

man he was, truly an artist in wood-working!

"Life, beautiful as it was in those times, was quite routine. However, once comedian Jerry Lewis decided to sit across the four manuals as I played! This resulted in the blowing of an army of cartridge fuses in the action current circuits of the organ. Busy moments followed as I manned the phone to page Dan, first at home, then at the local super markets, so that I could find out where the fuse box was located. Once found, Dan gave me a verbal map as to where one could find the fuses. It was not unlike a pirate map for hidden treasure!

"During those late days when the budget tightened, Dan often proved his ingenuity in 'making do' with various and sundry things to keep the great Paramount Wurlitzer humming.

"In my book *Flashback — American Adventure*, which is nearly finished (May 1977), I mention that while I enjoyed meeting and working with the great names of Hollywood and Broadway in off-hours, I enjoyed more the fraternity of projectionists, stage hands, carpenters and management staff. Dan certainly was a most loved part of the crew at the Paramount. The great Wurlitzer was glorious to the end. The gifted hands of Dan Papp kept it so.

"Thank you for asking me to be a part of this tribute."

TO BE CONTINUED

Oakland Paramount Prepares for Premiere

Final steps in the painstaking restoration and installation of the Oakland Paramount Theatre's four-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ are underway, according to Peter Botto, general manager.

The seven-year project will be complete this fall in time for the theatre's golden anniversary celebration, Botto said.

A concert featuring the renowned George Wright is planned for the premiere performance on November 7, 1981 at 8:30 p.m.

The Paramount, donated to the City of Oakland by the Oakland Symphony Orchestra Association in 1975, had a Wurlitzer when it opened in 1931 but the instrument was sold and moved from the theatre in the 1960s.

Because of the national interest created by the successful restoration and reopening of the theatre eight years ago, a 56-year-old console, pipes and parts have been donated or made available for purchase to replace the originals.

Donations from individuals, cor-

porations and foundations have paid for the restoration and installation project. Those funds were matched by a grant from California's Office of Historic Preservation to the Paramount.

The project requires much attention to detail in assembling thousands of parts from the giant 25-horsepower blower to the small treble pipes located high in the organ chambers in the walls of the theatre auditorium.

When installed, the pipe organ will have one of the most complete and versatile tonal designs in the nation, according to Botto.

Several prominent organists and pipe organ experts have helped design the instrument's tonal scheme, he added.

The four-manual console will control 27 ranks of pipes, numerous percussion instruments including a piano, xylophone, mandolin, cymbals, two harps, and 13 tremulants as well as 96 individual swell motors.

The electrical system will have one of the largest digital solid-state relay and switch systems to be used in a pipe organ, according to Botto.

A digital tape player will allow for exact reproduction of concerts.

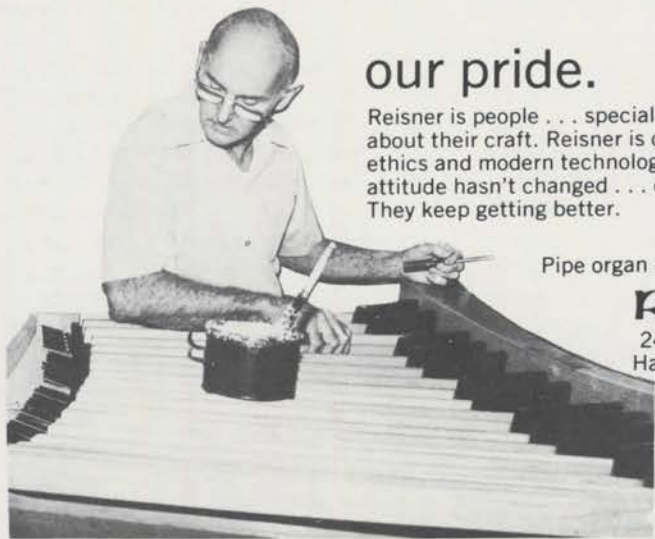
The Paramount was one of the first survivors of the departed era of the movie palace to be restored for use as a performing arts hall.

That project, completed in 1973, has been a model for numerous similar restorations throughout the country, Botto explained.

The theatre is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has earned historic landmark status from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the State of California and the City of Oakland.

Oakland's symphony and ballet are resident companies at the Paramount. The theatre is used by touring stage companies, popular concert artists and nationally-known annual events including the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and the National Educational Film Festival. □

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