

Splendiferous Bash

Palace Opening Night Re-Created

The performance of a special song, vaudeville acts, the unveiling of the "Mighty Wurlitzer," and Astonishing Neal are just a few of the acts and surprises highlighting the 50th anniversary of the Palace Theatre.

This year's celebration has been tailored to be reminiscent of the original opening night in 1928. In addition, an art show also is being sponsored to commemorate the event.

To be performed by Bob Erickson and members of his Dixieland Band, "The Palace Theatre 50th Anniversary Two-Step," was written by former Marionite Mark Milner. The musician wrote the piece especially for the Aug. 30 celebration.

In addition, the band also will perform a

selection of Roaring 20's songs to help those attending capture the splendor of the first opening night.

Another highlight of the evening's events will be the unveiling of the "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ. The Wurlitzer, which is a vintage 1924 pipe organ, has been restored and installed in the theater by a crew of workers led by Tom Yannitell.

Columbus organist Dennis James will christen the organ by playing it in the theater for the first time.

The Astonishing Neal, a paramentalist said to be able to explode flash cubes by emitting mental electrical energy, also will perform. In a news release issued about Neal, it was stated

walking barefoot on glass does not bother him. Nor does it faze him, the released continued, to run a lighted match over his palm.

This act is to be reminiscent of Harry Kahne, another mentalist who amazed first-nighters at the Palace 50 years ago.

Some of the theater's original silent movies also will be shown.

Tickets for the anniversary party are available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the theater box office, 276 W. Center St., or by calling 383-2101.

Public viewing of the art exhibit to be held in conjunction with the festivities will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 and from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 2. Entrance to the exhibit will be at

280 W. Center St.

Persons wanting to display art works in the show can enter their pieces Aug. 26 and 27.

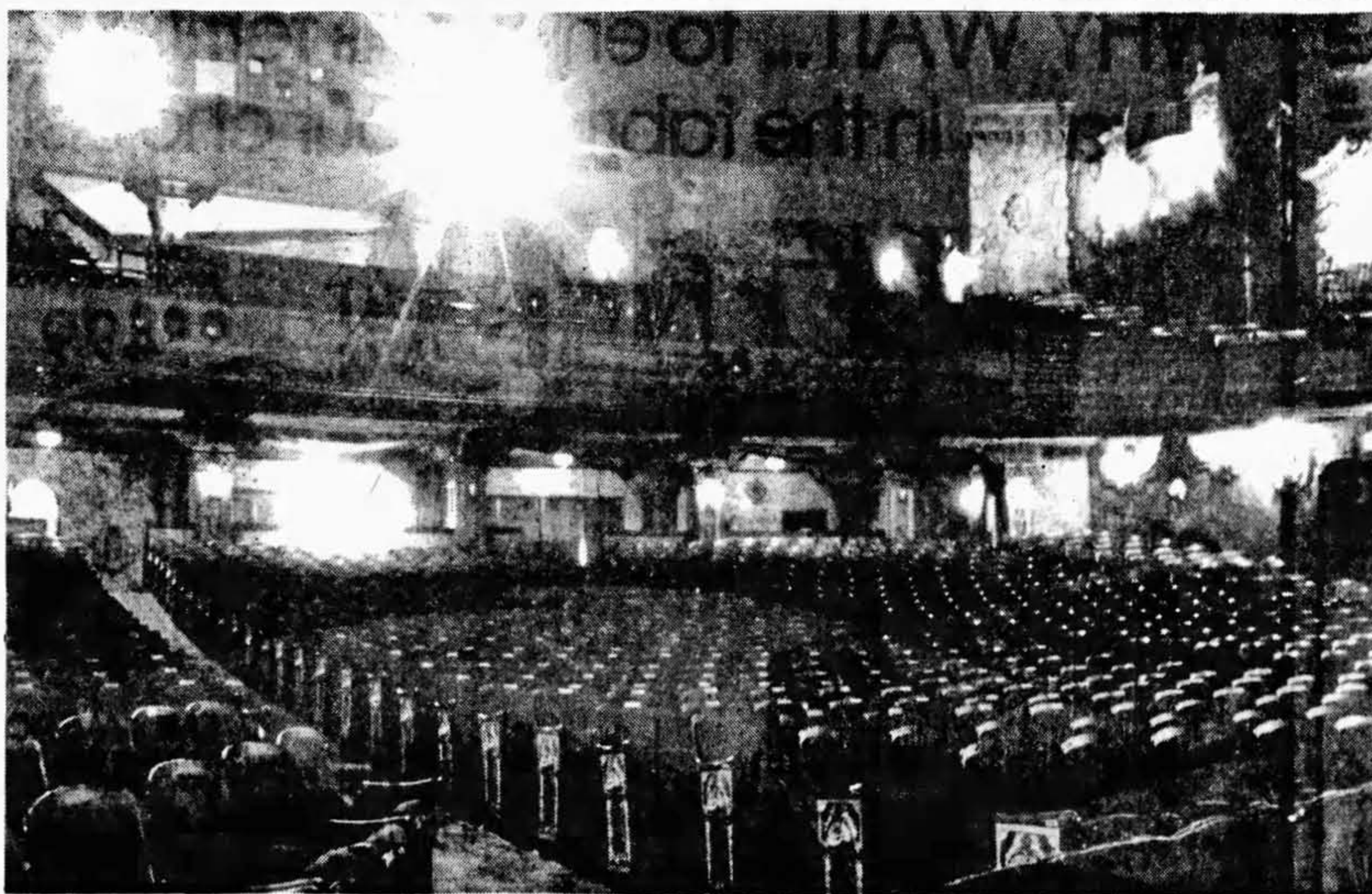
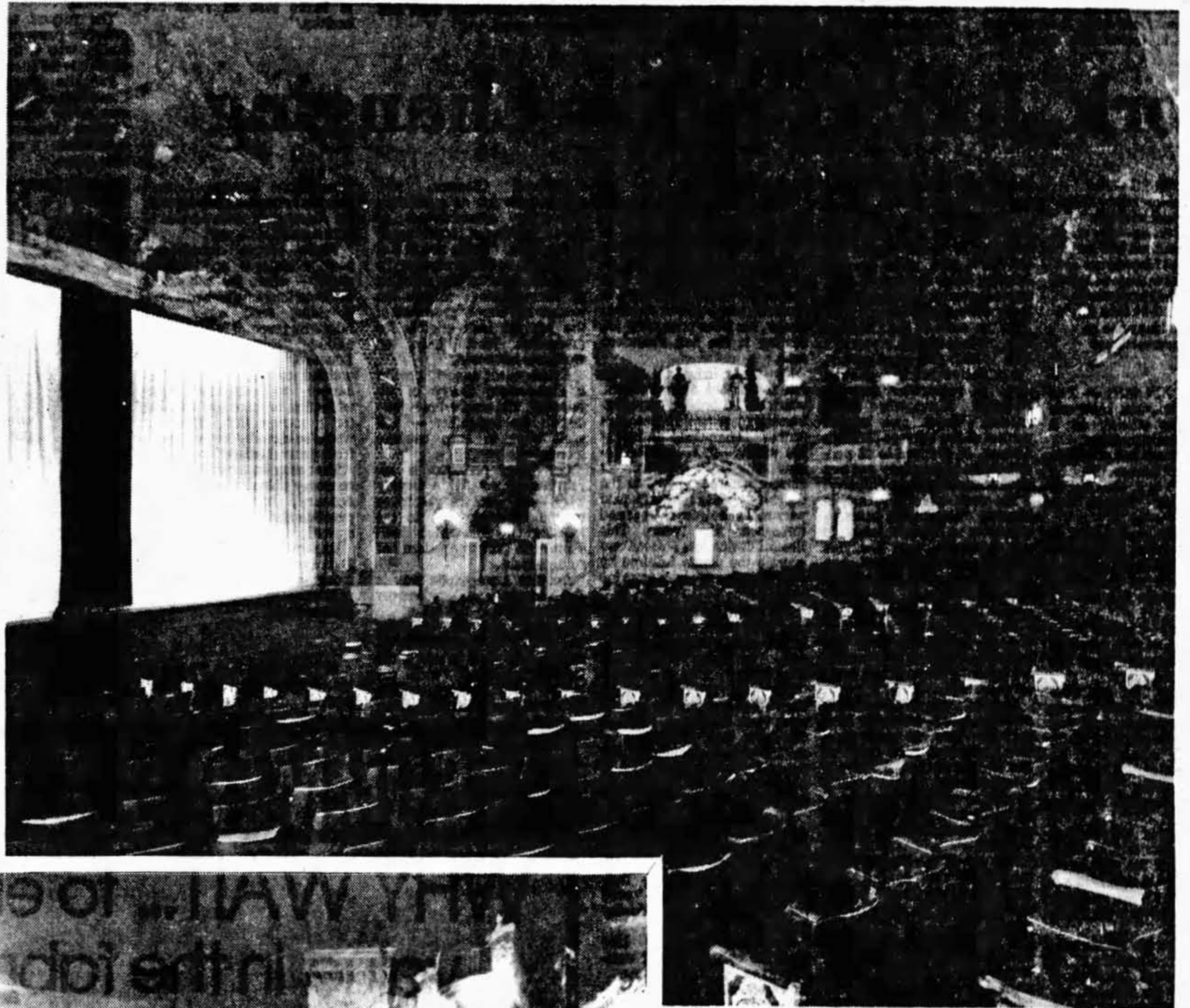
In addition, \$500 in prizes will be awarded to art works dealing specifically with the theater, its heritage or the programs sponsored there.

Entry categories include oil, acrylics, watercolors, drawings, graphics, mixed media, photography, sculpture, pottery and textiles.

Various activities have been planned to present an evening of entertainment in honor of a theater that will celebrate its 50th anniversary because of community support which enabled complete restoration of the vintage gathering place.



**Theater Marquee
Announces The Celebration**



Community Support Enabled Complete Restoration Of Vintage Movie House



**Unveiling Of The "Mighty Wurlitzer"
Will Highlight The Festivities**

**Photos By
Bill Snider
And Courtesy
Of
Palace Theatre**



Volunteers Donate Time To Operate The Ticket Booth And Concession Stand Area