

Belgian Village Opens, Burlesque Ruled Out

The Belgian Village (about 75 per cent of it) officially opened to the public, a burlesque show almost opened, electronic fortune tellers got taken to court and the fair began prospecting for additional foreign exhibitors as it moved into its 15th week.

Although far from finished, the 134-building Belgian complex opened its gates for a free look over the weekend (1-2) and approximately 25,000 visitors took advantage. Starting Monday (3), the tab was \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. Construction director Robert Hume hopes for completion by Aug. 15. Finished cost will be \$4.2 million, including \$875,000 borrowed from the fair.

Lake Amusement Area operators took a mixed view of the opening. "We'll be hurt again," Bill Andrew of the AMF Monorail Division said. "The circus is going to continue, as far as I know," said an equally discouraged Lloyd Morgan, manager of the Continental Circus. However, Sid Kirfft, co-producer of "Les Poupees des Paris," said business was now good, and Bob Jones of the Florida Pavilion reported, "Our porpoises are doing all right."

"That Was Burlesque," a Manhattan revue starring Ann Corio, received tentative permission to open at

the Bourbon Street Pavilion, producer Mike Ianucci said, but the fair abruptly reversed itself Tuesday (4) and said under no circumstances would it open.

Electronic fortune tellers, actually handwriting-analysis machines that pretend to use card-sorting computers, were taken to court by New York Atty. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz. Injunctions were sought against three operators of eight machines in four pavilions. The three were required to show cause by July 30 why they should not be prohibited, but one was back in operation when he removed an objectionable sign saying the cards were processed by electronic machines. "Only for Fun" signs are posted at all locations.

The International Section is undergoing an extensive overhaul, aimed at 1965. Overtures have been made to several major Russian groups and a meeting between fair president Robert Moses and Ambassador to the U.S. A.F. Dobrynin is reportedly in the offing. The French Pavilion, closed early in May, was expected to reopen last weekend with a more authentic French flavor. Interest is reportedly growing in Finland for an exhibit next year, Sweden will be stripped of industrial exhibits and completely refurbished inside, and Denmark has requested and will probably get another block of space to expand its successful restaurants.

Morocco plans to put up a second pavilion and Malaysia has reportedly agreed to take over the Sierra Leone pavilion and make it a restaurant. Other good possibilities are Iraq, Saudi-Arabia, Syria, Kuwait and Libya.

States in the news include the Minnesota Pavilion, where the North Star World's Fair Corp. is designing its own pre-planned displays to make up the gaps in the "State image." And the Florida World's Fair Authority may have to call on the State for money to pay off a \$750,000 construction loan.



DANCING WATERS, Inc., general manager Sam Shayon, left, has sold his interest in the firm and its New York World's Fair operation to long-time partner Harold Steinman. They will continue their association in Unique Fountain Displays, Inc., with Shayon remaining as consultant and supervisor of operations in the fountain-building end of the business.

(AB photo)