all the planning for each year's shows.

Part of the opening night audience is shown (upper left) watching one of the scenes from "The Tempest." On the stage, (left to right) are Virginia Chesse as Miranda, H. Paul Kliss as Prospero, Richard Risso in the role of Ferdinand and William Ball as Ariel.

In the last moments before the curtain goes up each night, actors and musicians put the



finishing touches on their make-up and check their costumes. Seen (center) at one of the dressing tables (seated, left to right) are Dion Chesse as Francisco, Dorothy Anderson, Madrigal singer, and Michael Onofrio, Gonzalo, as they applied make-up on opening night. Standing at left is John Taylor, who sang with the Madrigal group and also played the part of Stephano in "The Tempest," and Arnold Nelson, who took the role of a ship's master.

Before the opening ceremonies for the play, city and state officials, representatives of the state's colleges and universities, press and radio staff members and other guests were entertained at a buffet dinner at Susanne Homes hall on the campus of Southern Oregon college. Pictured (lower left) at the buffet table are Mrs. P. H. Stansbury, (at left) and Mr. Stansbury, who is mayor of Ashland and (across the table) Mayor Diamond Flynn of Medford. Mrs. Bowmer, wife of the producing director and one of the hostesses for the buffet dinner, is standing at the mayor's right and Richard Graham, festival actor and director is next in line.

Members of the small festival orchestra are shown (lower right) with Director Hans Lampl as they played the opening night overture.

(Brainard Photos)

