

I LOVE THE  
STATE THEATRE





410-414

INSTANT IMAGE

OPTICAL

LABORATORIES

STATE

TONIGHT 7:30PM  
**HOOSIERS**  
 ALL SEATS \$1  
 ZANIES  
 JEFF FOXWORTHY  
 THE WINESTERS SISTERS

**Make Downtown Your Place ...**  
**For Shopping...For Eating...For Entertainment!**  
**WEDNESDAY IS DOWNTOWN NIGHT! 58 BUSINESSES OPEN!!**



"The Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre"  
P.O. Box 1216  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005  
(616) 388-3173

March 15, 1985

You are invited to The Kalamazoo State Theatre on March 26, 1985 for the kickoff of a most exciting project. The project entitled "The Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre" will begin its public phase after this meeting.

Since you have already been contacted or may have an interest in the theater, we are sure that you will want to have an opportunity to be involved in the early stages of this project. You are being invited to take an active part in recording for posterity the story of a fascinating architectural landmark. No doubt you have already heard about some of our plans. See the enclosed Time Frame sheet for an overview of what we hope to accomplish over the next two years.

We also know that you are a busy person. For this reason the meeting on the 26th is designed so that it will take only one hour out of that day. If you can, you may wish to take time for a tour of the theater, as well.

- 3:00 p.m. Tours of the State Theatre (optional)
- 3:30 p.m. Informational meeting telling of the component parts of "The Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre" project.
- 4:15 p.m. Announcement to the Media of the anticipated arrival of a world famous, Academy Award-winning screenwriter.
- 4:30 p.m. Tours of the State Theatre (optional)  
Cash bar with refreshments available.
- 5:30 p.m. Repeat of earlier informational meeting  
(See 3:30.)
- 6:15 p.m. Conclusion of meeting.

As you can see, you may arrive when it is convenient for you. Please plan to attend one of the informational meetings, if possible.

Yours for a deeper awareness of this community's heritage,

Ann Nelson Cook, Coordinator  
The Life and Times Committee

"THE LIFE AND TIMES OF KALAMAZOO'S STATE THEATRE"  
The Life and Times Committee  
P. O. Box 1216  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005  
(616) 388-3173

March 16, 1985

Thank you for your request for more information about "The Life and Times of the State Theatre". This project is designed to document the history of this unique landmark and to promote the cultural, economic, and historical achievements of the Kalamazoo area.

The video-documentary and the related educational components will be used to educate children and others, from near and far, about the cultural and economic activities and accomplishments of Kalamazoo over the past sixty years.

The documentary is to be completed in 1987 in conjunction with the 60th birthday of the State Theatre and the 150th birthday of the State of Michigan.

"The Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre" will be "kicked-off" with a special appearance by John Briley, Kalamazoo's own native son, who is the Academy Award-winning screenwriter of GHANDI. This phase will require your assistance.

To assure the success of this project we need pledges of financial support and people to commit time, goods, and services.

An invitation to a meeting, March 26th, additional information and a post card are enclosed. Please indicate your interest by returning the card. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours for a deeper awareness of this community's heritage.

*Ann Nelson Cook*

Ann Nelson Cook, Coordinator  
The Life and Times Committee

*P.S. I would like to know what the situation is regarding the 3/26 Inu Times 3-3<sup>30</sup> and 4<sup>30</sup>-5<sup>30</sup> who can play + whom & who will be there or backup! I want you all to come to the meeting!*

*Call & give me your address for Briley visit,*

Time Frame: "The Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre"

Spring 1985 Information, Planning and Development

Initial Informational work to Community  
Tuesday, March 26th, Meetings at 3:30 or 5:30 p.m.  
Tours at 3 and 4:30 p.m.  
At the State Theatre

Wednesday, April 24, 1985, planning and development  
meeting, time to be  
announced

June 1985 Possibility of Academy Award winner coming to  
"Kick-Off" the project

1985-1986 Development and production of mini-teaching units and  
mini-video units about selected people and/or areas

Workshops to "discover" items for additional mini-video  
units, and for the documentary  
Participants: adults and students

Mini-units readied for distribution to schools and for  
Phase 2 Workshops-Open to the public

Phase 2 Workshops and school use of mini-units and  
mini-video units to "discover" additional information  
for the documentary

1986-1987 Production of documentary using the results of the  
following as basic raw material, to be researched by  
historians

- 1) mini-video units
- 2) mini-teaching units
- 3) participation by adults and students in:
  - a) Workshops
  - b) School Projects
  - c) contributions inspired by the  
media and informational material
  - d) contributions inspired by speakers

July 12, 1987 Premier showing in Kalamazoo of the documentary "The  
Life and Times of Kalamazoo's State Theatre" to  
coincide with the 60th birthday of the State Theatre  
(NOTE: 1987 is also the 150th birthday of the State of  
Michigan and Sesquicentennial events are planned)

TOURS of the State Theatre  
using costumes created for the documentary  
depicting the various decades (20's through the  
80's), with: organ concerts, old movies, and  
special shows developed to review the arts,  
culture, economic and historical developments of  
Kalamazoo over the past 60 years.

EXHIBITS created by local groups and organizations

For further information contact: The Life and Times Committee, P. O.  
Box 1216, Kalamazoo, MI 49005

3/15/85

THE STATE THEATRE VAUDEVILLE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Pegasus  
Productions



LIVE ON STAGE  
**The Jungle Book**  
NOVEMBER 17th  
3 & 6 P.M.

- Learn the universal code of friendship, fairness and fun from an 8-foot tall Magic Bear.
- Romp through the rainforest with Mowgli, the jungle boy.
- Encounter a slithering snake, wondrous wolf, mimicking monkey and lascivious lion in thrilling and comical escapades.
- Experience the enchantment of the jungle with beautiful scenery and mesmerizing magic effects.

A wild, warm and wonderful adventure classic

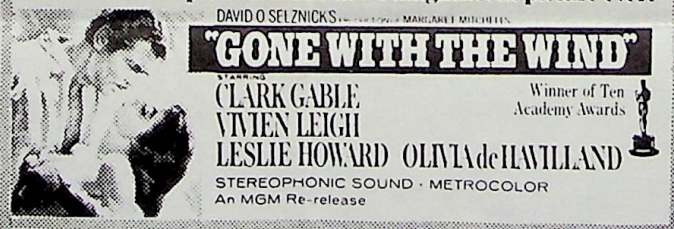
AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 8TH  
3 PM  
FEATURING:

ORGANIST BILL MOLLEMA,  
KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY CHORALE  
KALAMAZOO BALLET COMPANY

ALL TICKETS ARE \$3 AND CAN BE PURCHASED BY SENDING YOUR TICKET ORDER, CHECK AND A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO: STATE THEATRE VAUDEVILLE P.O. BOX 649 COMSTOCK, MI 49041

JANUARY 19TH 3 & 6 PM

In new screen splendor... The most magnificent picture ever!



FEBRUARY 16TH 3 & 6 PM

BIG TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL - NOW ON WIDE SCREEN!





**AN OLD FASHION  
CHRISTMAS AT**

the  
State  
Theatre



**SUNDAY-3:00pm  
DECEMBER 16th**

featuring organist  
**TOM WIBBELS**

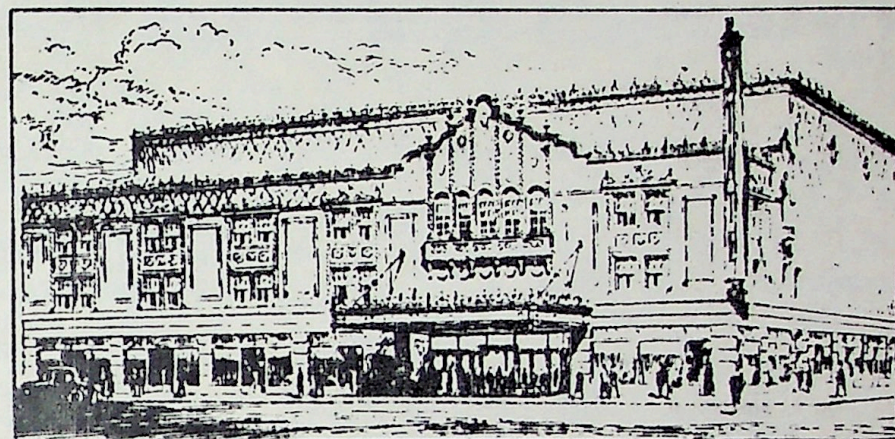
all tickets \$3.00

# State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN

classic "The Phantom of the Opera". Since the spring of 1972, the Barton has not been heard publicly as a part of the State's theatre presentations. That is, until the 50th Anniversary celebration of the State Theatre. In addition to many of the theatre's staging resources being utilized, the Barton accompanied the classic "The Gold Rush" starring Charlie Chaplin.

While the theatre pipe organ, in general, has been experiencing a revival in theatres, restaurants, and other public buildings all across the country, Kalamazoo is indeed fortunate to have a theatre organ still in its original installation. The State Theatre's Barton renaissance has most recently been the work of John Catherwood, William Mollema, Bob MacNeur, John Ferguson, Max Brown, and Robert Pratt. Their unselfish labor is greatly appreciated and apparent as you listen to the Golden Voiced Barton today. Special thanks are also in order to Betty Darling for her support and help. The rejuvenation goes on. As with any form of entertainment, public response could encourage the use of the Barton; whether in solo work, or in the many forms of accompaniment it can provide.



## STATE THEATRE RENTAL INFORMATION!

SOMETHING NEW....YOU CAN HAVE YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS....OUR MARQUEE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL GREETINGS SUCH AS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" (ANY NAME YOU CHOOSE).

OUR SPACIOUS HALLS AND MEZZANINE AREA ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEETING, RECEPTIONS, PARTYS, ETC.

THE ENTIRE THEATRE INCLUDING THE MAGNIFICENT AUDITORIUM IS ALSO AVAIL-ABLE FOR ALMOST ANY OCCASSION. OUR STAGE IS FULLY OPERATIONAL AND WILL ACCOMODATE ANYTHING FROM ONE MAN SHOWS TO FULL SCALE THEATRICAL PROD-UCTIONS.

FOR RENTAL INFORMATION OF THE HISTORIC STATE THEATRE CONTACT MR. CLEAR AT 313-352-4520 10AM TO 4 PM MON TO FRI

Front cover illustration from Opening Night Program, July 14, 1927

2 NIGHTS ONLY - FRI. & SAT.  
JULY 20 AND 21 - SHOWS AT 7:30  
AND 9:30 PM. - ADMISSION \$3.00

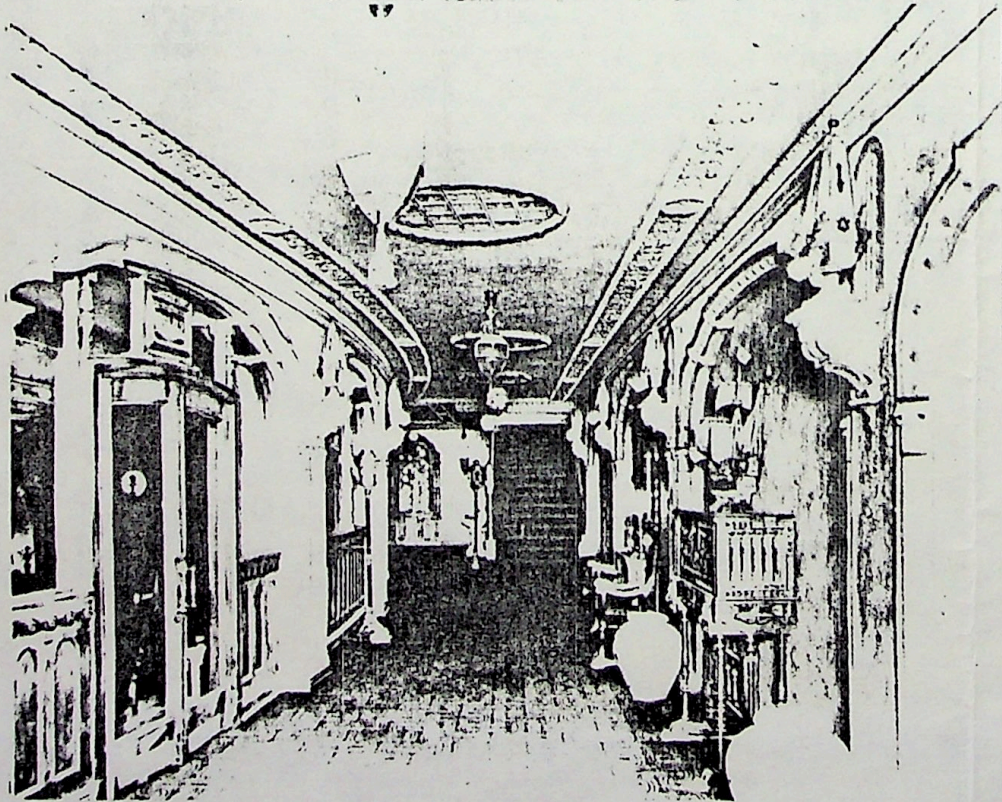
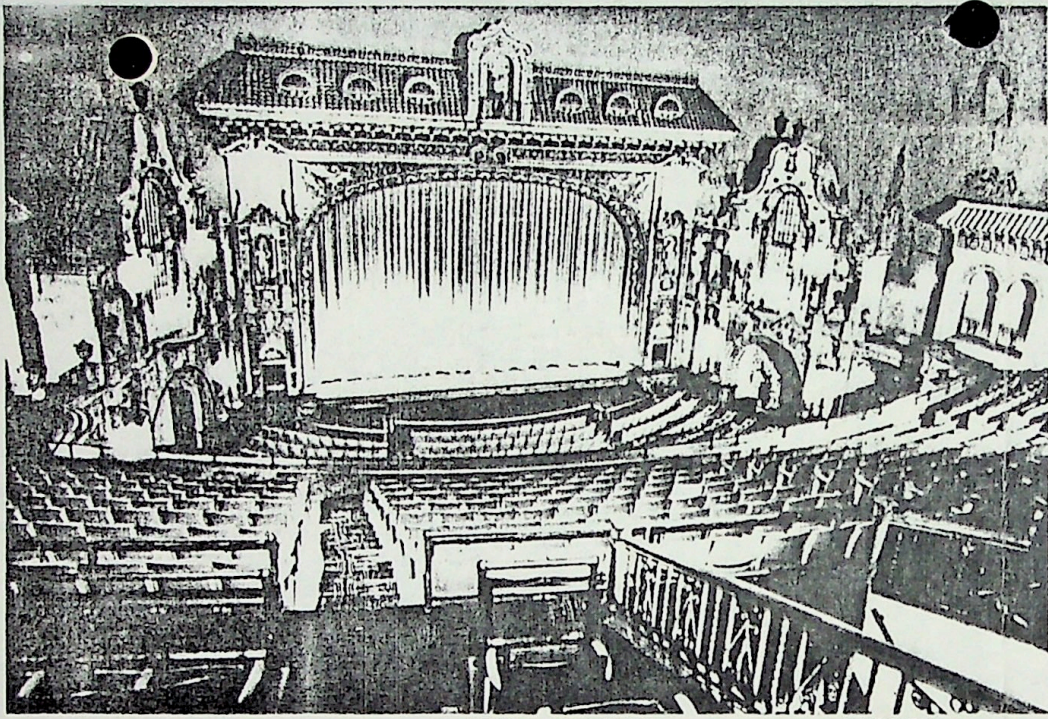
**LUSTY, ROUSING GIRL-STEALING MUSICAL!**



ADDED! ORGAN CONCERT AT 7:00 AND 9:00  
WITH JOHN DURGAN AT THE GOLDEN  
VOICED BARTON PIPE ORGAN.....

COME EARLY.....

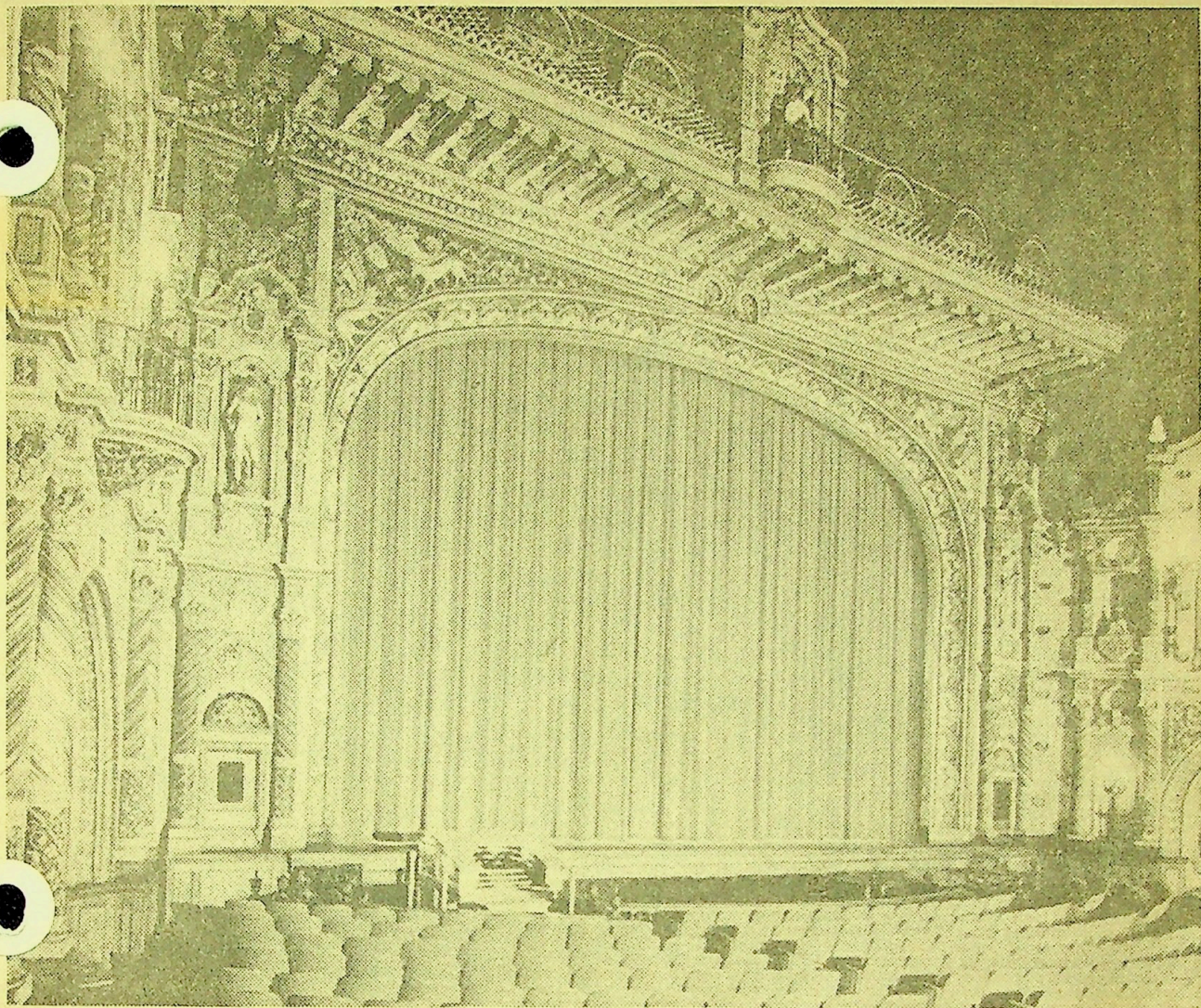




# the State Theatre & the Barton Organ

If you ever dreamed of relaxing in a romantic Spanish courtyard and being entertained as if you were royalty . . . then on July 14, 1927, your dream came true. Your expenses would surely be small, your pleasure great, and you would only have to pass through the ornate facade of the State Theatre, Kalamazoo. On through the richly appointed lobby, and you are there. Theatre designer John Eberson's "atmospheric" design has lifted you from everyday reality and placed you in the midst of an Hispano-Italian fantasy. The terra-cotta, tapestries, mirrors, paintings, wrought iron, statuary, colonades of arches, balconies, and cove-lit niches have assaulted your senses and literally taken your breath away. In the auditorium the twinkling stars and gently drifting clouds sooth you as you are entertained by first-class attractions beneath the tile-roofed proscenium. Vaudeville, stage shows, dance revues, movies (silent and talkies), drama, opera, ballet, big bands; it has all been presented here. . . . Although, today some appointments have been removed and painters have changed the decor in some areas of the building, the State's virtually intact auditorium is still reminiscent of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. And within this auditorium is still another breath-taker. . . . The house lights are dimmed, and a most magnificent chorus of music bursts forth from ornate grilles on each side of the courtyard. A golden spotlight pierces the night sky and picks out the rising artist and console of the Golden Voiced Barton Theatre Pipe Organ.

The State's 3 manual - 11 rank theatre organ was played on opening night by Al Gillickson. He was making a guest appearance away from his usual stint at the Capitol Theatre. The first House Organist, Edith Ehrens, entertained patrons for the first year and was replaced by Clarence Leverenz in 1928. Even though silent films gradually faded away, Mr. Leverenz was featured for sing-alongs until 1934 when Bud Taylor took over until 1937. The Barton then fell silent into disuse as a regular attraction until 1950 when Bud Taylor returned. Mr. Taylor played intermissions until 1951. Again the organ fell silent and deteriorated heavily. 1961 brought John Catherwood and William Mollema to the State volunteering to rejuvenate the Barton. When once again playable, they alternated playing intermissions on Saturday or Sunday evenings. This continued until 1972. In November, 1971, organist Stan Kann from the Fox Theatre, St. Louis, Missouri, accompanied the silent film



— Photo by Jim Bevins

Interior of historic State Theater displays a vast and ornate design.

# Group starts bid to save historic State Theater

By DON W. CARLSON  
Gazette Entertainment Editor

The first concerted move to save Kalamazoo's ornate State Theater was taken Tuesday at a meeting called by the city of Kalamazoo's economic development division.

A seven-member committee, representing a broad cross-section of cultural interests, was named to make an appraisal of potential uses, maintenance arrangements for the 1,200-seat former vaudeville and movie theater which has been closed since last winter.

Most of the more than 20 people attending agreed that the theater should be saved for nostalgic, architectural and other reasons, and that raising funds or working out a financial arrangement to acquire the quarter-block-large

structure at Burdick and Lovell streets would be possible. But there was a divergence of views on the theater's utilization as a performing arts center and how it could be maintained.

That's what the committee will look into immediately — to determine how many groups would be interested in using it for plays, concerts, recitals, ballet, lectures, meetings and other activities, and whether it would be valuable as an adjunct to attracting conventions to the city.

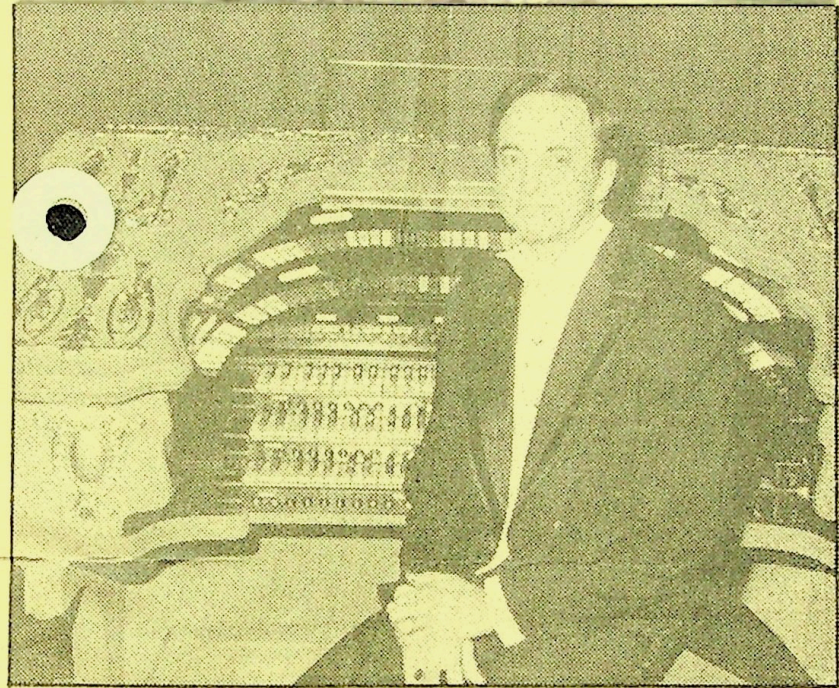
If these factors are resolved favorably, presumably the next step would be determine procedures for acquiring the 54-year-old structure, which also houses a number of stores and offices, from Butterfield Theaters of Southfield.

Lyle Smith, president of Butterfield, attended the meeting and promised the cooperation of the theater circuit. Smith said there was "no timetable" at present for disposing of the property and that his company was anxious to resolve the matter at the earliest convenience to local groups. He also pledged that the theater would not be razed for a parking lot.

Michael Doleski, director of the city's economic development division, presided at the meeting. Named to a committee to get matters rolling were Paul Ferrone, Duwain Hunt, Gordon Smith, Lyle Smith, Diane Smusz and Robert Walker. A representative of the city is yet to be chosen.

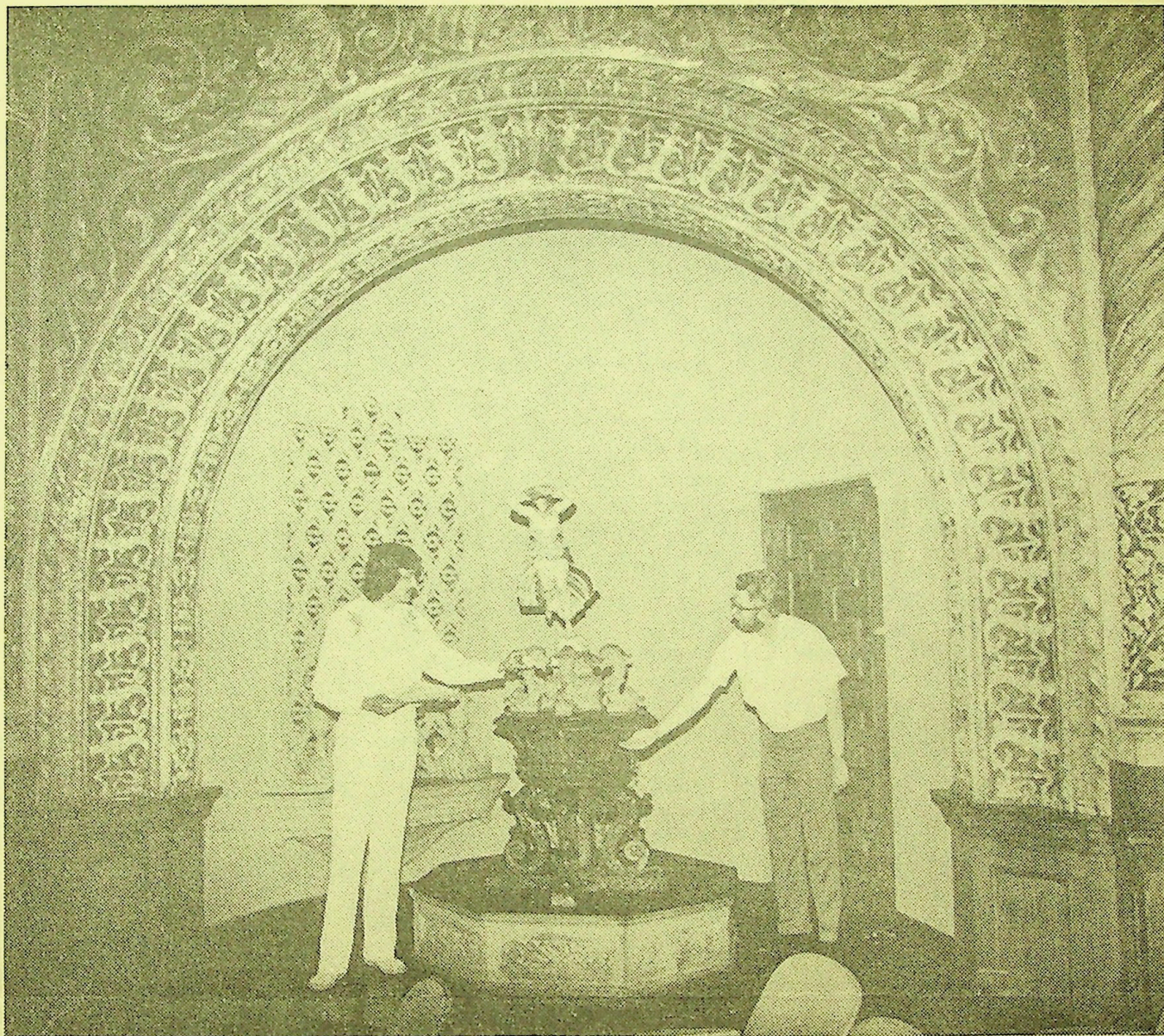
Ferrone is manager of the

(See THEATER on Page A-7)



## *Catherwood at the organ*

John Catherwood will provide accompaniment on the 3-manual, 11-rank Barton organ when two of the comedy sequences from the Harold Lloyd silent classic, "Hot Water," is shown next Sunday at 3 at Kalamazoo's State Theater in another Sunday afternoon program sponsored by the State Theater Vaudeville Committee. Born and raised in Detroit and educated at Kalamazoo College, he became a close friend of Bud Taylor, the well-known State Theater organist — a friendship began in their college days. He and Bill Molema started replacing the theater's organ in 1962. Tickets for the program are \$3 and will be available at the door. A special \$2 price will prevail for senior citizens and students.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS RON REISTERER (LEFT), JERRY ALEXANDER CHECK RESTORED FOUNTAIN**  
Enchanting Old Fixture Restored For 50th Anniversary Party Of State Theater

—Gazette photo by Jerry Campbell

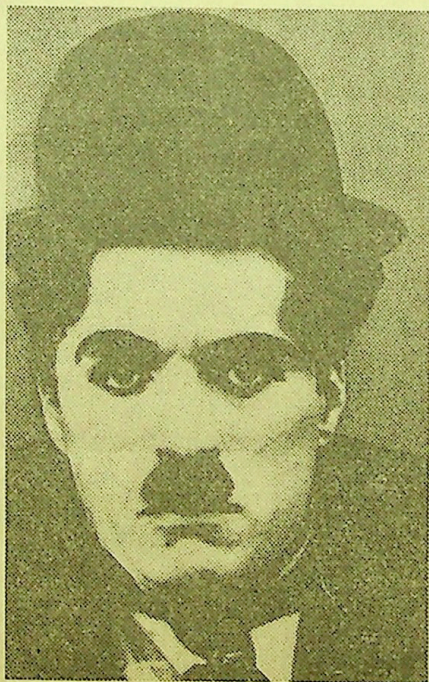
# Blackstone, Chaplin Film At State

(Continued From Page B-11)

Rush," which was also written and directed by the popular "little tramp."

The tale of misplaced love in the days of the Klondike Gold Rush will be brought to the State Theater screen in its complete, original version, made from a 35 millimeter print.

Volunteer workers from throughout Kalamazoo



**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**  
His "Gold Rush" Is Coming

have been active in restoring the State to its glory-days condition. Hundreds of light bulbs have been ordered, and they'll be installed throughout the theater — in many cases, in ornate crannies that have been dark for decades.

Ron Reisterer, a member of the anniversary committee's steering committee, recently found a typewritten maintenance guide, dated July 26, 1927, stuffed in the rear of a bottom drawer of an old desk in the theater's basement.

The guide included instructions for finding the valves used to turn on the water supply for the ornamental fountain in a niche under the west organ loft in the auditorium.

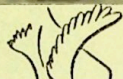
Reisterer tried the valves, and the fountain began spewing water again — reportedly for the first time in at least 30 years.

Volunteers are also preparing to install all 91 ceiling bulbs, 30 of them twinkling bulbs, to rejuvenate the "skyscape" ambiance local theatergoers once enjoyed. They've also managed to fix one of the theater's old cloud machines. All the original equipment is expected to be functioning by mid-July.

Mail-order ticket sales for both 8 p.m. anniversary party programs will begin next Sunday. Balcony seats will be \$5, and main floor seats \$6. Checks can be sent to the State Theater 50th Anniversary Committee. They should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and mailed to the Kalamazoo Public Museum, 315 S. Rose.

Mail orders will be received until July 1, and after that date tickets will be sold at the State Theater box office.

4-7-85



*Voices for Survival* presents

# *Pete Seeger*

in a benefit concert for the  
Kalamazoo Peace Education Fund  
sponsored by Physicians For Social  
Responsibility

Thursday, April 25, 1985 8:00 p.m.

State Theatre

\$12.00 General Admission

Tickets available at these locations: Eighth  
Day Bookstore, Bach to Bach, Boogie Re-  
cords, Believe in Music, State Theatre

To order by phone: State Theatre 344-9670  
(Visa/MasterCard)

To order by Mail: Send check, self-addressed  
envelope payable to PSR/Voices for Survival,  
P.O. Box 1138, Kalamazoo, MI. 49005

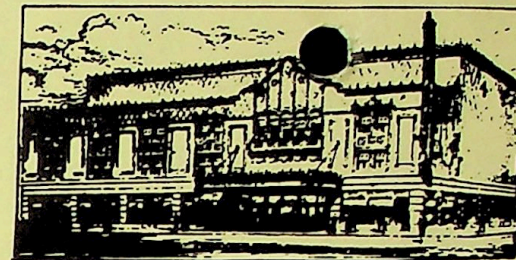




THE STATE THEATRE MAUDEVILLE COMMITTEE  
& REFLECTIONS IN MOTION DANCE STUDIOS

Presents:

# 100 YEARS OF DANCE



## 1890 THE NUTCRACKER

Waltz of the Flowers  
Arabian  
Chinese  
Spanish  
Reed Flutes

## 1900 THE STRAUSS WALTZ

## 1910 THE CAN CAN

## 1920 THE CHARLESTON

## 1930 THE BALLROOM ERA

Tango  
Rumba / Cha Cha  
Foxtrot  
Swing

## 1940 THE MUSICALS

Singin' in the Rain  
Anything You Can Do

## 1950 THE BABY BOOMERS

West Side Story's-  
Gee, Officer Krumpkee  
Run Around Sue

## INTERMISSION

Organist John Catherwood will play the  
Theatre's Pipe organ for your enjoyment.

## 1960 GARY LEWIS MEDLEY

Everybody Loves a Clown  
Birds and Bees  
Save Your Heart  
Well Respected Man  
Just My Style  
Love Potion #9

## 1970 DANCE FOR THE MASSES

The Wiz  
Fame  
Stayin' Alive

## 1980 THE VIDEO AGE

When Doves Cry  
Lucky One  
Flashdance  
Self Control  
You Know What To Do  
She Works Hard

## 1990 THE FUTURE

Astronauts  
Space Travelers  
Planet Creatures  
Visions  
Clara & Edward Return

There will be a reception in the upstairs  
lobby after the show. If you wish to meet  
our Dancers or talk with the Directors and  
Choreographers please join us. Cocktails  
will be available.

KALAMAJAZZ SENIOR COMPANY

L. Cessna	D. Miller	H. Sagas
A. DeVaux	B. Moon	D. Soule
T. Ellis	P. Mydlow	T. Wallace
D. Heistand	C. Perry	S. White
C. Holland	D. Ponds	P. White
K. Karpenty	C. Robbins	J. White-Obryant
	D. Rouse	

KALAMAJAZZ JUNIOR COMPANY

S. Anderson	N. Estavillo	B. Kostrzewa
K. Arnold	M. Graham	L. Phillips
M. Boudreau	S. Graham	B. Smith
C. Cumins	S. Honsberger	J. Wendling
A. Daley	T. Henson	A. Westphal

Produced By: Refelections in Motion &  
The State Theatre Vaudeville  
Committee

Directed By: Debra Oaks & Ron Bisson

Choreographed By: Debra Oaks, Ronald Bisson,  
Sher Farrell-Cook, Susan  
Seilheimer, Carla Rupert,  
Kim Karpenty & Nanette  
Hatfield.

Managing Director: Duwain M. Hunt

Lighting & Sound By: SAFE PASSAGE

Lighting Director: Kevin Smith

Stage Manager: Marvin Jameson

Organist: John Catherwood

House Manager: M. Anne Landry

Ass't To The Directors: Pat Estavillo

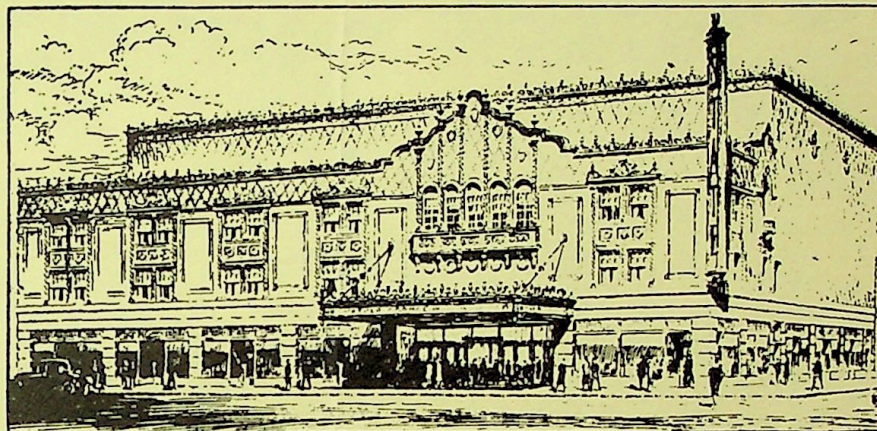
Costumes by: Betsey Cushman Pat Estavillo  
Marilyn Coy Debra Oaks

**STAGE CREW**

Calvin Jones	Jennifer Jones	Kathy Racz
Karen Jameson	Jay Jameson	Chris Hunt
John Girton	Greg Stokes	Timm Charlton
	Tucker Rafferty	

# State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN



STATE THEATER  
VAUDEVILLE COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS:

REFLECTIONS IN MOTION

100 YEARS OF  
DANCE

FEB. 17TH 3PM





# An "Old Fashioned" Christmas

at the  
State Theatre

12-9-84

Sunday, December 16. 3:00 p.m.

featuring

- Tom Wibbles organist
- Kalamazoo Singers
- Reflections in Motion
- A "Sing-a-long"

Tickets are \$3. Available at: The Keyboard Center, Albright's Music, Midwest Music, Status Galleries, Stannard's Music, Treva Reed Music, Bach to Bach, Don Dillon's Music Center, TV Man, and State Theatre Box Office, Mon.-Fri. 10-6. Also by mail: send check & self-addressed envelope to State Theatre Vaudeville, P.O. Box 649, Comstock, MI 49041.

Presented by the Southwest Mich. Theatre Organ Club & State Theatre Vaudeville

## Christmas concerts abound

The week ahead holds a number of worthy Christmas programs for area concert-goers.

The week opens on Tuesday with a presentation of Handel's magnificent "Messiah" oratorio performed by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, directed by Yoshimi Takeda, and the 250-voice Kalamazoo Oratorio Society, directed by Jack Frey. (See feature story on today's section front).

That same evening, the popular "Andy Williams Christmas Show" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Kellogg Center Arena, in Battle Creek.

Appearing with Williams in the holiday show will be the Osmond Brothers — a group discovered, by the way, by Williams' father.

The Kalamazoo Male Chorus, directed by Dale G. Mills, offers its annual holiday program Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall, on the Western Michigan University campus. The program is free.

The Kalamazoo Sweet Adelines present a benefit concert for the victims of the Ethiopian famine Saturday at 8 p.m. in the State Theater. For further details, see feature story in today's section, page E-4.

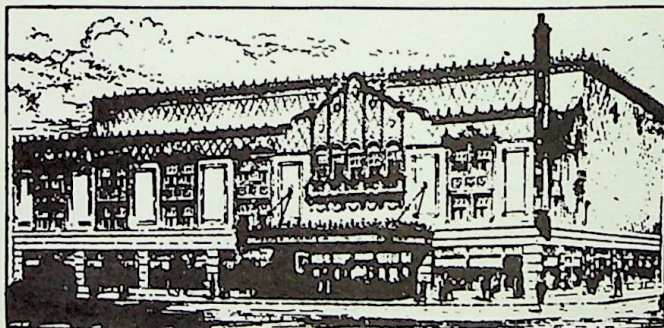
Offered next Sunday will be a WMU Brass Quintet concert scheduled for 3 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall, on the WMU campus. The program is free.

The Kalamazoo Singers, the Kalamajazz dancers and guest organist Tom Wibbels join for an old-fashioned Christmas concert next Sunday at 3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the State Theater Vaudeville Committee.

Tickets for the show may be purchased by calling the Kellogg Center box office, at (616) 963-8080.

## State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN



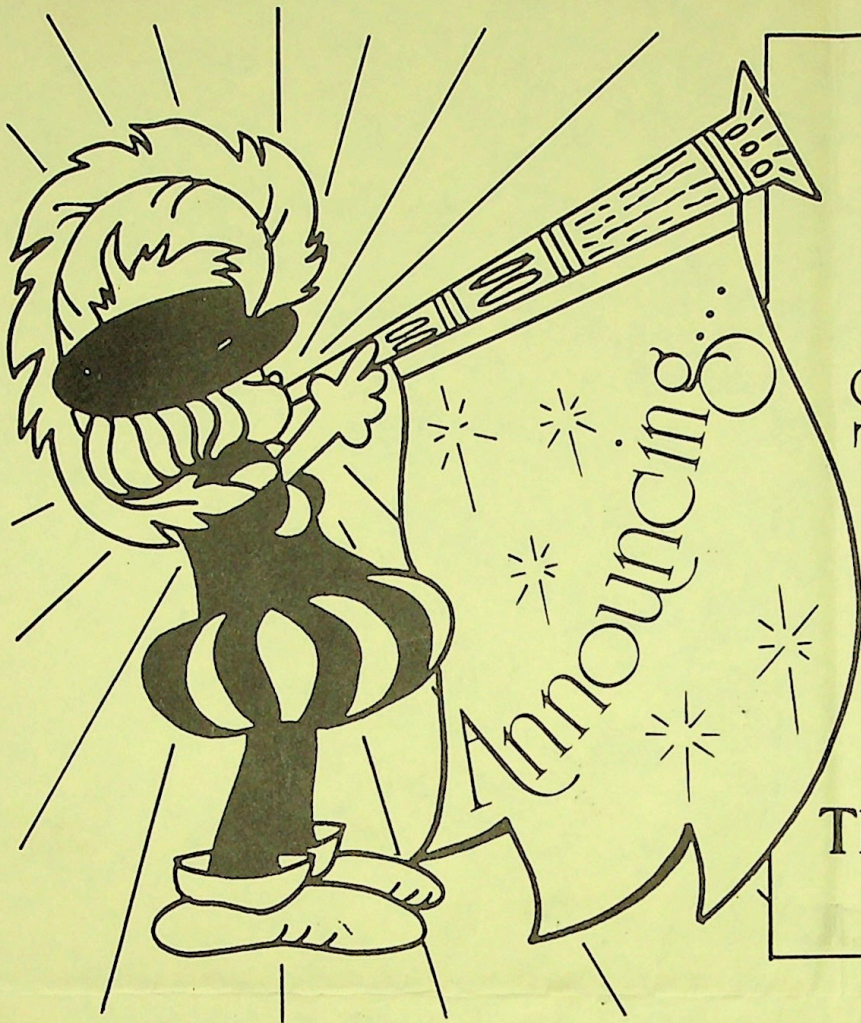
State Theatre Vaudeville Committee Presents

100 YEARS OF SONG  
MAY 19TH 3PM  
FEATURING  
JOHN DURGAN

IN CONCERT AT THE BARTON PIPE ORGAN  
TICKETS \$3.00

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY AND SAVE!

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$2.00 by mailing your order along with a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: State Theatre Vaudeville, P.O. Box 649, Comstock, MI 49041



## AN OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS AT

the  
State  
Theatre



SUNDAY-3:00pm  
DECEMBER 16th

featuring organist  
**TOM WIBBELS &**  
**The Kalamazoo Singers**  
all tickets \$3.00

### Reserve Your Seats Now!

Advance Tickets:  
\$3.00 General Admission

Advance Tickets by Mail:

Send your check along with  
a stamped self-addressed  
envelope to:

STATE THEATRE VAUDEVILLE  
P.O. Box 649  
Comstock, MI 49041

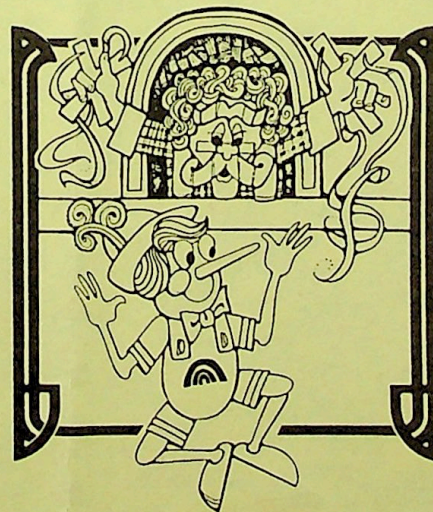
Tickets on sale at:

The Keyboard Center  
Albrights Music, Southland  
Midwest Music  
Status Galleries, Kalamazoo Ctr.  
Stannard's Music  
Treva Reed Music, Downtown  
Bach to Bach  
Don Dillon's Music Center

State Theatre Vaudeville Committee Presents

**PRINCE STREET PLAYERS**  
production of

## Pinocchio



MARCH, 24th, 1985

3 PM & 6 PM

All Tickets  
\$3.00



classic "The Phantom of the Opera". Since the spring of 1972, the Barton has not been heard publicly as a part of the State's theatre presentations. That is, until the 50th Anniversary celebration of the State Theatre. In addition to many of the theatre's staging resources being utilized, the Barton accompanied the classic "The Gold Rush" starring Charlie Chaplin.

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The Barton originally had 11 ranks controlled from its ornate 3 manual console. Presently, there are 12 ranks playing and projected work will bring the total to 15 ranks. The 12th rank is the English Post Horn just recently added to the Solo chamber.

COMING UP NEXT...

**1985 VAUDEVILLE SHOW**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 7 & 8**

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND !

If you would like to be included on our mailing list please fill out the bottom of this page and give it to an Usher.

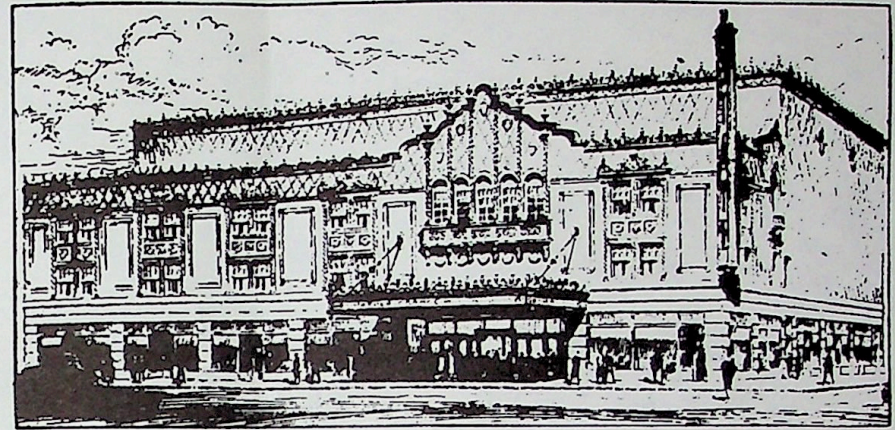
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# State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN



State Theatre Vaudeville Committee Presents

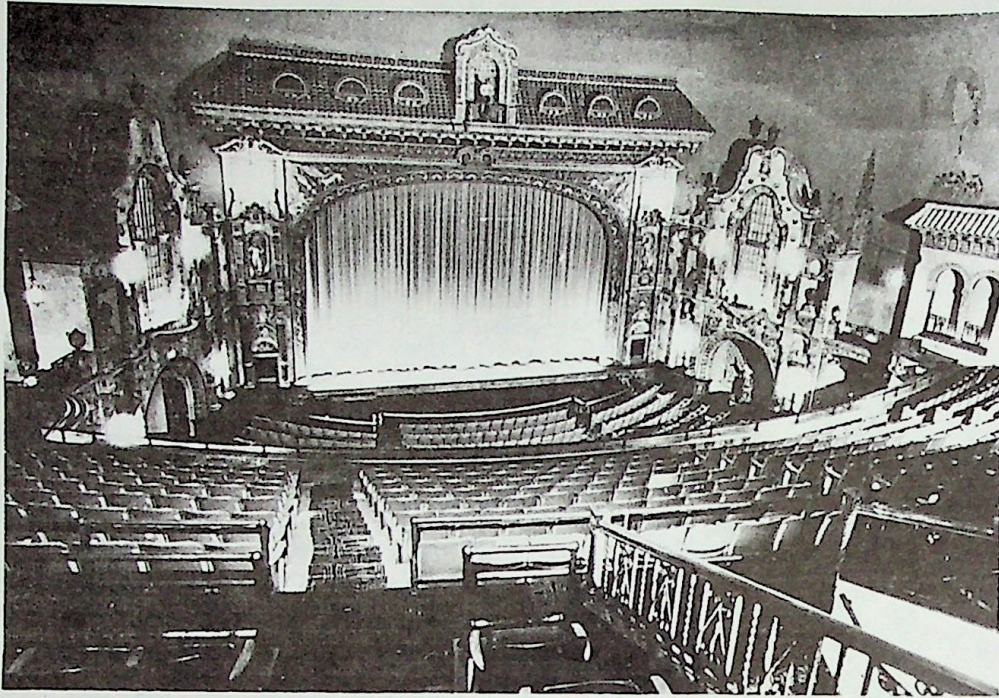
**100 YEARS OF SONG**  
**MAY 19TH 3PM**  
**FEATURING**

**JOHN DURGAN**

**IN CONCERT AT THE BARTON PIPE ORGAN**  
**TICKETS \$3.00**

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY AND SAVE!**

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$2.00 by mailing your order along with a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: State Theatre Vaudeville, P.O. Box 649, Comstock, MI 49041



# the State Theatre & the Barton Organ

If you ever dreamed of relaxing in a romantic Spanish courtyard and being entertained as if you were royalty ... then on July 14, 1927, your dream came true. Your expenses would surely be small, your pleasure great, and you would only have to pass through the ornate facade of the State Theatre, Kalamazoo. On through the richly appointed lobby, and you are there. Theatre designer John Ebersson's "atmospheric" design has lifted you from everyday reality and placed you in the midst of an Hispano-Italian fantasy. The terra-cotta, tapestries, mirrors, paintings, wrought iron, statuary, colonades of arches, balconies, and cove-lit niches have assaulted your senses and literally taken your breath away. In the auditorium the twinkling stars and gently drifting clouds sooth you as you are entertained by first-class attractions beneath the tile-roofed proscenium. Vaudeville, stage shows, dance revues, movies (silent and talkies), drama, opera, ballet, big bands; it has all been presented here. ... Although, today some appointments have been removed and painters have changed the decor in some areas of the building, the State's virtually intact auditorium is still reminiscent of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. And within this auditorium is still another breath-taker. ... The house lights are dimmed, and a most magnificent chorus of music bursts forth from ornate grilles on each side of the courtyard. A golden spotlight pierces the night sky and picks out the rising artist and console of the Golden Voiced Barton Theatre Pipe Organ.

The State's 3 manual - 11 rank theatre organ was played on opening night by Al Gillickson. He was making a guest appearance away from his usual stint at the Capitol Theatre. The first House Organist, Edith Ehrens, entertained patrons for the first year and was replaced by Clarence Leverenz in 1928. Even though silent films gradually faded away, Mr. Leverenz was featured for sing-alongs until 1934 when Bud Taylor took over until 1937. The Barton then fell silent into disuse as a regular attraction until 1950 when Bud Taylor returned. Mr. Taylor played intermissions until 1951. Again the organ fell silent and deteriorated heavily. 1961 brought John Catherwood and William Mollema to the State volunteering to rejuvenate the Barton. When once again playable, they alternated playing intermissions on Saturday or Sunday evenings. This continued until 1972. In November, 1971, organist Stan Kann from the Fox Theatre, St. Louis, Missouri, accompanied the silent film