

THE NEW HOTEL ROME

Finest Hotel West of New York to Be Formally Opened October 10

BUILT AND OPERATED BY ROME MILLER

Description of the Hotel and Many of the Innovations Introduced by the Proprietor

The formal opening of Omaha's new Hotel Rome has been set for next Thursday, October 10. It will be an event of which Omaha may well feel proud, for no longer will the stigma of poor hotel accommodations intrude itself as a retarding factor in its wonderful progress...



MR. ROME MILLER.

Before starting on a description of the hotel proper it seems a most fitting preface to say a few words of the man whose master mind planned, superintended the construction, the furnishing and will dominate the operation of this modern hotel. For many years Rome Miller has been the leading hotel keeper of Omaha. He has conducted the Her Grand successfully for many years...

He was born in St. Louis about fifty years ago and moved to South Dakota when a boy about 12 years of age. Since then he has been identified almost continuously with the railroad eating house and hotel business. He is prominent in Masonic circles, having held the position of grand master in Nebraska. He owns a large ranch in Oxford, Neb., stocked with pure bred cattle; has a fine home called Hill Crest about four miles from Omaha, and enjoys there, with his family, country life among his horse and garden and tree-studded acres. Mr. Miller is a great believer in life insurance, carrying \$150,000, which is said to be more than that carried by any other man in Nebraska.

Many years' experience in caring for the comfort of the public has equipped Mr. Miller with most decided and valuable ideas in the construction and management of a hotel. The keynote in the planning of every department has been "convenience." He has introduced many commendable features, among them:

The rooms both front and rear all have abundance of light; in fact, the first point in the plans was that there must be sufficient light and air to make every part of the hotel wholesome.

Good plumbing throughout the entire building and convenient means of getting at it for inspection and repairs. The finish and varnish of the woodwork everywhere indicate special attention to this detail—a detail which is never overlooked by the guest, but is too often slighted by hotel men.

The proprietor controls the entire house, even to the barber shop. Pure, clear, soft water for all purposes, supplied by an Artesian well. Decorations both for public and private rooms indicate a quiet, refined taste, giving the hotel in every respect a home-like appearance.

The hotel is what is termed semi-fireproof. It contains 260 rooms and 150 baths; it is strictly European plan, with rates from \$1 to \$5 per day.

The building is six stories in height and fronts west on Sixteenth street and south on Jackson street.

The Entrances. At each of the main entrances a porte cochere extends to the curb, a distance of twenty feet, and is twenty feet wide, in the design of art nouveau. These porte cocheres are most unique in originality of outline and detail.

Upon entering one notices the open, airy appearance of the first floor. People seated in the lobby can see from end to end of the building, a distance of 100 feet. The openness permits the music of one orchestra to be distinctly heard throughout the entire first floor.

The Lobby. The main lobby, 60x64 feet, with ceiling seventeen feet high, has a plate glass front of sixty feet on Sixteenth street, and the main entrance from Sixteenth street is through a vestibule nine feet deep by twenty feet wide. The vestibule has paneled ceiling and walls of mahogany. The entire front is of ornamental iron and plate glass.

The lobby is wainscoted with light-colored Italian marble to the height of five feet. This is skirted with a base of dark Tennessee marble. The floor is gray marble. The classic columns have Italian marble dado, scagliola shaft in sienna color with old bronze cap. The ceiling is beamed. The decoration, in a classic style, has striking colors of greens, ivories and old rose. All the trimmings are of mahogany, highly polished. The furniture is upholstered.

The lobby floor is covered with a very handsome Oushak rug, a direct importation from Turkey. Floors of other public rooms are also covered with Oushak rugs.

The clerk's desk, thirty feet long, is of Italian marble and ornamental iron. The key board behind the clerk's desk is sunk into the wall. The office safe is located in a room behind the clerk's desk, which is also provided with shelving and pigeon holes for storage of packages and bundles, so as to keep everything of this nature away from the front office, and at the same

time be easy of access to the clerks. The safe is provided with twenty private boxes.

The manager's private office is located alongside the clerk's desk and in a position of vantage from which he can command the business of the house.

The location of the cigar stand, check room, writing room, bar, barber shop, lavatories, the grand stairway, both entrances and the main corridor leading to the dining room, are all under the clerk's eye.

The ladies' entrance from Jackson street leads direct into the lobby, also to the ladies' reception room and the ladies' parlor, a dainty room decorated in the Louis XV style with a background on ceiling of Cupids and garlands of roses. The art glass in this room is of the Louis XV order. This parlor connects direct with the grand promenade and dining room. There are stairs leading from the ladies' entrance to Rome's Vineyard in the basement.

The Grand Promenade. One of the greatest features to the first floor is a handsomely appointed promenade hall leading from the lobby to the main dining room. This hall is twenty feet wide and seventy feet long. From it one commands an extensive view from end to end of the hotel. The hall opens into ladies' parlor, ladies' cafe, main dining room, two private dining rooms and two passenger elevators. When leaving the elevators in this hall the guest is in the center of distribution for all the main rooms. The decoration of this hall is in the Georgian period, and considerable money has been spent in ornamental plaster decorations. With its well-proportioned pilasters and beamed ceiling it is a typical French composition. The color scheme is in old-ivories, old rose and greens, all in neutral tints, with the ornaments all lighted to bring out the detail. The wainscot is of silk panels over a marble base. Panné plush covered settees are ranged along the sides.

To the left of the promenade, near the center, is an opening in the floor to the Rome's Vineyard below. This opening is covered with wire netting, over which is set a terraced device of wire for holding embankments of potted plants and shrubs, screening an electric fountain. Immediately below the opening in the floor is

attention to important passengers, and as it happened Schweininger seemed to take a fancy to him. He encouraged him to talk and talk. No doubt solitude bored him, and then his inside was all out of order, and he liked discussing his symptoms.

Course of Medicine. Brown suggested a course of medicine to counteract the probable effects of the fever. Of course, this involved making a fuss on the slightest provocation. Considering his character and the captain's and the possibility of landing the body at Gibraltar, he decided, as he had no intention whatever of risking his own life, that he must be through with his job by the seventh evening at the latest. He meant to be through with it much sooner than that, but something happened to delay him.

On his second visit to Schweininger, he found him studying the problems in a cheery mood. Now he had been passionately devoted to that game, and it turned out that Schweininger was almost as great an enthusiast as himself. They sat down to the board there and then and proved to be pretty equal antagonists.

Brown Takes Him Up. Next day Schweininger proposed a continuation of the game, and he was not at all hesitating about making a fuss on the slightest provocation. Considering his character and the captain's and the possibility of landing the body at Gibraltar, he decided, as he had no intention whatever of risking his own life, that he must be through with his job by the seventh evening at the latest. He meant to be through with it much sooner than that, but something happened to delay him.

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There are no wall brackets. The chandeliers have chain stem, so that they may be lengthened or shortened by the simple addition or taking off of links. The dresser and other lights (except the bed lights) are all pendant from the ceiling. The lights are controlled with thumb knob at the door.

The Dining Room. The main dining room, 60x64 feet, is unique and original in its detail. The style of architecture used is art nouveau. The color scheme of this room is in neutral tints of old rose, greens and old ivories. In all commencing in a deep shade at the top of mahogany dado and gradually shaded into a pale green to a heavy fringe of the art nouveau flower and leaves, which are high lighted in old rose and white, with a green background, in all making a strikingly new and handsome room. The colored windows are lighted in the evening from the outside, so that the art glass effects are brought out in the evening as well as in the day. This is art glass original with Mr. Miller. The electric lights fixtures are of new and novel pattern, the lights all circled with imported prisms. The dining room chairs are leather upholstered.

The Banquet Hall. Opening from the main dining room is a banquet hall, 60x64 feet, of pillar and post, with art glass windows on two sides. This room is absolutely fireproof and very ornate in its color and stucco decoration. The lighting scheme is remarkably good and well distributed. There are 150 small electric lights set in plaster rosettes on the ceiling. The color scheme is ivory and gold, with freese and blue accents, and it all is a unique room in the Georgian period. A musicians' balcony, with sound board, is at one end of the room. The floor is of cement, furred with cork, and on top of this a floor of maple, which makes it resilient and ideal for dancing. This floor is an idea of Mr. Miller's.

The Women's Cafe. The women's cafe, opening from the main dining room and also from the ground promenade, is decorated in Louis XVI period. Details of this period are carried out in ornamental plaster; the colors, old ivories and greens; windows of art glass to correspond.

Rome's Vineyard. In the basement is a unique and original cafe representing an Italian garden, which will be known as Rome's vineyard. It is 40x100 feet, with floor of soft, red tile and walls and ceiling decorated to resemble an Italian garden, with "fence-covered lattice and bunches of grapes hanging overhead, a landscape effect on the walls and a fountain in form of a waterfall at one end. The vineyard is entered from a stairway at the women's entrance and also from the men's buffet.

The service problem for these dining rooms has been carefully studied out, and a glance at the ground floor and basement plans will show how the work can be done systematically with the minimum of steps between the kitchen and any of the rooms. The service pantry on the ground floor (connected with short and easy stairway to the kitchen) is the hub for the banquet room, main restaurant, women's and men's restaurant, the private dining rooms and the men's restaurant annex to the bar and buffet.

There is abundant working space in the kitchen, so that the waiters on banquet service are not in the way of the cooks, or even of the waiters serving in the main restaurant. The service in Rome's Vineyard is also facilitated by short and direct connection with the kitchen.

The Bed Rooms. The bed rooms are all finished in mahogany woodwork and papered with imported satin. The paper in light shades. Twenty-five extra large rooms with bath are especially adapted for single rooms. Connecting rooms have hall between them, with door at each end of hall.

Every room has either a private bath or connects with room with bath. The bath rooms are in tiers, one above the other, and between each is a double floor, with space between the floors for plumbing. The ceiling of each bathroom is fastened up with screws, so that it can be easily taken down to get at the plumbing; consequently the floor of the rooms need never be disturbed for this purpose. This is an idea of Mr. Miller's that may be copied to advantage. All the bathrooms are tiled, provided with the modern luxuries (including shower), and have superior quality of plumbing, all nicked.

The washbowl in nearly all rooms is located in a recess, with mirror over the bowl. All plaster corners are protected with metal laid over them under the finish. The closets are spacious and each has an open closet, direct with all floors and the hooks, so that the garments are more clearly seen. This is an idea of Mr. Miller's.

Every room is abundantly lighted, but

there are no wall brackets. The chandeliers have chain stem, so that they may be lengthened or shortened by the simple addition or taking off of links. The dresser and other lights (except the bed lights) are all pendant from the ceiling. The lights are controlled with thumb knob at the door.

The steam radiators are located under the windows. Every room has long distance telephone, framed pictures, waste basket and trunk rest.

The furniture is of mahogany in neat pattern, all rich and beautiful, with glass handles.

The doors are all mahogany paneled to match the furniture, and have glass door-knobs. The doors are all provided with the occupancy indicator in form of the rigid and loose bar in the bolt.

About one-fifth of the beds are wood, and the balance brass. All have box spring mattresses. The combination table-desk is used in the rooms, each having the sliding board and stationary drawer.

The carpets are Smith's 600 Bigelow Axminster, purchased through Orchard & Wilhelm.

On the sixth floor. The housekeeper and her assistant have two rooms with bath between. The girls have rooms opening from a private hall, with two baths and lavatories for their special use; also they have a sitting room, 10x36 feet, and a roof garden, with palms and wicker furniture. Two girls occupy one room. The partitions are of the fireproof Sackett's plaster board. There are three separate fire-escapes from the female help's quarters.

The men's quarters are in the basement. The Newman watchman's clock and the international employes' time clock system are installed.

The Bar and Public Conveniences. The bar and cafe annex is a big room decorated in Austrian arts and crafts style. No expense was spared in an effort to make this room one of the most unique in the west. The artist adopted and conventionalized the mission style. The back bar is a striking feature on account of it being very low, in all only eight feet and eight inches high. In the center of this back bar is an illuminated art glass dome. The same detail is carried out in the entire room, with an eight feet eight inches wainscoting around all walls and columns. The ceiling decorations are ornate in neutral tints of old rose, green and ivories.

The walls above the wainscoting show a decoration of grapes and vine leaves, twigs and roots.

The woodwork is of pine in Austrian gray finish, and the tables, counter, back-bar, telephone booth and wainscot all match.

The barroom has leather ingo-nook seats and the cafe has plush seat extending all around. The tables are individual, similar to those in the Knickerbocker buffet in New York, and have the phone service.

The center lights, of art glass, weigh over 100 pounds each. The electric light fixtures throughout are of novel type, not excelled in ornamental qualities.

The bar counter is twenty-six feet. The ice boxes in the bar are faced with art glass, illuminated from behind, producing a unique effect.

Standing at the bar one can look through ninety feet, flanked by a handsome art glass window on the same order as the wall decoration.

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The walls above the wainscoting show a decoration of grapes and vine leaves, twigs and roots.

The woodwork is of pine in Austrian gray finish, and the tables, counter, back-bar, telephone booth and wainscot all match.