

"Sits as one new-risen from a dream"

—Taming of the Shrew



The 19th annual season of Oregon's Shakespearean Festival opened July 28 in this handsome new theater. Designed by Richard L. Hay, technical director of the festival for several years past, and Jack A. Edson, the new building was patterned after the Fortune theater in London in which Shakespeare's plays were produced during the Bard's lifetime. Much larger than the original theater, which was torn down last fall in order that the new structure might be erected on the same site, the new building is the realization of a long-cherished dream held by thousands of the festival's patrons.

Former players who trod the stage of the first Ashland Shakespearean theater in its early days mingled with members of the 1959 cast during the opening night festivities Tuesday. Pictured here are (left to right) Robert Towers, Charles Whitman, Anthony Ristoff, Robert Stedman, Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, Ashland, Mrs. Stevenson, Arthur Lewis and Debbie Adams. Mr. Stedman, long-time faculty member of Medford High school, was one of the valley actors who worked with Angus Bowmer in the Festival's beginning. In addition to playing such roles as Feste, Petruchio and Bassanio, Mr. Stedman was the technical director for five years.



Stage and Screen Star Ginger Rogers was among the First Nighters attending the annual Feast of the Tribe of Will and the first performance staged in the new Festival theater. Miss Rogers toured the theater with Producing Director Angus Bowmer; when "Twelfth Night" ended she went back stage to meet and congratulate the players.



Miss Cathy Treece and her mother, Mrs. Walker Treece, Portland, were among the guests at the 19th annual opening night of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Tuesday. As the former Jean Schuler of Medford, Mrs. Treece was one of the valley girls who played Shakespearean roles.



Frank Fairweather (at left) builder of the new Shakespearean theater, imbedded two good luck stones in the wall beside the main stage door. One he picked up in the Forum in Pompeii, the other he found in the old Roman senate ruins. Tuesday night Mr. Fairweather posed with Governor Mark Hatfield who touched one of the stones, after the fashion of the superstitious actors, before going on stage to make the dedicatory address.



Honored Tuesday night at the ceremonies which marked the first production in the new Oregon Shakespearean Festival theater were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. V. Carpenter of Medford. For years the Carpenters have been among the Festival's most ardent and faithful patrons, and they headed the fund-raising drive which made the new building possible. Pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Daugherty, and their grandsons, Ronny and Harlow. The Daughertys and their children arrived in the valley recently from their home at Christiansted, St. Croix, the Virgin Islands, and are guests at Topsides, the Carpenters' home. (Photos by Smith of Classic Studio)