

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

Checking in to the Hotel Syracuse

The Onondaga Historical Association looks back at the week:

90 Years Ago: In September 1924, the Hotel Syracuse opened to the public. Designed by George B. Post and Sons and built at a cost of more than \$6 million, the building had everything that the nation's leading hotel architects of the period could incorporate.

Some of the features included a coffee shop, drug store, beauty salon, barber shop, retail stores, over 600 guest rooms and a grand ballroom. From the outside the three towers, connected at the base, resembled classical columns. The Rainbow Lounge, named for the

tubular lighting within the glass-block entrance, was added in 1937 following Prohibition. The Persian Terrace became one of the most elegant meeting and dining rooms.

Child movie star and Syracuse native Jackie Coogan was the first registered guest at the hotel. Numerous celebrities visited the Hotel Syracuse over the decades, including Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, aviator Charles Lindbergh, entertainers Bob Hope, Nat King Cole, Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones and John Lennon with Yoko Ono.

— *Daniel Connors of the OHA*



JACKIE COOGAN REGISTERS: Syracuse's famous child movie star was the first to place his name on the records of the Hotel Syracuse. With him are, from left, Joseph Griffin, president of the Citizens Hotel Corp.; Roy Brainard, managing director of the Hotel Syracuse; and Lt. Gov. George Lunn. (OHA)