

## THE ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Orchids for the Little Theatre group, the Rotary, Lions, Kinsmen and Kiwanis service clubs, as well as other organizations for setting up the Academy Theatre Foundation. This grand old building (the Academy) which was just about to pass into oblivion will be preserved for future generations—thanks to the above organizations. The Academy of Music (as it was first called) is recognized as one of the finest theatres to be found in the Province. It is well over half a century old and was built and operated by a stock company which failed. The ownership then passed into the hands of William Needler, William Sadler and Alex Ross, the latter gentleman being the father of Dr. John A. Ross, Kent Street west. The first Manager was Fred Burke, who previously operated Lindsay's pioneer opera house which was located in the top storey of the present Town Hall. Some years later the Academy became the property of Wm. Roenigk who conducted a music store in Lindsay and was also Bandmaster of the Sylvester Band. The late W. Seldon (Hi) Meehan became Manager and later on a partner with Mr. Roenigk. With the demise of many theatres in Ontario, due to the advent of picture houses the Academy theatre was eventually leased for a term of years to 20th Century. Recently when there was the danger of the building being closed and sold to commercial interests the movement to launch a Theatre Foundation caught fire and the enthusiasm of a number of community-minded citizens resulted in the launching of the Academy Theatre Foundation. A campaign will be undertaken to raise \$50,000 to buy the building and completely remodernize the structure interior and exterior. Proceeds of the annual Kiwanis Show will go toward this Fund. Citizens in general are urged to give their support to the appeal.