

Vermontville's opera house, *continued from front page*

checking to see if more ventilation can be put in the roof, the committee said.

"The window above the fire exit will be left in for present," the committee reported. "The ceiling fans will be taken down and replaced, and the wire molding on the wainscoting will be moved down next to the floor."

Plans also call for the old seats being stored in the Opera House to be moved soon.

The committee also discussed putting up grates to protect the windows, and they concluded that three windows are in need of grates.

Additionally, there are plans to start a fund-raising effort called the Friends of the Opera Hall.

It will probably take months before the drywall and woodwork are completed.

In attendance at the committee meeting were Hale and Brandenburg, and Committee Members Hildred Peabody, Sue Villanueva (Village President), Russ Laverty (township supervisor), Robert Todd, Wright, Liz King and

Pat O'Dell.

The restoration project, which began several years ago with the installation of a new roof and general rewiring of the building, as well as other work on the building, had been stalled for a lack of funding.

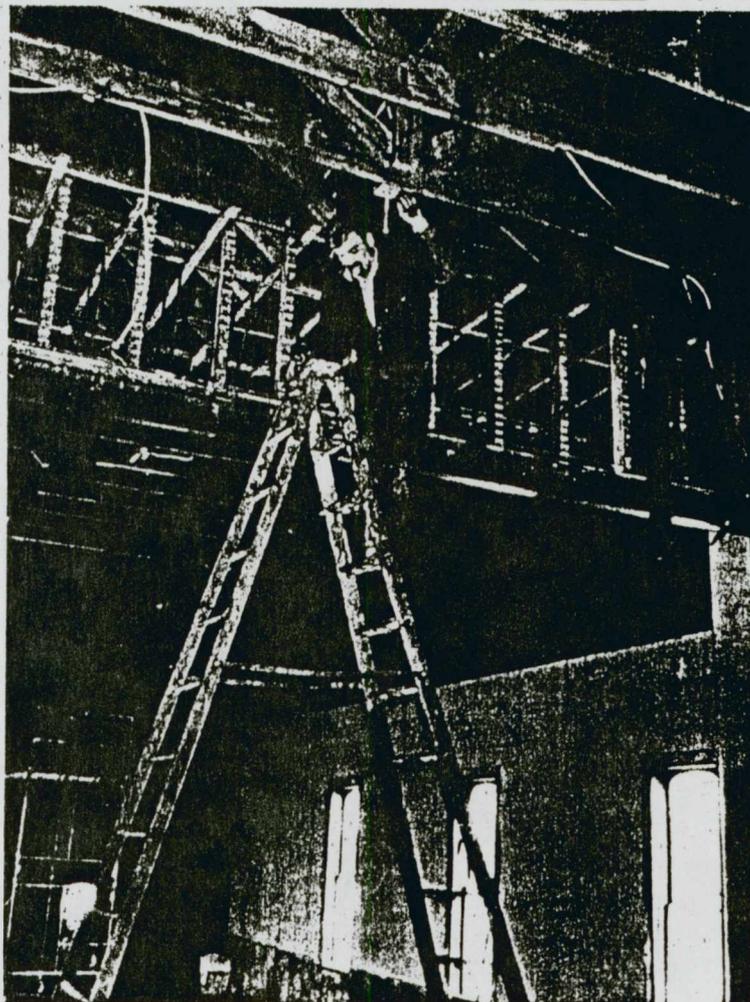
However, the purpose of the project is to provide the community with a much-needed community center, as well as the saving of an historical landmark.

When completed, the Opera House is expected to be used

for youth activities, musical and other programs, dances, meetings, receptions, civic groups and art exhibits.

Other plans call for the display of historic items and memorabilia on early tent shows, theater pictures and programs related to the history of the Opera House.

Peabody said the grant also calls for the creation of a Vermontville Fine Arts Council, which will be charged with bringing art and other exhibits to the Opera House on a regular basis.



Vermontville electrician Daryl Hale finishes up the rough wiring on the stage of the historic Opera House, which is being restored as close as possible to its original beauty. The hall looks dark and unappealing now, but soon there will be eleven new chandeliers hanging from a new ceiling and ten sconces brightening up the new walls.