



Allen Park Symphony Orchestra.



Tony O'Brien (left) and Dr. James Hammann, Conductor.

Something New at The Redford

by Dorothy VanSteenkiste

"A Night At The Movie Palace" was presented at the Redford Theatre by the Allen Park Symphony Orchestra. Dr. James Hammann, Conductor of the sixty-piece Allen Park Symphony Orchestra planned and directed the evening of entertainment.

There was a little bit of everything. The program started with the orchestra playing the "Poet and Peasant" overture. The Taylor Ballet Company presented "Americana" with Joy Squire as their director. Then it was organ selections featuring Tony O'Brien and his dynamic keyboard artistry at the Barton Theatre Organ.

Following intermission there was an air of excitement as both the orchestra and Tony O'Brien accompanied the silent movie *Phantom Of The Opera* with Lon Chaney. Soprano Julie Costa sang the "Jewel Song" during the operatic portion of the movie. The program climaxed with the playing of the "William Tell Overture."

The Allen Park Symphony Orchestra, celebrating their 35th year, is very well-known in the State of Michigan for their fine performances. Conductor Dr. James Hammann is also the Director of Music for the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit and the Southeastern Michigan Choral Society. He holds degrees in organ performance from Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan. He is well-known for his one man show "Old Bach," a presentation where he dons costume and wig, plays the organ and harpsichord, and recreates moments in the composer's life.

Report From The Renaissance

by Virginia White

The organ music has been reverberating from the chambers of the Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield, Ohio. It came from our Sunday afternoon programs played on our wonderful Hollywood-Kearns Wurlitzer by some of the best artists on the circuit. The organ has also been used for many local productions and movies.

When Paul Harvey was here for an evening commentary, he was amazed to find such a beautiful instrument playing as he was introduced. He seemed so impressed, that on his return to his Chicago microphone he told the story of this organ on two separate newscasts.

Unfortunately, there are too many people who do not attend the theatre. Perhaps we need some suggestions for better promotion. The use of the organ gave so much entertainment in the days of early silent movies and radio. The youth of today need to be introduced to this other sound of sharps and flats that

can be lively and loud, but also with much expression.

We are nearing the start of another series of programs. As of this writing, all of the artists have not committed to definite dates. The schedule will be revealed in an upcoming issue.

We are most appreciative of the fellowship of the Central Ohio Organ Society of Columbus, Ohio. A large number of their members travel north to enjoy our Wurlitzer.

Again this year the Thursday noon Brown Bag programs will be going on for nine weeks. They prove to be a cool respite, not only for office workers but also the older residents living in the downtown area.

The theatre will soon be celebrating its 10th anniversary. It's hard to believe that the scraping of old paint and scrubbing of floors has been so long ago. If you are traveling across the U.S.A. on route 30 or 71, plan to drop by, if only to see a beautifully restored theatre.