



Barbara Flanagan

The Flanagan memo

Keillor's donation music to our ears

*Historical society's exhibit won't
swing if it ain't got good things*

The Flanagan Memo — RE: Sometimes you win one; restoring the **Pantages Theater**; plus, helping Minnesota make music memorable.

A musical gift

Garrison Keillor has turned his Autoharp over to the **Minnesota Historical Society's** collections, which puts him at the head of the line of people who will be involved with "Sounds Good to Me: the Music of Minnesota."

The instrument will be displayed when the **Minnesota Historical Society** takes a major look at music in our state. The exhibition opens Oct. 22, 2000, at the History Center in St. Paul and will continue for five years.

What the Historical Society is seeking now is more stuff — 1945 radios, ticket stubs, programs, a 1910 phonograph, and clothes from the 1920s and '30s and the swing era of the '40s — just to name a few items.

Among other things, we could see settings depicting the ambience of a typical high school band room or the legendary **Prom Ballroom** that once stood on St. Paul's University Avenue.

The historians also are looking for items representing Minnesota musicians of all kinds, from New Ulm polka king **Whoopie John** to Hibbing native **Bob Dylan**. I might add that the exhibit should also include **Judy Garland**; **Prince**; the **Andrews Sisters**, the 1940s singing trio born in Minneapolis; **Susanna Foster**, a Minneapolis movie star and singer who

starred in the 1943 "Phantom of the Opera" movie; and Big Band singer **Harry Cool**.

Conductor **Philip Brunelle**, jazzman **Leigh Kamman** and **Mary Ann Feldman** of the **Minnesota Orchestra** are just a few of the musical people working on the project. If you have something to lend or donate, call curator **Benjamin Filene** at 651-297-4465.

Movie time

That Keillor fellow is into everything. Now he's completing a movie for **Showtime**. It's titled "**Sandy Bottom Orchestra**," based on the young adult novel he cowrote with his wife, Jenny Lind Nilsson. The film's cast includes **Jane Powell**.

Art in the park

Occasionally, we score. The latest is the **Berger Fountain** in downtown Minneapolis' **Loring Park** and the grand idea to paint a mural on the big wooden box that encloses it in winter.

It wasn't my idea. A reader, **Patty Sander**, suggested it and I wrote about it in December 1997. Well, good ideas take time.

Richard Anderson, now president of the very active **Citizens for a Loring Park Community**, read the item and thought, "Why not?"

Anderson said that last spring, **Chad Needham**, an artist who works on art projects at **Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center** near the park, was asked to work with his students on a

design idea for the box. The citizens' group also held two community meetings to get ideas from area residents.

Last week, Needham finished painting the box and it was installed around the fountain. On it are park scenes and scenes from several human-rights topics.

Although the box is up for the winter, it won't be dedicated until Oct. 24, 2000, on **United Nations Day**. At that time, area students and residents will participate in a festival saluting human rights.

"The festival will allow us to celebrate the day the box goes up and not bemoan the day the fountain is turned off for the winter," Anderson said.

That sounds like another great idea.

A theatrical revival?

While everyone — well, almost everyone — is stewing over a new site for the **Guthrie Theater**, what is happening to the **Mann Theater** at 7th St. and Hennepin Av.?

The answer is, "Nothing, yet," but there is hope.

Someone removed part of the false ceiling and discovered an antique glass dome above the main auditorium. The dome is similar to the one in the historic **Pantages Theater** in Tacoma, Wash., a theater that was restored and is in constant use.

The ornate plaster work also is in good shape in our Mann — which will again be called the **Pantages** because that's how it started out — and the rest of the theater is in good shape except