LUNCHTIME Tuesday found Artur Rubinstein (left), celebrated pianist, enjoying hospitality of Theodore Bloomfield, Portland symphony conductor. Rubinstein will play with symphony tonight. He and Bloomfield renewed memories of appearance together at Palermo, Sicily, in 1955. He'll play Brahms B-flat concerto.

Puzzles, 'Baby Doll' Delight Rubinstein

By Art Chenoweth
Journal Staff Writer

Effervescent Artur Rubinstein pleaded exhaustion Tuesday after a plane trip from Los Angeles—but if the body was weary, the wit of the celebrated pianist was never sharper.

Rubinstein, who'll play tonight with the Portland Symphony, expounded on subjects ranging from crossword puzzles to Carroll Baker's performance in "Baby Doll." (He approves of both.)

"Crossword puzzles," he said, "are the traveler's friend — the greatest soporific I know. You have to think awhile about African antelopes or Asiatic weights and before long — ssst, off to sleep."

A BOOK, the pianist said, has the opposite effect.

"The minute I find it's any good, I have to finish it if it takes 'til 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning."

His European tour this spring will include Italy, he said.

"I always go to Rome. My tailor is there. Brilliant tailor, but he never has time to make the buttons right. They're always coming off."

The current section of his tour will take him from here through the Northwest and eventually back to Texas, a state he remembers with a

HE TOLD of playing some months ago at Midland, Tex., which was "two gas stations and two buildings in the middle of a desert." Fearful that he would have no audience, he asked where the spectators would come from. He was informed that this was oil country and the area had dozens of millionaires, many of whom would come to the concert.

The morning after the successful concert, a reporter asked him about his plans and jokingly he replied, "My plans are to stay right here and I'll be a millionaire overnight."

The next day, in Houston, he discovered a newspaper story saying, "In spite of abandoning music for oil, Rubinstein played with his usual enthusiasm last night."

The reporter had been a United Press man and Rubinstein had to call a special press conference to "unretire."