



Backstage

Volume 6 ♦ Number 2

Winter 2011-12

at the 7th Street...

...where stars light the sky and the stage

Let's Light This Candle!

By Mickey Thurman

Starting with the engraved brick project in 2009, we have been raising funds for a new lighted candlestick sign replicating the original sign from 1928 when the theatre was built. Since the brick project, we've had two Jones Photo slideshows, a concert donated by Jodesha Broadcasting, and a \$2,500 donation from Timberland Bank, bringing the total amount raised to \$24,000 to date.

A few months ago we were informed by Rick Middleton of the Anderson Middleton Company (owners of the Jones Photo Historical Collection) that they would donate the remaining funds needed to purchase the sign! The board is extremely grateful to the Middleton family for this generous donation. The Jones Photo Collection has helped us tremendously in our restoration efforts.

We received several preliminary estimates from various sign companies for a new sign. Based on the average estimate, we figured that the sign, with electrical, permitting and engineering costs, would run about \$45,000.

The project has been turned over to our architect, Alan Gozart of Harbor Architects, to prepare a Request for Proposal. We are in the final stages of reviewing that. The project should be going out to bid in January. We hope to have a new sign by next summer!



The photo on the left is from the Jones Photo Historical Collection, and was taken in 1930. Bulb lighting was added around the perimeter of the sign, with a triple row around the flame. The reader board was also added at the bottom. We believe that these modifications were made because the only signage was at the ends of the marquee, and it was difficult to see them due to the awning that ran around the theatre at that time, blocking the view.

The photo above is photo 1007_1 courtesy of the Jones Photo Historical Collection, cropped to show the sign. Notice how large the sign is and how far it extends from the building. You can also see the ladder mounted next to it. It's hard to see in this photo, but the "7" is damaged. This is the original sign, which we believe was modified in 1930 (see photo on the left).

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MEMBER

The 7th Street Theatre
Association is a
501(c)3 nonprofit
corporation

2012 Movie Schedule

Jan 14 & 15	Citizen Kane *	May 11 & 12	Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Jan 20 & 21	Labyrinth	Sep 21 & 22	The Big Lebowski
Feb 10 & 11	Sleepless in Seattle	Oct 13 & 14	Abbott & Costello Meet
Mar 10 & 11	Harvey (1950)*		Frankenstein*
Mar 23 & 24	Raiders of the Lost Ark	Oct 26 & 27	Poltergeist
Apr 14 & 15	The Thin Man *	Nov 3 & 4	Breakfast at Tiffany's*
Apr 20 & 21	The Sound of Music	Nov 23 & 24	Polar Express
May 5 & 6	Singin' in the Rain*	Dec 1	Elf

*Silver Screen Classics—Sat @ 7:30, Sun @ 2:00 Fri/Sat movies @ 7:30
Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3/students & kids Tickets online at Brown Paper Tickets and at the door
Doors open one-half hour before the movie

Blast from the Past

by Lane Youmans

House filled for wedding on July 4, 1935

From the Grays Harbor Washingtonian, June & July 1935

July 4th, 1935 was a busy day in Hoquiam. Among the American Legion's Independence Day celebrations was a parade, "the greatest circus and air show in Southwest Washington," the Naval Destroyer Farragut was in port, with over 100 "gobs" marching in the parade, along with 600 soldiers, National Guard artillery units, marching bands, assorted floats as well as a "parade of nations by the various fraternal orders, encouraging citizens from various countries to participate in their native attire. The air show included over 20 top pilots from Seattle and Portland, formation flying and aerial stunts over the city. There were also dances at the Vasa Hall and the Veteran's building, children's races, and 500 Army and Naval personnel conducting a sham battle at the port dock. At the Hoquiam River there was log rolling, swimming races, and a greased pole event. The highlight of the day's celebrations was a public wedding at the 7th Street Theatre.

The wedding was the idea of Hoquiam insurance man Frank Anderson, who wanted local prospective couples to apply, and everything needed for the wedding would be supplied by Hoquiam businesses. The catch? The lucky couple would be married in a public ceremony on the stage of the 7th Street Theatre, and the winners wouldn't be announced until just before the wedding. Around 20 couples applied, and members of the American Legion contacted local businesses for donations towards the couple's dowry. Rumors concerning who the lucky couple would be circulated like wildfire, and Mr. Anderson was constantly pestered to divulge the winners.

The wedding took place at 9 PM, and all 1,021 theatre seats were filled. At that time, they announced the winners to be Miss Lucille Chestnut and George Barnes, both of Cosmopolis. The ceremony was performed by Rev. William McDowell of Aberdeen. The bride-to-be was given away by Judge William Campbell, and her mother was matron of honor. The stage was decorated with five huge baskets of red, white, and blue flowers, and two tall standards of flowers flanked the floodlights. The bride's gown was a white corded taffeta with a high stand-up collar. She wore a small diadem of rapture roses in her hair and a bouquet of Johanna Hill roses with showers of white sweet peas.

Over 70 presents were collected from local businesses, including the bridal gown, furniture, food, the bridal suite at the Emerson Hotel, wedding announcements, photographer, silk pajamas, haircuts, assortment of breakfast foods, five pounds of butter, a month's pass for the D & R, a load of wood, kitchen utensils, and a sack of flour. Music for the ceremony was performed by Hopy Hughes and included Mendelsson's wedding march and Wagner's wedding march from "Lohengrin". These songs were probably performed on the theatre's Wurlitzer organ. The newlyweds made their home in Cosmopolis.

If you are looking for a unique venue for your wedding, consider the 7th Street Theatre.

New heating system our next project

by Ray Kahler

After we install the new candlestick sign, our next project will be replacing the heating system for the auditorium. The current gas furnace dates back to the 1980s (when the original oil-fired steam boiler was retired) and is several years past its life expectancy.

The age of the heating system has started to show in recent years. The fly wheel broke in 2007. Belts broke in 2009. A specialty part failed in the winter of 2010, and the fly wheel broke again in December of 2011. Repair bills in the past two years exceeded \$6,000, and in both years the auditorium was without heat for about two weeks due to the time required to make the replacement parts and have them shipped.

With every year bringing a new problem that puts the furnace out of commission for a week or two, it's clear that we need a new system

rather than continuing to repair an old, failing system. As many of our patrons know, it can be quite chilly in the auditorium without heat.

To address the problem, we hired WSP Flack + Kurtz, a mechanical engineering firm from Seattle, to evaluate the theatre and provide recommendations for a new heating system.

One of the challenges of heating the theatre is that, most of the time we need a modest amount of heat to resist mold and humidity, but when the theatre is occupied for events, the heat demand increases substantially. WSP Flack + Kurtz recommends three gas furnaces, one that runs constantly to maintain the daily temperature in the building, and two that can be fired up when the heat demand increases when the building is occupied. The furnaces would be housed in the attic above the projection

booth.

A second option offered by WSP Flack + Kurtz is to replace the existing rooftop gas furnace with a new gas furnace. While this option would be less expensive, a major drawback of this option is that the furnace (like the current one) would be exposed to the weather. Some of the recent problems with the furnace have been caused by wind damage during storms, and exposure to the weather results in higher maintenance costs and reduces the number of years a unit will last.

We are currently working with our architect to prepare budget estimates for the two options. After we have estimates on the costs, we will prepare a fundraising plan and begin writing grant applications, as well as requesting donations from the public.

Where does your donation go?

The 7th Street Theatre Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that owns and operates the 7th Street Theatre. There are two ways you can help support the theatre.

- **Memberships** help with the promotion of our events and ongoing expenses involved in operating the theatre. *Lead Actor, Director and Producer level memberships will be acknowledged in our concert and movie programs throughout the next year.*
- **General donations** are set aside into a special fund for restoration and preservation of the theatre building. Current donations will go toward a new heating system. Funding for restoration work is also provided by grants, applied for by the theatre board.

I'd like to give a year-long membership!

Membership level desired:

Supporting Actor	—	\$25 to \$49	\$ _____
*Lead Actor	—	\$50 to \$199	\$ _____
*Director	—	\$200 to \$499	\$ _____
*Producer	—	\$500 and up	\$ _____

(*These levels will be acknowledged throughout the next year in our movie and concert programs.)

I'd like to make a donation to the Heating System Fund \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Thank you for your support!

7th Street Theatre Association • P. O. Box 777 • Hoquiam, WA 98550

You can also donate online on our website. Just click on the "donate" button on the left side of our home page 7thstreettheatre.com

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Psst...have you seen the seat donor plaques in the lobby? You can still "save a seat" on our donor page and get your plaque on the lobby donor board.

COMING EVENTS

Movie: Citizen Kane (1941)

Saturday January 14 @ 7:30
Sunday January 15 @ 2:00

Movie: Labyrinth (1986)

Friday/Saturday January 20 & 21 @ 7:30

Hoquiam High School Drama Dept. presents

The Wedding Singer

Thursday—Saturday February 2—4 @ 7:30
Sunday February 5 matinee @ 2:00

Movie: Sleepless in Seattle (1993)

Friday/Saturday February 10 & 11 @ 7:30

Miss Outstanding Teen Pageant

Friday February 24 @ 7:00

Miss Grays Harbor Scholarship Pageant

Saturday February 25 @ 7:00

Hoquiam Middle School Spring Concert

Tuesday March 7 @ 7:00

Hoquiam High School Spring Concert

Wednesday March 8 @ 7:00

Movie: Harvey (1950)

Saturday March 10 @ 7:30
Sunday March 11 @ 2:00

St. Patrick's Day Kick-off with Galway Bay

Friday March 16

Movie: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

Friday/Saturday March 23 & 24 @ 7:30

Movie: The Thin Man (1934)

Saturday April 14 @ 7:30
Sunday April 15 @ 2:00

Movie: The Sound of Music (1965)

Friday/Saturday April 20 & 21 @ 7:30

Lighthouse Ballet presents Don Quixote

Friday — Sunday April 27—29

Movie: Singin' in the Rain (1952)

Saturday May 5 @ 7:30
Sunday May 6 @ 2:00

Movie: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

Friday/Saturday May 11 & 12 @ 7:30

Sign up for our coming events email and see all current event information on our website

www.7thStreetTheatre.com

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



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