

Citizens who were in attendance at the Academy Theatre Saturday night at the concert provided by the Woodstock Choralaires heard the M. C. pay a fine tribute to the accommodation, the excellent

acoustics and the general acceptability of the old theatre as a fine concert auditorium. He said: "This Choral group has been heard in many halls in Ontario, has performed in the United States and in England and this is the finest art centre we have been in." All of which should stir a bit of new enthusiasm among local citizens.

The place was rightly named the "The Academy of Music" and strange to relate it was more frequently in use several years ago than in recent years, one reason being that the theatre did not have to compete with the fine productions heard over the air as provided to-day.

Lindsay was blessed with an abundance of good talent in yester years and the theatre also accommodated many travelling show companies. The magnificent building of to-day was built in the days of William Needler and Alex. Ross, the latter gentleman being the father of Dr. John Ross, Kent Street, West.

The first shows were held in the old town hall when the hall extended the full length of the top storey from west to east.

Historically it is worth repeating that Sir John A. McDonald at one time delivered an address to the public from a small balcony at the east end of the hall.

As a matter of history, a visiting professional high-wire artist lost his life while walking a high wire between the theatre and the second storey of the Royal Hotel on the opposite side of Lindsay street.

Fred Burke was the manager of the theatre many years ago in the town hall. For a short time R. J. Menzies was also manager. This gentleman was a clerk in the Dundas and Flavelle store, then located where the Walker Department store functions to-day.

Late managers and owners of the Academy Theatre included William Roenigk and Hi. Meehan.