

OPENING OF BAMA THEATRE

Tuesday, April 12th, marked the formal opening of the new \$200,000 City auditorium and 'Bama Theatre in Tuscaloosa. This building, luxurious in appointment and modern in equipment, would do credit to a city many times the size of Tuscaloosa. The Editor of the Watchman, who, together with his daughter, Mrs. James Lawson and Mayor and Mrs. L. J. Lawson, were guests of the management for the opening festivities, extended heartiest congratulations upon the completion of this project.

The auditorium has a seating capacity of 1,200 with modern air conditioning to insure the comfort of the patrons. The foyer, the lounges and the aisles, covered in rich carpeting, were filled with innumerable baskets of choice flowers which were tokens of appreciation from prominent Tuscaloosa people and business houses.

The interior decorations by Natoloni, a noted Italian Artist are reproduction of an ancient Italian palace emphasizing this theme by the use of ivy entwined balconies, rose arbors and paintings flanking the walls of the lower floor. The curtains and stage setting range in color from pale pink to rich wine tones, from delicate orchid to royal purple. An unusual feature of this magnificent building is the ceiling in blue and gray which by lighting devices, gives the illusion of a star studded sky with the clouds in constant motion as in nature.

On the opening night, in addition to the picture, the University "Million Dollar Band" in full dress regalia rendered a program of band music, and the double quartette from the University glee club sang.

Prior to the evening performance Mr. Cecil B. Grimes, for the past 19 years manager of 'Tuscaloosa play houses, with his charming wife entertained with an elaborate banquet in the banquet hall of the Mc Lester Hotel.

There were fifty guests assembled, including a number of Tuscaloosa's official family, four guests from each of the towns and cities in neighboring counties, and Dr. Richard Clarke Foster president of the University of Alabama.

A corsage of spring flowers marked the place of each of the ladies and a button hole bouquet of red carnations were placed for the gentlemen. A delicious dinner marked by friendship, informality and an entire absence of speech making made this indeed a delightful occasion.

Show us a business which has succeeded, and back of it is always found a man of ability, of personality and of vision. In manager Cecil B. Grimes, the Bama Theater has a man possessing all those characteristics, and in addition the best of fortune befalling any man—a gracious, charming and amiable wife—Ruth Scarborough Grimes.

So thank you, Mr. Grimes, for your hospitality, and best of wishes attend your magnificent theatre and your family.