



Palace Seats Being Removed

Palace In Repair; New Gifts Reported

The Palace doors closed temporarily last week. The next time they open, for the premiere performance of Marion Community Theatre's "1776" on July 8, the reborn Palace will be a dressed-up showplace for central Ohio entertainment.

During the intervening 90 days, the theater's interior will be totally refurbished, from new carpet on the floor to twinkling stars in the repainted midnight-blue firmament.

Three recent major gifts by Marion business and industry, plus an outpouring of support for the Palace Chairholders seat campaign, were reported Sunday night to a meeting of the board of the Palace Cultural Arts Association. Restoration fund campaign chairman John Courtright, Jr. announced that the Marion Division of Eaton Corp. has contributed \$20,000 to the Palace campaign.

William Roberts, plant

manager, presented the Palace with a check for \$10,000 with the remaining \$10,000 to be forthcoming in 1977.

Another major industrial gift to the Palace is an \$8,000 contribution by Central Soya Corporation, which operates a major grain terminal and processing plant here. Central Soya plant manager Robert Kellerman presented a check for the entire pledge to Courtright last week.

Another local business, L & K Enterprises, Division of consolidated Foods, Inc., has pledged \$6,000 to the Palace Fund, according to Robert Ludwig, president of L & K.

Courtright reported that dollars contributed per Chairholder have exceeded expectations, indicating the tremendous support for the Palace project on the part of those contacted. Total pledges in the Chairholder campaign now approach \$100,000, he told the board, even though there are still some 700 seats available for personal or business sponsorship. He said any person, family or business may have an inscribed plaque mounted on the back of a new Palace seat for a contribution of \$150, or \$300 for an aisle seat with original Palace end-standard.

Reporting on progress within the theater, facilities chairman Lyle DeVilling said all of the old aisle standards already have been removed by technicians from American Seating Corp., and the old seats discarded. The original standards are being shipped to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they will be refinished for re-installation with the new

seats in June.

The auditorium floor is scheduled for refinishing and painting by Askew Decorating, the same firm which will be cleaning and refinishing the interior walls and ceiling. This work is on schedule, as is plumbing, cooling and electrical work now going on during the period the theater is closed, to minimize inconvenience to theatergoers this summer and fall.

The PCAA board approved the choice of new carpeting for installation in aisles, lounges, staircases and balcony. The nylon Axminster, to be installed by Lennon Furniture Co., is of highest quality and durability available. The design, Spanish in motif and in tones of wine, red, and gold, was recommended by theater architect Drew Ebersson, son of the Palace's original designer, John Ebersson. Total carpet contract is for \$22,625, installed.

DeVilling also told the board the special lighting for Marion Community Theatre thrust-stage presentations has been ordered and will be installed as the theater walls and ceiling are being refurbished.