

Theater

Humason buys building

Hanford real estate broker J. Daniel Humason announced Friday he and his wife, Wilma, have purchased the Hanford Theater building complex at the intersection of Irwin Street and Lacey Boulevard.

The Hanford Theater has been up for sale for several years, but owners were tying the sale to plans to construct a multi-screen theater someplace in the Hanford area.

Humason said his decision to purchase the property was made abruptly three weeks ago when he contacted owners regarding construction of the new theater.

Humason is the agent for a group of local property owners who have been negotiating with theater owners, Theater Properties Inc. of San Francisco, for construction of the new facility.

Construction plans were interrupted last year when Roy Cooper, president of Theater Properties, died.

Humason told The Hanford Sentinel he contacted the San Francisco firm three weeks ago to obtain an update on the proposed multi-screen theater.

According to Humason, he learned at that time that the theater owners were renewing efforts to sell the 1920 vintage building, without tying the sale to construction of a new theater. He indicated sales terms were made more flexible.

Humason said he decided to buy the building because he feared it would be purchased by "some out-of-towners who would not be sensitive to the architectural integrity of the building."

Humason refused to disclose the amount he paid for the building.

He said his long range plans for the building are undecided, but he will continue the existing rentals. In addition to the theater, the complex houses offices for Kings County Community Action Organization, Cancer Society, barbershop, health food store, record shop, garden shop, and warehouse.

Theater Properties closed the theater portion of the building on Sept. 15.

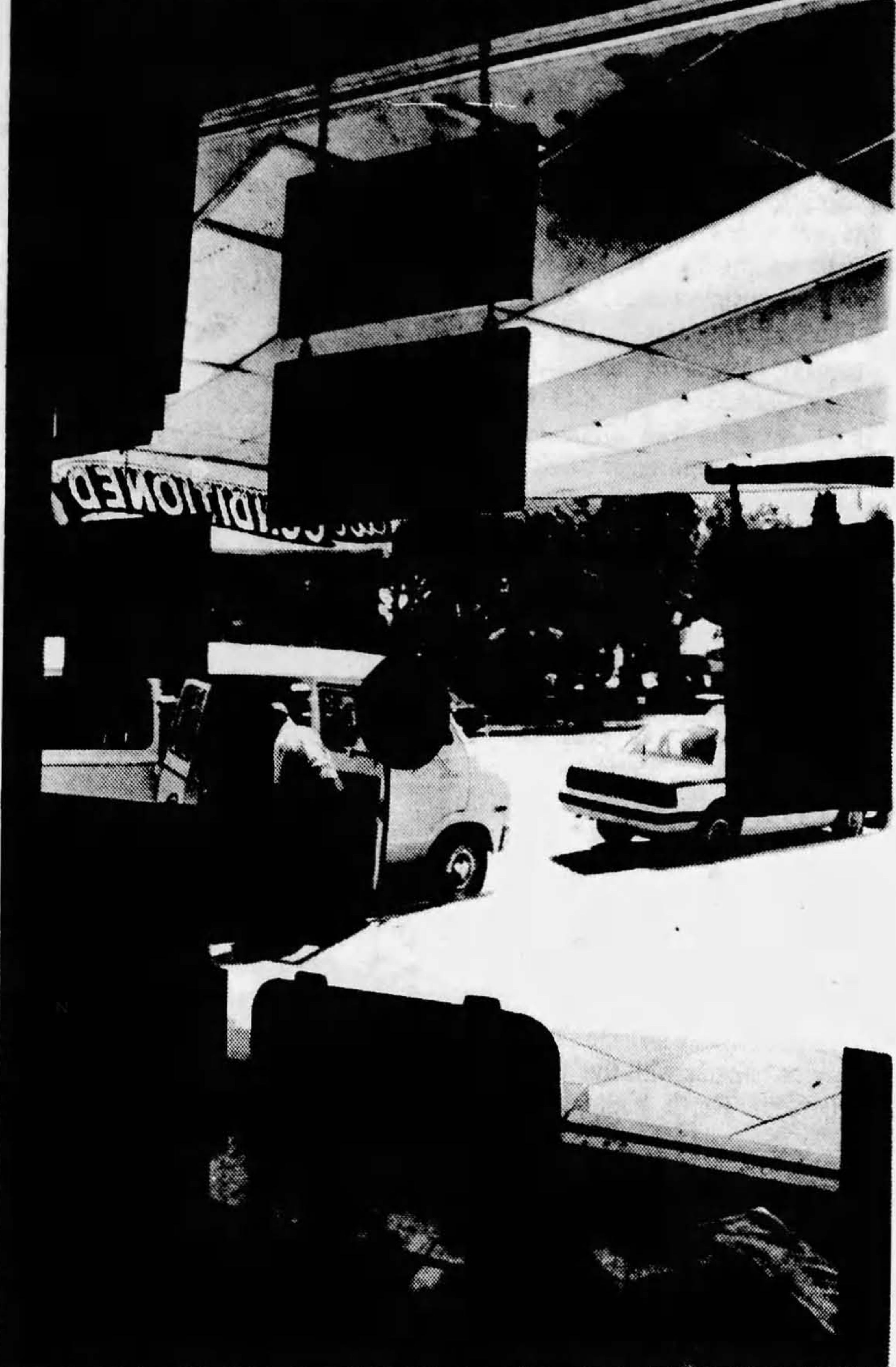
Humason said until procedures to purchase the property are completed — sometime within the next six months — he will not make any statement as to his plans for the theater use.

He did say that the theater is "community oriented and I would like it to stay that way, one way or another.

"When you think about it, it is the largest slope floor auditorium in Hanford," he pointed out, adding that the theater was constructed during the early days of talking movies. Fearing these movies might not be successful, theater owners constructed the building to also accommodate vaudeville, he said.

According to Humason, the theater has the unique asset of being able to accommodate both film and live performances.

Although the theater has been closed by Theater Properties, a few advance commitments, including an upcoming religious performance, will be honored. From time to time the theater will be used to stage these previously booked activities.



Sentinel Photo by Gary Funk

From the interior of a now idle box office, workers are photographed removing equipment from the Hanford Theater and loading it into a van. Theater Properties Inc. sold the building to Hanford real estate broker J. Daniel Humason. The theater closed Sept. 15.