

Demolition of Academy Theatre Front Recalls Academy of Music

DEMOLITION
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since some of our resources are in pledges, there is a much wider gap between our needs and cash on hand", continues the report to the Foundation members.

The foundation expects some of the needed money will be forthcoming in the campaign to take place this summer. This does not provide an immediate source of revenue, however, and the foundation hopes some people will be able to make their 1964 contribution in the near future.

The Academy Theatre project is also before the Lindsay Centennial Committee as one of the contenders for the centennial grants.



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While the chattering sound of the automatic compressor is heard at the demolition scene on Lindsay street where the old Academy Theatre is undergoing complete renovation, many people stop to watch the men at work and witness the demolition of the front of the venerable old theatre.

The picture above will bring back memories to many "Post" readers and perhaps in particular many former residents of Lindsay who now live in many distant parts of Canada and farther abroad.

The Music Store operated by William H. Roenick was located in the south front corner of the old theatre. Mr. Roenick owned and operated the Academy of Music, which the theatre was known by. He was also for many years Band master of the Sylvester Band, the old 45th Regimental Band and then the Lindsay Citizen's Band. In the picture will be noticed the advertising of the Edison Phonograph and Edison Records, the popular musical contraption of the day. Hundreds of copies of sheet music were also good sellers as the people of the day relied on the piano as the popular musical instrument. Among the people pictured in the old photograph are W. H. Roenick, Dora Roenick, an accomplished pianist, one of the famous Pepper twins who was part of a musical act which made good on Broadway, N.Y. and on stages in European countries. H. Meehan, also a former owner and manager of the Theatre as well as Miss Gloria Hackson, Miss R. Webber and her father. Mr. Webber operated a candy and confectionery store where Ernie McCaLder now operates a cigar store.

Back To The Present

Dr. C. W. M. Service, President of the Academy Theatre Foundation, and A. B. Patterson, Secretary in a jointly signed letter have sent members of the foundation a report to keep them informed of the progress.

The Fall campaign for \$65,000 exceeded the objective in cash and pledges, states the letter and continues "You will remember that we set a further goal of an endowment of \$100,000 as a means of pro-

viding some annual income for the operation and maintenance of the theatre. At the moment, a committee is at work under the chairmanship of A. E. Hick to carry forward the next stage of the fund raising programme. This campaign will seek the support of the year-round and summer residents of the County of Victoria and other adjacent areas."

The report states the theatre will be closed until July 3rd and renovations to the exterior of the theatre in an "Early Canadian" or modified Colonial style, reconstruction of the interior, including work on the

stage is underway by the contractors Morrow Construction Company. This stage will cost up to \$45,000.

"In the intensive discussion and committee work that has gone on during the winter, we have discovered, not surprisingly, that to renovate the theatre completely and adequately will cost \$89,000. This does not include the purchase price of the theatre, \$17,500. Thus, in spite of the success of our campaign, there is still a wide disparity between our needs and our resources, and

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