

BELGIUM VILLAGE OPENS SATURDAY

Moses Predicts It Will Be
One of Best Shows at Fair

By ROBERT ALDEN

Robert Moses, president of the World's Fair Corporation, announced yesterday that the long-delayed and often-promised opening of the Belgium Village would take place Saturday.

The ambitious project to construct a Belgian village of the Middle Ages ran out of funds several times, causing postponement of its opening date. There have also been frequent difficulties with various labor unions.

The fair itself is said to have lent at least \$900,000 to the corporation constructing the village.

Mr. Moses said the village would be "one of our very best exhibits" and would have "charm and authentic atmosphere." He added that he had no doubt of the popularity of the 134-building complex representing a village in old Belgium.

In making the announcement, Mr. Moses acknowledged that all had not gone well in the Lake Amusement Area. He said:

"We confess that thus far we have not been bright enough to figure ways to concentrate legitimate amusements on the lakefront. One man's fun is another's fumble. We ruled out conventional catchpenny amusement park vulgarity. We made a clean - cut decision between stripteasers and Michelangelo.

The Visitor Is All

"Some of our able, reputable theatrical producers did not grasp the simple arithmetic of the average visitor who, it turns out, would rather not walk quite a way and pay for his hilarity when he can get it for nothing scattered throughout the fair, mixed with industry, science, travel and what-not.

"You have to dream up something very intriguing to coax the dollars and quarters from those with big families and limited means. So some good shows have gone down the drain, as they do on and off Broadway, and some good people have lost money, as they do at race tracks.

"The collapse of a few amusement ventures has been grossly exaggerated. Others remain. Hawaii is in good shape. Florida is picking up fast. The Monorail is well patronized. The circus has a new lease on life.

"We shall continue to work on the amphitheater and Texas problems, and have by no means given up hope of a really constructive solution. Meanwhile, the troubles in the amusement area concern us, but make no difference in gauging the success of the fair, which is already assured."

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A World of Wood

George H. Dayton and his wife, Agnes, are experts in wood and a trip to the fair for them was a special adventure in wood.

When the New York couple stepped into the Vatican Pavilion, for example, it was not so much the "Pietà" that interested them as the soft rosewood paneling in the entryway.

Rosewood, Mr. Dayton said, derives its name from the fragrant rose odor the wood has when first cut. Mr. and Mrs. Dayton said that the particular type used in the Vatican Pavilion came from Brazil and was also called jacaranda and palisander.

Also of interest to the wood fancier was the amount of lumber used in the General Motors Futurama ride — enough for 16 average-sized homes.

Teak, rare, heavy and expensive, comes from the jungles of Burma and Thailand. The members of the fair's Terrace Club can, for their \$1,250 membership fee, enjoy teakwood paneling in the club lounge; those with only 15 cents to spend can see teak flooring in the Indonesian Pavilion.

Mahogany Is Used

African mahogany is to be found in the Israel-American Pavilion. The wood there was imported from Ghana, where it grows, sometimes only two trees to an acre, amid the dense jungle foliage.

Another expensive wood is ebony, native to Indonesia, Ceylon and Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Dayton found some in the Greyhound Pavilion.

The Spanish Pavilion uses a good deal of wood for decorative effect, notably walnut paneling in its theater and for several large bas-relief maps.

Mr. Dayton, who is executive vice president of J. H. Men-teath Company, a company specializing in hardwoods, counted 10 kinds of wood in the Philippine Pavilion, all of them native to the country. Among them are narra, acacia, ipil, mohalava and lauan.

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Rock 'n' Roll Show Closed

The Fair Corporation sent 30 fair policemen to the Marine

Amphitheater yesterday afternoon and closed the Clay Cole Show, which had tried to re-open there.

"They failed to live up to their contractual obligations," a spokesman for the fair said.

He did not elaborate on what the failure had been.

Wes Myers, producer of the rock 'n' roll show, said that he, like many amusement exhibitors at the fair, had been subjected to one harassment after another.