

Renovations to start Friday

Rokemay Theatres assume operation of Roxy

The Roxy theatre will close after tonight's movie showings and its new owners, Rokemay Theatres Ltd., with head office in Edmonton, will undergo a renovation program, starting Friday.

Brian McIntosh, of Rokemay, said a modern front end would be applied to the building, new seats and more spacing for leg room would be provided in the theatre area, but much of the auditorium's basic decor would remain the same.

"The Roxy auditorium is a throwback to some great days of designing and there are too few buildings like that left in the business today. We'd like to keep it that way and yet

add to the comfort of the customers," said McIntosh.

Renovations will probably take two months and when the doors open again, the theatre will be called the Towne Cinema.

**By Ned Powers
of the Star-Phoenix**

Rokemay, which now operates 40 theatres in western Canada, assumed the operation of the Roxy and its Skyway drive-in affiliate from the Odeon Morton company. Dan Balon, from Red Deer, will come to Towne Cinema as manager. Nels Warner,

from Skyway, will remain in Saskatoon with Odeon and Reg Faulkes, who had managed the Roxy, will take a position with Odeon in Winnipeg.

Rokemay also has theatres in Edmonton, Calgary, Victoria, Weyburn, Yorkton and other points. They have been purchasing a number of Prairie properties formerly held by Dave Rothstein of Winnipeg.

McIntosh said the theatre hopes to build a completely new image, with first-run pictures only, and there will not be any continuation of the double bill program. He said his chain has been successful in obtaining pictures like The Harrad Experiment, Walking Tall, American Graffiti, A

Touch of Class and Jeremy in other cities.

For the Christmas season, Saskatoon will be left with fewer indoor movie houses than in past years. The Midtown Cinema is in the process of being renovated into a dual house, and work won't be done there until late in January. Cinema 2, the twin to Cinema 1, will be ready for Christmas.

The temporary closing of Midtown Cinema is causing at least one booking problem because it would have had the new Disney comedy, Robin Hood, available for the holidays. Famous Players is trying to make some adjustments so it can be played in

Saskatoon in another of its houses.

By February, the theatre offerings will be much improved in Saskatoon. Cinema 2 will be new, Midtown will be twinned, and Towne Cinema is promising strictly first-run. The movie-goer has to be a winner.

Anne Murray, Canada's pride and joy among female singers, caused a few ripples when she opened at The Troubadour club in Los Angeles.

In her audience were people like John Lennon, Alice Cooper, Neil Diamond and Helen Reddy, which has to be a tribute of some sort to Anne's talents.

Anne is working at The Cave in Vancouver this week, reportedly for \$20,000 a week.

Sivuca, the Brazilian guitarist, accordionist, pianist and singer who accompanied Harry Belafonte to Saskatoon on two previous trips, is playing a night club date in New York for the holiday season.

John Wilson of the New York Times commented: "With his long white beard and bald head, looking like a particularly cherubic Santa Claus, Sivuca leaps from instrument to instrument, vocalizing on the lute, stirring up a constant welter of rhythmic excitement. Most of Sivuca's American career has been spent backing Miriam Makeba and Harry Belafonte and subtly stealing their shows in the process. Given the freedom of working with his own group, he projects an unquenchable sense of joy, both visually and musically."