

A Solid Auditorium

Good news: The city is finally providing the hard cash needed to replace the roof on the Memorial Auditorium. This project has been squeezed out of budgets for a long time. A major facility can only take so many patch jobs before deterioration shows.

It will cost \$293,000 for the roof — expensive but a bargain if you consider the brisk business this Lincoln Square war horse has been doing in recent years.

The deficit, now around \$100,000 a year, has been declining over the past five years, says auditorium director Patricia A. Abadjieff. Revenue for the last fiscal year was \$107,000 — an all-time high. The bottom line is looking better all the time.

Bookings run at a good clip. The pro basketball team, the Bombardiers, will make the auditorium its home for another season. Many benefits and concerts are scheduled, including the Boston Ballet for the Music Festival. Two kennel shows

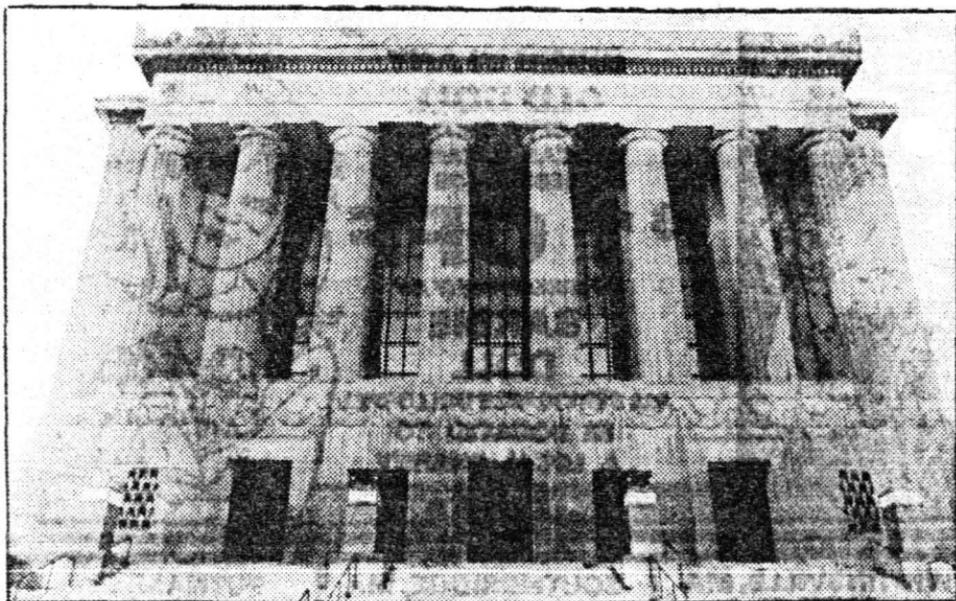
and wrestling events are booked. All weekends are booked solid till next June, says Ms. Abadjieff.

This is good news for a place some thought would become a white elephant after the Centrum opened. Obviously, there is a place for both.

Unlike the Centrum, however, the auditorium is 50 years old and in need of careful maintenance. Aside from the roof job, this year's budget includes money to paint the Little Theater, for a new traveler curtain in the main hall, some new flooring and reupholstering of balcony seating.

More needs to be done, such as replacement of the main floor seats, but that will have to wait for now. Whether the place should be air conditioned is undecided. It could cost as much as \$100,000, but might prove a worthwhile investment.

Good things are happening at the auditorium. It is a tremendous community asset. City Hall must make sure that it stays in decent shape.



Auditorium: New roof, more business