

Named After DeMille

Theatre Renovation Nine Months Behind

By **SONNY LINDER**

Essay Staff Reporter

School officials estimated last week that \$578,000 in renovations to the Drama theatre are running nine months behind schedule.

Martin Sokoloff, NCSA administrative director, said that the theatre will be named after Broadway choreographer Agnes DeMille. Sam Stone, director of development for the NCSA Foundation, told a reporter the name was accepted by the Board of Trustees.

Commending, Condemning

Meanwhile, John Sneden, dean of Design and Production and Mr. Bryan Roggenkamp, architect's representative for the firm of Newman, VanEtton, and Winfree, gave both pro and con criticism of the structure, commending its lighting and versatility, and condemning the seating and space factors.

Sokoloff laid blame for the delay on a 177-day wait for structural steel, a nationwide shortage.

According to the school's contract with the construction company, any delay after the March 1, 1974, deadline in the school's contract, is subject to penalties of up to \$100 per day, said Sokoloff. He added that because the delay is completely beyond the Deal Company's control, the state will not collect penalty damages.

Three hundred thousand dollars of the cost of the new structure is being paid by the state of North Carolina. The NCSA Foundation is paying the balance, Sokoloff said.

Completion Date

Roggenkamp estimated the theatre's completion date may be later than is currently projected by the Deal Company.

"Deal began work the second week in August, 1973, and probably won't finish 'til sometime in mid-July of '74," said Roggenkamp.

He said that the detailed installation of

carpeting, hardware, plumbing, and panelling will take a lot longer than the current heavy manual labor.

"It's an unusual job," said Roggenkamp. "Round walls, uneven angles. It may well take even longer than we now expect."

He also cited the low ceiling over the proscenium thrust stage as a possible fault in design.

"It's only 28 or 29 feet from the bottom of the roof to the stage. That may mean that scenery can't be flown into this area if it's (the scenery's) too tall," Roggenkamp said.

Sneden commented, "It's frightening to contemplate, but it's actually going to be our own theatre. This means we won't have to cable (electrically wire) all the time as we do out at Summit School and Reynolds now. All the catwalk areas will have lighting plugs." Sneden was referring to the school's rental of Summit School and Reynolds High School for certain NCSA dance and drama productions.

Great Compromise

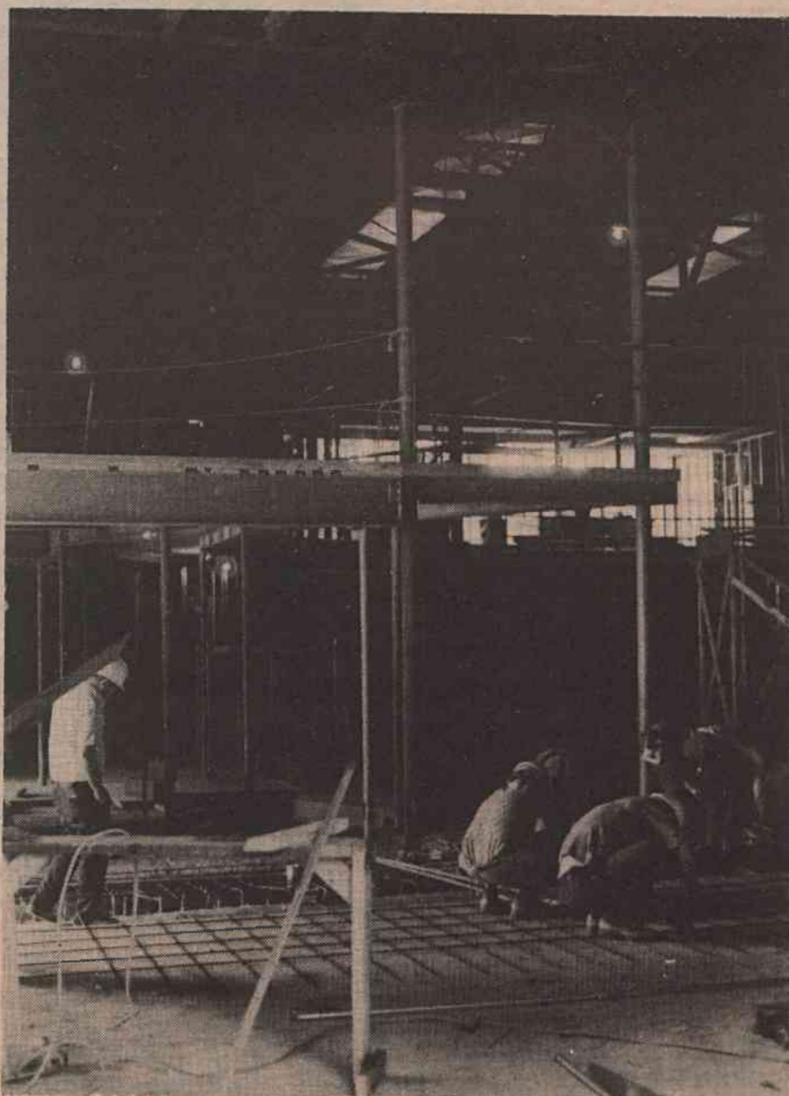
Sneden went on to say that he felt that the theatre was a "great compromise."

"Because the theatre is sometimes thrust, sometimes proscenium, the sight lines are very poor in the corners of the house," Sneden said, referring to blueprints of the structure. "We're also having a problem with the orchestra pit; it's not going to be automatic or even semi-automatic as we had originally wanted. It will have to be disassembled and dropped four-and-a-half feet when ever we need the pit, then raised again when we're through. All this done manually, by 'grit labor', of course."

Sneden also said that although the theatre will be completely built by next fall, the problems of installing a house curtain, rigging, and a sound system will be left up to the D&P department and probably will not be completed before Christmas of 1974.

\$10,000 Curtain

"We estimate the new curtain will run around \$10,000. This amount does not



Workers on theatre renovation Essay Photo by Bill Wren

include any other rigging," said Sneden. "I think it will be a very exciting place. Sometimes, I go over there and just wander around the upper balcony ring and imagine what kind of productions will be going on in there next year."

Sneden also added that, in his opinion, working in the Summit and Reynolds

schools has been a valuable experience for D&P students who may need to be prepared for moving equipment to different locations in road shows.

Commenting on the sight lines of the 200-270 seat theatre, Sneden added, "Don't buy the cheap seats. You probably won't see anything."

Suderburg To Meet With Boards, Deans

SUDERBURG, From Page 1

Babcock Foundation, a major contributor to the school.

Portrait Unveiling

On the May 18 Suderburg will attend the unveiling of a portrait of Vittorio Giannini, the first president of NCSA. Terry Sanford, former governor of North Carolina under whose leadership the school was established, will present the portrait, painted by prominent New York artist and landscape painter Adrian Lamb, to Chancellor Ward. Several members of the Giannini family will be present.

Evening activities will include the Ralph P. Hanes memorial orchestra concert. The orchestra will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto Number Four in G Major, featuring Rebecca Davis, soloist. With the NCSA chorus, the orchestra will perform Honegger's "King David" featuring Gwen Bradley, Renee Evans, Donna Stephenson and Louis Turner, soloists, and drama faculty members Leslie Hunt and James Beard in speaking roles.

On May 21 Suderburg will go to Chapel Hill with Ward and Martin Sokoloff, the school's administrative director, to confer with William Friday, president of the university, about the school's budget.

"He will be made aware of all recitals and student activities, and will attend as many as time and opportunity permit. His main purpose is to gather ideas and get questions answered about the school," said Sam Stone, director of development.

Stone wants to caution students and faculty not to expect Suderburg to con-

sider specific grievances on his visit here. "It would be inappropriate for him to make any response as long as Mr. Ward is on the job. It will be a long time before any precipitous sweeping changes of policy can be made," said Stone.

Budget Set

"We're already committed to a budget for a year. It takes a good year to begin to feel at home here, largely because of the nature of the institution," said Stone.

Here is a partial itinerary for Suderburg's visit. Time not specifically scheduled will include informal meetings with administrators and faculty members.

May 16 - 4:00 p.m. Press party at Chancellor Ward's

May 17 - noon Lunch with Board of Directors of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. Supper with Board of Directors of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. Evening-choreographers dance workshop.

May 18 - 10:00 a.m. Unveiling of the Giannini portrait, Terry Sanford speaker. Noon-Trustees, foundation directors, advisory board and other invited guests in the commons drama studio. Suderburg will speak. 2:00 trustees, meeting 8:15 Orchestra concert.

May 20 - Meetings with the deans

May 21 - Meeting in Chapel Hill with Friday

May 22 - Suderburg will attend awards convocation

May 23 - Noon lunch with the Winston-Salem Rotary Club.

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