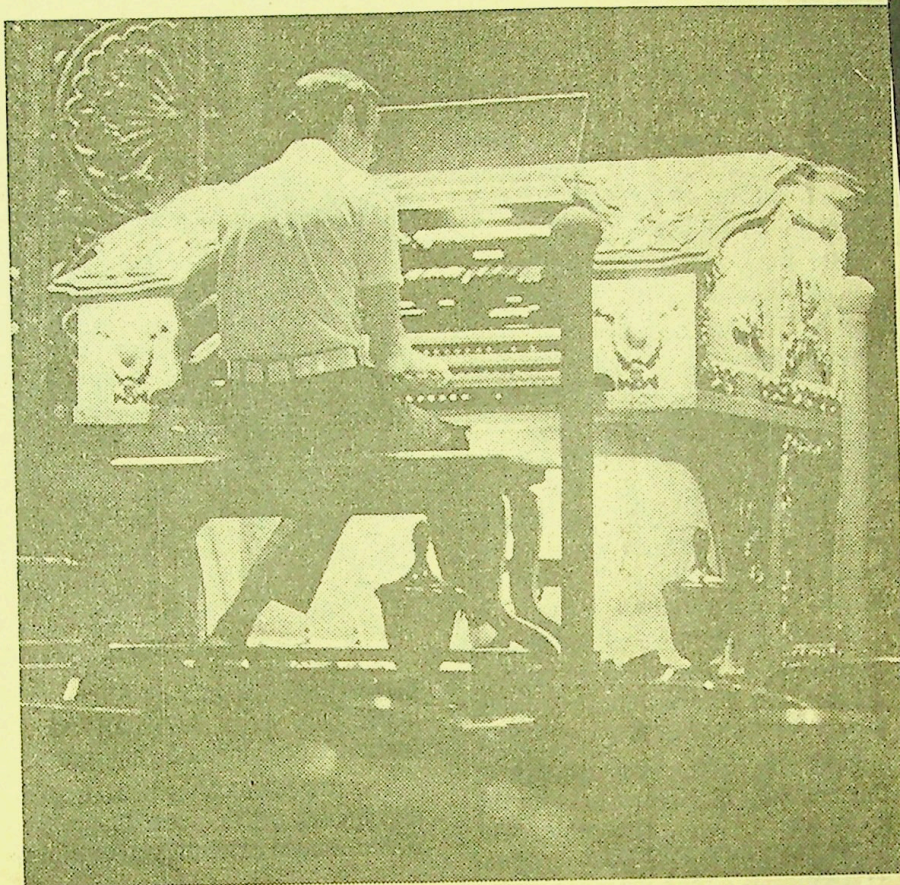




6/3/77

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

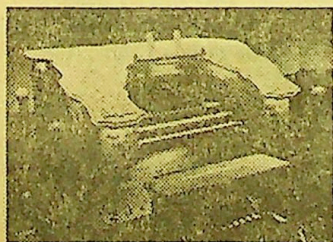
Catherwood has had some coaching from Bud Taylor, former State Theater organist who is retired. "I still keep in touch with him," he said. "He'd love to be here for the anniversary party, but his health isn't the best right now, and I'm afraid he won't be able to make it."

Then, as if in tribute to Taylor, on 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."

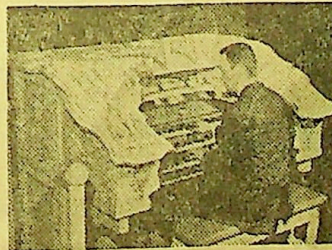


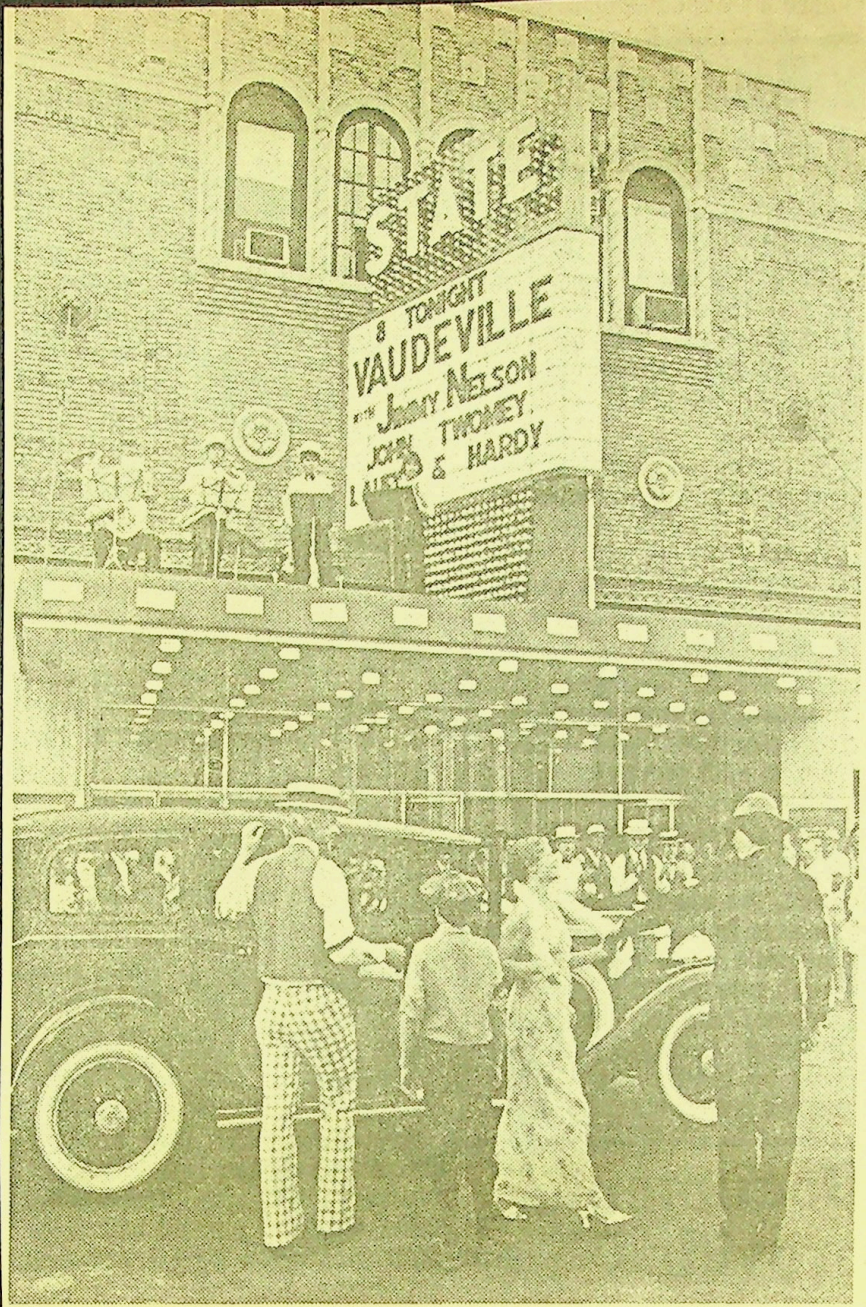
PANAVISION®

TONIGHT ONLY
AT 7:00 P.M.



LISTEN TO THE
BEAUTIFUL
BARTON ORGAN
with
JOHN CATHERWOOD
AT THE
CONSOLE





WILLIAM MOLLEMA 'SEATED AT THE CONSOLE OF THE MIGHTY BARTON'
State Theater Manager Fred Marley (Left) And John Catherwood

KALAMAZOO GAZET

148TH YEAR

112 PAGES



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1981

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Final curtain may be near for the State

By DON W. CARLSON
Gazette Entertainment Editor

Time appears to be running out for Kalamazoo's 54-year-old State Theater, the last of outstate Michigan's regularly operating "movie palaces."

The Gazette has learned that the future of the opulent downtown playhouse is under final consideration by W.S. Butterfield Theaters Inc., which has owned and operated the 1,300-seat house since it first opened on July 14, 1927.

There won't be another

(See Page C-1)

The firm hopes to dispose of the property, which it believes is no longer economically viable as a movie theater, and would prefer to sell it to a government, civic or non-profit group.

Its purpose would be to preserve the elaborate interior decor of the theater, which remains to this day one of the leading Midwest examples of the "atmospheric" school of design created by architect John Ebersson.

Lacking a sale in the near future, Butterfield probably will close the theater and then seek to dispose of the building, which contains eight stores and a number of offices on three floors. Or
(See STATE on Page A-8)



STATE THEATER WENT ALL-OUT TO ADVERTISE A HAROLD LLOYD COMEDY
This was in the early 1930s; the exterior was remodeled in 1964

State

(Continued from Page A-1)

it could retain ownership of the structure and convert the theater space into stores and offices. That course seems unlikely in view of the expansion of retail and office space in the downtown area this year.

It has been known here for some time that the State has been living on borrowed time and a day of decision was looming for the theater to which a number of Kalamazooans have a strong emotional attachment.

Large midtown movie theaters, especially those of the "palace" variety, have all but disappeared in recent years, giving way to suburban and neighborhood theaters of from 200 to 400 seats. Twenty years ago there were only two theaters and two screens in Kalamazoo — the State and Capitol. Today there are 21 screens in eight theaters in the metropolitan area, and only two of those, the State and LeBijou, are in the central business district.

This decentralization of movie theaters has been spurred by a trend to play films in theaters that can offer film companies and distributors the longest possible run and theater operators their most profitable booking arrangements. Even more recently, theaters have been built in groupings of from two to six to reduce maintenance and labor costs and give patrons a choice of entertainment at one location.

Lyle W. Smith, president of the Southfield-based theater chain, which operates more than 65 screens in Michigan, confirmed

have performing space in Carver Center. There are also four other college auditoriums and several high school auditoriums in the metropolitan area.

The question now seems to be if there is any local use for the theater which has outlived its usefulness for both films and touring shows. The number of seats would not now sustain Broadway plays such as those presented at Miller Auditorium.

Ground for the State was broken in October, 1926. Nine months and \$350,000 later, the Spanish-motif structure with twinkling electric stars and a simulated garden courtyard was opened to the public.

Vaudeville shows and plays were presented for several years along with motion picture programs, but live shows ceased during Depression years. Since the early 1960s, it has been used only for movies, occasional meetings and civic events like the Exchange Club Christmas shows. Locally produced vaudeville shows and silent movies with organ accompaniment also were presented annually until this year.

The structure has an assessed valuation of \$312,000 with an annual property tax bill of \$22,530. Regular annual tax increases, and an annual heat bill of \$18,000 which is expected to double next year, were said to be prime factors in Butterfield's decision to appraise the theater's future at this time.

At one time, Butterfield owned or operated every theater in Kalamazoo. Ownership is now split among five companies: United Artists Theaters, (Westmain); General Cinema, (Maple Hill); Loeks Theaters (Plaza and Eastowne) and Bijou Theaters (Le Bijou) in addition to Butterfield. Butterfield also owns the Campus, which opened in 1966 and was the first new theater built here since the Uptown in 1938, the Beacon twin theaters and the metropolitan area's only drive-ins, the Douglas and Portage.

The last theater here to be closed and razed was the Capitol Theater on South Street in 1967 which Butterfield traded to the city as site for a parking ramp. The trade brought Butterfield property near the airport where it constructed the Beacon.

Smith also noted that several other of Butterfield's large downtown theaters, such as those in Ann Arbor and Jackson, have been sold to local government or are being operated by civic groups as performing arts centers.

He said he had hoped that the same thing might be done here, but that it had been pointed out to him that Kalamazoo already has extensive performing arts facilities such as the 3,550-seat Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University, the 2,577-seat midtown Chenery Auditorium owned and operated by the Kalamazoo Public Schools and the 550-seat Civic Auditorium operated by the Kalamazoo Civic Players, who also

members who may have intended to have not yet done so should make o Kalamazoo Public Schools Co-am, 606 E. Kilgore.

or the donation. tly involved should do so or should

State to review historic status of many local properties

By MIKE MAGNER
Gazette Staff Writer

The historic significance of more than 530 properties in the city of Kalamazoo will be reviewed Wednesday afternoon by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board.

The state review board will consider whether 30 individual properties and more than 500 others located in six proposed "historic districts" in the city should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The board's recommendations will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of the Interior, which makes the final decision on whether the properties should be listed in the Historic Register.

The state board will begin reviewing the Kalamazoo properties recommended for historic listing at 12:40 p.m. Wednesday in Lansing, said William Bunting, manager of the city's building division.

The meeting is expected to last "most of the afternoon," Bunting said. It will be held in the first-floor conference room of the Mutual Building, 208 N. Capitol in

Lansing, he said.

The review board, made up of citizens with some expertise in historic preservation, will hear arguments both for and against the proposed historic listings, Bunting said.

Margaret Berry, chairman of the Kalamazoo Commission for Historical Preservation, said that most owners of properties nominated for the historic listing support the federal designation.

Nevertheless, some owners opposed to the nominations, primarily because of fears that the federal listing will mean "government intrusion" in the management of their properties, she said.

Kalamazoo County commissioners, for example, have voted to oppose the listing of Bronson Park and the county courthouse in the National Register, saying it would invite "interference" from the state and federal governments.

Last Monday, the owners of two properties — the Kazoo Inc. building at 300 E. Michigan and Grace Christian Reformed Church at 614 S. Park — asked the Kalamazoo City Commission to oppose the historic listings for their buildings.

Kazoo Inc. president Walter Orwin said his clothing company

has several contracts with the federal government, and company attorneys advised him that a historic listing for the Kazoo building "will not be advantageous to us."

Commissioners voted to write letters to the state review board objecting to the two nominations, and they said they would write similar letters for any other property owners opposed to the federal listing.

Bunting said the state review board will consider the objections of property owners if they submit notarized letters to the Michigan History Division by 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Bunting and Mrs. Berry said the only possible disadvantage of a historic listing is that the U.S. Interior Department would have to review any alterations to a historic building that involve federal funds.

"This is a disadvantage in that it takes time, possibly up to 45 days," Bunting said.

"I have discussed this with property owners who have gone through the process in Kalamazoo. Some have found it to work smoothly and to be no problem, others have experienced some frustrations with it."

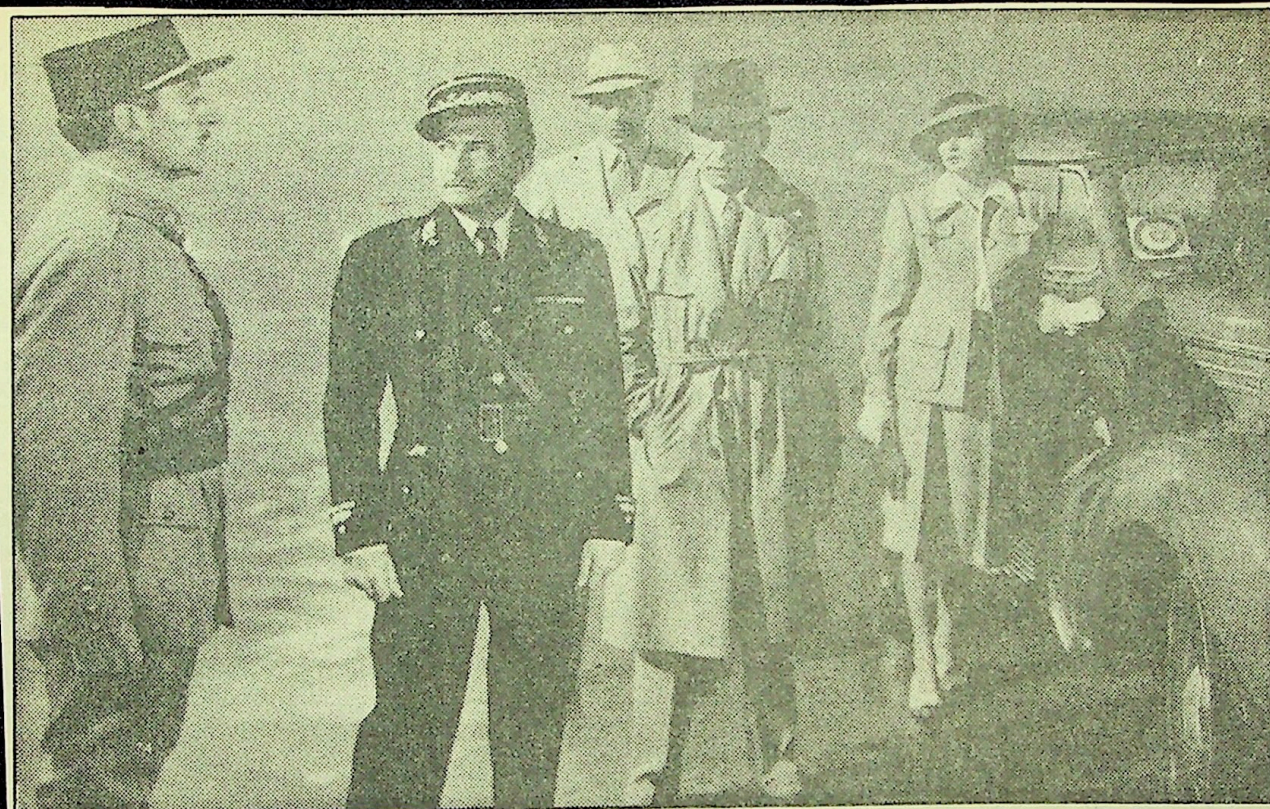
There have also been fears expressed that establishment of

federal historic districts in the city would be the first step toward establishing "local historic districts" as well, Mrs. Berry said.

The local historic commission has no plans to establish local historic districts if property owners in the district are opposed, she said. The local board will not attempt to set up a local district in the Bronson Park area, for example, because many property owners in that district are opposed to it, she said. However, property owners in the Rose Place and Vine districts have already asked to be included in "local historic districts," she said.

One of the advantages of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places is that owners of "income-producing properties" in a historic district can qualify for substantial tax breaks on investments in their buildings, she said.

Most significantly, though, is that a federal historic listing "gives the structure national recognition, probable increased value, as well as possible protection from federal encroachments" if a federally funded project would impact on a historic property, Mrs. Berry said.



Cinema classic to get a special showing

As long as they show movies, "Casablanca" will be making the rounds and the 1942 classic will get a very special screening in a benefit program to be held Saturday at Kalamazoo's State Theater. Preceded by a party at 6:30 featuring "Rick's American Cafe" of the movie's fame, piano melodies by "Sam" and coffee, soft drinks and munchies, the film starring Humphrey

Bogart in his most famous role will be shown at 8. Above, Bogart (in trench coat) persuades Casablanca police chief Claude Rains to let underground leader Paul Henreid and Ingrid Bergman escape. The showing is a political fund-raising event and tickets are on sale at Boogie Records and Rx Optical Lab locations.

6-13-82

Robert MacNaughton and Drew Barrymore (opening week). Adventures of a frightened, marooned alien from outer space befriended by some youngsters. Also at Westmain.

PORTAGE DRIVE-IN — Now playing, "Porky's" (R), comedy. High schoolers can't get sex off their minds. Also, "American Graffiti."

STATE — "Casablanca," the American film classic starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains and Peter Lorre, will have a special benefit showing Saturday at 8, preceded by a pre-premiere party at 6:30. Tickets at Boogie Records and Rx Optical Laboratories.

First released in 1942, "Casablanca" is a drama of intrigue most famous for its song, "As Time Goes By." A brand new print of the movie has been obtained for the showing here.

The State was closed recently after 54 years as a vaudeville, legitimate and movie theater. Currently offered for sale by Butterfield Theaters, it is now being used only for special occasions.

✓ **GUTSY STAND FOR THE ARTS** — It's old news now, but news that somehow got overlooked when it happened and needs to be mentioned.

Though things are tight all over, Ann Arbor has given resounding approval to a pair of proposals to rescue, preserve and operate its Michigan Theater. Voters said yes to one proposal authorizing the city to pledge \$500,000 to pay off the debt on the 54-year-old theater, and another to allow the city to borrow \$200,000 to make needed building code improvements and installing new heating system and ventilation equipment.

The City of Ann Arbor rescued the Michigan Theater from possible demolition in 1980 and converted it from a commercial movie theater to a community auditorium.

That's pretty gutsy support for the arts by Ann Arbor voters in times like this.

—Don W. Carlson

'Casablanca' movie party planned for State

Kalamazoo's grand old downtown movie palace, down but not yet out, will return briefly to some of its one-time glory in mid-June.

A special showing of the cinema classic, "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid, has been announced for Saturday, June 19 at the State Theater. However, it will be more than just the showing of a now revered film: Rick's

"Cafe Americain" of the movie will be re-created in the theater's ornate, upper lobby; "Sam," the pianist will be performing tunes from the movie and French gendarmes in authentic costumes will add color to the pre-show festivities which include a pre-movie party featuring coffee, soft drinks and munchies. Arrangements also are being made for patrons to have their pictures taken in movie cut-outs.

The party is scheduled to get under way at 6:30, with the film starting at 8.

All seats will be \$5 and tickets will go on sale May 15 at all Boogie Records stores, all Rx Optical locations or by mail order from the Committee for Richard L. Lamb, Box 902, Kalamazoo. The show is a campaign benefit for Lamb who is a candidate for Kalamazoo County circuit court judge. 5-19-92

Periscope

ON ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

THEATER BUFF HEADS WEST — Jerry Alexander, operations director for the Western Michigan University's radio station, WMUK-FM, has resigned his position effective at the end of May and will move to Los Angeles where he plans to continue his career in broadcasting.

A native of St. Louis, Alexander came to WMUK as an announcer 15 years ago and has been active for the past four years in the State Theater Annual Vaudeville Show as well as national theater and theater organ societies. He was a leader in restoration of the downtown movie palace where he reactivated the cloud-making devices and personally replaced 2,000 light bulbs in one of the last of Michigan's atmospheric theaters.

W. S. BUTTERFIELD THEATRES, INC.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
21311 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
P. O. BOX 5063
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48037
(313) 352-4520

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

November 16, 1981

Mr. John J. Catherwood
310 N. Jackson Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of November 9th.

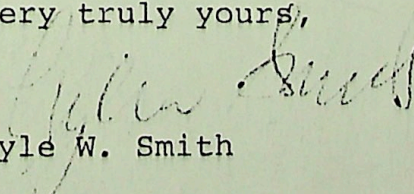
No final decisions have been reached regarding the future of the State Theatre building. Unfortunately, the recent publicity has raised some concern in the minds of the people with whom we have been doing business for many years, and I can appreciate their concern.

It is reasonable to assume that the State Theatre is nearing the end of its useful life as a motion picture theatre. However, I do not believe it has reached the end of its useful life as an auditorium, and we are directing all our efforts to see if it is possible to convert it into a civic auditorium or a center for the performing arts as has been done elsewhere in the country with similar facilities. I am very encouraged by the interest that has developed since Don Carlson's newspaper article, and I am most hopeful that something can be worked out.

In such event, the organ will be important to the future of the State Theatre and I think it would be a shame to start undoing some of the improvements which have been made on the organ in recent years. Therefore, I suggest that you hold off any projects you may have in mind until the future of the State Theatre has been determined.

Thank you for writing and I do appreciate the many kind things you wrote about your past relationship with Butterfield.

Very truly yours,


Lyle W. Smith

LWS/jw

March 5-82

Mr. Don Carlson,
Theatre Editor
Kalamazoo Gazette
South Burdick St.
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

Dear Mr. Carlson;

Now that I am out of the state of shock regarding the possible loss of the State Theatre. I would like to say "Kalamazoo, don't be hasty and sorry later".

There are many cities that have lost such beautiful theatres who now wish they had them back. Also many cities have saved their theatres by means of the "Theatre Historical Society".

This type of architecture is no longer being taught and facilities for manufacturing such ornate design are no longer available. The price would be prohibitive in these times.

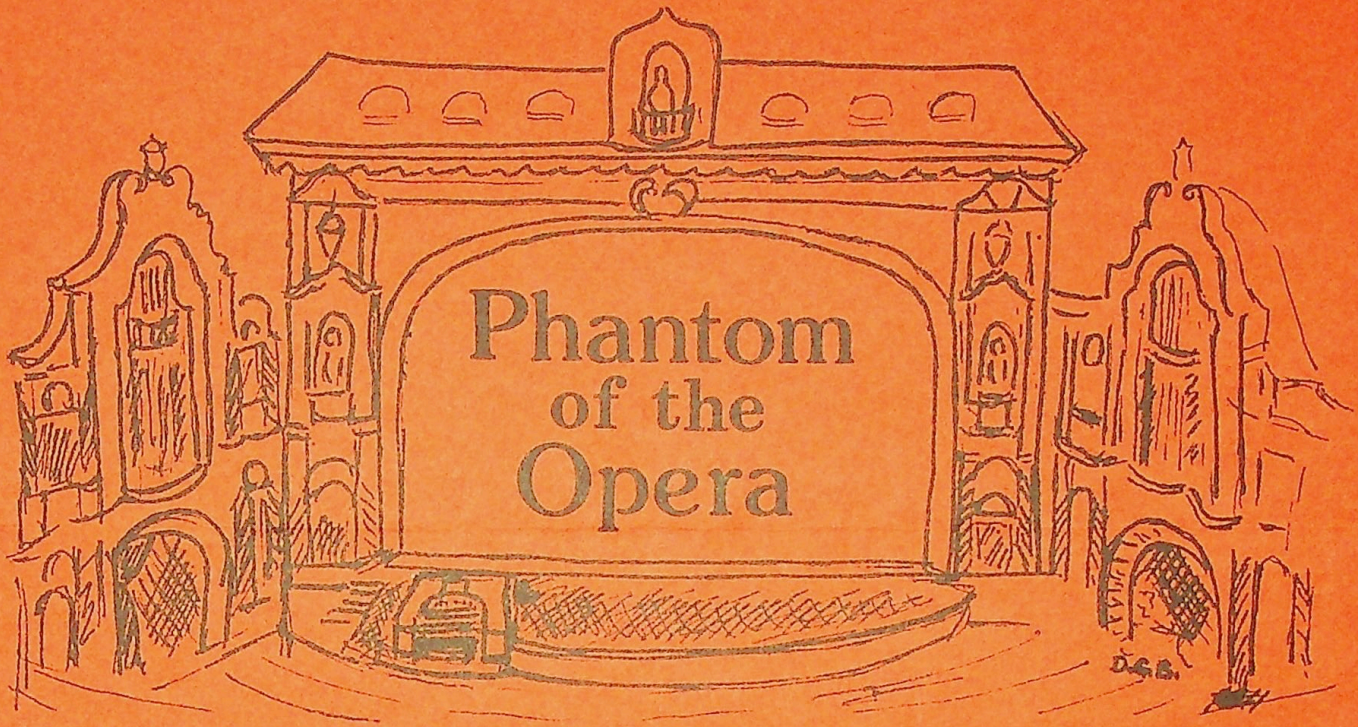
My successful career started at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo many years ago. I have always been grateful to Mr. Pat Heavey for his training and faith in me, and the cooperation of the staff who encouraged me to continue in the world of music.

The beautiful Barton organ was part of the show in the good old days. Both Col. Butterfield and Pat Heavey managed to keep the organ playing to entertain the patrons at the State longer than any other theatre in Michigan

*
KALAMAZOO... Don't take the STATE THEATRE For granted. It is yours to be proud of and enjoy. Do Anything you can to save it.

* COL. BUTTERFIELD WAS VERY PROUD OF THE STATE THEATRE.
THIS WAS ONE OF HIS FAVORITE THEATRES ON THE
BUTTERFIELD CHAIN

"Bud" Taylor
"Bud" Taylor
Organist
4525 Manzanita Ave
Carmichael, Ca.
95608



Dear Patrons and Friends,

At the bottom of this letter is a ticket order form for our annual Halloween show. We are pleased to, again, have John Catherwood as our accompanying Organist. Please bring a friend and join us on October 30th at 3:00 PM for Lon Chaney's Classic PHANTOM OF THE OPERA to be presented in a style and atmosphere that can only be found at the State Theatre.

We are currently trying to update our mailing lists and survey our Patrons. Would you please fill out and return by mail or in person, October 30th, the card enclosed with this letter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!
 The Vaudeville Committee &
 The SW Michigan Organ Club

* * * * *

Tickets: General Admission Tickets \$3.00, Students & Senior Citizens \$2.00
 Mail Orders: Send your check and self-addressed stamped envelope to the State Theatre Vaudeville Committee, P.O.Box 649, Comstock, MI 49041 along with the bottom half of this letter.

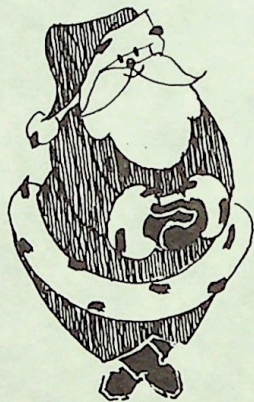
Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Please send _____ General Admission Tickets, _____ Senior/Student tickets

I will not be able to attend the concert but would like make a donation of \$ _____ to help support future events at the State Theatre.

Take in the Holiday Festivities

**AN OLD FASHION
CHRISTMAS AT
THE STATE THEATRE**



**DECEMBER 18th
SUNDAY-3:00pm**

*Featuring Charlie
Balogh From the
Roaring 20's in
Grand Rapids at
the Barton Organ*

The 1926 Box-office Block Buster

RUDOLPH VALENTINO
In the Silent Classic Feature
"SON OF THE SHEIK"

**FEBRUARY 19th
SUNDAY-3:00pm**

*Featuring Live
Organ
Accompaniment
on the Theatre
Barton Pipe Organ.*



Reserve Your Seats For These Events Now!

Presented by:

**State Theatre Vaudeville
Committee
Southwest Michigan
Theater Organ Club**

Advance Tickets:

**\$3.00-Gen. Adm.
\$2.00-Senior Citizens,
Students**

By Mail:

**Send check or money order
along with a stamped self
addressed envelope to:**

**State Theatre
Vaudeville Committee
P.O. Box 649
Comstock, MI 49003**

KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Established 1833

Daniel M. Ryan
Publisher

James R. Mosby Jr.
Editor

Robert L. Stephenson
Editorial Page Editor

MIXED REVIEW

A shadow lingers on brightening downtown scene

With the exception of one lingering shadow, the downtown Kalamazoo scene is brightening.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College announced today that a downtown job-training center is scheduled to open at the South Street parking ramp. Dr. Marilyn J. Schlack, KVCC president, said the new facility will be ready to open its doors in September. Fidelity Federal Savings & Loan made the site available to the KVCC Foundation for \$1.

While the new center will not be a revenue-producer for downtown, it does promise to provide a significant service in an easily accessible spot.

The same can be said for the Rickman House. It is no Waldorf-Astoria, but it isn't a Stratton Arms Hotel, either. What it is, is a welcome addition to downtown Kalamazoo, especially the north downtown area. The renovated eight-story hotel adds to the city's inventory of low-cost housing where it is needed most.

The Stratton Arms, closed last year for building code violations, has been revitalized into the Rickman House a non-profit organization.

Another bright spot is that the J.C. Penney building will be renovated for use by the state Department of Education to serve as a regional Social Security disability screening center. The Hinman Co., which has an option to buy the building, was the low bidder for the new center.

While the new office will not result in bringing more people to the Kalamazoo Mall since it will not serve the walk-in public as does the Social Security Administration office in the Westmain Mall, it will mean more employees in the down-

town area. The center will provide 50 to 60 new jobs, plus about 90 to be transferred from Lansing.

Another bright spot is the decision to build a new YWCA downtown, plus the pledge that the old structure on Rose Street will not be torn down.

The Downtown Kalamazoo Association has ignited a revitalization plan for the Arcadia Creek area and that is being put on the drawing boards now. Slowly, the components for the rail consolidation plan are being assembled.

It all adds up to good news for downtown.

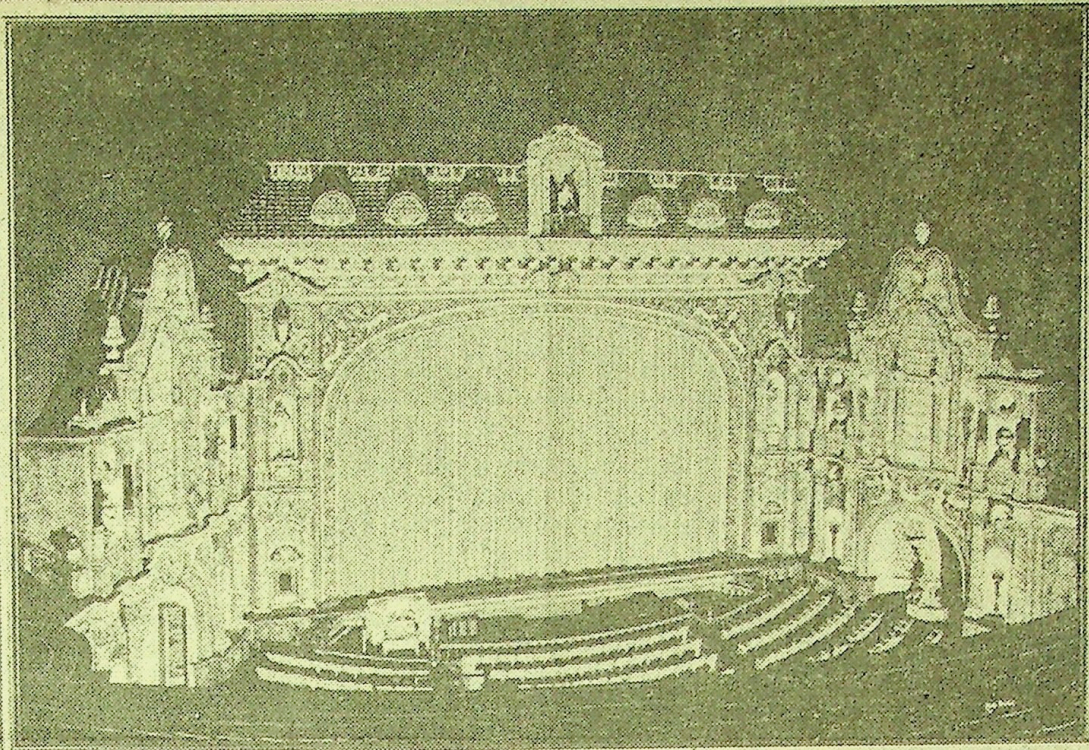
Now the lingering shadow:

The Save the State Theater Committee of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo has been disbanded. In a letter presented to the Kalamazoo City Commission Monday night, the Arts Council gave up its game bid to save the magnificent old theater.

Butterfield Theaters Inc. of Southfield, which pulled the plugs on its movie projectors early last year, doesn't want it. The city of Kalamazoo doesn't want it. The Arts Council doesn't want it. Nobody wants it — and that is a shame. At a time when more people are moving back to the city's center, an abandoned State Theater is a sad irony.

It seems to us that Kalamazoo needs the State Theater, not only for its architecture, but for the potential it offers for entertainment — stage, screen or whatever. When a city the size of Kalamazoo rolls up its downtown sidewalks when the sun goes down, there is really little hope of a complete revitalization.

We wish we had a solution to recommend. We don't. Perhaps it is wishful thinking, but we still have hopes that someone will ride up on a white charger and rescue the grand old movie palace.



Painting of theater unveiled

Nearly 18 months in the making, a 4 by 3 1/2 foot acrylic painting by Craig Hendrix of the interior of Kalamazoo's downtown State Theater, done in the original colors of the interior when it was completed in 1927, was unveiled Friday at Status Galleries, Ltd., which commissioned the rendering. Top, a photo of the artist's work; at left, Hendrix unveils the painting at Kalamazoo Center Friday. Work has \$7,000 price tag.



Front page 8-1-63

Theater rescuers bow out

By ROBERT WARNER
Gazette Staff Writer

The Save the State Theater Committee has been dissolved by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

And the organization the Arts Council had asked to consider taking over the fight has given a flat "no" to the suggestion.

A letter to be presented to the Kalamazoo City Commission at its 7 p.m. meeting today tells of the withdrawal of the Arts Council from a "leadership role" in the

effort to save the theater, and the dissolution of the committee.

The 55-year-old building at the corner of Burdick and Lovell streets has been up for sale by W.S. Butterfield Theaters Inc. of Southfield since the cinema chain stopped booking first-run movies there early last year.

The Arts Council continues to support the saving of the 1,300-seat theater, but can no longer continue to lead the effort, says the letter from Arts Council President Dr. Janet Stillwell.

Stillwell said the Arts Council had been told by a fund-raising expert that raising \$1 million to fund the theater project would be very difficult. The inability of the committee to find an organization to hold the theater title and perhaps assume some of the cost of operating the theater also was a factor in the move, she said.

"If there were any alternative we would have taken it," Stillwell said. The council's operating grant

(See THEATER on Page A-7)

(Continued from Page A-1)

and search for new offices was being held up by the pending action of the Save the State Theater Committee, she said.

"Someone has to come forward and assume the responsibility for the ownership of the building," she said.

The Save the State Theater Committee was organized by local arts groups and Kalamazoo city officials last summer to look for ways to preserve the building. The Arts Council said it would agree to operate the theater if the city of Kalamazoo would take an option on the purchase of the theater.

The city endorsed that plan in

January while saying no city funds could be used to buy or renovate the building. They suggested that the city buy the theater with \$650,000 to be raised by the Save the State Theater Committee, then deed the building to the Arts Council.

But the Arts Council concluded in March that it could not afford to own and maintain the theater.

The Arts Council has written a letter to the board of the Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium suggesting that the Civic board might want to lead the theater-saving effort. That letter passes along a proposal drafted by the Arts Council for a \$6,000 study of the

feasibility of raising \$1 million to cover the cost of purchasing, maintaining and operating the State as a theatrical performance center.

But James Carver of the Civic board said "There's no way" the Civic could take responsibility for raising funds for the theater's purchase and operation.

He said the Civic trustees "felt it would be appropriate to get involved in management of the theater, but couldn't be fund-raisers."

They were also concerned with projections that the theater would lose money as a theatrical performance center, Carver said.

Periscope

ON ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

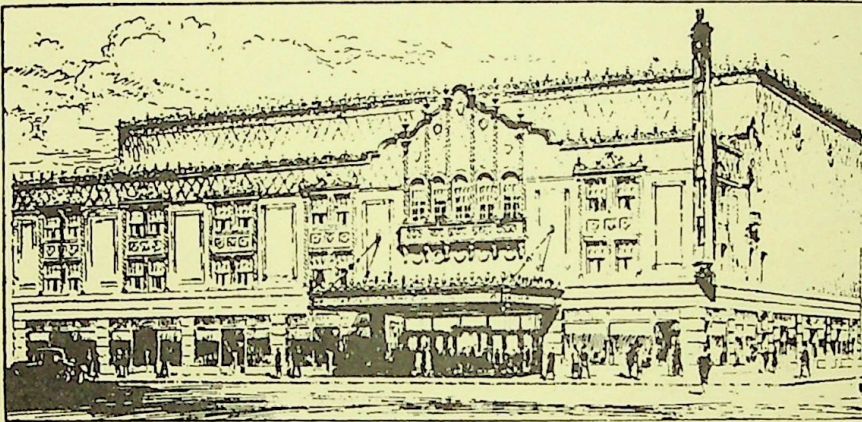
STATE THEATER FILM AND CONCERT — Another State Theater Vaudeville Committee program, this one offering the silent *Harold Lloyd* comedy, "Hot Water," with musical accompaniment on the Barton organ by *John Catherwood*, has been announced for Sunday, June 26 at 3. The film, first released in 1924, also features *Jobyna Ralston*, *Joseph Crowell*, *Charles Stevenson* and *Mickey McBan*.

General admission tickets are \$3, with tickets for students and senior citizens available for \$2. They may be ordered now by mail from the State Theater Vaudeville Committee, P. O. Box 649, Comstock, Mich., 49041, with checks and self-addressed envelope enclosed.

Letters to the Editor

State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN



Theater is beautiful

To the Editor:

My daughter and I attended a Christmas party sponsored by the James River Corp. Everyone who participated in the preparation should be commended.

The party was held at the State Theater which added to the pleasure. The scenery was very impressive and I must admit that each time I sit in the auditorium it seems more beautiful. Even my 4-year-old daughter was very intrigued with the handicraft.

It seems a shame it is not open to children more often. It would be a perfect location for a children's theater in which only movies fit for the general public would be shown. It would also bring a lot of business to the downtown area.

It was the first time I had heard the theater's organ. I have never heard anything more wonderful. **BETH E. BOWLING, 1301 Washington.**

State Theatre Vaudeville Committee Presents

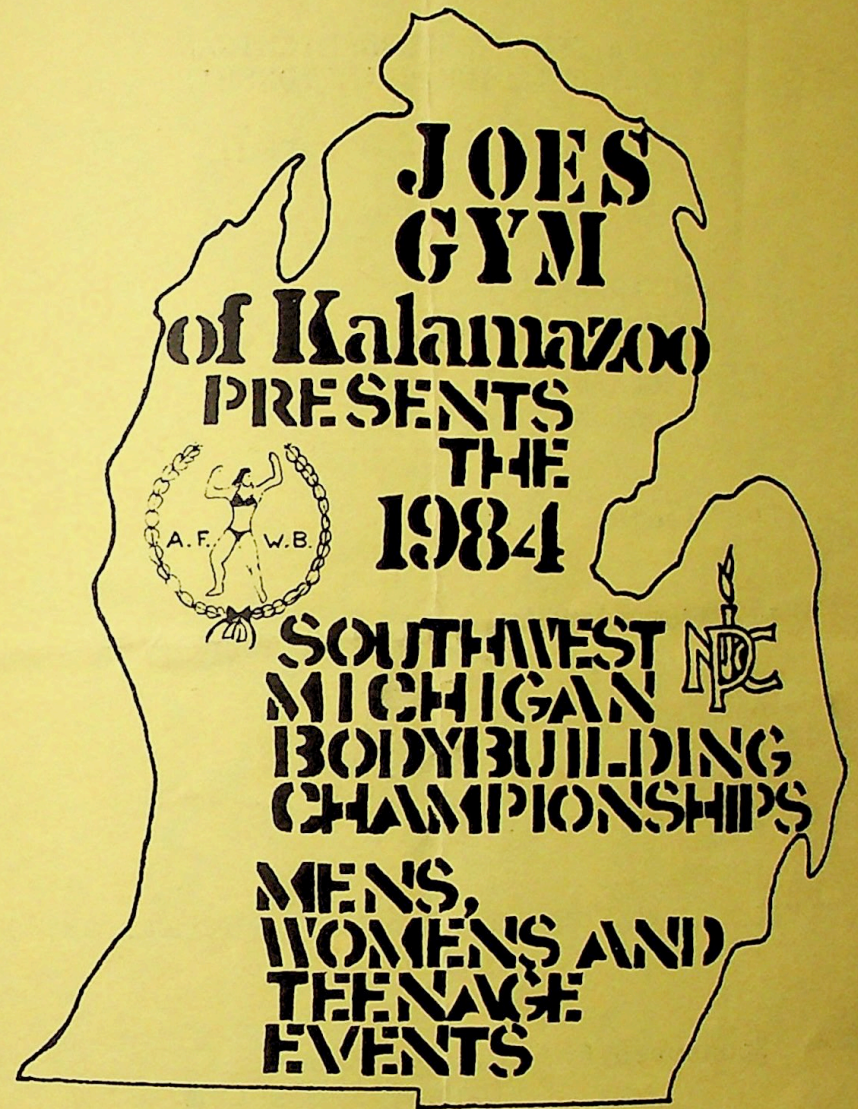
GONE WITH THE WIND

FEBRUARY 19th
SUNDAY-3:00pm

Reserve your tickets by mail by sending your check and a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

State Theatre Vaudeville Committee
P.O. Box 649
Comstock, Michigan 49041

ALL SEATS \$3.00



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1984
STATE THEATRE
404 SOUTH BURDICK
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

PREJUDGING	FINALS
11:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
\$ 3.00 at the door	\$ 5.00 in advance
CHILDREN - \$ 1.50 all times	\$ 6.00 at the door

Tickets available from - Joes Gym, 1516 Trimble, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001
(616) 343-7536

1984 SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN
BODY BUILDING CHAMPIONSHIP

Schedule of Events

- I. Introduction
- II. 156th Signal Corps Presents the
"National Anthem"
- III. Teenage Division
- IV. Women's Division
- V. Intermission
- VI. Guest Poser
- VII. Men's Division (short, medium, tall)

Sponsored By: Larry Abrams
Owner, Joe's Gym

Master of Ceremonies: James Jackson

Music Coordinator: Craig Curtis

Photographer: Albert Jackson

Art Work: David Pyle

Organist: Betty Darling

About our Organist John Catherwood...

Born and raised in Detroit, John received his formal education at Kalamazoo College.

An early facination with the pipe organ was instrumental in his spending several years as a boy choirister at St. Paul's Cathedral. He also regularly attended Saturday mattinees at downtown theatres where organs were still used.

After college, and two years as a Chaplain's assistant at Ft. Riley, Kansas, he settled in Kalamazoo with his wife and family. A college days' friendship with Bud Taylor, well-known Kalamazoo Organist, was renewed. The old bug bit harder than ever and it wasn't long before John met Bill Mollema and in 1962 the two began total rebuilding of the State Theatre's Barton Organ.

About our film...

We will be showing two of the comedy sequences from the Harold Lloyd silent classic, HOT WATER and Mr. Catherwood will accompany them on the Barton Organ. The film was released in 1924 and also featured: Jobyna Ralston, Josephine Crowell, Charles Stevenson and Mickey McBan.

Hubby (Harold Lloyd) after resolving to remain a bachelor, he falls in love and marries. However, he is burdened with his wife's family and is forced to take them for a ride in his new automobile. Through the mother-in-law's constant interference they collide with a streetcar, and the automobile is wrecked. A drink gives him courage, and after some funny pranks he chases the mother from his house. The results are a hilarious sampling of this classic feature film.

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Tickets: General admission tickets \$3, Students & Senior Citizens \$2. Send your check and self-addressed stamped envelope to the State Theatre Vaudeville Committee, P.O. Box 649, Comstock, MI 49041 along with the form below.

Name _____ Address _____ zip _____

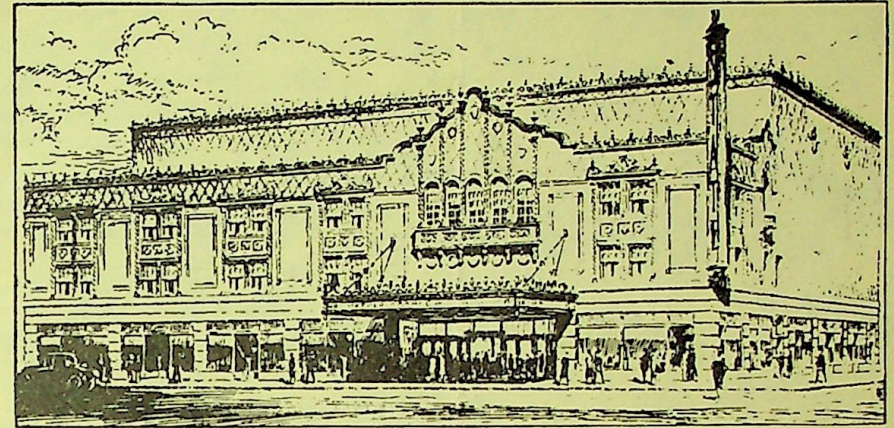
Please send _____ General Admission Tickets at \$3.00 Each

Please send _____ Senior Citizen / Student Tickets @ \$2.00

I will be able to attend the concert but would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to help support future events.

State Theatre

KALAMAZOO MICHIGAN



State Theatre Vaudeville Committee Presents
JUNE 26th, 3pm
John Catherwood
 IN CONCERT AT THE
BARTON PIPE ORGAN
 AND
HAROLD LLOYD
 IN
HOT WATER
With Live Organ Accompaniment

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

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.

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. Below is a list of the organ's ranks of pipes, percussions and effects, and all of their locations:

Main Chamber

Tuba Horn
Open Diapason
Concert Flute
Gamba
*Tibia Clausa
*Vox Humana
Chrysoglott

Solo Chamber

Solo Tibia Clausa
Solo Vox Humana
Clarinet
Viol D'Orchestre
Viol Celeste
Oboe Horn
Kinura
English Post Horn
*Trumpet

Under Stage Chamber

Marimba Harp

Xylophone
*Glockenspiel

Traps (In Solo Chamber)

Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Brush Cymbal, Wood Block, Castanets, Tambourine, *Crash Cymbal

*Ranks and Percussions to be added