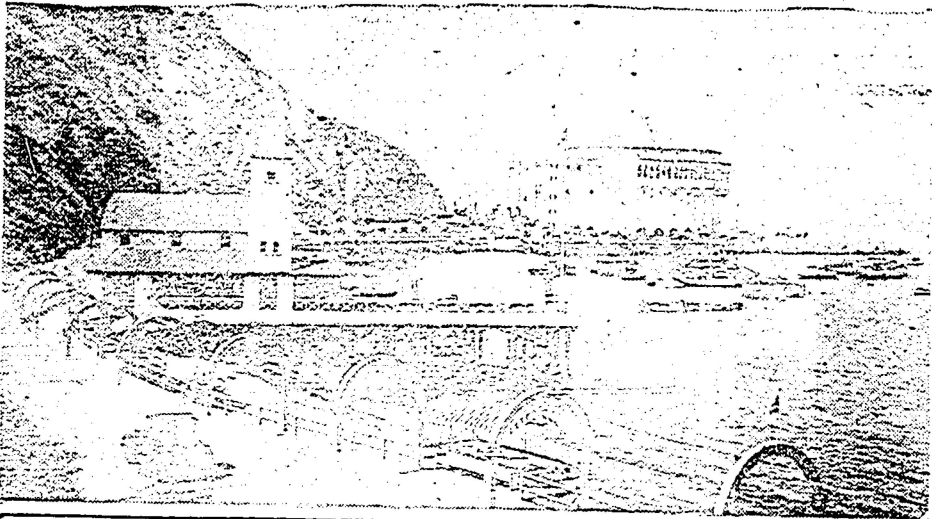


CATALINA CASINO OPENING SCHEDULED

\$2,000,000 Pleasure Palace to be Avalon Landmark



Matches Los Angeles' Tallest

THE Catalina Casino, the new \$2,000,000 pleasure palace William Wrigley, Jr. has built on his island domain as the crowning jewel of a ten-year development program since his acquisition of Catalina in 1919 is to be formally opened to the public the 29th inst.

Replacing crumbling Sugar Leaf, recently condemned by engineers as unsafe and leveled to form added breakwater, the new Casino looms twelve stories in height, the skyscraper limit of Los Angeles, although comprising but two main floors, as a new landmark for Avalon Bay.

A modern adaptation of Moorish and Spanish influences it is unique in that it is built on a complete circular plan with a ballroom and theater auditorium under a double dome.

Two steel girders, weighing fifty tons each, span the building diagonally. Built on the principle of a coconut shell, columns and beams of steel, fire-proofed with concrete, support all main roof and floor weight except that of ballroom. This is supported by three gigantic flat trusses, which brace the building horizontally and six cantilever trusses that radiate to center. A depth of forty feet was excavated into rock for foundations.

Outstanding features of the Casino are a fourteen-foot loggia promenade that encircles the entire building fifty-six feet above first-floor level and a series of five ramps that afford access to the ballroom. The loggia is adapted from the Alhambra in Spain and was suggested to the architects by Mr. Wrigley as a means of capitalizing the magnificent view of Avalon Bay. The ramps afford a less tiring means of ascent to the ball-

room than stairs and the greatest possible safety for the anticipated throngs that will use the building.

The dance floor comprises 20,000 square feet and is large enough for 5000 couples to dance on at one time. It is said to be the largest dance floor in America, and floated on two inches of cork so as to afford the greatest possible resilience, with an underfloor of pine with a layer of felt and acoustice paper between.

The ballroom ceiling is umbrella-shaped with thirty-two segments built on a gigantic scale. Indirect lighting in series of color illumine troughs of ceiling.

The theater auditorium is a complete dome, springing from floor-line. There are no balcony or supporting pillars of any kind in the entire auditorium, also no center lighting fixtures. All illumination is controlled from behind a seven-foot inner wall. The seating capacity of the theater is 2000 persons.

Catalina products were largely used in the construction of the Casino. David M. Renton, general manager of Catalina Island, under whose personal supervision the mammoth building has been erected, cites 105,000 mission roof tile, 50,000 hollow tile, 10,000 glazed tile and 15,000 brick, all made of Catalina clays at the Pebbly Beach Tile Plant as an instance of practical utilization of the island's resources.

Furniture of the theater foyer and 4500 square feet of black walnut paneling were made at the Catalina furniture factory.

Architects for the building are Webber & Spaulding of Los Angeles. The Santa Catalina Island Company is given as builder and Tom White as theater lessee. Gabriel Beckman designed the murals.