For Banfill Plastering, Inc., being invited to play a significant role in Dayton’s restoration of the beautiful Victory Theater was a dream come true.

The Victory Theater, scheduled for demolition in 1975, saved by collections of nickels and dimes until capturing the imagination of Dayton’s cultural and business community, can trace its roots to 1866 under the name “Turner Opera House.” Since 1976 the Victory Theater Association worked for the preservation and restoration of this historic landmark theater. The magic in this precious treasure drives artists to perform to the best of their ability. The actress Helen Hayes was selected as the guest hostess to the gala grand opening. She was, coincidentally, one of the last performers to appear at the theater prior to the renovation.

The restoration project lead architect, Monica Nomberg, a star in her own right from the renowned firm of Edward, Durell, Stone and Associates, traveled throughout Europe to find just the right material for the restoration. Stone worked locally with the well-respected Dayton architectural firm of Lorenz and Williams and an ENR top 100 general contractor, Danis Industries, who hand-picked each subcontractor for a reputation of quality and dependability.

With this pressure as the backdrop, Banfill Plastering called
complete their role on this exciting project, the renovation through replastering of the interior of the theater. The interior of the Victory Theater seats 1400. Around the 200-foot perimeter of the lobby ceiling is a new cornice assembly painstakingly matched from the old. The cornice consisted of two run molds and seven individual piece molds. Ms. Nomberg directed the order of the repeating face molds producing a startling effect.

Twenty domes, each three feet in diameter, bordered with gold-raised plaster trim were lath and

*The Victory Theater,...can trace its roots to 1866 under the name “Turner Opera House.”*
plastered in place. Ornate plaster light fixtures were created and replaced, providing an exciting visual experience.

Flatwall pilasters and corner pilasters presented separate mold design needs and refinements in each of eight separate sections of the theater. The pilasters in each instance flared to different angles at the base to correspond to specific theater balance in their own area. Between the flatwall pilasters are flat plaster walls bordered with newly replaced and restored ornamental plaster trim. Separate molds preceded this restoration as well as the need to build an individual mold for the ornate figurines centered in these walls. The distinctive painting that sets of much of this intricate work was coordinated by New York paint contractor, Evergreen, Inc., and their artist, Christina Lemmon.

The 35-year-old family-owned Banfill Plastering, which operates primarily in Southwestern Ohio, is managed by the Banfill family with sisters Judy Banfill-Hendrickson, president, Teri Banfill-Silburn, vice president, and their dad, Harold Banfill, founder and advisor. In joining forces with Dwell, Stone, Lorenz and Williams, Danis Industries, Corp., and Evergreen, Inc., Banfill Plastering found itself in an elite company. We are proud that our work is receiving the same community praise as the work of these other widely recognized professionals.