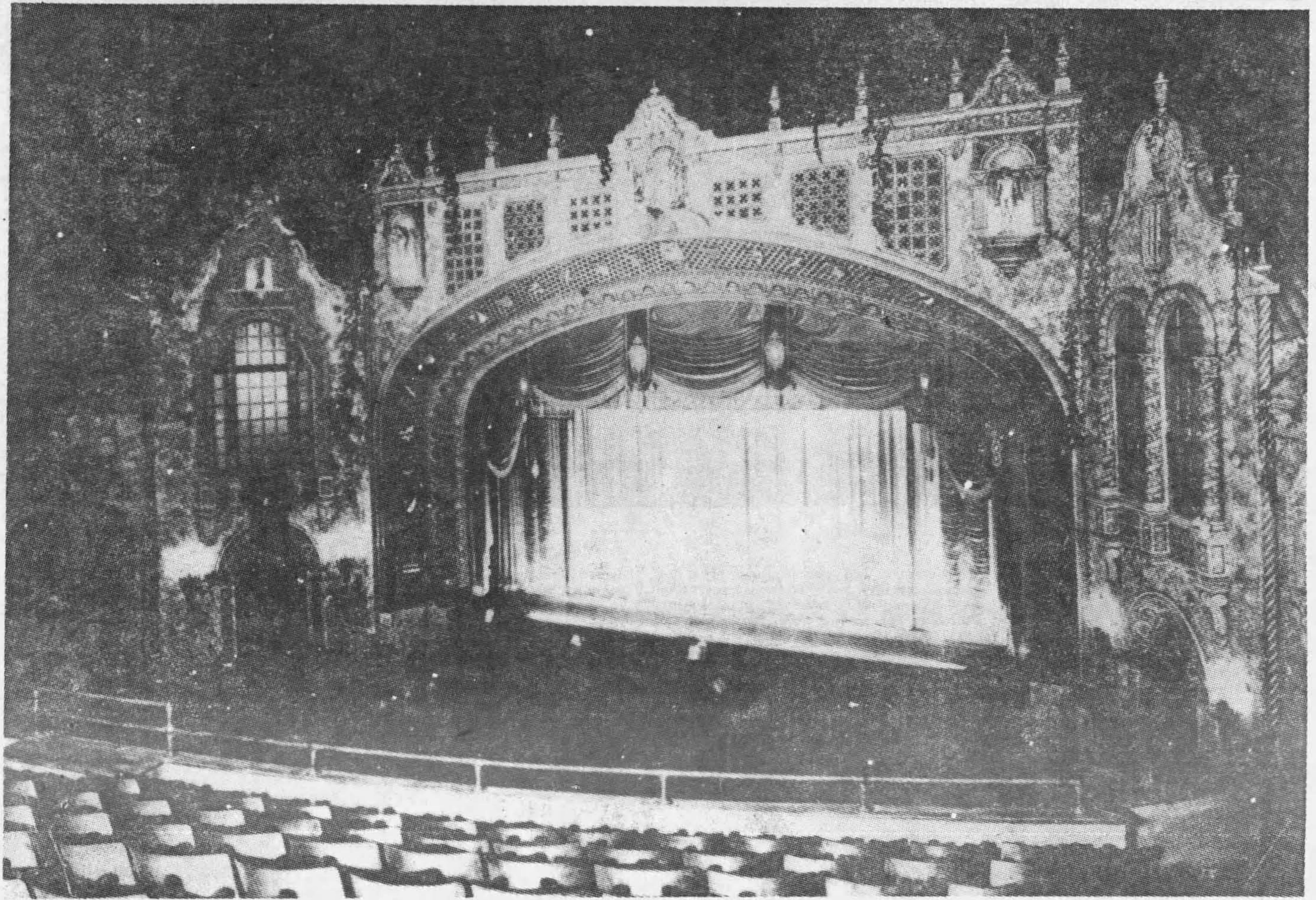


THE MARION STAR



The Magnificent Palace Stage

The Palace Reborn

The 1,500-seat Palace Theater has been a center for entertainment and assembly in the Marion community since it opened in 1928. It is the only auditorium in Marion County that can seat more than 600 people.

In addition to the movies for which it was originally designed, the Palace has been home to community concerts, stage productions, vaudeville and variety shows, pageants, parties for children of local industrial employers, and large-capacity meetings of all types.

But it has depended in the main upon movies to pay its bills. Increasingly, the movie business has shifted to drive-ins and small shopping center theaters, and television has had its effect. As revenues at the Palace declined, disrepair set in, ownership changed numerous times, and the vicious circle tightened around the theater's neck.

Late in 1974, the present owner announced that the Palace would be closed, and possibly converted into a warehouse or some other commercial enterprise. In addition to the obvious loss to the community, the demise of the Palace would simply further contribute to the deterioration of downtown Marion.

Palace Guard

The Palace Guard was a group of seven business, civic and educational leaders who decided to explore the feasibility of preserving the Palace Theater as a center of the cultural arts in Marion.

Its longer range objective, once feasibility was shown, was to form the nucleus of a larger non-profit organization to purchase, extensively renovate and operate the Palace as a community asset. The Palace Reborn, under the management of the non-profit corporation,

would provide the Marion community with a wide range of cultural, educational and pure entertainment programs geared to all segments of Marion's population.

The Palace Guard was composed of: John Keggan (chairman), president and owner of the Marion Flower Shop who has been a board member, business manager, and treasurer of the Marion Concert Association for 16 years; Frank Henson, general manager of the Marion Division of Whirlpool Corporation; Dr. Stephen Stuart, superintendent of Marion City Schools; George Lane, director of Music for Marion City Schools. (He has also directed several community musicals, including the Sesquicentennial Pageant in 1972, and is immediate past president of the Marion Concert Association; Lyle DeVilling, director of customer service for Fairfield Engineering. He was instrumental in a previous committee dedicated to saving the Palace; Dr. Ted Myers, professor and associate director of Ohio State University, Marion Campus and board member of the Marion County Historical Society. (He is also on the Board of the Marion Concert Association); and Robert Babich, president and owner of Depot Sales, Inc. and a member of the board of directors of the Marion Little Theater.

Each Palace Guard invested \$100 to secure an option on the building and real estate. This option has now been exercised on the basis of the encouraging feasibility study and success in securing initial substantial financial pledges from Marion's two largest industries as well as many other unsolicited contributions.

The Palace Cultural Arts Association is a non-profit corporation, founded by the Palace Guard and chartered under the laws of the State of Ohio. Its stated purpose is the purchase and restoration of The Palace Theater in Marion,

and its operation as a non-profit community center for the arts.

The United States Internal Revenue Service has approved federal income tax-exempt status for the PCAA, and, contributions will be federal income tax-deductible.

Feasibility

As a result of surveys, adequate use of the Palace by a wide cross-section of Marion area organizations to make the theater self-sufficient seems guaranteed.

Among the groups and organizations that evinced an interest in continuing use of the Palace at estimated needed rentals are:

- Marion Concert Association
- Marion City Schools
- Marion Y Little Theater
- Miss Heart of Ohio Pageant (Marion Jaycees)
- Junior Service Guild Follies
- Travel and Adventure Series
- Marion Community

Support

In addition to widespread support from just about every area service and civic club, the Palace Reborn movement has been endorsed by the city.

Restoration of the Palace has been officially adopted as the Marion community's major Bicentennial project.

The Palace is also a key factor in the city's Bicentennial "Outlook '76" program. This involves a committee of downtown merchants devoted to pursuing a major downtown renewal project, planned for launching in July, 1976. Aim of the project: restoration of the

downtown area around a central theme, including traffic relocation and a pedestrian mall.

Restoration of the Palace could easily become an impetus for the entire program — an example of what could and should occur when people work together toward a worthwhile community objective.

Editorial support of all local media for the Palace Reborn has been quickly forthcoming.

Of the six county high schools, only two have theater-type auditoriums, neither seating more than 600. Ohio State University's Marion Campus' auditorium seats 400 with a miniscule stage and very limited theatrical facilities.

This limitation in facilities has severely restricted music, drama lecture and other educational programs requiring large assemblies of students. The survey of county schools (excluding Marion City) indicates a use of the Palace between 10 and 20 times a year. It is entirely possible that all educational institutions in the Marion Area could utilize the facility, 20 to 30 per cent of the available time.

Fund Drive

A community-wide campaign to raise a total of \$500,000 for the purchase and refurbishing of the Palace is underway.

Exhaustive studies by professional engineers and architects indicate that the building is structurally sound, but in need of repair and refurbishing if it is to be restored to a first-class theater facility.

Architects advise that a modern 1,500-seat auditorium would cost between \$5 and \$7 million. Even an 11-year-old appraisal of the building shows a value of over \$1 million, with land valued at more than \$100,000. (The PCAA

(Turn To Next Page)

Palace Reborn

(From Page 1)

has purchased the entire package — building and land — for the bargain price of \$75,000.)

The Palace Theater building, nearing its golden anniversary, still dominates the downtown area. With its golden brick Spanish style exterior occupying almost a half square-block, the building is easily the most unique in downtown Marion.

Summing up, the Palace has all the basic ingredients to make Marion a fully equipped, beautiful and acoustically marvelous cultural center for the arts. Combined with a modicum of repairs and refurbishing, a little loving care and attention by the people of the Marion area, and some astute business and artistic management, the Palace can be an asset of which every Central Ohioan may be proud.

In addition, the Palace has been included in the National Register of Historic Places, and will also be recognized as a historic site by the State of Ohio.

Palace Reborn

The Palace Theater reborn could easily become the heart of revitalized downtown Marion. It has happened wherever a downtown theater has been converted into a civic center for the arts: The Ohio Theater in Columbus, Powell Hall in St. Louis, Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Miami, and Fort Wayne.

It has been accomplished elsewhere, and not only in large cities. Adrian, Mich., for example, has successfully redone a 115-year-old opera house, lately operated as a movie theater, into a hugely successful county-wide center for the renaissance of the arts in central Michigan.

What else could the Palace be, besides a focal point for a reborn down-town Marion?

It could be the acoustically excellent auditorium the Marion City Schools have needed for years, in which to hold student shows, musicals, commencements, and lectures.

It could be the comfortable, fully equipped facility Marion's Little Theater group desperately needs, without the need for an expensive new building along with its requirement for a separate area-wide fare films.

It could be the home for the Marion Concert Association's programs . . . a home of which they may be proud, in its beauty and acoustic excellence.



The Palace Guard

The Palace Guard was a group of seven businessmen, civic and educational leaders who decided to explore the feasibility of preserving the Palace Theater as a center for the cultural arts. They are, from left to right, Frank Henson,

general manager of Whirlpool; John Keggan, president and owner of Marion Flower Shop; George Lane, director of music for city schools; Robert Babich, president and owner of Depot Sales, Inc.; Lyle DeVilling, director of

customer service for Fairfield Engineering; Dr. Stephen Stuart, superintendent of city schools, and Dr. Ted Myers, professor and associate director of Ohio State University, Marion.

It could be the auditorium needed so desperately by industry, lecture societies, civic groups, service clubs, labor unions, religious organizations, and anyone else needing to seat 400 to 1,500 people for whatever purpose.

It could be the reincarnation of an artistic triumph of yesteryear—a living legacy of past

grandeur, when carriages and big touring cars would disgorge nattily-clad men in spats, blazers and straw hats, with their elegantly coiffed and gowned ladies for gala premieres of the silver screen era of live vaudeville performances.

The Palace Theater can live again, to the benefit of all Marion and its surrounding area.

It would be all these things and more. But the Palace Theater can only be restored with the complete support of the community. Everyone must do his or her part.



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We At Readmor
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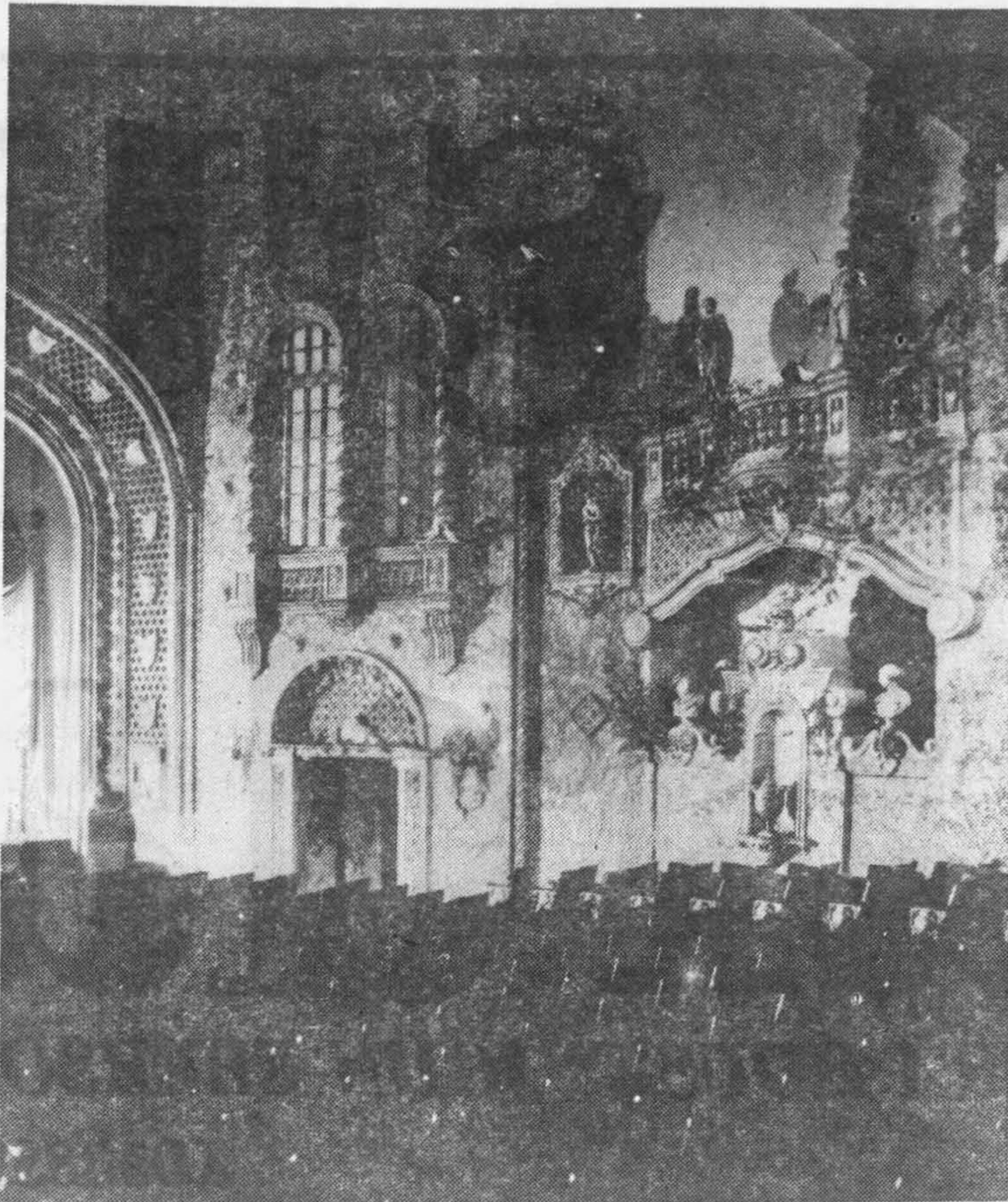
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WE HAVE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SUPER SATURDAY!



Spanish Interior

Spanish in design in all details, from the walls and mural decorations to the reproductions of period furniture in the lounges . . . the Palace

has been acclaimed by thousands as one of the world's most enchanting atmospheric theaters.

Curtains Up for the Palace

The Palace
For those who believe in the past,
and wish to build something for the
Future of Marion.

Let's make the dream a Reality.
We, at Great Scot, urge everyone to
SUPPORT PALACE REBORN

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John C. Keggan
Chairman of the Old
"PALACE GUARD"
President of the New "Palace
Cultural Arts Association"

I wish to take
This Opportunity
to Publicly
Express My
THANKS
And Appreciation
to the Other Six
Members of the

PALACE GUARD . . .

These Men Have Given Generously and are
Continuing to Give of Their Time Talent and
Efforts to the cause of preserving.

the PALACE THEATRE

Without Them This Effort Could Not
and Would Not Have Succeeded.

To You Bob Babich, Lyle DeVilling,
Frank Henson, George Lane, Ted Myers
and Steve Stewart, my sincerest
and most heartfelt

THANK YOU!

John C. Keggan

This Message Sponsored
by the

MARION FLOWER SHOP

John C. Keggan, Owner, Manager

super saturday night

A TRIBUTE TO "OPERA HOUSE" JOHN EBERSON, PALACE THEATRE, SAT., MARCH 6th, 1976
ADMISSION ONLY \$2.00 PER PERSON.

Super Saturday Night Begins At 8:00 P.M.
A SUPER NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT!

TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Bob North

ORGANIST: Morry Kline

- MOON Presents "Music That's Out Of This World"
- LAUREL & HARDY'S *The Music Box*
- DOROTHY JENNINGS, PIANIST
- "THE PALACE REBORN" Prepared By Marion Audio Visual Productions
- INTERMISSION
- LAWRENCE LANE & THE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
- MARION Y.M.C.A. LITTLE THEATRE Presents "A Bit of Broadway"
- TEASERS & TRAILERS, *Types Of Filmfare For The future*
- BOONIE THE MAGICIAN



JOHN EBERSON, ARCHITECT

Hammond Organ
Furnished by
HARDEN'S MUSIC
Marion, Ohio

Plan \$500,000 Marion Theater

(Reprinted from The Marion Star—July 19, 1927)

Marion is to have a new theater building estimated to cost \$500,000 and which will be, it is claimed, equal in dimensions and architecture of any theater in the country in cities of Marion's size.

The theater, which is included in plans for a building to be erected at the northwest corner of W. Center and Campbell streets, will have a

seating capacity of at least 1,500 and it may finally be decided to fix its capacity at 2,000.

These preliminary plans were presented last night by officials of the Young Amusement Co., a Gary, Ind. corporation, following the signing of a contract for purchase of the building site and completion of other details which definitely consummated the project.

The site, to be purchased from George D. Copeland, has a frontage of 120 feet on W. Center St. and 130 feet on Campbell St. The theater building will occupy the entire site. The purchase contract was signed last night by Mr. Copeland and officials of the Young Amusement Co. and deed for the formal transfer will be made within a few weeks it was announced.

The site consists of two large

lots. The one at the corner of Center and Campbell streets has been vacant for several years and the lot at the west is now occupied by a double frame dwelling, which is to be removed. The theater's building frontage on Center St. will extend from Campbell St. west to the lot on which the Copeland residence is located.

Work on plans for the building is now under way and will be completed in four to five weeks, officials of the Young Amusement Co. stated. Construction work will then be started as soon as contracts can be let, which is scheduled before the close of the summer.

The building will not be completed and the theater ready for opening before early in the fall of 1928, according to plans outlined at this time. Months of painstaking work will be required to finish the theater interior, which is to be a masterpiece of modern decorative artistry, it was stated.

Plans are to be drawn by John Ebersson, of Chicago who ranks as one of the country's theater architects. Mr. Ebersson designed the Palace theaters at Gary, Ind. and Canton, O., which are owned and operated by the Young Amusement Co. and also many other playhouses throughout the country. Among his notable pieces of work are the Palace Theater at Miami,

Fla., and the Palace Theater in Chicago. The latter was one of the first "atmospheric" decorative designs ever built in this country.

Consummation of the project was the result of several months of negotiations directed by R. T. Lewis Co. of this city and Adler and Laursen Co., Canton real estate firm.

Before deciding to close the deal, the Young Amusement Co., its officials state, made a thorough survey of Marion and its surrounding territory over a radius of over 30 miles to ascertain its business possibilities from a theater standpoint. The investigation fully satisfied them they state, that a theater of the big city size will be a profitable venture here.



Main Lobby Of Palace Reflects Spanish Decor

PALACE RESTORATION FUND

To further the development of the Palace Theater, and in consideration of the gifts of others, I we subscribe the sum of:

_____ Dollars (\$ _____)

to be paid: Annually (\$ _____); Semi-annually (\$ _____); Quarterly (\$ _____)

or (\$ _____) per year for _____ years or as follows:

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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Gifts are deductible as provided by law. Please make checks payable to: Palace Cultural Arts Association (P.C.A.A.), P.O. Box 462, Marion, Ohio 43302.



Amt. Subscribed

Paid Herewith

Balance

Date Payment to Start

Volunteer

Palace born 1928 Palace Reborn 1976

Over the years, Marion entertainment has been the Palace. True, the Palace is a connection with the past, but, more than that, it's a legacy to the future.

Now, our community has the chance to do justice to the Grand Dream of John Ebersson.

We join all of Marion in saluting that Dream.

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SATURDAY!

AND SUPER JOB "PALACE REBORN"!

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MARION DIVISION

Super Saturday Is A Super Occasion.

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Association.**

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We, at Van Atta Supply, strongly urge you to give any support you can to the Palace Reborn project.

The Palace is a requisite for Marion; For our youth, our cultural needs, and our continued growth.

SUPPORT PALACE REBORN

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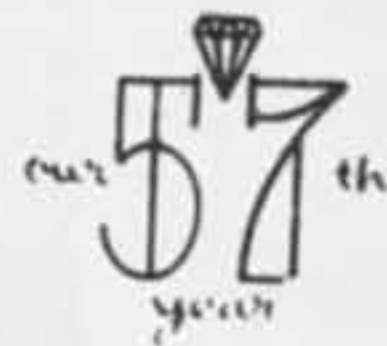
Super Saturday Night is Super for Marion

For 92 years, Marion Power Shovel and its employees have called Marion their home. For 48 of those years, The Palace Theatre has been the focal point of Marion's entertainment scene. Thanks to "Opera House John," Marion has a jewel of a theater. Now it's up to our community to polish up the setting, so we and our children can continue to delight in our Palace.

**The 2,500 people of Marion Power Shovel wish
Success to the Palace Restoration Campaign
and urge the entire community to get behind
The Palace Reborn**

MARION Marion
Power Shovel
Company, Inc.

We Keep America Digging



*In 1928 the Palace Theatre opened it's doors.
That was 48 years ago and we were 9 years young
and 1st in Diamonds.*



*48 years later the Palace is being reborn.
We are 57 years young and still 1st in Diamonds.*

*May's Jeweler is a family owned and locally
operated store dedicated to serving the public with
the finest in Diamonds.*

We Pledge to you . . .

. . . the continued use of the latest and most modern equipment to assure you the utmost in cut, clarity and color of the diamond in which you wish to invest. A diamond is forever, for a lifetime of proud possession. We also pledge to you, to make available the largest possible selection from which to choose your diamond, for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or any special occasion. May's offer the ultimate in service . . . because we at May's do not consider the purchase complete until the customer is satisfied. The May's organization has been built and is devoted to the satisfaction of it's customers. Thank you.

May's has the diamonds that she will appreciate for the remainder of her life and be an everlasting reminder of your love and devotion and for generations that follow her.

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