



\$650,000 Theater Dedicated Tonight

Mission Playhouse and (inset above) Martha Ramirez and (inset below) Violet Schram as Senora Josefa Yorba.

## MISSION PLAY ON TONIGHT

Great Pageant Drama of Founding of California to be Given Before Invited Patrons

All the color, glamour and romance of early Californian days will live again in old San Gabriel tonight, with the opening performance in the beautiful new Mission Playhouse of John Steven McGroarty's famous Mission Play.

Through sixteen consecutive seasons the fine old drama and pageant of California history has been shown to more than 2,000,000 persons, but tonight's opening is distinctive in that the spectacle will be shown for the first time in a \$650,000 theater, designed and constructed for this one great play alone.

Tonight's audience will include only invited guests, California men and women who have contributed \$100 or more to the fund for the furnishing of the new playhouse, and whose names as patrons will be printed in an elaborate souvenir program prepared for the opening.

### ROLL CALL OF MISSIONS

Pointing to the fact that the Mission Play is a story for all California, not a drama emphasizing or idealizing one section of the State alone, a striking feature of the opening will be a roll call of the twenty-one missions of California. From Sonoma to San Diego delegations will be present to represent their missions, and as the roll call is sounded delegates will rise from the audience, answer and bring forward silk-banners bearing the names and legends of the old missions.

R. D. MacLean, widely known in the past as a portrayer of Shakespearean roles, will appear again in the play in the role of Fray Junipero Serra. Ruthellen Miller, who appeared in "Faust" during the Los Angeles Grand Opera Association's recent season, will open her fourth year as the prima donna of the Mission Play, and Miss Vivienne Morehouse, who was featured in the Pilgrimage Play, also has a leading role. Juan and Juanita Zorranquinos, Spanish dancers, have important parts again in the big production. During the past sixteen years, Juanita, who is a direct descendant of the early Spanish settlers of San Gabriel, has missed only one performance of the Mission Play, the occasion being the day of her marriage to Juan, her dancing partner. Many of the Indians appearing in the play are descendants of the Indians to whom Father Serra brought Christianity in the early days of California.

### LIVE THEIR PARTS

Members of old Spanish families also are cast for various roles in the pageant, and the fact that so many members of the cast will not, in a strict sense, be acting, but will be singing the songs and dancing the dances of their ancestors, lends an atmosphere to the production which lifts it above the usual theatrical performance.

Many of the patrons tonight will meet for dinner near the old grapevine and the historic home of Ramona on the mission grounds, and will be entertained with special music by Robert's Golden State Band prior to the opening of the performance. Following the performance the audience will be invited to a dance and reception backstage, and also will be taken on a tour of inspection of the new playhouse. The new theater, of mission architecture, stands in a seven-acre garden tract that was formerly part of the cactus-walled compound of the San Gabriel Mission.

### BOX HOLDERS

Society en masse will occupy the boxes and loges at the opening of the Mission Play this evening, every box being taken. Among those who are entertaining with parties are Mr. and Mrs. William Irving Hollingsworth, whose guests will include Mrs. R. D. Shepherd, Dr. and Mrs. Rufus Bernard Von Kleinsmid and Mr. and Mrs. George McClellan Reynolds of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bent, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. McGarry and Mrs. Oscar A. Trippitt will occupy another box, and other box holders include Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McNaughton, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Milley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Knight Rindge, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Robert Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Allen Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. George I. Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Laurence Doheny, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Miller, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Paul Whitsett, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks, D. W. Pontius and Paul Shoup, Mr. and Mrs. Eli P. Clark and Gen. M. H. Sherman, while others attending will be Frederick William Braun, Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Napoleon Brunswig, Mrs. Clara B. Burdette, Morgan Adams, Mrs. William Henry Brophy, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Mott, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. E. Avery McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Moultrie, Mr. and Mrs. James Rufus Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. O'Melveny, Hon. James Phelan, Col. and Mrs. George S. Patton, Mrs. Michael Regan, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Stern and Mr. and Mrs. Gurdon Wallace Wattles.

Miss Cornelia Cole McLaughlin, the grand-daughter of the late Senator Cole, will represent the Cole family. Mrs. E. Avery McCarthy (Susan Howard) will represent the Howard family. Mrs. McCarthy's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Volney E. Howard, were residents of Alhambra for many years.