

Palace Theater to reopen tonight

By Pat Norman

Beacon Journal staff writer

Pearl Ink wouldn't miss the grand opening tonight of the Palace Theater in Canton.

Mrs. Ink, 79, is the widow of James Ink, whose father built the theater for \$1 million in 1926.

The theater, which closed in 1976, will reopen at 7:30 tonight with the film *The Sound of Music*. The movie, which played the Palace for 42 weeks, a theater record, will be repeated at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

The 1978 film *Autumn Sonata*, starring Ingrid Bergman, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

"I'VE ALWAYS said if you want to charm people, bring

them music — an international language," Mrs. Ink said. "I think the selection of *The Sound of Music* for the grand opening is excellent.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the renovations in the theater, especially the new curtain. . . . I'm glad the theater association has agreed to bring good family entertainment to the stage. I'd put up a fight if it was otherwise."

The Palace reopened briefly in 1978 when Ronald and Alice Rocco brought a number of entertainers to town, but last year it closed again, and the Canton Jaycees launched a drive to buy and restore it.

"THE ACOUSTICS will never be equaled," Mrs. Ink said. "I

have a perfect pitch ear and I've heard music in other buildings that has put my teeth on edge because of the echoes. That doesn't happen at the Palace."

Mrs. Ink said she believes the theater will be a success because "a lot of people realize it's different from any other building in town and they care."

She said she would like to hear good orchestras, singers, classic movies and the type of family entertainment the Ink family wanted.

Mrs. Ink is a graduate of Mount Union College and Johns Hopkins University medical school. She was a medical mis-

sionary in Nigeria and taught high school in Canton before going into practice in Cleveland.

She married Ink in 1970 after they renewed their friendship at the 50th reunion of the McKinley High School Class of 1918, she said.

THE PALACE was designed by John Eberson, the architect for the Akron Civic Theatre.

Many of the original furnishings were brought from European castles, including cement water fountains used as huge ash trays and Spanish style mirrors, lamps, chairs and bookcases.

The theater, at 605 N. Market Ave., can seat 1,800.