2028 Convention Communique No. 2 ~ Nowonder '26

MINNESOTA ~ June 21-25, 2028

DoubleTree by Hilton Saint Paul Downtown

We've shared the dates and the wonderful room rate ($109 a night!), so let's take a closer look at some of the events planned for Saint Paul '28…

There are mountains of activities and sites to enjoy in Saint Paul and its "twin" across the Mississippi River, Minneapolis. The hotel is honoring its low-rate *three days prior* to the start of the convention and *three days afterward*…that's more time to explore the "Twin Cities"! Take in a Twins game at Target Field or see the Saint Paul Saints play just down the street from the hotel. We've got more legitimate stage seats per capita than NYC, so take in a play at one of our innumerable theaters, including the world-renowned Guthrie stage. Tour our beautiful State Capitol Building or the Cathedral of Saint Paul, or visit the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Minnesota History Center. Historic Summit Avenue is the longest boulevard of Victorian houses in the U.S. – see F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthplace! The Children's Museum isn't just for kids, and the Ordway Music Center and the Landmark Center are not to be missed, all within walking distance of the hotel. Minneapolis has lots of great attractions, and the Mall of America is a world-renowned mecca for shopping and entertainment, with an indoor amusement park with 5 roller coasters! (And, in Minnesota, **there is no sales tax on clothing and shoes!)**





If you arrive early, you'll want to be at the hotel by **Tuesday evening, June 20th,** for a grand reunion with friends during an "Early Birds" reception and conclave registration. Wednesday morning will feature an optional Gangster Tour of Saint Paul – the city's corrupt mayor and police chief in the 1920s and '30s had a "hands-off" policy for the Chicago mobsters who came to the Saintly City to relax and enjoy our 10,000 lakes – as long as they behaved! The tour is a fascinating adventure into the little-known history of Saint Paul's wild past!

After dinner on your own, **the convention gets officially underway late Wednesday afternoon, JUNE 21,** with the **Opening General Session** and **Parade of Tents** – representatives of each tent will address the delegates. **We'll salute the 50 Years of**

Sons' Conventions, followed by the opening of the **Dealer's Emporium.** Night Owls may stay up late for our nightly spotlight on one of our favorite Laurel & Hardy costars.





THURSDAY, JUNE 22 will find presentations by four special speakers, plus we'll hear from **L&H Authors**, who will no doubt be signing their books in the **Dealers Emporium** following the panel. Dinner will be a **Minnesota Buffet,** and the evening's program a salute to the **Minnesotans at Hal Roach Studios**, including music man Leroy Shield (left), Muriel Evans (Pack Up Your Troubles), June Lang (Bonnie Scotland, Zenobia), June "Miss Crabtree" Marlowe (right), and Our Gang's Leonard and Sid "Woim" Kibrick.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 finds us rising early for a **"Marmalade for (*Continental*) Breakfast"** before boarding buses to journey to the historic **Heights Theater**, the oldest continuously-operating cinema in the Twin Cities – now 100 years old! The beautifully-restored "jewel box" neighborhood house features the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ which will be used to accompany the first half of our big screen presentation. Following intermission, three of Stan & Babe's best talkies will be screened, all as they were originally intended to be seen on the big screen!



We'll be back on the buses for a short trip to Saint Paul's **Como Park**, the premier recreational grounds in the area. If the **Pee Wee Contest** and **Oliver Hardy Putting Tournament** aren't your thing, perhaps a **Model T Ford ride** will suffice, and you may find time to wander through Como's award-winning free **Zoo** and wonderful **Victorian Conservatory.** Your name badge will be your pass for endless rides on **Cafesjian's Carousel,** one of only 200 antique wooden merry-go-rounds still operating (built in 1914), and one of only two carousels with its original paint. The lilting L&H music of Minnesota-born Leroy Shield will accompany your rides. We'll enjoy a **Picnic Dinner** *al fresco* featuring fried chicken and all the trimmings before returning



to the hotel for more **Dealers Emporium** bargains and a **special evening Guest Speaker** who has never attended a Sons' event before.

Since Saint Paul is known as one of the "Twin Cities," our speaker's presentation will be followed by a screening of **Stan & Babe in their "twin" roles:** BRATS, TWICE TWO, and OUR RELATIONS. The Hal Roach Cinema will be open late for Night Owls (*and* any other tents' members).

Saturday, June 24 gets underway with big business as the **Grand Council** will discuss important Sons of the Desert issues and hear bids for the 2030 Convention. **A special first-time presenter will bring us an interesting presentation** (what else would a presenter do?), and the much-anticipated **Trivia Quiz** will conclude the morning's fun. We'll reconvene following lunch on your own with an **"Ask the Experts" Question and Answer** session featuring the triumvirate of L&H authorities, Saint Paul native **Richard W. Bann, Randy Skretvedt**, and 1940s aficionado **Scott MacGillivray.**


Richard


Randy


Scott

Saturday evening will be a night to remember as the **Grand Costume Banquet** begins with music during the cocktail hour. There will be prizes for creativity and more, as **the costume theme is *nearly* anything goes – base your outfit on any Hal Roach film or classic Hollywood comedian.** We'll have a special audience-participation film program, and you may want to trip the light fantastic as our dinner music continues into the night. Too keyed to sleep? The Hal Roach Cinema will be open for more classic comedies featuring your favorite L&H costars.



All good things must come to an end (and we plan on making Saint Paul '28 a *"good thing"*). **Sunday, June 25** brings **The Passing of the Pineapple Farewell Brunch** heralding the beginning of the end of the 25th Sons of the Desert Convention. There will be awards, speeches, and the traditional hand-off of the Hawaiian fruit before we all head our separate ways until 2030…unless you plan to stay to see more of our fair cities! More details are coming…

Save those dates – June 21-25, 2028 – and don't miss the fun!