College Auditorium Near Completion

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With the completion date set for sometime in April, the Lake Charles Junior College auditorium will be one of the most modern buildings in the State of Louisiana. This building, with a seating capacity of 3,000, will be a triumph of modern architecture and a valuable addition to the Junior College campus. To emphasize the auditorium's beauty and efficiency, a description follows:

Entering the auditorium through the front granite terrace, one passes through a terrazzo-floored vestibule containing offices and a ticket booth, into the foyer or lobby. Inside the lobby there are plaster walls with three shades of lavander-pink and with aluminum trimmings, ceilings of special acoustical fiber board, and a marble wainscot on the walls. This same acoustical ceiling and wall color scheme are used throughout the building. Directly above the lobby is a well-furnished roomy lounge, naturally lighted by three oblong windows in front of the building.

From the foyer, which extends around the sides of the auditorium, there are six entrance doors to the spacious U-shaped auditorium which consists of a main floor and one balcony. All of the balcony and the exterior of the main floor to be furnished with standard theater chairs, while the front section of the main floor will have removable chairs. By removing these chairs, the front section, floored in waxed oak blocks, can be converted into a sizable dance floor. Directly in front of the stage is an orchestra pit, the entrance to which leads from the basement under the stage. The pit can be covered with a removable floor to give additional seating capacity.

In the rear of the auditorium and above the balcony is a booth which will house regular theater projecting equipment for sound movies. There will also be sound recording apparatus.

The auditorium stage is one of the largest in the South. It has an exceptionally thick hardwood floor and “will support a circus.” Above the stage are catwalks and iron bar grids which will enable stage-hands to array the drapes and curtains in every conceivable position. In the back wall of the stage is a special floor opening on a paved drive on the outside of the building. This will make props, equipment, etc., accessible from trucks on the outside directly to the stage.

There are at present two sets of stage props—an exterior and an interior scene; other stage props include an unusual “black-out” site and a set of plastic trees. The stage is fitted with wine colored curtains and con-curtains and a gold concert curtain. One novel feature of the stage is a size-changing device controlling the drapes and con-curtains and making the scene area either large or small.

On each side of the stage are storage rooms and above these dressing rooms—three on each side. In the basement below the stage is a fully-equipped modern kitchen!

The lighting system of the stage and the auditorium is complex and very flexible. Four large indirect lighting fixtures illuminate the auditorium. For the stage there are footlights and overhead lights, the overheads being in four colors—white, red, blue, and amber. All these lights are controlled independently of each other. Every degree of darkness or lightness can be produced, and by properly blending the colored overheads, any shade of color at the desired intensity can be made. The main switchboard is backstage, but both house and stage lights can be completely operated from the projection booth by remote control.

The entire building is air-conditioned, and the temperature thermostatically controlled. In the main auditorium nine large blower fans in the ceiling circulate steam-heated air or cooled filtered air through vents along the lower walls. Smaller blower fans are used in the lobby, the lounge, offices, etc.

Within the building are numerous safety devices and conveniences. These include an automatic fire alarm system, a synchronized electric clock system, a public address system, and an inter-communication system connecting the booth, offices, and backstage. With such paraphernalia and modern architecture, we are assured of one of the finest auditoriums in the South.