



Lee talks to his audience seated at the 3/8 Barton. — (Photo by Ben Bush)



Bob McKinnon, leader of the WMTOC, and Lee Erwin discuss the program.

Muskegon Has Full House

The February snowstorm nearly prevented the organist from getting to Muskegon but didn't deter 1850 townspeople from filling the theatre.



The activities of the West Michigan Theatre Organ Club are centered, for the main, around a 3/8 Barton in the Michigan Theatre in Muskegon, Michigan. Muskegon to some may sound like a jumping off place. It is, particularly if you have in mind, swimming to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is across Lake Michigan from Muskegon. Despite the relatively small size of the organ, those in the know refer to it as "The Big Sounding Barton" which probably best describes the acoustics inherent in the theatre, which was built in 1930.

Lee Erwin was in our town on February 7 to do his thing with the Barton. He did so before a sell-out crowd in the 1850 seat Michigan Theatre. After an opening concert, the audience then took their turn and in their customary enthusiastic manner participated in the sing-along. They heartily joined in for the tongue twisters, parodies, and our own local "Muskegon Country" song. The climax to the whole sing-along came in the final number when the entire crowd stood for "God Bless America". After intermission, the silent, *Son of the Sheik* with the legendary Valentino, was presented with Lee accompanying at the Barton.

In discussing the evening's success, after the show, Lee raised the question as to what the population of this "jumpin' off place" was, and when informed it was about 100,000 he quickly countered with the statistic that we had two percent of our population in the theatre that night which indicates another successful program from the W.M.T.O.C. □