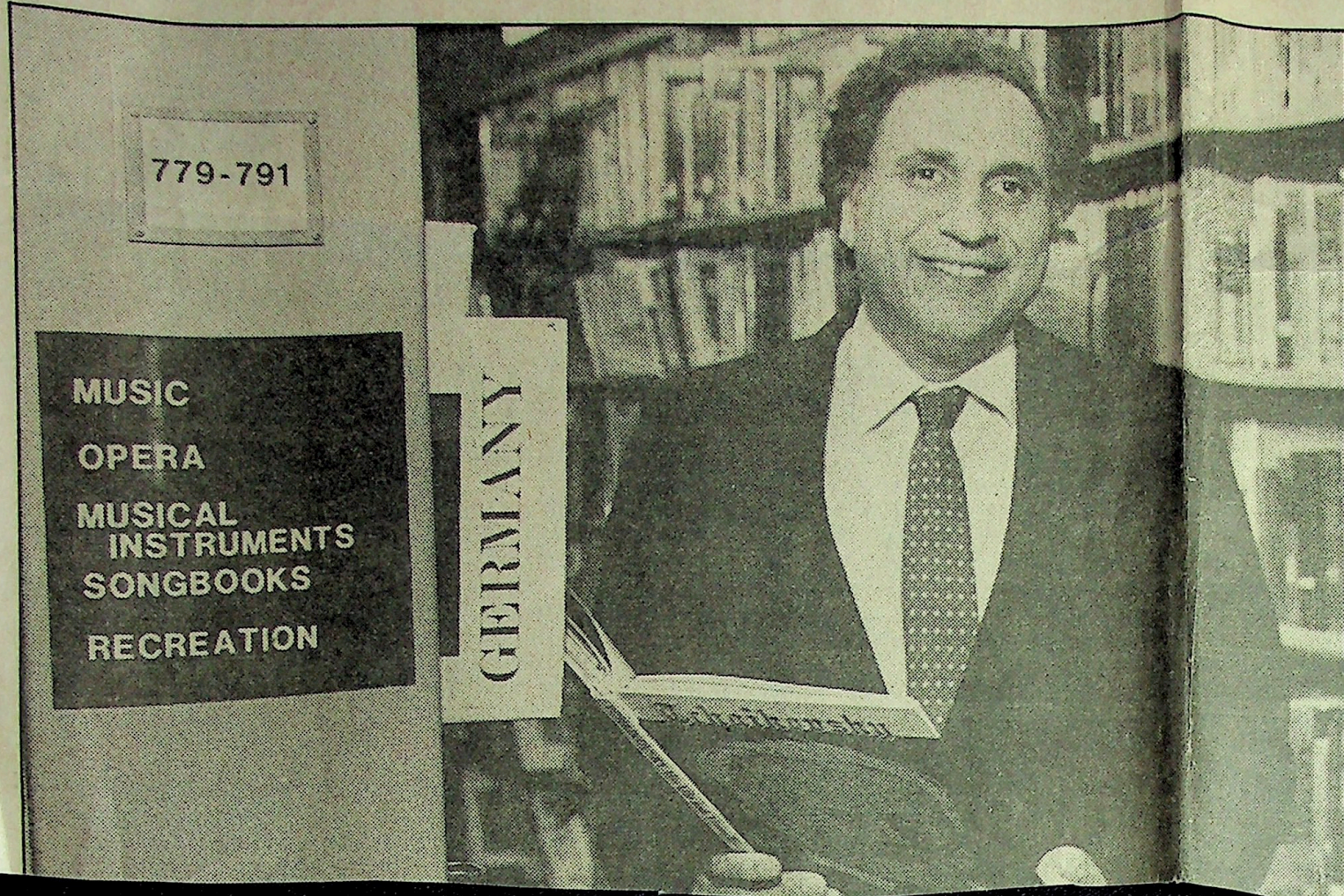


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



State's annual show recalls vaudeville past

KATHERINE DOUD
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Since it opened its doors in 1927, the State Theater has boasted entertainers from ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his woodenhead assistant Charlie McCarthy to fan dancer Sally Rand.

Echoes of the theater's earlier times will be heard this weekend as stage and screen star Donald O'Connor — best known for his appearance in the 1952 classic movie musical "Singin' in the Rain" — appears in 8 p.m. shows this Friday and Saturday.

The occasion for the 62-year-old actor-singer-dancer's visit is the State Theater Vaudeville Association's fifth vaudeville show in 10 years.

It also marks the 10th anniversary of the association, originally formed to save the theater from the wrecker's ball.

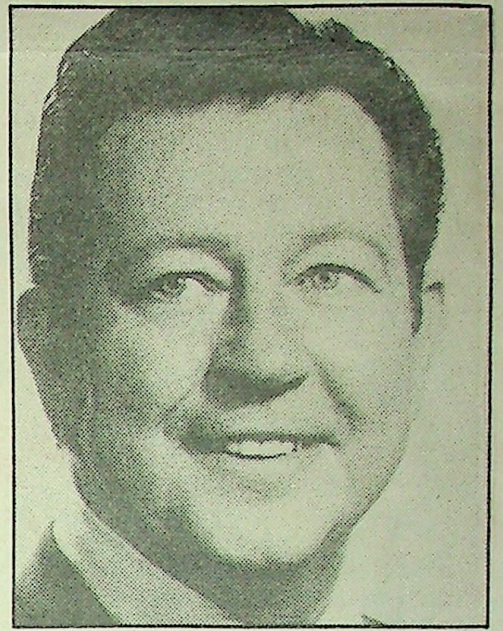
The show will begin on a nostalgic note, with a clip from "Singin' in the Rain" flickering across the State's mammoth movie screen. Then O'Connor himself will step onstage to share a few words about the good old days of movie-making and vaudeville.

And then he'll launch into the singing, dancing and comedy that put him on the stage in 1928 and has kept him in the spotlight ever since.

"I think people, if they're coming to see an old man on stage, are going to be surprised," said Duwain Hunt, executive director of the association. Hunt said association members saw O'Connor's act two years ago in Grand Rapids, where he was performing with Debbie Reynolds, another star from "Singin' in the Rain." They were impressed, and decided to sign him up for the group's '88 variety show.

"Variety" is the right term. Friday and Saturday's shows each will feature more than a dozen acts. Highlights are:

- A showing of Buster Keaton's silent film "Cops."
- Jim Lauck performing on the State Theater's Barton pipe organ.
- The State Theater Orchestra, conducted by Don Dillon III.
- Magic acts by Jim and Aileen Sunnock.
- A vocal solo by Kalamazoo songstress



Donald O'Connor

THEATER PREVIEW

The State Theater Vaudeville Association's fifth "State Theater Vaudeville Show" will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the State Theater. Advance tickets \$5 for balcony seats, \$5 for senior citizens and children under age 12, \$8 for others (all tickets except balcony seats are \$2 more the day of the show) and are on sale at the box office. Call 344-9670.

Janet Gover.

• A comic monologue by actress Cathie Weir.

• A retelling of Abbott and Costello's famed "Who's on First?" routine by David Hurd and Tim Eschelbach.

• The Burdick Street Dixieland Band, performing atop the State Theater marquee before the show.

• And the Starlight Steppers, a 12-member chorus line.

To add a touch of history to the show, all performers will be transported to the State Theater via antique cars, with the caravan scheduled to leave the Skyrise Center — just down the block — at 7 p.m.

Please see VAUDEVILLE, 12

A song-and-dance master comes back to vaudeville

DOUG PULLEN
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Donald David Dixon Ronald O'Connor has been a song-and-dance man since before he can remember.

He made his stage debut at the age of 3. Days.

He landed his first paying job when he was 13. Months.

Now 62, Donald O'Connor, the man with the famous chipmunk cheeks, wavy hair and broad smile, is a multi-dimensional stage performer. He can sing, dance, act and cut up, and has parlayed those skills, none of which he learned in school, into a career as one of Hollywood's leading song-and-dance men.

"I started as a hooper," O'Connor once said. "It was only in the movies that I learned to dance from the waist up. Most hoofers dance from the hips down; slumped shoulders and loose arms — just like Cagney. That's because everything is concentrated on their feet. Movie dancers are more flexible . . . They move their entire bodies, the dancing flows."

O'Connor was born Aug. 28, 1925, in Chicago. His father was an Irishman who performed as a strongman and acrobat in the circus. His mother was a bareback rider. Starting by doing physical comedy and stunts in his parents' vaudeville act,

he joined what was widely known as the O'Connor Family (which, he believes, played Kalamazoo's State Theater).

The family's constant touring took him to California, where he worked his way into films. Among his most notable credits as a youth are "Beau Geste," in which he played Gary Cooper as a boy (O'Connor was 14 when the film came out in 1939) and in the musical "Small Fry," in which he teamed up with Bing Crosby on the number, "Sing You Sinners."

After a stint in the Air Force during World War II, in which he served as an entertainer in Special Services, O'Connor returned to movies and his career took off. He was known primarily for his comedic talents and starred in movies with Abbott and Costello, Marilyn Monroe, Mitzi Gaynor and Crosby in movies like "Call Me Madam," "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "Anything Goes."

He cemented his reputation as a resourceful comedian, though, in a series of comedies in which he co-starred with Francis the (talking) Mule. O'Connor made a total of seven movies with his four-legged friend. Great art, maybe not, but Francis and O'Connor's popularity

Please see O'CONNOR, 12

VAUDEVILLE

Continued from I

The show falls on the eve of the State Theater's 61st birthday. The theater opened its doors on July 13, 1927, and operated as both a vaudeville house and movie palace until 1963, when it was turned solely into a film venue.

The State Theater Vaudeville Association helped bring live entertainment back to the State Theater by hosting its first vaudeville show in 1977, which marked the theater's 50th year.

When the State Theater came up for sale in 1982 — and its future was put into question — the

association helped organize a "Save the State" committee. The building was purchased for restoration and revitalization in 1985 by Kalamazooans Roger and Jere Hinman.

The association now boasts some 2,000 members and 200 patrons, and uses its membership dues and donations to help maintain the theater. The group is currently working to refurbish the theater's "cloud machine," a gadget that moves panels in the theater's ceiling, creating the magical effect of moving clouds and twinkling stars moving above the heads of the audience.

Hunt said the group has rallied

around the State Theater because "it is one of the last remaining atmospheric movie palaces in the Midwest. It's an architectural gem ... The problem is that hundreds of these have been torn down across the United States."

The original goal of the non-profit association, he said, "was to save the State Theater. In the event that the State Theater may be in jeopardy again, we will be waiting in the wings," he said. "It's our goal to be a community watchdog on the building, so that it's not turned into any one of the wild ideas I've heard over the years, from a pizza parlor to a synagogue to ... a parking lot."

O'CONNOR

Continued from I

helped put Universal Studios in the black.

The film for which he is perhaps best remembered is, of course, "Singin' in the Rain," the 1952 musical comedy that showcased O'Connor and Gene Kelly's fabulous dancing, as well as O'Connor's ability to, as his signature song says, "Make 'em Laugh."

Having outlived vaudeville and experienced the golden era of movie musicals, O'Connor next moved into television, then in its infancy, and won an Emmy for his performances on "The Colgate Comedy Hour." He also hosted his own show, "Here Comes Donald."

O'Connor's career in musical theater landed him in the Broadway revival of "Show Boat" and touring productions of "I Ought to Be in Pictures" and "Wally's Cafe," among numerous others.

Though he's not as high-profile these days, O'Connor is still in demand. He rarely appears in movies anymore, though he did have a small role in "Rag-

He's set to appear in a special on PBS, in which he dances atop one of Liberace's bejeweled pianos.

time," thanks to his friend, the late James Cagney, who persuaded director Milos Forman to have O'Connor play the part of a dance instructor.

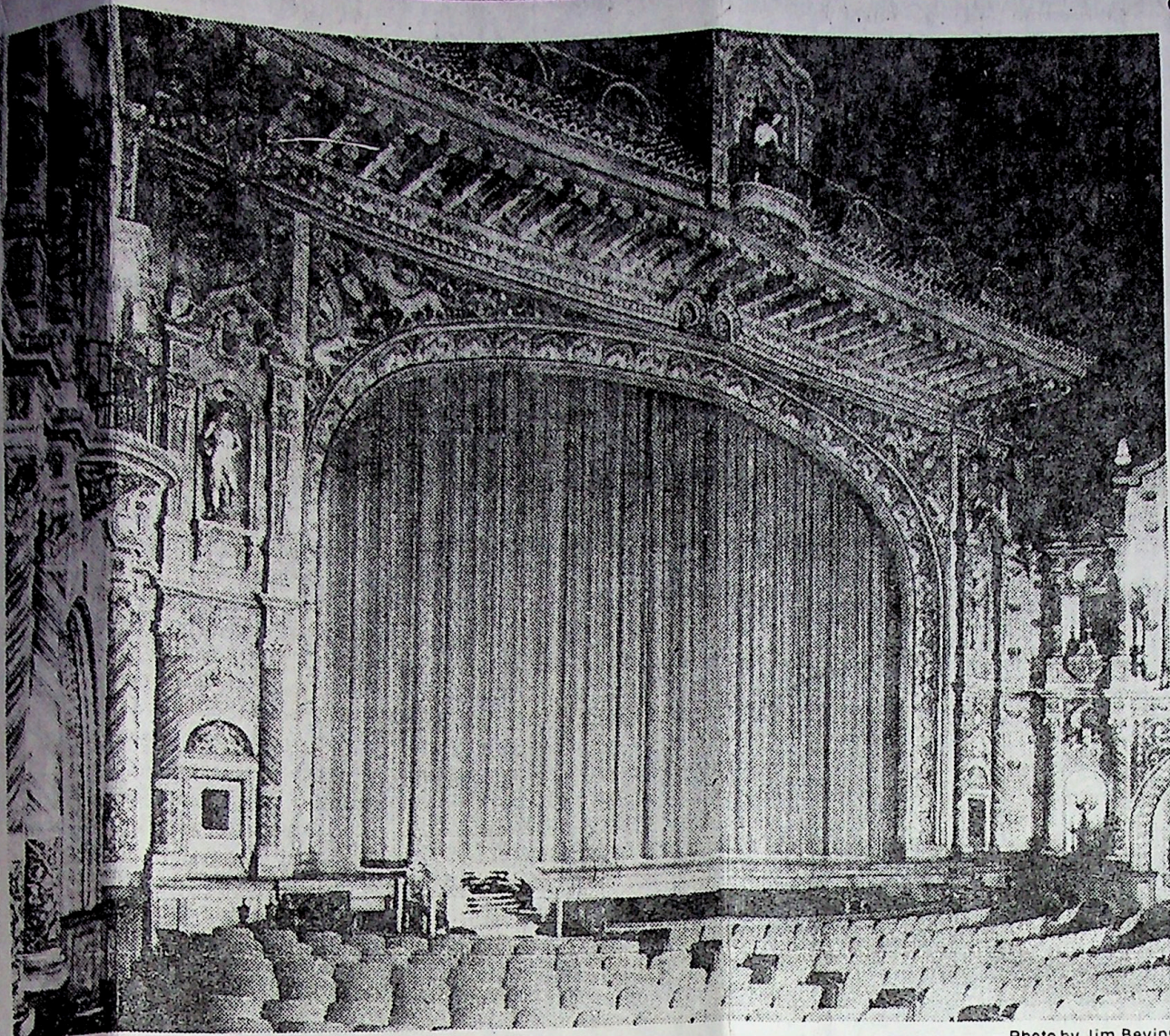
O'Connor turns up on television from time to time, making appearances on "Hotel," "The Love Boat" and "Simon and Simon." He is set to appear in a forthcoming special on PBS, in which he dances atop one of Liberace's bejeweled pianos.

And O'Connor still hoofs it, performing a select number of dates each year around the country. When he's not performing, he likes to play golf near his home in Sherman Oaks, Calif., which he shares with his wife of 31 years, Gloria. O'Connor has four children, including one from a previous marriage.

the good ... movie making and
vaudeville.

he'll launch into the singing

THEATER
PREVIEW



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

—Photo by Jim Bevins

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 and 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 South-

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)

State's stage to get its first play in 32 years

Ltd.

Two stagings of "American Primitive," a work based on the letters of the early American patriot and second United States president and his wife, the most distinguished and influential first ladies in U. S. history, have been planned in conjunction with the completion of a painting by Craig Hendrix of the interior of the ornate theater. The painting as well as prints of the painting and color photographs are part of a "documentation" of the now-closed theater arranged by Harry Burns of Status Galleries, Arts, Ltd.

A real, live play will come to the stage of Kalamazoo's State Theater for the first time in 32 years when "American Primitive (John & Abigail)" is presented there Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22-23.

The last time there was legitimate theater at the downtown movie palace was in 1950 when film and stage star James Dunne starred in a touring production of "Harvey." In supporting roles in that production were a pair of performers who achieved fame a little later — Ernest Borgnine and Jean Stapleton.

Tickets will go on sale at a reservation booth in the Kalamazoo Center in late August.

A reception also will be held in conjunction with the display of the painting and photographs. Hendrix started work on the painting in the Kalamazoo Center this past week.

Constructed over a half-century ago as a movie and vaudeville theater, the State hosted numerous touring plays during the first 20 years. Ethel Barrymore and Clifton Webb were among the prominent performers who appeared there.

Wednesday, July 28, 1982

Theater

(Continued from Page A-1)

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Hunt, a leader in restoration of the theater, staged annual vaudeville and other events there. Gordon Smith is manager of Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University. Smusz heads the Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Walker is associated with S.G. Productions and Status Galleries.

Strong support for saving the historic theater, a treasured example of theater architecture by John Ebersson, was voiced by Neil Saunders of the Fontana Society; Barry Ross, a musician and edu-

cator, and Harry Burns, director of a Kalamazoo Art Gallery which is "documenting" the theater in photographs and paintings.

Art Hilgart, president of the Kalamazoo Civic Players, urged that any appraisal of the theater's future should delve extensively into its value in helping to attract conventions to the city. The theater is two blocks from the Kalamazoo Center and Hilton Inn.

Hunt, who has had a long and sentimental attachment to the State, said he foresees no problem in raising money to acquire the theater, but said the major problem will be its continued use and operation.

METRO & BUSINESS

State Theater inventory planned

DOUG PULLEN
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Sixty-two years and a day after it opened, the State Theater will be examined and photographed as part of a city-mandated inventory.

On July 15, 20 volunteers will record everything in the historic downtown landmark, which opened July 14, 1927.

"They'll be organized into teams and assigned specific sections of the theater, from the seating to the carpeting to the plumbing," said Lynn Houghton, chairwoman of the Kalamazoo Commission for Historical Preservation, a city advisory board that will conduct the inventory.

City commissioners ordered the inventory last December after co-owner Roger Hinman requested a nine-year extension of his tax abatement on the building. He was given a two-year extension.

Some commissioners criticized Hinman for what they called the deterioration of the theater since he and his wife, Jere Hinman, purchased it in 1985.

The inventory is designed to monitor preservation efforts at the theater, Houghton said, and will be used in the event that Hinman asks for another tax abatement in 1990.

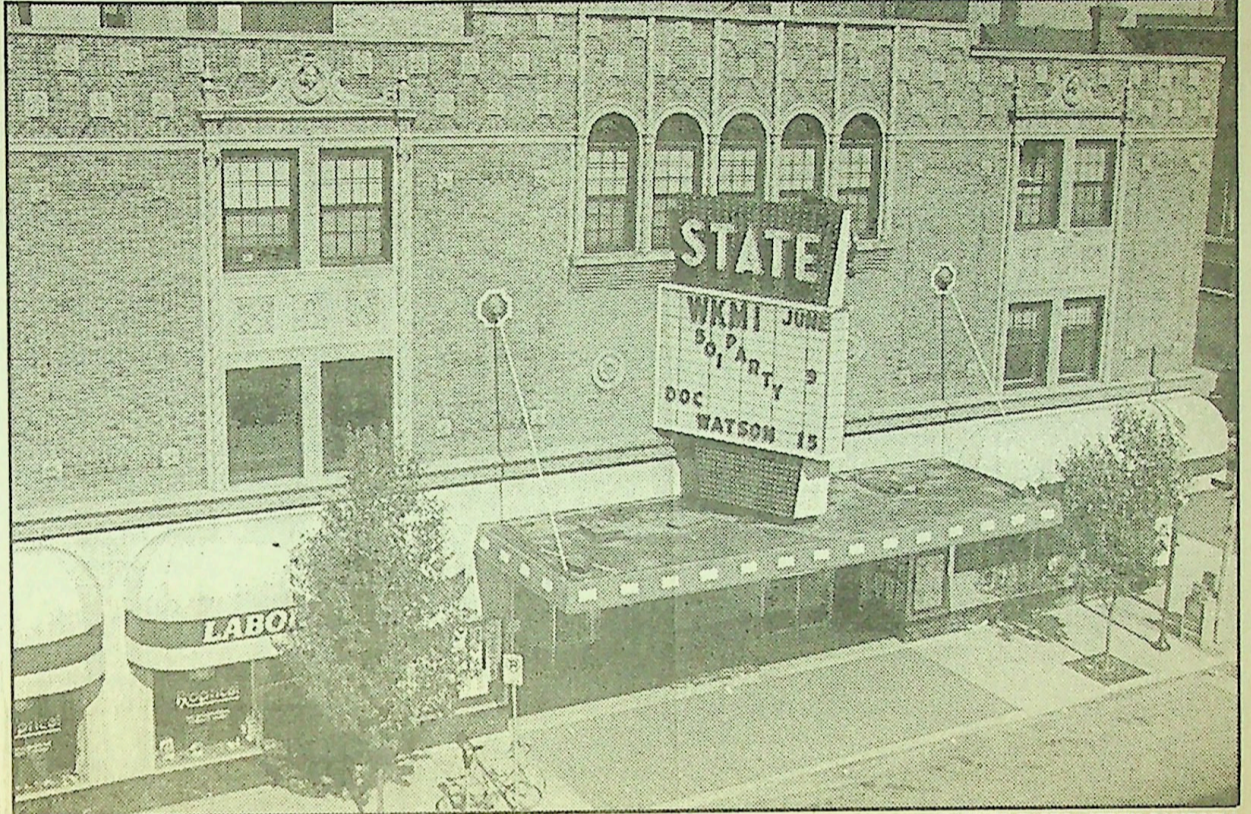
The project's \$3,000 price tag, which city commissioners refused to cover, will be met with private donations, Houghton said. A formal announcement identifying the donors will be made soon, she added.

Most of the money — \$2,500 — will pay for a special consultant, Victoria Hardy of the Detroit-based Counsel for the Arts, who is organizing the inventory and developing a computer program for this and future inventories, Houghton said.

The other \$500 will cover the cost of materials, including film.

Historical Preservation members also are researching historic photos of the building to learn what fixtures, statues and other items used to be housed in the theater, which has played host to several big-name entertainers over the years, including W.C. Fields, Will Rogers, Duke Ellington and James Brown.

The theater, which was built by W.S. Butterfield Theaters at a cost of \$350,000, was used primarily



GAZETTE PHOTO / JERRY CAMPBELL

Twenty volunteers are expected to begin the inventory on July 15.

for vaudeville acts and movies.

Butterfield closed the theater in the late 1970s. A local consortium of civic and arts leaders banded together as the Save the State Theater Committee in hopes of rescuing the building at Lovell and Burdick streets from the wrecking ball.

Though the group never purchased the building, Butterfield kept it open for occasional events, primarily movies and concerts.

The Hinmans purchased it in 1985, converting the basement into a restaurant and nightclub and the second and third floors into offices, which are leased by the advertising firm Keller-Moleski Associates Inc.

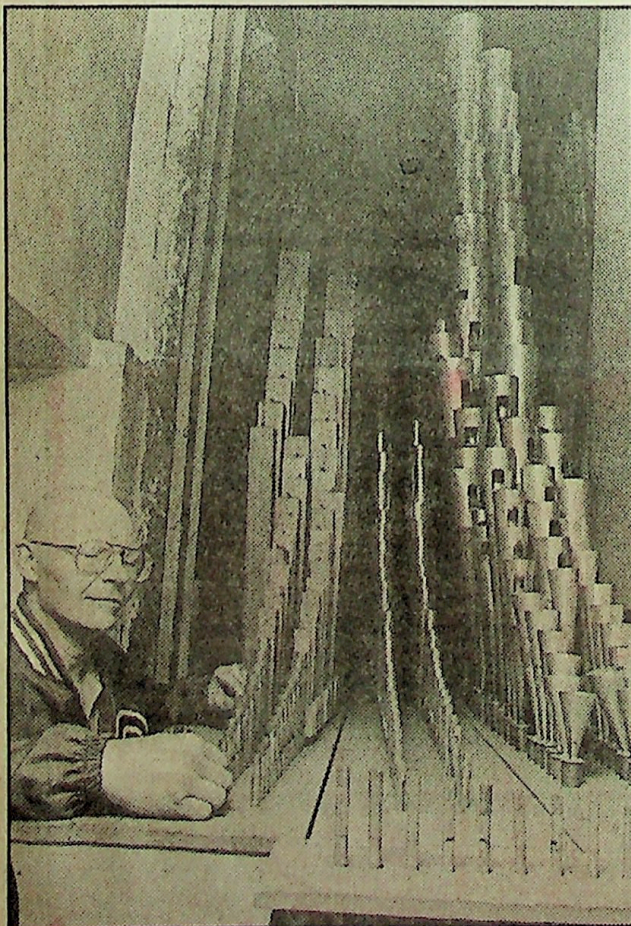
After receiving the two-year tax abatement exten-

sion, Hinman initiated a series of restoration efforts. Those included the painting of the first- and second-floor lobbies in the theater's original four-color scheme and the restoration of the theater's Barton organ, which should be completed by the end of this month.

The Southwest Michigan chapter of the American Theater Organ Society is repairing the organ as part of an agreement with the Hinmans. The group is hosting an afterglow July 7 as part of the national organization's national convention in Detroit.

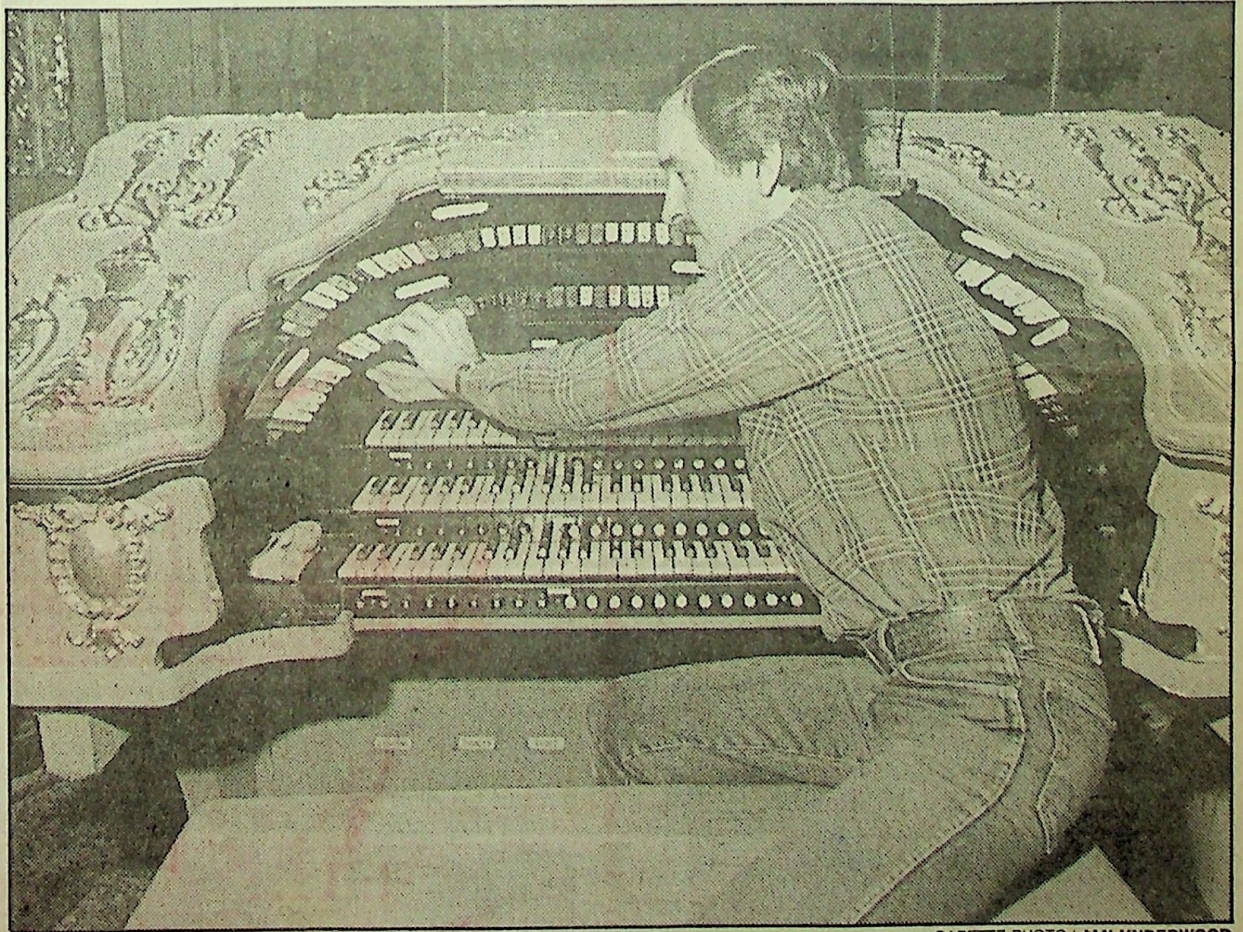
Heading up the organ repair is Jim Lauck.

Work on the auditorium is expected to begin sometime this summer, according to a spokesman for Hinman.



GAZETTE PHOTO / JAN UNDERWOOD

Joe Haug of Grand Rapids sets a pipe in place.

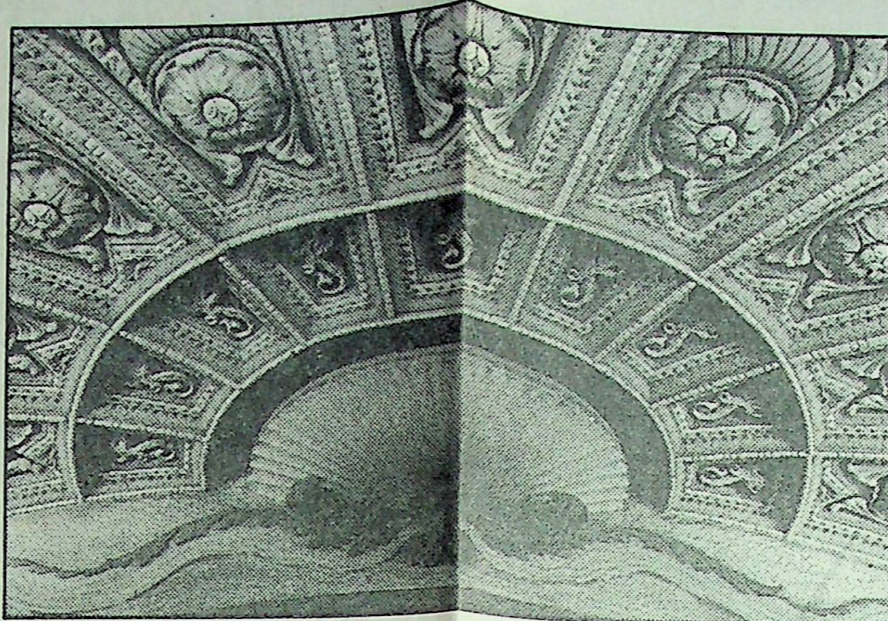


GAZETTE PHOTO / JAN UNDERWOOD

Jim Lauck, an organ builder and technician, adjusts the Barton organ.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

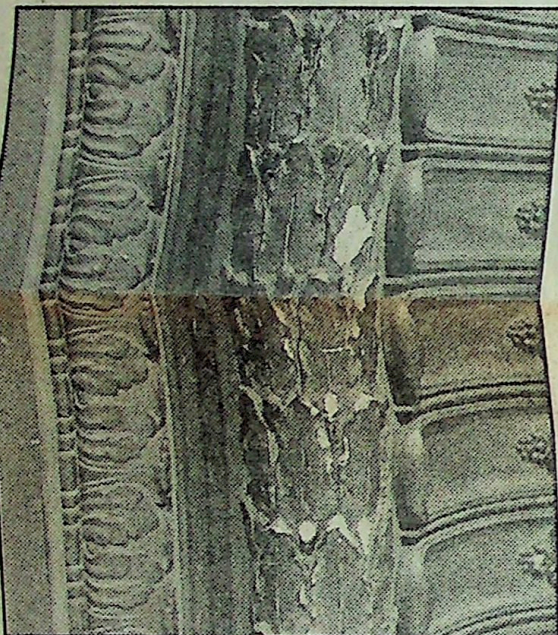
Efforts to restore Chenery Auditorium, the State Theater and Shaw Theater ...



Ceiling of Signature room (lobby) of State Theater. GAZETTE PHOTO / TIM HOEFFEL

... so far have resulted in three very different stories — and only one is truly a success story.

SECOND ACTS



Crumbling plaster trim mars walls at Chenery Auditorium.



Chandeliers, balconies could be lost along with Chenery Auditorium if repairs to the hall continue to be deferred. GAZETTE PHOTOS / JERRY CAMPBELL

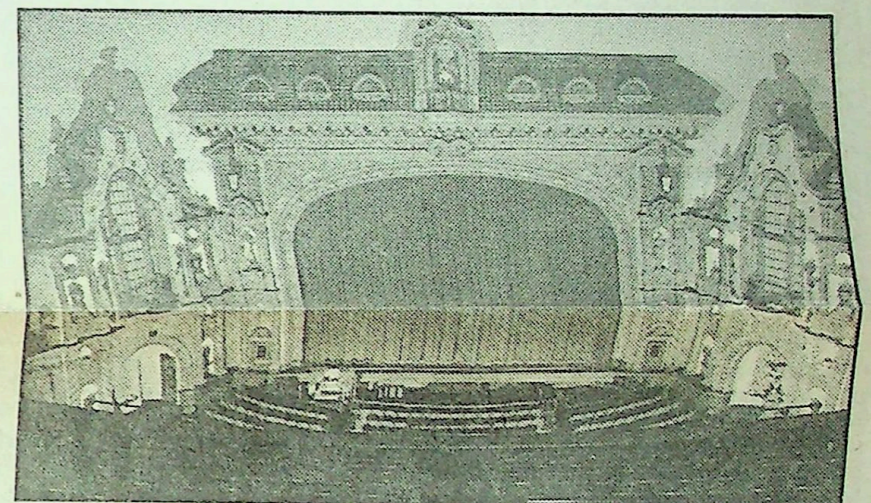


PHOTO COURTESY STATE THEATER

The State's ornate interior: The pace and extent of restoration is of great concern to local preservationists.

Disrepair threatens Chenery's grandeur

KATHERINE DOUD
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Ah, if walls could talk. The gilt-edged moldings and glittering chandeliers of Chenery Auditorium would have a few tales to tell. They'd prattle about the hush that fell over the hall the night Vladimir Horowitz sat down at the piano back in 1941. They'd reminisce about the way ballerina Anna Pavlova fluttered across the stage, delicate as a whisper, in her "Farewell Tour of America" in 1924. Their tongues would wag with stories about Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly the Atlantic, who shared her experiences in aviation with audiences in 1935 — just two years before her mysterious disappearance over the Pacific Ocean in an ill-fated attempt to fly around the world.

And there are other memories, culled from visits by giants such as violinist Jascha Heifetz (1944), pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff (1925), poet Vachel Lindsay (1926), violinist Yehudi Menuhin (1945 and 1976), contralto Marian Anderson (1938 and 1963) and violinist Fritz Kreisler (1925).

Over the years Chenery Auditorium has become the Carnegie Hall of Kalamazoo. And

Chandeliers, balconies could be lost along with Chenery Auditorium if repairs to the hall continue to be deferred.

like Carnegie, which underwent a major renovation three years ago, the time has come to put Chenery's house in order.

The auditorium, which is owned and operated by the Kalamazoo Public Schools, opened in 1924 as part of the old Kalamazoo Central High School complex at 714 S. Westnedge. The high school moved to its new location on Drake Road in 1971, just two years before the auditorium was officially named for Howard Chenery, a long-time performer, playwright and drama coach at K-Central.

Chenery Auditorium got a major overhaul in

1960, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Kalamazoo Foundation. But the hall receives heavy use from groups as various as the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, the Kalamazoo Concert Band, the New Year's Fest, the Exchange Club, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Audubon Society. This wear and tear takes its toll, said auditorium manager Raymond P. Jenkins, and the hall's hatches need to be battened once again if Chenery is to saunter confidently into its second century.

State of the State: It could be better

DOUG PULLEN
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

When it opened at 1 p.m. July 14, 1927, the State Theater was a shimmering jewel of a movie palace. Audiences flocked there to enjoy the latest silent films and vaudeville shows in the splendor of an atmospheric theater designed by noted Chicago architect John Ebersson to replicate a Renaissance era Italo-Spanish courtyard.

Over the generations, its hardwood stage has played host to a bevy of big-name stars: Jack Benny, Helen Hayes, Will Rogers, W.C. Fields, Duke Ellington, Eddie Cantor, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Buster Keaton, Louis Armstrong and more recently Jay Leno, Pete Seeger, James Brown, Judy Collins and Hall and Oates.

Today, the state of the State is far less impressive.

Many of the nearly 1,600 seats are in various stages of disrepair. The ornate plaster walls are caked with grime. The 50-foot by 29-foot stage has been scratched and scraped and disfigured by years of use, abuse and neglect. The carpeting has a thick film of dirt, beer and assorted grunge.

Its ceiling, on which sparkling stars and floating clouds once mingled, is pockmarked with holes left by withered plaster. Most of the stars have lost their shine be-

cause the bulbs that create the illusion have burned out. The cloud machine doesn't function properly.

A fountain located on the west wall of the main floor is held together in part by coat hangers.

Most of the furniture, statuary and other embellishments that made it such a unique, lavish entertainment palace more than 60 years ago have been removed, stored or chipped.

In a word, the place is a mess.

But its owners, developer Roger Hinman and his wife Jere, are taking steps to restore the State to some semblance of its earlier grandeur.

The main floor and mezzanine lobbies are getting a facelift as fresh coats of their original four-color scheme of greens, reds, yellows and oranges are applied by a crew of painters.

The burned-out lights that once made the stars twinkle will be replaced soon, the ceiling patched and painted and the cloud machine repaired.

The plaster facades will be cleaned sometime this summer.

Likewise, the theater's Barton Pipe Organ is getting a touch-up by pipe organ expert Jim Lauck and members of the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society. That task

WMU's Shaw to get a fix-up

KATHERINE DOUD
GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

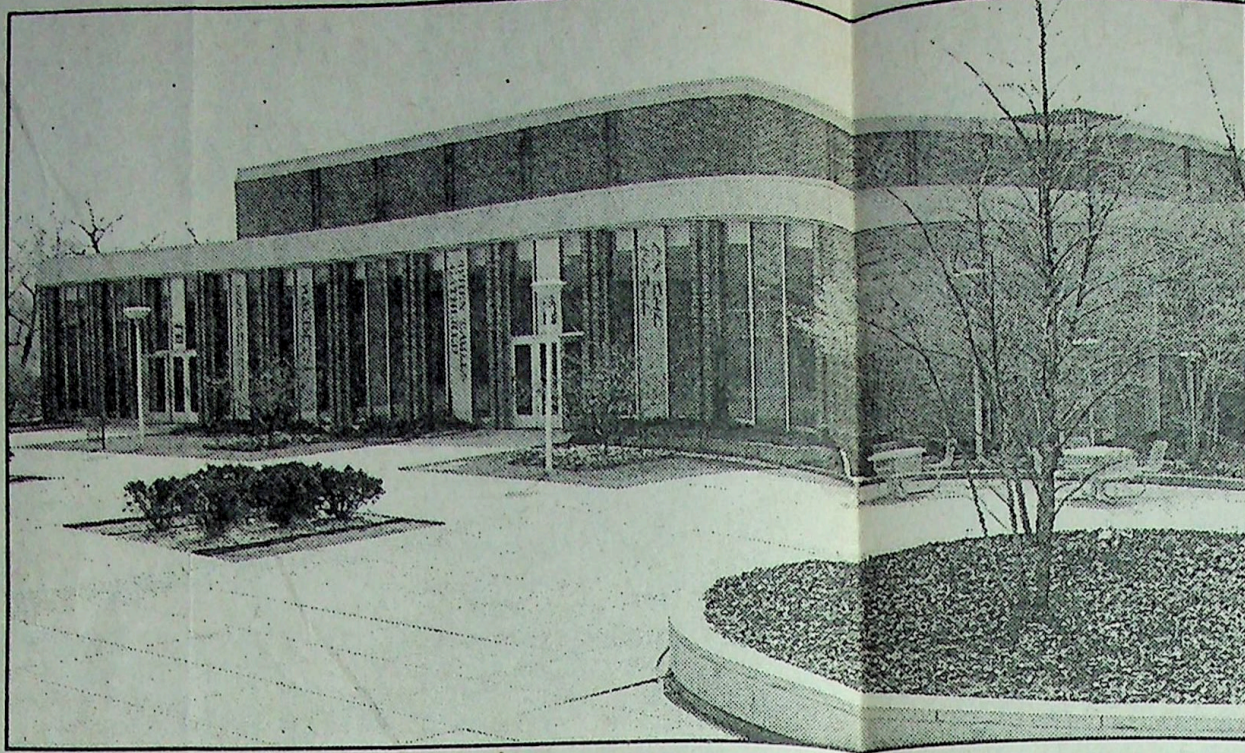
The same people who brought you DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids will be giving Shaw Theater a face-lift next year.

Greiner, Inc., a Grand Rapids architectural and engineering firm specializing in theater design, has been hired to refurbish and expand WMU's 22-year-old theater complex. The project will be funded by a \$2 million grant from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.

When completed, probably by April 1991, the "new" Shaw Theater will feature more office spaces for theater faculty and staff; a multi-form (or adaptable) theater space with seating for 200 people; a new lobby and restrooms which will be barrier-free for the handicapped; a design studio; and additional classrooms.

D. Terry Williams, chairman of the WMU theater department, said the Shaw addition will probably not be added on top of the building, but rather expand into a large plot of land which sits directly south of the theater, in what he calls the theater's "backyard."

No plans have yet been drawn up for any of the proposed theater spaces, said Sandy Stevenson, senior vice president of Greiner, Inc.



GAZETTE PHOTO / PHIL MITCHELL

A \$2 million renovation is scheduled for the Laura A. Shaw Theater at Western Michigan University.

Firm designers plan to sit down with Williams in about two weeks to begin the design process, which should be finished by next spring, Stevenson said.

Greiner, Inc. has been responsible for a number of theaters, including the 2,500-seat DeVos Hall; a 1,000-seat auditorium for Warren Central High School in Indianapolis; a 300-seat theater for Houghton College, in Houghton, New York; a renovation of the 5,000-seat Milwaukee Auditorium; and a project yet on the drawing board: the 1,400-seat Honeywell Center in Wabash, Ind.

The Greiner designers will work alongside theater consultant Ron

Jerit, of Jerit-Boys of Oak Park, Ill. Jerit will help design the grid, rigging and lighting systems for the theater, as well as advise the architects on the proper design for a multi-form theater. Jerit has designed major theatrical facilities including the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, the Anchorage (Alaska) Performing Arts Center and the St. Augustine (Fla.) Amphitheater.

Jerit will be in town this week to conduct a workshop titled "The Design of Multi-Form Theaters" from 10 a.m. to noon Friday in the Multi-Media Room of WMU's Dalton Center. His visit is part of

WMU's "Classes With the Masters" theater conference planned Wednesday through Sunday of this week. His workshop is free.

Greiner, Inc. — along with the 36 other firms which bid on the Shaw Theater project — has indicated that the Shaw renovation will cost more than the \$2 million budgeted.

Stevenson said this is not unusual: "The wish list always exceeds the funding you have."

The goal, he said, will be to sit down with Williams and the WMU theater faculty and staff to list priorities and determine what can be done given the dollars available.

CHENERY

Continued from J1

On a recent tour of the hall, Jenkins pointed out repairs that could cost well into a million dollars.

Of primary concern is the auditorium's grid and rigging system, an intricate combination of steel beams and long cables which hold lights and other equipment above the stage. The steel grid work is bending. The chains and cables are holding close to their maximum weight and should be replaced by newer, stronger equipment.

The entire grid and rigging system was inspected in 1987 when it was noticed the grid was beginning to bend. One year later, an engineer from Trend Associates, Inc. of Kalamazoo, came to double-check.

"They all looked at it and said we need to reinforce," said Jenkins. "But none of them are panicking, saying we need to close down... If we seriously thought there was immediate danger, we wouldn't be using the place."

Still, Jenkins has put the system top on his list of repairs, because it is the only item that deals with safety, and not mere aesthetics. But there are other problems:

- The carpeting is so worn it's held together with duct tape in spots.
- The aging stage floor swells up to eight inches in the summer heat, sending folding chairs sliding out of the way.
- Folding chairs for musicians are worn and wobbly and so uncomfortable, said Jenkins, that "if you come and watch a concert here you'll see the musicians sitting on the edge of their seats to keep their backs straight."
- Chairs for audience members aren't much better. There's virtually no leg room in the tightly packed rows of padded seats. The auditorium would like to remove around 150 of its 2553 seats (or 3 rows) on the ground floor to

open up space for long-legged patrons.

- The entire house needs to be painted and wall-papered and plaster repairs need to be made in walls, ceilings and moldings.
- The auditorium management would like to purchase a fiberglass acoustical shell, much like that used by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra in Miller Auditorium. Musicians now use canvas-covered wood flats which are battered and warped.
- Only 12 of the original 52 dimmers on the Chenery light board are now in working order. The board was state-of-the-art when it was installed in 1963, but needs to be replaced by a computerized console.

The list of repairs runs to 35 items, including expansion of some auditorium spaces, such as restrooms and box office. But these renovations won't be forthcoming without dollars, and there simply "isn't enough money in the school budget for this," said Jenkins. For this reason, the KPS has begun to seek elsewhere for renovation funding.

"Our plan is to try and go for private funding," said Jenkins. "Kalamazoo Central High School does use this auditorium, but it's main use is to the community. That's why we feel this is the right way to go, to try and find private funds."

The KPS approached the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation a year and a half ago with a proposal for repairs, said Russell Gabier, the foundation's executive director. But the cost of renovating Chenery is high, said Gabier, and the project is something they cannot tackle now. They may reconsider it in the future.

The foundation has a vested interest in Chenery, said Gabier, because it plans to use the venue for many of the activities in the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival it will sponsor two years hence. That

project could mean a renewed flow of celebrities into Chenery, including performances by pianists such as Keith Jarrett, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Marian McPartland and maybe even the return of Horowitz himself, should he come out of retirement.

Gabier said the foundation has "heard from the community, particularly from the musical performing community, that Chenery is a great auditorium to perform in." The foundation sees it "as a resource," he said.

"I really hope that we can have a part in this in some way," said Gabier, who anticipates the Chenery repair proposal will come before the Gilmore Foundation board again in the future. But for now, said Gabier, the foundation has committed itself to other projects.

Small repairs have been made to the Chenery structure over the years. The stage drapes, which were rotting, were replaced in 1983. New band risers were purchased in 1985, as was a public address system. The building's broken front sidewalk was repaired last November and a 16 millimeter movie projector was purchased this year.

But money has not been available for a systematic maintenance program for the auditorium, said Jenkins, and it has taken its toll.

For the school budget, he said, "education is the main priority — and that is how it should be. But (the KPS) needs to care for its facilities, as well."

In recent years, many local people have echoed Gabier's concern that "if something isn't done, we will lose Chenery, and it seems that would be a real loss to the community."

The KPS will continue to seek private dollars to restore the hall, but each day adds to the age of a hall already in disrepair.

As Jenkins says: "That's the agony in waiting. Things aren't getting better as we wait."

STATE

Continued from J1

ect includes cleaning and repairs to its Byzantine electrical system and sheepskin-covered bellows, which make its smorgasbord of sounds possible.

And plans are afoot to repair and reupholster the seats, recarpet the upstairs and downstairs, refinish the hardwood stage and move the upstairs bar downstairs so the mezzanine-level lobby can be converted into what Hinman calls a "mini-ballroom."

Meanwhile, the State is gearing up to get back into the concert business on a more consistent basis with the introduction of its new Club 404 concept. A portable partition will transform the main floor into a nightclub, and efforts are being made to attract promoters of various types of events.

The housecleaning and repairs should continue through the end of the year, says Michael Mair, manager of the Hinman Co., which is overseeing the project.

"We plan to concentrate on the parts of the theater that the public focuses on," said Mair.

State conflicts

The Hinmans formed the State Theater Limited Partnership to purchase and restore the theater for nearly \$1 million in 1985. The State was built at a cost of \$350,000 by W.S. Butterfield Theaters, a movie company that once owned several theaters in the Kalamazoo area.

The purchase ended years of uncertainty over the fate of the State. But the Hinman years have been fraught with uncertainty over the future of the theater. The theater's deterioration has alarmed preservationists.

Hinman's appeal for a nine-year tax abatement for improvements was denied by the city, though he did receive a two-year break.

Most of Hinman's efforts have concentrated on other areas of his complex. The store fronts that line the theater on Burdick and Lovell streets were spruced up, the basement converted into a restaurant, nightclub and lounge and the office space on the second and third floors remodeled.

New movie projection equipment was installed, the leaky roof repaired and the electrical, plumbing, lighting and heating systems upgraded.

Hinman guesses that the renovation project may never be complete. "I don't think it will ever be done," he said. "Not in my lifetime."

The current touch-up is the result of a flap last December among Hinman, city commissioners and theater preservationist Duwain Hunt, who heads a group devoted to the preservation, restoration and use of the theater.

Commissioners criticized Hinman for allowing the theater to deteriorate and ordered the Historical Commission of Kalamazoo County to do a complete inventory of the theater's belongings.

"We've been working on it since we bought it," Hinman countered. "What our commitment was ...

was for the total building. Just because some people want to see one part done before another, well, that's their privilege, but we've been able to do what we said we were going to do ... and we did the things we felt were the most critical."

Hinman declined to say how much the project costs, but did say all the work that's been done thus far has cost "10 times more than we planned."

"It is a jewel," said Roger Parzyck, head of the five-member HCKC committee that is advising Hinman on the restoration effort.

"It's unlike any other building in Kalamazoo. It's such a rarity. It's one of the few remaining theaters like this around the country."

The inventory should take place sometime in late May, according to HCKC chairwoman Lynn Houghton.

Because the commission has never done such an inventory before, they recently called in Victoria Hardy, the recently departed Detroit Music Hall director and an expert in historic theater preservation. She toured the building and will make suggestions on how such an inventory should be undertaken. "It's a lovely facility," said Hardy. "And it appears to be in generally reasonable condition."

The tour turned up several discoveries — a golden statue, stripped of its teardrop crystal attachments, stored in a cluttered, unused dressing room; stacks of broken chairs; the original call board used for vaudeville shows; pieces of furniture removed years before from the mezzanine lobby, once a smoking room decked out in a Mediterranean motif (it was remodeled in 1964 and a bar added in 1985).

Items like those will be catalogued when the inventory is conducted.

Hinman came under fire from officials and restoration advocates like Hunt for what they've perceived as an insensitivity to the building's historic nature.

Among their objections was the removal last summer of the theater's hydraulic orchestra pit and the mahogany railing that separated the pit from the main floor seating. The pit was filled in to accommodate after-work parties and other events.

Hinman says he originally intended to construct a platform to go over the pit to accommodate the periodic after-work 5:01 parties and similar functions. But the platform idea wouldn't fly.

"When we got into it we found out it was not structurally sound anymore. After 60 years, it had deteriorated." So the mahogany railing was removed and stored, and the pit was filled in.

While Parzyck and other HCKC members would like to see "a very accurate restoration," he says that Hinman's "interpretive restoration" should keep both sides happy.

"It's a beautiful centerpiece of downtown Kalamazoo, a wonderful work of art, but we want it to be functional as well," Parzyck said, adding that he thinks Hinman is "headed in the right direction."

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State Theater in line for liquor license

MIKE MAGNER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

The transfer of a liquor license to the State Theater at 404 S. Burdick is being recommended to Kalamazoo city commissioners.

Wayne Deering, president of Unlimited Entertainment Inc., has made arrangements to purchase a Class C (liquor-by-the-glass) license from the Green Front Tavern at 1204 E. Michigan for \$75,000.

Deering wants to transfer the license to the State Theater so he can use the 57-year-old building, which was closed by W.S. Butterfield Theaters Inc. in February 1982, for concerts and other cultural activities.

In a report that city commissioners will consider at their 7 p.m. meeting Monday, Public Safety Chief John Ross said an investigation by his department "found no reason to object" to the license transfer.

Commissioners must make a recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission on

whether the license should be transferred.

This summer, Deering applied for one of two Class C licenses that became available in the city after the Crosstown Inn was closed and plans for a new restaurant on West KL Avenue, for which a license had been granted, were dropped.

However, Deering's request for a license for the State Theater finished third in voting by city commissioners on who should receive the two licenses. One license was recommended for developer Roger Hinman for a restaurant in the former J.C. Penney's building on the Kalamazoo Mall and one was recommended for Donald Neal for his banquet and entertainment center at 521 E. Michigan.

After the commission's vote on those two licenses Sept. 4, Deering said he learned about the availability of the Green Front Tavern's license and purchased it, contingent

Please see LICENSE, B2

10-12-84

maintenence costs and employees after in return for paying all taxes, receive all rental fees from the theater's lease calls for Butterfield to According to Ross' report, Deering's lease calls for Butterfield to theater next week.

plans to move its offices into the over theater rentals Oct. 1 and Unlimited Entertainment Inc. took gent upon approval of the license. with Butterfield Theaters, continuing a two-year lease agreement. Deering said he has already booking performances.

cost of operating the theater and from concessions would offset the the profitability because revenues Deering said the license is key to grams and during intermissions. have drinks before and after pro- in the lobby so that patrons could Plans call for a cocktail lounge theater, he said.

for a Nov. 4 concert by trumpeter Doc Severinsen scheduled for the hoped that the license can be used month," Deering said. In fact, it is be in effect by the end of the transfer, "we're hoping it will all If commissioners endorse the

approved.

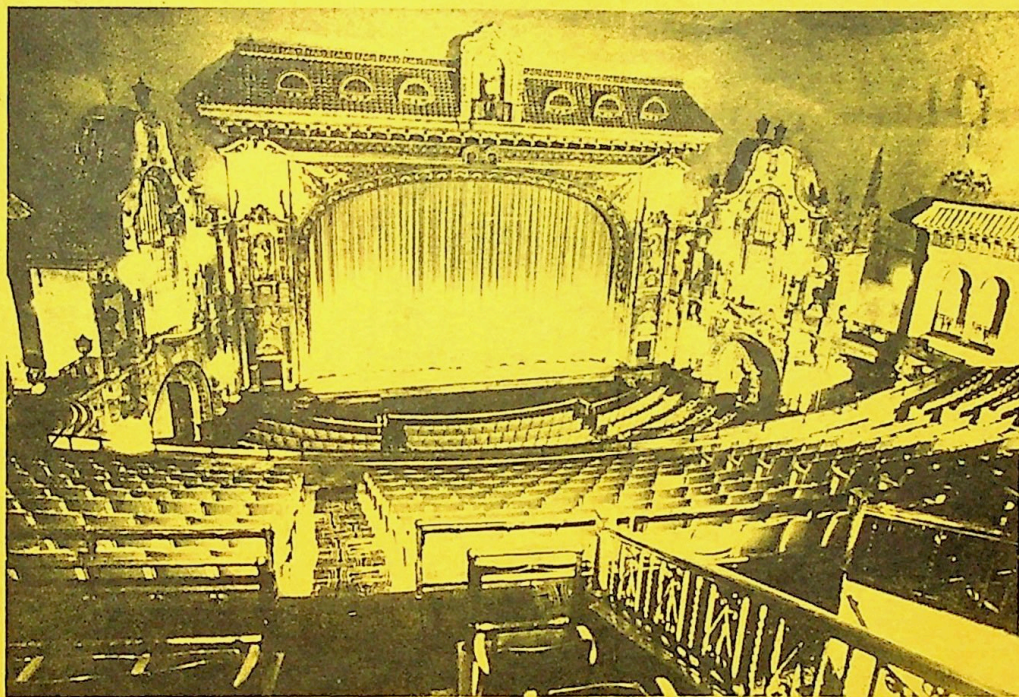
on its transfer to the theater being

Continued from B1

LICENSE



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-VINCENT CANBY, N.Y. TIMES (MAY 4, 1975)



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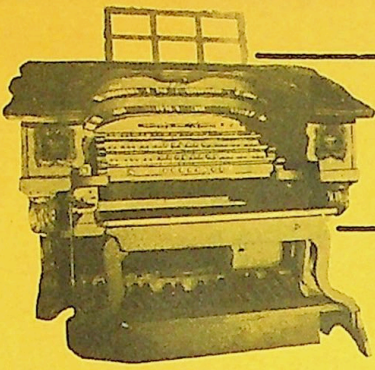
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SUNDAY - MAY 13TH
ONE DAY ONLY
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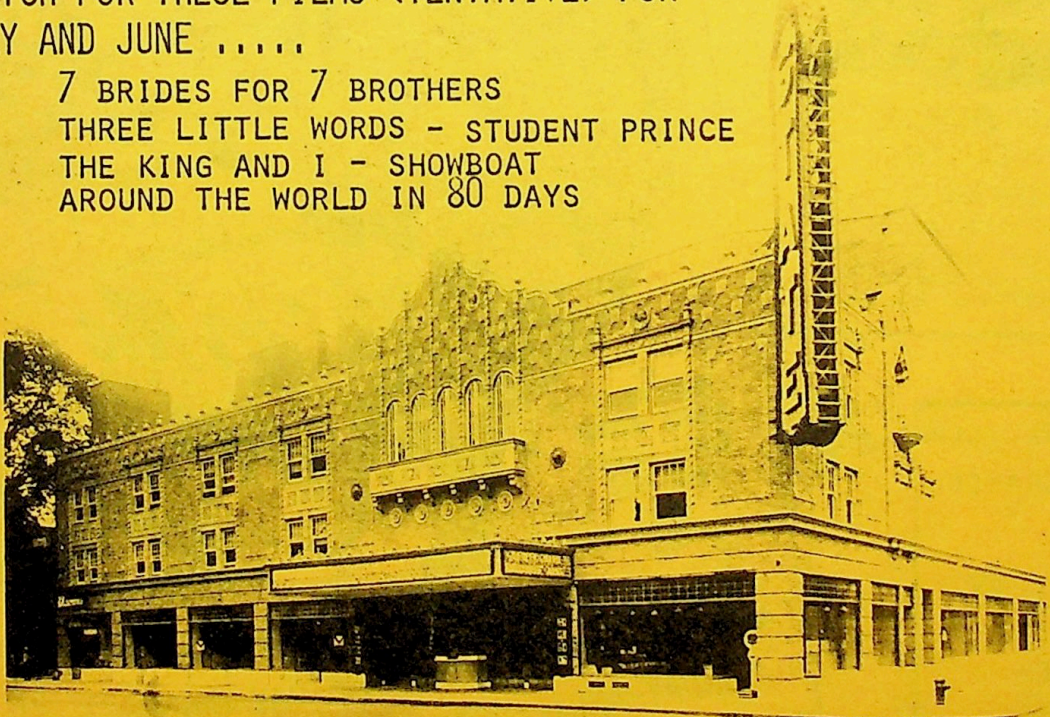
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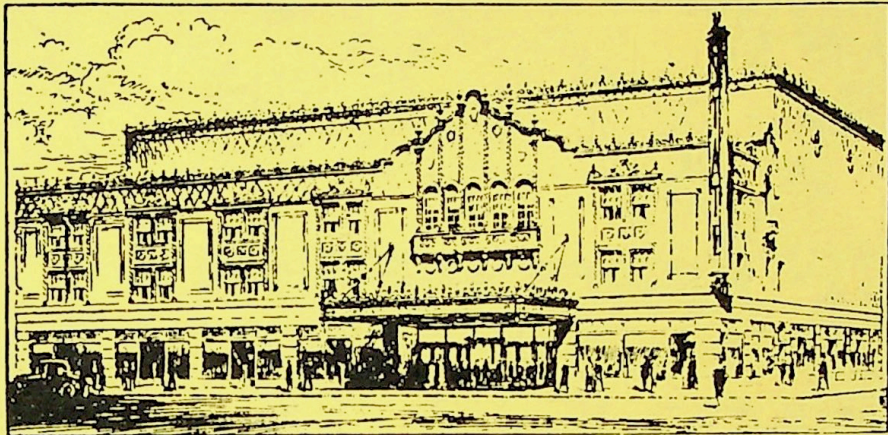
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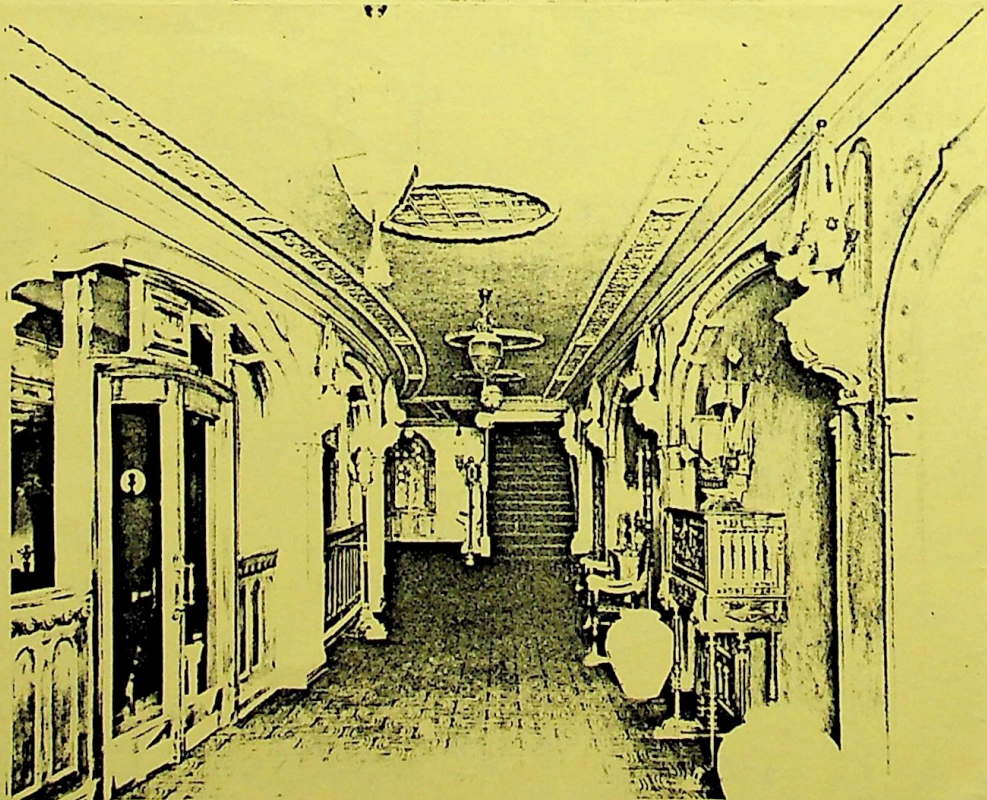
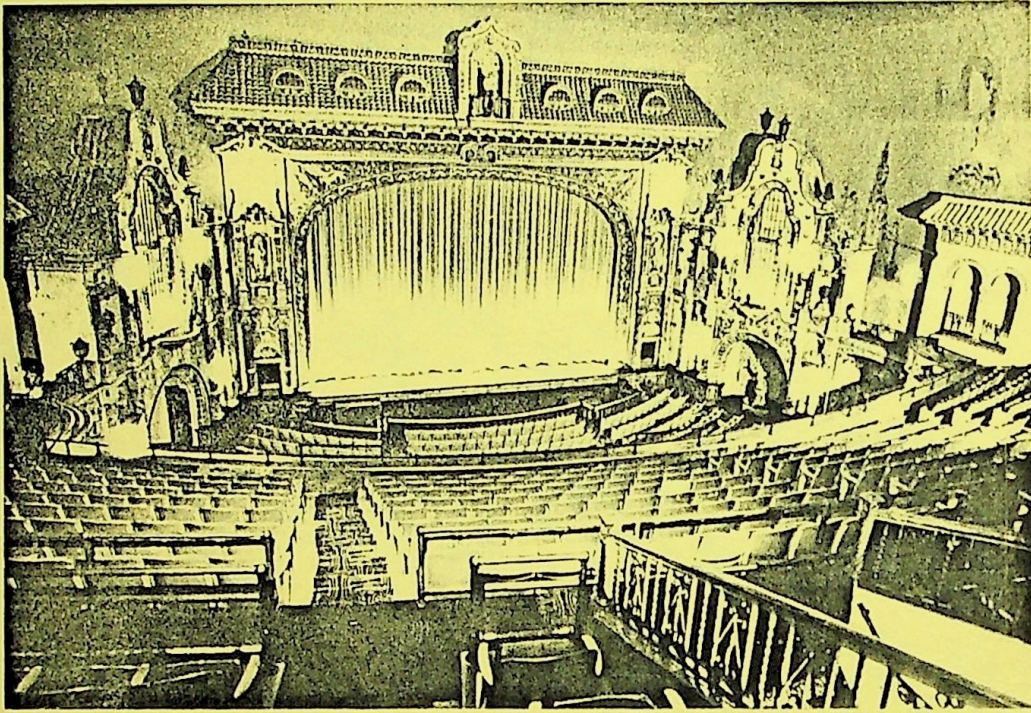
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Screen Play by ALBERT HACKETT & FRANCIS GOODRICH and DOROTHY KINGSLEY • Based on the story THE SEVEN BROTHERS by STEVEN ANDERSON • Lyrics by BENNY MERSEY • Gene De Paul • Music by MICHAEL KADO • Directed by STANLEY DOHEN • Produced by JACK CUMMINGS

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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 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

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!

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Concert tickets

5-31-89

The American Theater Organ Society is having its annual convention in Detroit this summer, but the group's local chapter, the Southwest Michigan Theater Organ Society, is hosting an afterglow at the State Theater that is expected to draw several hundred conventioners from the Motor City.

The afterglow at 7 p.m. July 8 in the State Theater will include a performance by nationally renowned keyboard Rob Richards on the theater's historic Barton organ. A sing-a-long and the screening of two as yet undetermined silent films also are planned.

The event, which concludes the convention, is open to the public. Advance tickets are \$4 and are on sale at Believe in Music stores, Don Dillon's Music, Keyboard

World and Treva Reed Music. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Mail orders will be taken through June 28. Make the check out to the Southwest Michigan Chapter, A.T.O.S. and send it along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the organization at 6604 Twilight, Kalamazoo, Mich., 49004.



GAZETTE PHOTO

The State's marquee still shines.

The State is a jewel

7-25-89

The State Theater came to life July 8.

Almost 250 people from the American Theater Organ Society convention in Detroit, plus about twice that number from this part of Michigan demonstrated their enthusiasm for a program of organ music and hilarious silent comedies. It was thanks to the promotional help of local music stores, radio stations, including WMUK and WQLR, and the Kalamazoo Gazette's excellent article by Doug Pullen that the local attendance was so good.

It is too bad there was no reviewer on hand to witness the fine artistry of Rob Richards at the Barton pipe organ as he demonstrated the many uses of this 60-year-old instrument.

For the visitors from ATOS, including many from countries as far away as Australia and South Africa, the visit to the State was a highlight of their convention. They marvelled over this fine and now rare example of a 1920's movie palace by John Ebersson, snapping pictures of the colorful, newly painted lobbies and the Spanish courtyard of the theater proper, still glamorous with its lights, clouds and twinkling stars.

The members of the Southwest Michigan Theater Organ Society spent months in preparation to show what can be done with an old but sweet-sounding organ in an old but unusual theater. They think they succeeded. With the help of organ builder Jim Lauck the members pitched in and brought the old Barton back to playing condition. However, much more needs doing to completely restore this fine instrument as well as the State Theater itself.

We who live in the Kalamazoo area should be proud of this jewel of a building and its organ. It is an untapped, unique resource in the revitalization of Kalamazoo's downtown and convention center.

DOROTHY BUTELA
Vicksburg

What's Doing

Special Events

4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

The Kalamazoo Jaycees annual festival will continue today with the Captain and Tennille at 3 and 8 p. m., and England Dan, John Ford Coley and Mary MacGregor Monday at 3 and 6 p. m., at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Lake and Business Loop I-94. In event of rain, Read Field House.

On Stage

"OWL AND PUSSYCAT"

The romantic comedy will open a month's run Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p. m., in a Center Showcase production at Kalamazoo Center. For information and reservations, call 382-5560.

"NO, NO NANETTE"

The Kalamazoo Community Youth Theater production of the musical will be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p. m., in Civic Auditorium. For information and reservations, call 343-1313.

"LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET"

The "musical melodrama" is continuing through July 31 on a Thursday through Sunday performance schedule at True Grist, Ltd., the Homer dinner theater. For information and reservations, call (517) 568-4151.

"THE SUNSHINE BOYS"

The Neil Simon comedy will have its third and fourth stagings of the New Vic Theater Friday and Saturday. For information and reservations, call 381-3328.

Straw Hat

"ONE NIGHT WITH YOU, MADAME"

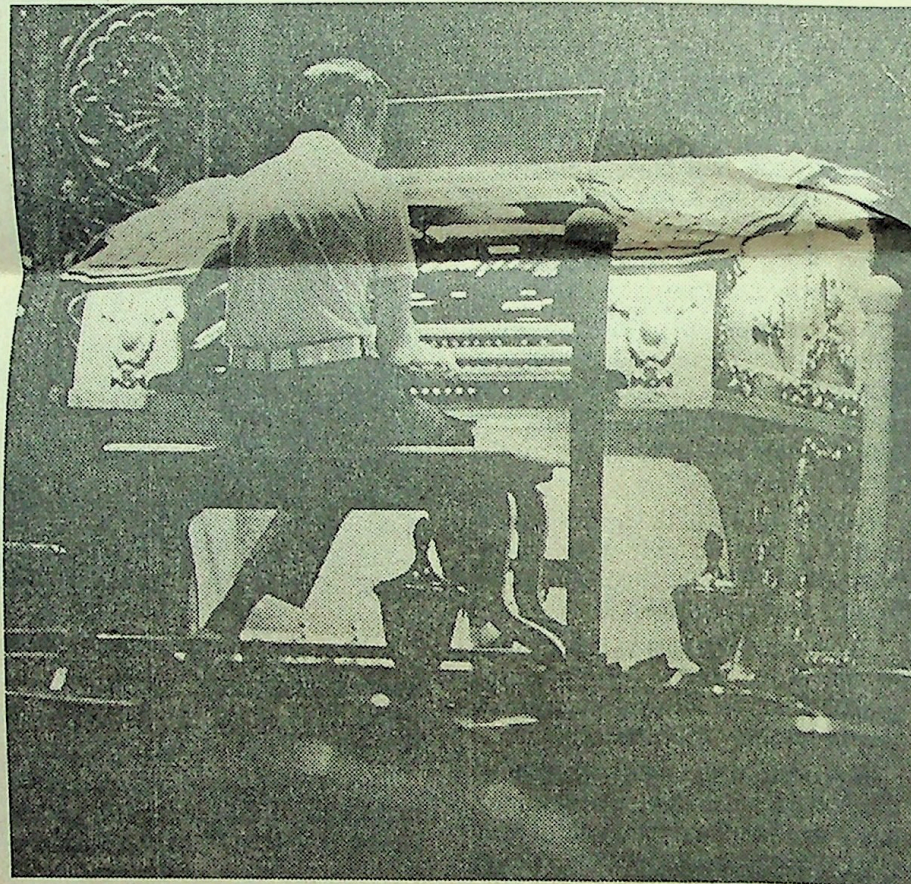
The French bedroom farce will continue today and Tuesday through next Sunday at the Augusta Barn. Performances Tuesday through Friday at 8:30, Saturday at 6 and 9:30 and Sunday at 7. For information and reservations, call 731-4121.

"JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL, ETC."

The musical revue will continue through July 10 at the Red Barn, Saugatuck, with Tuesday through Saturday performances at 8:30, Sunday at 7:30 and matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2. For information and reservations, call 857-2105.

50th Anniversary Birthday Party

Restored Organ Also Star Of State's Show



JOHN CATHERWOOD AT CONSOLE OF BARTON ORGAN
He'll Accompany Showing Of Silent Movie, "The Gold Rush"

—Gazette Photo By Carl Bennett

Seat / on the Aisle

Strand Up For Sale

It's Been Home For Foreign, Art Films

By DON W. CARLSON

Gazette Fine Arts And Entertainment Editor

The most serious effort in over a decade to establish a theater regularly showing foreign art films

The festivities will begin at 4 p. m., with an informal preview of the summer season and backstage glimpses. The afternoon's entertainment will include selections of music, dance and specialty numbers

By JAMES SHAMP

Gazette Staff Writer

Harry Blackstone Jr. is officially billed as the magician for the State Theater's 50th Anniversary party July 13 and 14.

But if your opera glasses can pick up a little bit of the action of John Catherwood at the grand old Barton organ as you sit in the decorative old theater, you'll see another kind of magic in action.

With both arms going in different directions over three ivory keyboards and dozens of buttons and levers, and both feet bouncing pigeon-toed bass notes from floor pedals, the lanky musician provides an extension of the original Sensurround — theater organ a la 1927.

"It's a fun old monster," Catherwood muses lovingly as he punches a button that activates a long-slumbering xylophone from the pipe chamber a few feet below the twinkling electric stars in the theater's huge span of ceiling.

Catherwood, a salesman for a local appliance store by profession, is a self-professed "organ nut" by passion.

He'll be culminating his love affair with theater organs during the State Theater bash, when he provides the organ accompaniment to the party's feature movie, the Charlie Chaplin silent classic, "The Gold Rush."

It's a monumental effort. He's putting the finishing touches on the original compositions to accompany the 85-minute film — a process involving weeks of trial-and-error

TICKETS, priced at \$6 for orchestra and \$5 for balcony.



BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN IT WAS "TEA FOR TWO"

T. J. Stanton, Gina Ferraro And Dave Martin In Youth Theater Production Of "No, No Nanette"

—Gazette Photo By Duane Scheel

'Owl And Pussycat' At Center

Youth Theater Opens With 'No, No Nanette'

It's back to the flapper era for the season opening production by Kalamazoo's Community Youth Theater. The musical, "No, No, Nanette," which launched the Broadway nostalgia craze a couple of seasons ago, will bow Thursday for three consecutive performances at Civic Auditorium.

Also starting this week will be the second production by the new Kalamazoo Center Showcase. Claire Jaggeman and Glen Burkett will co-star in the romantic comedy, "The Owl And The Pussycat," which will be presented Friday and Saturday and continue for a month of weekend stagings.

Also opening this week will be the

Players is scheduled for a third and final performance in an outdoor setting on Maple Island in Maple Lake. The show will be repeated this coming Friday and Saturday in Lawton High School Auditorium.

Also in its second and final week is "The Ritz" at Sister Lakes Playhouse.

Managing Director Dan Weeks has assembled a cast of both veterans and newcomers for "No, No, Nanette." Sue Desposato will play the title role, with Jackie Carpenter in the Ruby Keeler role of Sue.

Other leading performers include Pierre Robert as Jimmy, David Martin as Tom and Julie Jones as

"THE RITZ"

Continuing at the Sister Lakes Playhouse near Dowagiac tonight and Wednesday through next Sunday will be the comedy, "The Ritz." Wednesday through Saturday performances at 8:30, Saturday at 7:30. For information and reservations, call 424-5757.

"STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF"

The musical will continue tonight and Tuesday through next Sunday in the second and final week of its engagement starring Arte Johnson at the Cherry County Playhouse, Traverse City. For information and reservations, call 947-9560.

"MAN OF LA MANCHA"

Hope College's Summer Repertory Company will open its new season Wednesday at DeWitt Cultural Center, Holland. For information and reservations, call 392-1449.

"KISMET"

Hal Linder will star in the musical opening Tuesday and running through Sunday, July 10 at the Star Theater, Flint. For information and reservations, call (313) 239-1464.

"SOUTH PACIFIC"

The musical will have its final outdoor presentation at 8 tonight on Maple Island in Maple Lake, Paw Paw. (Additional performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 p. m., in the Lawton High School Auditorium).

After Dark

THE INKSPOTS

The internationally prominent recording and television artists will perform in concerts Friday at 8:30 and Saturday at 3:30 and 8 p. m., at Lee's Quay, Parchment.

BECKY KOCH

The guitarist, singer and songwriter from Grand Haven will perform Friday and Saturday from 8:30 to 11:30 p. m., at the Troubadour Restaurant, East Vine, Kalamazoo.

The Galleries

GILMORE ART CENTER

Opening Tuesday for a month-long exhibit will be "Photographs From Michigan 1935-'42" in the Main Gallery, ceramics and collages by Eugenia Marve of Grand Rapids in the North Gallery, an exhibit of sculpture, photographs and paintings entitled "Leisure Time" in the Back Gallery, and recent acquisitions in the West Gallery. Summer hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., closed Sunday and Monday.

1976 SNAPSHOT WINNERS

The 1976 Kodak International Newspaper Snapshot Contest winners, a collection of 60 photographs, is being displayed through July 20 at the Kalamazoo Center.

At The Movies

A complete listing of current and forthcoming attractions on Kalamazoo area movie screens appears on page B-13.

and art films in the Kalamazoo area may be coming to an end.

Paul and Sharon Kratz, who may be two of Michigan's few theater owners who are also film buffs, have announced that their Strand Theater at Paw Paw is for sale and they plan to head West later this summer. Operation of the 250 seat theater probably will end the last of July.

Former Chicagoans, the Kratzes came to Paw Paw about two years ago to take over the Strand. For the past year they have made a concentrated effort to show many of the films which were being bypassed by Kalamazoo theaters — features such as "The Story Of Adele H.," "Hester Street," "Cousin Cousine," "Lies My Father Told Me," "Lisztomania," "Welcome To L. A." and others.

The response of moviegoers was gratifying, but most of the support came from the Kalamazoo area in general and college and university students in particular. Many voiced their appreciation of the opportunity to view such films on professional sound and projection equipment in a regular theater rather than having to wait for 16 mm. versions in college showings. In order to sustain this program, the Kratzes interspersed the foreign and art films with regular commercial fare but recently had worked up to a point of almost completely offering movies of artistic merit.

They hope to find a buyer who will carry on the tradition they have established, even though they recognize the chances are slim. Although they are convinced there is definitely a place for a theater of this type in the Kalamazoo area, and are proud of what they've achieved, they have wanted for some time to relocate in a Western state for health and other reasons.

If the Strand goes the way of other theaters, Kalamazoo and the surrounding area is going to be the loser. And don't expect that the recent proliferation of movie screens in the Kalamazoo area is going to mean that these overlooked movies will start turning up there. At least we have yet to see evidence of it.

Festival Preview At 'K'

"Back Stage At The Fest," a behind-the-scenes experience with a semi-professional acting company, has been planned for next Sunday at Dalton Theater on the campus of Kalamazoo College.

performed by members of Festival Playhouse's 1977 company. There will be no admission charge, and the public, of course, is invited.

An added attraction will be an old-fashioned ice cream social featuring ice cream and homemade cakes. There will be a 50 cents donation for refreshments.

Managing Director Nelda Balch announced this past week that the 13th season's three shows are now official. The summer season will open on July 21 with the musical, "Anyone Can Whistle," and will be followed by George Bernard Shaw's "Too True To Be Good" and what appears to be the Michigan premiere of "LuAnn Hampton Laverty Oberlander," the middle section of Preston Jones' "Texas Trilogy" which was seen on Broadway this past season.

for the State Theater anniversary show are now on sale at the theater box office and all Gilmore's stores.

work at the organ in his home at 619 Parchmount while a full-length print of the film whirs beside him.

Though he's not committing any of the composition to paper ("I don't read much music — I play by ear"), Catherwood has developed themes and variations on the characters, based on his own impressions of them.

The good guys, the bad guys, the Mounties and the dance-hall girls. The music rolls with the movie.

(Continued On Page B-10)

At Waldo Stadium Next Sunday

Drum Corps To Compete

Five of the midwest's top-rated drum and bugle corps will take to the field at Waldo Stadium next Sunday, starting at 4 p. m., for the first official Drum Corps International competition in Michigan this summer. It's all a part of the first annual Drum Corps Cavalcade presented by Miller Auditorium in cooperation with the WMU Bronco Marching Band.

Appearing will be the Kilts from Racine, Wis., the Guardsmen from Schaumburg, Ill., The Cavaliers

from Park Ridge, Ill., the Pioneers from Cedarburg, Wis., and the Marquis from Fond du Lac, Wis. Three of the five corps, the Kilts, Guardsmen and Cavaliers, finished in the top 12 corps in the DCI national competition finals in Philadelphia last year.

In what promises to be excellent all-family entertainment, the cavalcade will be filled with pomp, pageantry, precision marching and fine musicianship. The music used by modern day drum and bugles

corps ranges in sophistication from Bach and Beethoven to the latest rock tunes and Broadway musicals. No longer the old style military instrument, bugles today utilize one and two valves, and range in size from the smallest bugle, a soprano, through the french horn, flugel horn, mellophone, baritone and bass-baritone to the contra-bass, the largest horn carried. Percussion instruments include the marching snare drum, tenor drum, bass drums of all sizes, as well as cymbals, tumbales, bongo drums, conga drums, tom toms, field tympani and mallet instruments which resemble xylophones.

Each drum corps, which averages from 90 to 100 members, also includes a colorful flag corps and rifle corps.

Tickets for the cavalcade are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under, and are on sale at the Miller Auditorium ticket office.

Tickets also are available in Kalamazoo at Don Dillon's Music in Southland Mall, Midwest Music on Cork Street, Don Stevenson's Music downtown and Grinnell's in Maple Hill Mall. In Battle Creek, tickets are on sale at Ferree's Music on East Michigan Ave. Tickets also will be available at the stadium on the day of the event. Twelve thousand seats are available on the "concert side" of the stadium, and the program will go on rain or shine.

Lucille and Billy will be Gina Ferraro and Tim Stanton. Also featured are Claire Waring, Sue Devine and Kathy Luke.

Completing the large cast are Renee Leeson, Stephanie Lake, Shayne Johnson, Sandy Griesbach, Carol Van Zoeren, Lucy Stoops, Julie Jaqua, Karen Feigh, Katha Kissman, Neil Bremer, John Bradley, Randy Slager, Larry Burrow, Andy White, Eric Kubiak and Frank Rockwell.

Jerry Smith is musical director, with Jill Halperin as choreographer, Pat Vaughan as costumer and Linda Starkweather designing the sets.

All performances will be at 8 and tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students. Reservations may be made by calling 343-1313 between 10 a. m. and 5 p. m., daily.

Claire Jaggeman and Glenn M. Burkett are co-starring, and Ron Jacoby, former Civic Players direc-



CLAIRE JAGGEMAN GLENN M. BURKETT

In "Owl And Pussycat"

tor, is staging the Center Showcase production of "The Owl And The Pussycat." This is Bill Manoff's comic tale about a stuffy landlord who complains to his landlord about a prostitute who lives in the neighborhood and quickly discovers — upon meeting the offender — that he has a tiger by the tail.

David Barton, the Showcase's producing-director, also announced that Carol Leon, who won acclaim for her portrayal of Maria in the KCYT staging of "West Side Story," will co-star with Peter Shepherd of Chicago in "I Do! I Do!" Aug. 5-27.

Later in the month, Center Showcase will be holding auditions for "The Star Spangled Girl," which will be directed by Mary Godfrey, and the musical, "Stop The World — I Want To Get Off."

The Tibbits Opera House at Coldwater will light up for a new season July 13 with the musical, "Babes In Arms."



KILTS FROM RACINE, WIS., AMONG PERFORMING GROUPS
Summer's First Competition At University Stadium

Art / and Artist

Photos From The 30s

By TOM STERSIC
Gazette Arts Writer

Photographs taken between 1935 and 1942 by members of the Farm Security Administration in Michigan, will go on exhibit Tuesday at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

While the exhibit may have some nostalgic value to viewers over the age of 50, it is the hope of Dewey Ducharme, organizer of the show, that younger people might discover something of their roots in the photos.

Ducharme, a Western Michigan University graduate who now teaches photography in Detroit, assembled the photos which are touring various galleries and museums in the state. According to Ducharme, the contemporary person

whose values, attitudes and perspectives of life have been shaped by the transformed image — television, motion pictures and photography — may find that the exhibit will provide a reevaluation of the past, an added awareness of the present and a better understanding of the future.

A total of 75 photographs will be shown during the exhibit which will be in the Main Gallery.

In the North Gallery, collages, sculpture ceramics and mixed media sculpture by Grand Rapids artist Eugenia Marve will be exhibited.

An art instructor in the Grand Rapids school system, she has had one artist shows at the Flint Institute of Arts, Ball State University, the Grand Rapids Art Museum and at Aquinas College.

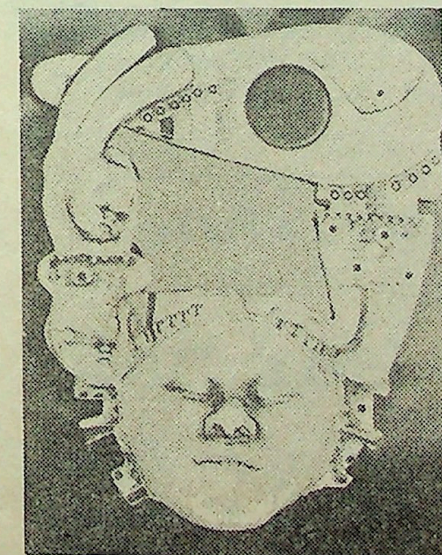
Her work varies from 'South Sea to contemporary primitive images.

A collection of paintings, graphics, photographs and sculptures drawn from the center's permanent collection and based on a "Vacation Time" theme will be hung in the Back Gallery.

A variety of artists are represented in the exhibit which illustrates how different medias present leisure time activities.

Recent acquisitions will be shown in the West Gallery and photographs from the permanent collection in the Lower Gallery.

Beginning with the opening of this exhibit, the center's summer hours are in effect. The center will



EUGENIA MARVE'S CERAMIC
Art Center's July Exhibit

be opened Tuesday through Satur-



A SHARED INTEREST — Robin Haynes (left), Becky Gelke and Angelo Mango figure in one of several compromising situations in the sexy French bedroom farce, "One Night With You, Madame," which is continuing through July 10 at the Augusta Barn. Also featured are Dale Helward, Lou Girard, Bet

State Theater's Barton Organ

Rebuilding Started In Early '60s

(Continued From Page B-9)

"I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to use for the blizzard scenes," Catherwood said one day last week as he sat at the Barton console in the darkened theaters. "But I've decided to steal a little from Mozart." He demonstrated with a stormy Mozart motif that made the theater rumble and the two huge air pumps chug to push huge volumes of air to the 50-year-old organ pipes.

Though Catherwood has run completely through the movie at least seven times during the past few weeks to perfect the painstaking technique which came easily to theater organists during the State's salad days, the hours invested are paltry compared with the time he's spent refurbishing the organ during the past 15 years.

Catherwood's lifelong interest in theater organs led him to join Kalamazoo organ builder William Mollema in rebuilding of the State Theater organ. The project, started in the early 1960s, is still going on.

"It's been a labor of love — just like this whole 50th anniversary celebration," said Catherwood.

Mollema and Catherwood have put literally thousands of hours into

sical Instrument Co., said Catherwood, who has done considerable research on theater organs.

The now-magnificent art deco organ console, hewn of solid maple, was completely rebuilt by Mollema, a 1965 graduate of Kalamazoo College who had built his first organ for the college even before graduation. Concurrently, he was working with Catherwood as time permitted, bringing life back to the State's Barton organ.

"It was in sad shape when we started working on it," said Catherwood. "Literally hundreds of soldered connections had to be cleaned and re-soldered."

Many of the organ's 132 stops were added by the two local craftsmen. Catherwood labored for dozens of hours at home, just building a series of tiny leather bellows which, when inflated with a burst of air from the miles of organ air tubes, engage and disengage the "stop" levers used by organists to change the quality of sound produced.

"I play strictly as a hobby," said Catherwood as he flipped a toggle switch on the console and mysteriously rose with the organ from the orchestra pit to show off the ancient instrument's paint job. Catherwood has spent untold hours gilding the intricate relief scrollwork and paint-

hands on. We'll go on vacation and drive 300 miles out of our way to see an organ installation.

"I guess it started when I was a kid in Detroit. I remember getting dragged downtown shopping with my mother and sister. I hated that, but after lunch, we usually wound up at the Fox Theater, which I loved. They had a 45-piece orchestra, a corps de ballet — quite a stage show to go with the old movies.

"But in a city the size of Kalamazoo, there was seldom a full pit orchestra, so organs provided much of the music. Of course, for the anniversary celebration, we'll have a pit orchestra and the organ."

Catherwood credits Lyle Smith, president of the Butterfield Theater chain which owns the State, with providing much of the financial backing for refurbishing the State Theater organ. But Catherwood and Mollema also spent personal money on the project — to say nothing of the time they've donated.

Catherwood has had some coaching from Bud Taylor, former State Theater organist who is retired. "I still keep in touch with him," he said. "He'd love to be here for the anniversary party, but his health isn't



FROM JOHN VACHON'S "PHOTOGRAPHS OF MICHIGAN"
Era Of 1935-1942 Recalled In Art Center Exhibit

publications designer at Albion College. She also is involved in freelance designing and photography.

The two Michigan artists produce high quality prints, according to Ken Freed, owner of Michigan Multiples.

Rowe participated in the Michigan Graphic Invitational sponsored by the Detroit Artists Market in 1975 and Susan has exhibited at the Kingman Museum in Battle Creek.

The exhibit will continue through July 10.

In another announcement, Freed said that about 40 prints from Michigan Multiples will be sent to the Ella Sharpe Museum, Jackson, where they will be exhibited from July 1 through July 28.

"The prints will represent all the artists whom we represent here," he said.

Brush Strokes

... A representative of Ferdinand Roten Galleries will be in the lobby of the Light Fine Arts Building on

... Diana Arcadipone, formerly of Paw Paw and a graduate of Western Michigan University, was featured in a recent story about her paper-making in the Louisville Courier Journal. She has been associate director of the Louisville School of Art, Anchorage, Ky., since February.

... The Plainwell Area Arts and Crafts Club will be holding its Clothesline Art Show Saturday in Hicks Park. Approximately 70 exhibitors are expected to exhibit original work in all media.

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the fascinating State Theater organ, built in 1927 by the Barton Organ Co. of Osh Kosh, Wis. Back then, the firm was known as the Bartola Mu-

"I don't know how I got to be such a nut about these things. I've played every theater organ I could get my

won't be able to make it."

Then, as if in tribute to Taylor, or to the organ Taylor once played, Catherwood's hands fell into a chord pattern, then another, and another. The old organ awakened as huge bursts of air rushed through the throats of the pipes, and out came a stirring rendition of "How Great Thou Art."

After a short silence at the end of the hymn, as the last echoes faded in the empty theater, Catherwood hit one of the magic buttons in front of a keyboard. Stop levers jumped. A faint hiss of air. The hands and feet started jumping. Bellows pumped, a cymbal crashed rhythmically, and a rousing rendition of "That's Entertainment" issued forth.

Catherwood was smiling the way he's sure to be smiling July 13 and 14, when the aging organ at the State Theater will sing again for thousands.

closed Sunday and Monday.

On August 1, the center will be closed through Labor Day.

Printmakers Exhibit

Prints by Donald C. and Susan Carol Rowe are being exhibited at Michigan Multiples, Richland. A reception with the artists is scheduled next Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rowe is chairman of the art department and associate professor of art at Olivet College. His wife is

Pre-Piano Program At 'K' Music Center

The Kalamazoo College Music Center will offer a new pre-piano program this summer for children who have completed kindergarten through second grades.

Will Fickes, instructor of piano at the music center and a specialist in the field of group instruction, will teach the course.

The 45-minute class will meet

Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m. Original prints will be exhibited by the representative and offered for sale.

Kalamazoo weaver Mary Tyler will be exhibiting at the Kingscott Gallery, 511 Monroe, beginning Tuesday. Tyler recently received an award of merit for a cotton poncho she entered in the Fantastic Coats and Capes contest sponsored by the Wild West shop in Ann Arbor. She has taught workshops at the Ann Arbor shop recently.

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. during July, with the first class scheduled for Thursday, July 7. Fee for the class is \$15.

Students will explore musical concepts such as pitch, rhythm, tempo and volume. Clapping, walking and singing will be employed as well as Kodaly hand signals.

Enrollment will be limited to 12 children. To register, call the fine arts secretary at K - College at 383-8511.

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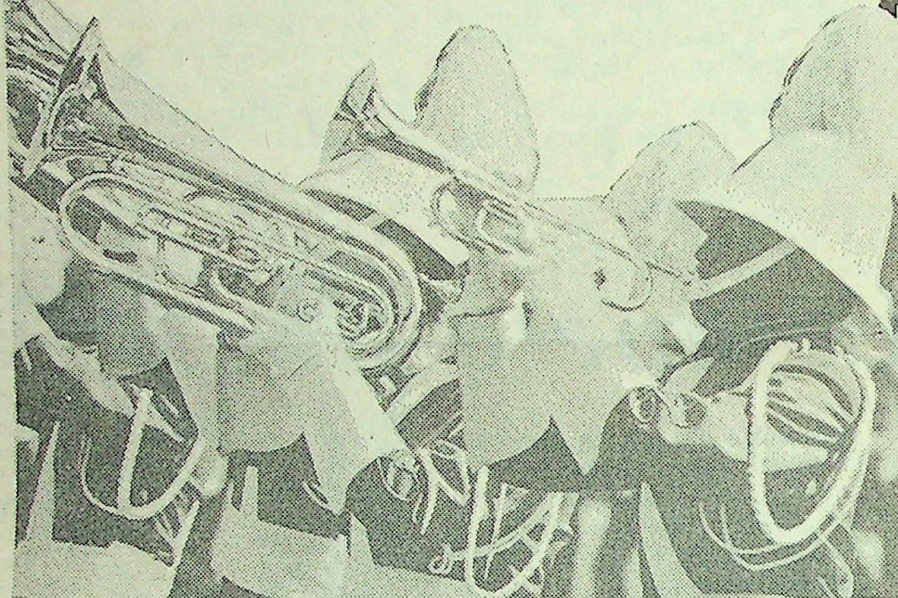
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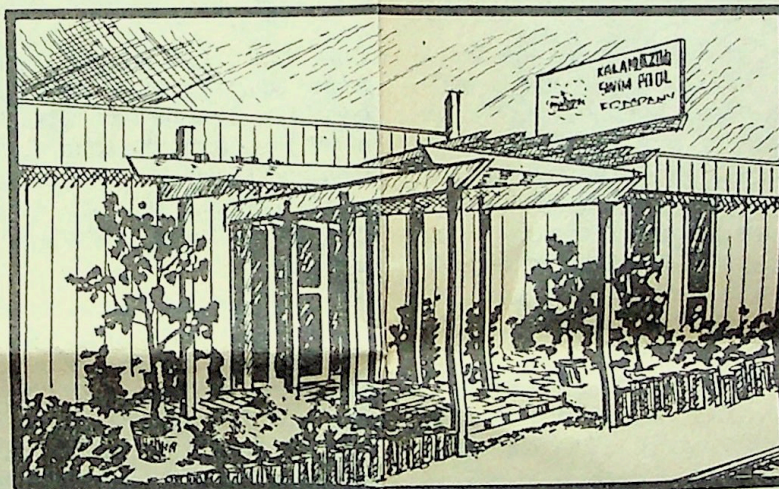
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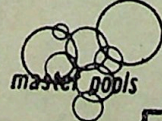
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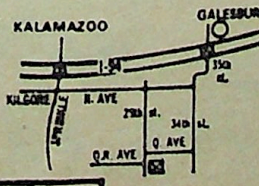
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