



Rep. Henry J. Nowak announces a \$693,000 grant to turn Shea's Buffalo into an arts center. In the background on the ornate mezzanine is a three-manual Page organ console, planned for the lobby.

(Robert L. Smith Photo) — Courtesy of Buffalo Evening News

## SHEA'S BUFFALO GETS FEDERAL GRANT

Not so long ago, 30 organ buffs, got together when the Shea's Buffalo Theatre was threatened with extinction, paid \$1 apiece in dues and formed the Friends of the Buffalo, headed by Curt Mangel.

The organization now numbers about 2000 and on August 31, received a grant of \$693,000 from the Economic Development Administration to turn the theatre into a regional arts center.

The money will go for repair of the roof, refurbishing of the interior, restoration of the organ and reconditioning the heating and air systems.

Representative Henry J. Nowak of Buffalo, who served on the congressional sub-committee, attended the presentation and said, "I visualize this grant as a beginning of total revitalization of downtown. Hopefully these funds will also act as a catalyst for private investment."

The theatre's executive director, Charles F. Chauncey, called the grant, "the gold at the end of the rainbow." Now we can put our facility in first class shape."

About \$75,000 will be spent to put the 4/28 Wurlitzer in shape. The committee received suggestions from Ashley Miller, Billy Nalle, Allen Miller and Tom Gnaster. We expect to replace the combination action with a solid state system and may replace the aging relays with a scanner system. Contracts will be let out and hopes are the organ will be ready for next fall when the theatre refurbishing will be completed.

Plays, opera, music, dance and movies are being scheduled for the coming season.

The Friends, grown from 30 charter members to nearly 2000, have managed to save Buffalo's (as Ben Hall would have called it) "Palace of Splendor." □

## NEW YORK DEBUT

Lance Luce, a Motor City Chapter member, has made his "debut" at Carnegie Hall Cinema in a most unusual way — on tape.

Having heard Lance play his new Yamaha E 70 while on a recent concert tour in Detroit, Lee Erwin requested him to make a few tapes to be played during intermissions on the days silent films are shown at the theatre.

The audience, which is composed mostly of young people, is a critical one but they are enthusiastic about Lance's style of playing and the selections he recorded (which was exactly the kind of music Lee asked for). □

## PIZZA ORGAN IN FORT WAYNE

Mr. Calvin Prott, Fort Wayne theatre organist, entertains several evenings each week at the Golden-Voiced Barton theatre pipe organ, recently installed in the Village Inn Pizza Parlor in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Built in 1929 by the Bartola Musical Instrument Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the Orpheum Theatre in Green Bay, Wisconsin, it remained there until 1946 when it was moved to Zion Lutheran Church, Monroe, Michigan. The theatrical effects were removed and it was used continuously until 1971 when it was purchased by Mr. William Zabel. It was purchased by the Village Inn in 1975.

The organ was restored by Mr. George Smafield of Rockford, Illinois, and Mr. Richard Matthews of Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Prott is engaged in other musical activities including entertaining at social functions as well as nursing homes. He is also assistant organist and pianist in his church and, in his spare time, is chief engineer at Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne. He is supported in his musical career by his wife, Grace, and son, Randy. □

Calvin Prott at the Barton in the Village Inn Pizza Parlor, Ft. Wayne.

