

Coronado's organ has 2 new ranks of pipes

When Don Baker touches the keyboard of the Grande Barton organ in the Coronado Theatre at the start of his concert Thursday night, the public will hear for the first time two new ranks of pipes just added to the \$50,000 instrument.

"One of the ranks we added is the post horn," said Orrill Dunn, a board member of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (CATOE), "at a cost of around \$1,200.

That's what really gives a theater organ guts; adds pizzáz."

Rockford members of CATOE, a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, have spent several thousand man-hours refurbishing the Coronado organ and almost \$2,000 adding the latest ranks of pipes.

"The four-manual organ now has a total of 17 ranks, making it one of the best in the country," Dunn said.

CATOE members also spent time and money restoring the "atmosphere" to the theater, Dunn said. They repaired the cloud machine and replaced the lights in the "stars" in

the ceiling to help create an outdoor atmosphere.

These will be in operation for the concert Thursday.

"About two years ago the organ was in really bad shape," Dunn said. "Rockford members of CATOE began work cleaning up and repairing pipes, replacing reeds, making adjustments and so on; and we started giving concerts about a year ago."

Baker has appeared in Rockford before to give concerts, but this will be his first visit here under the auspices of CATOE and his first time at the Coronado organ.

His concert will feature tin pan alley melodies, selections from the classics and Broadway musical productions, plus accompaniment to the 1928 silent film classic "The Finishing Touch," starring Laurel and Hardy.

"We have as our primary purpose restoring theater organs and their theaters to their original condition," Dunn said, "and the national group has been involved with nearly all of the 100 or so theater organs now in use around the country."