## Hamilton aids in saving hall

When Alexander Hamilton Insur-ance Co. in Farmington Hills wrote a \$5,000 mortgage on Detroit's historic but derelict Orchestra Hall five years ago. the stucture was scheduled for de-molition.

eo. Ine succure was scheduled for de-molilion. In those five years, Save Orchestra Hull Inc.: a Clitter's committee, and Favoid has Papil Gansson worked to worked a papil Gansson worked to where the standard survey from the dynamics of the second standard second dynamics of the second second second dynamics of the second second second working the mortgage to be burned. "We are delighted to have been able to play a part in the saving of Or-hestra Hall because of its historic sig-nificance." Headles said after receiv-ing the check. "Our headquarters is in the sub-tions, but we feel that Alexander Ham-libon is part of the Detroit commu-ngly.

nity." In accepting the final payment, the company forgave \$2,347 in interest due on the mortgage, and a plaque commemorating the company's contri-



JOHN; H. RICHARDSON, Mayor NEDRA VIANE, CRy Clerk

huison to Orchestra Hall will be placed in the building's bloby. Gaison received a check for \$82,000 to pay the morfgage from Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin. The sum includes a \$40,000 grant from the Michigan History Division of the Michigan Department of State and a \$42,000 grant from the U.S. Depart-ment of Interior. To the state of the Austin of the State Place and the Austin of the State and a \$42,000 grant from the U.S. Depart-ment of Interior. The there of the Austin of the State and a \$42,000 grant from the U.S. Depart-nite National Register of Historic Places, and further funds for its resto-ration are assured. When the morfgage was written in \$72, the Hall looked like many other, abandoned buildings in the Cass Corri-obr. with the added dravback of a gaing hole in the root. But the Sade dravback of a gaing hole in the fadie agreed well "see Orchestra Hall and Intal is could again contribute to the cultural growth of Detroit and this area." Headlee said.

"I bet on the people, and I'll bet on the people any time." Orchestra Hall was built in 1919 when community residents persuaded Ossip Gabrilowitsch, the Russian born pianist, composer and conductor, to accept the position of conductor of the Detroit Symphony by agreeing to build a hall suitable to his and the or-chestra's needs.

build a hall suitable to his and the or-chestra's needs. The Italian Renaissance structure was designed by Charles Howard Crane, a specialist in theater archi-tecture. During the 20 years the symphony was based in Orchestra Hall, many of the greatest names in 20th century

music graced its stage, attracted to Detroit first by Gabrilowitsch and then by the hall's reputation for excel-lent acoustics. The hall is considered to be one of the nation's 10 finest from an accoustical standpoint.

In 1939 when the symphony moved to a larger hall, the structure became the Paradise Theater, with vaudeville and, jazz groups performing.

Although officially closed in 1955, the hall was used in the late 1950's for recordings, most notably by the De-troit Symphony under the direction of Paul Paray.

Fire chief urges smoke alarm use

Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort is urging residents to in-vest in a smoke delector, saving the devices are relatively inexpensive and could save iives of family members. "Each year, approximately 12,000 fire deaths occur in our country."

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