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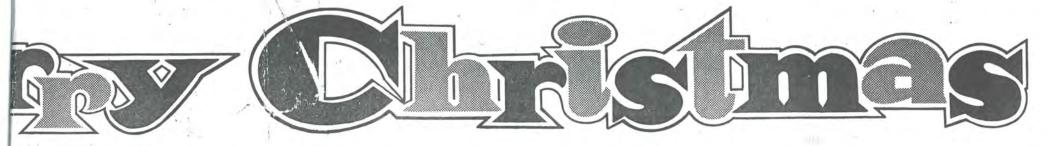
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Winter work for 8

\$19,000 from Ottawa to start Vic Hall work

By MANDY MARTIN

A \$19,000 federal grant has been awarded by the federal government to the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall. The money is to be used to employ seven laborers and one draughtsman to dismantle the opera house and remove other temporary partitions within the



CHRISTMAS IN COBOURG Last night as the lights came on and the evening sky darkened, the town's old landmark, Victoria Hall, stood watch over its 111th Christmas season. This year, the Old Vic received a Merry Christmas present itself, a federal grant of \$19,000 to start the first preliminary work on its restoration as a major Canadian historical monument.

said John Taylor, executive director of the Society. "We didn't think we would be able to start until fall."

The grant, provided under the local incentives program, was announced to the Society on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Taylor said no restoration could be done on Victoria Hall until the opera house so that it is Tuesday night, structural work."

The project scheduled to begin January 3, is ex- Opera House, all of which pected to last at least 21 must be removed, as well weeks additional work on the costumes. third and second floors.

"The opera house will take about two months to pull apart." said Mr. Taylor. "It has to be done very carefully. It is a slow process so that we don't lose any evidence that we might need in the reconstruction."

The Society will be hiring seven laborers and one draughtsman for the job. Actual materials for the project are expected to cost only \$500 and the seven laborers will earn \$90 a week. draughtsman will earn professional fees.

and Immigration structure. Department in Toronto. given in this general area.

The positions for the work are to be registered and hired through the Canada Manpower office start January 3.

Drama Guild

agrees to start

Directors of the Cobourg structural repairs are Opera and Drama Guild completed. "We will met with Restoration remove all the fittings in Society directors on agreed iust a bare room," he said. that work could begin in "This will allow the clearing out the Guild's restoration architect to get property in the Opera at the beams and joists for House, to prepare for restoration.

> There are 430 seats in the and include as the stage, lights, and

> > While there is no final decision made yet by town council, or the society as to whether the Opera House should be restored as a theatre or in its original state as a ballroom, the consensus emerging from the meetings suggests that a restored Opera House with sloping floor and fixed seats would have more community use than a ballroom or hall with flat floor.

When the hall was opened in 1860, the Prince of Wales attended a gala ball in the ballroom. Some years later, a sloping floor was built over it, and the The Society made the ballroom became an opera application for the grant house. The heavy floor is a directly to the Manpower dead weight on the

At least three local Three other work incentive groups are prospective grants have also been users of a theatre-type opera house; the Opera and Drama Guild, Community Concerts, Oriana Singers, as well as public lectures, touring comin Cobourg and work is to panies and perhaps summer theatre.