

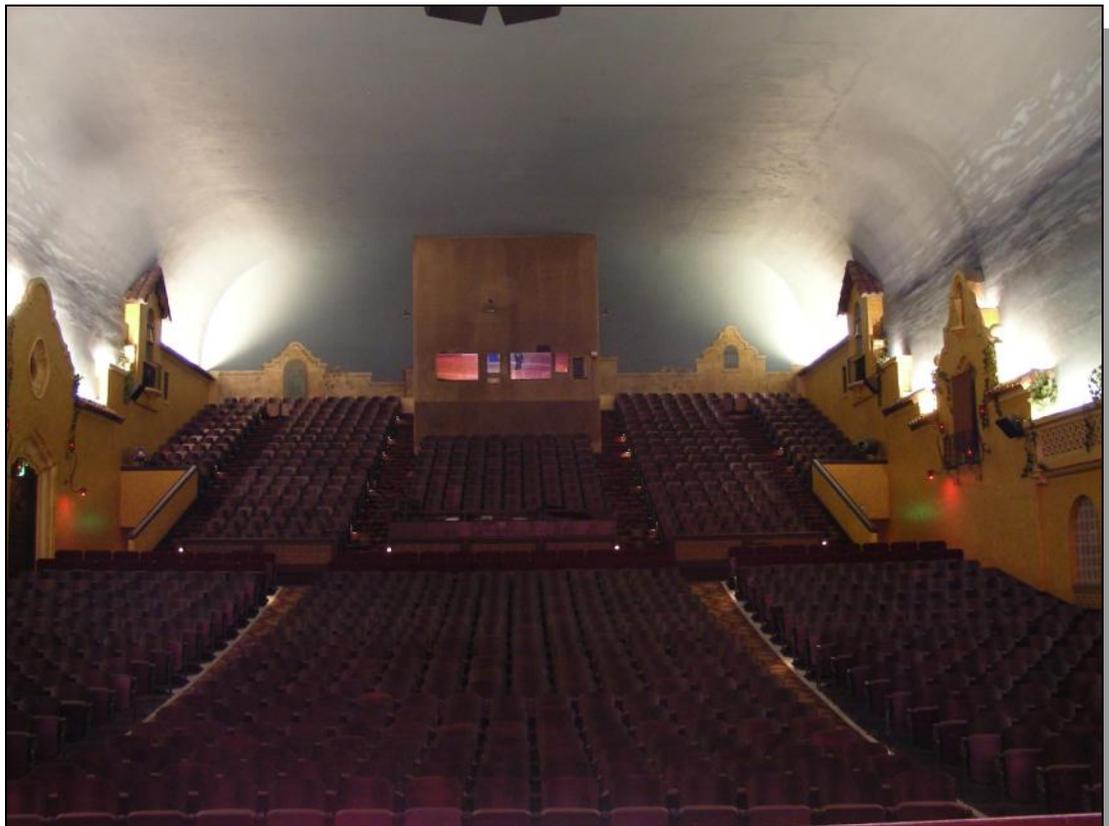
# Backstage

at the 7th Street...

...where stars light the sky and the stage

The sky is clear, with a few clouds, at the 7th Street

*Right: The ceiling, after restoration. The entire ceiling was replastered, repaired and repainted, including the clouds. All of the ornamental plaster (except the back wall murals) was repaired and repainted matching the original colors and techniques. The stars are intact, and more are visible.*



*Below: The ceiling prior to restoration. The plywood was anchored to the ceiling to keep the plaster from falling.*



*By Mickey Thurman*

After decades of sitting beneath the crumbling sky and plywood clouds, theatre goers are now able to fully appreciate what the 7th Street Theatre was like when it opened in 1928.

The State of Washington appropriated funding for the restoration of the theatre's ceiling in the spring of 2009. The project was done from mid-October through January 2010.

The project was complex. An inspection of the ceiling was done two years ago, and it was determined that the entire ceiling would not need to be replaced. However, until the project was underway, the extent of repairs would not be known. The "base" project included the

*Cont'd on Page 2*



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## 7th Street Theatre Board

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*Backstage at the 7th Street*  
Editor: Mickey Thurman

Webmaster: Ralph Hogaboom  
Event Coordinator: Jamie Brand

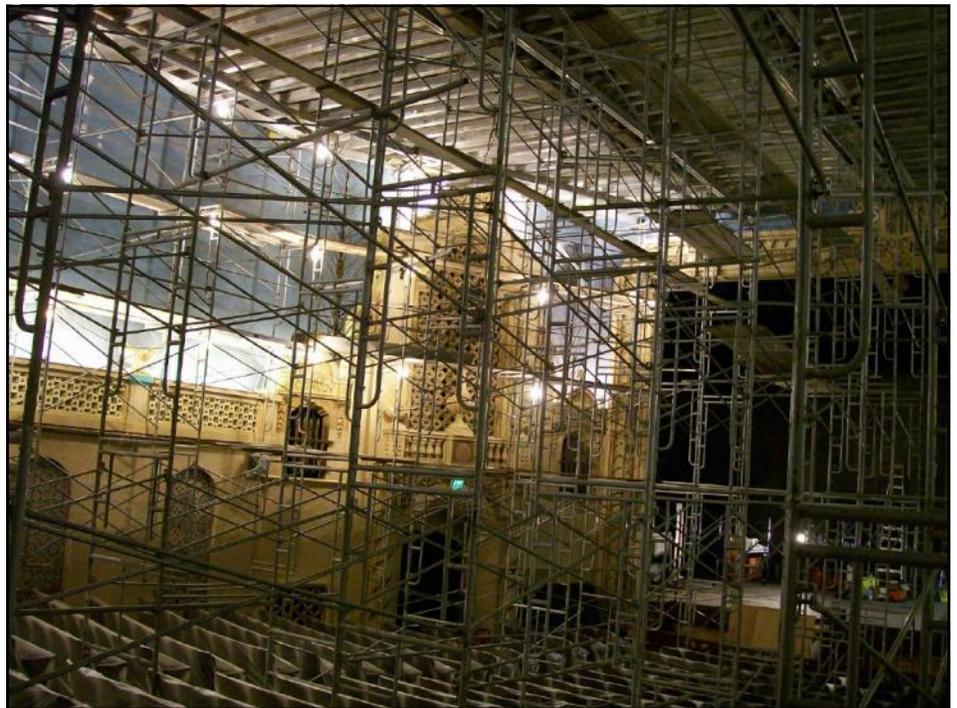
*Board meetings are held monthly  
on the second Wednesday.*

## Contact Information

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Hoquiam, WA 98550

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E-mail:  
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*Sky, from page 1*



*Scaffolding during the middle of the project*

areas covered in the plaster survey, and a “unit” bid was also to be submitted, which covered any repairs beyond the base project.

Bids were opened on October 14, 2009. Eight contractors submitted bids. The lowest base bid was \$148,690, and the highest was \$326,000. The remaining bids averaged \$220,000. In addition to the base bid, there were separate bid items for foliage, auditorium wall painting, and ornamental plaster restoration and painting in addition to the unit price.

The board approved awarding the project to the low bidder, EverGreene Architectural Arts. We were extremely pleased that we could have EverGreene complete this project, as they have had over 30 years’ experience in historic restoration. EverGreene’s projects include the Library of Congress in Washington DC, the Empire State Building and Radio City Music Hall.

All of the seats were covered in plastic, row by row. On November 9th, the scaffolding construction began and took two weeks to complete.

During this time, we met with EverGreene’s foreman, Mike Carpenter, at the theatre. Mike had painted a sample area of the wall in a base coat, and a glaze coat. The glazing was original, and entailed ragging paint over the base coat. The board unanimously approved glazing the walls throughout the theatre to match the original appearance, which was an extra expense. In addition, all ornamental plaster was repaired and repainted to match the original finish. The lobby was also painted and the stencils were restored.

On top of the scaffolding was what EverGreene referred to as the “dance floor.” This plywood floor was about seven feet from the ceiling and covered the entire auditorium. The king’s head at the top of the proscenium was about the only visible ornament above the floor. The head was nicknamed “King Ray” after our president Ray Kahler. King Ray was in quite a few pictures of those brave souls who ventured up to the dance floor.

One particular project dear to the heart of board member Lane You-

*Cont’d on Page 3*



*The ropes secured the plywood that used to be mounted over this hole.*



*Nick from EverGreene plastering the ceiling. Note the straws hanging down from the ceiling, marking the star holes.*

mans was relighting all of the stars. Lane inserted plastic straws through each star hole, marking each one so that they would not be plastered over.

The attic side of the ceiling was treated with a consolidant, which will help secure the plaster and prevent it from coming loose. Board members worked for three days vacuuming the attic area in preparation for this project, to save the expense of paying the

contractor to do the cleaning work.

We are extremely grateful to EverGreene for completing the project prior to our reopening date of January 23rd. Several items were added to the original project, and EverGreene was wonderful with completing it within the original timeline.

During the restoration project, hundreds of photos were taken by board members Lane Youmans and Mickey Thurman. Many of the pho-

tos can be seen at our online photo album, which is linked on our website.

Of all of the projects done during the past few years, this one has got to be the most exciting and awesome. To have the theatre walls restored, the entire ceiling repaired, and all of the 60+ stars shining again makes us proud to serve on this board, and proud to present this project to the community. ❖

*Editor's Note: These black and white photos do not do justice to the amazing transformation of the interior. To truly appreciate it, visit the theatre or check out our photo album linked on our website.*

*Board president Ray Kahler, with his namesake, King Ray.*



*Amanda and Mike glaze the walls on the ramp*



# History of the Stars

By Lane Youmans

Many people have wondered about the stars at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street, what they actually are, and how to change them when they burn out. The area above the auditorium is actually an attic, and the stars are 10 watt light bulbs in metal cans. The cans are sitting on top of metal plates that have a hole in them, which is positioned over a hole in the plaster.

The stars were originally installed by Fobes Supply Company in Seattle. The actual number of stars is a closely guarded secret. I remember as a child, my mother suggesting that I count the stars. I know now it was her way to get a 10 year old boy to stop fidgeting in his seat.

While none of the stars twinkle, some of them blink, thanks to blinker buttons. There was one star over the proscenium that would blink, and when I would go to the movies with my mother, I would look for my star. I nicknamed it "Telestar" (which gives you some idea how old I am), and it was always comforting to walk into the dim auditorium and look for my star.



*The ceiling and can lights where the stars are.*

During the ceiling restoration project, we were able to change the incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which should last around 12,000 hours. There are still a few lights to change, but they are in very inaccessible places (towards the bottom of the horizon), and they should be changed in the near future. ❖

## The Curious Case of the Candy Cabinet

by Lane Youmans



For years, I believed that the candy counter was an original fixture when the theatre opened in 1928.

I decided to use my investigative skills as a retired Sheriff's Detective to find out about its history. There was no documentation at the theatre to show when it was purchased, and the earliest Jones photo that showed the concession area was from January, 1947 (Jonesphotocollection.com, #23139\_1). The D & R had an identical candy

cabinet (as both theatres were owned by Evergreen Theaters), and the earliest Jones photo showing the other cabinet was from 1943 (Jones photo# 23238\_1). The cabinets have birdseye maple veneer, and have an art deco look, possibly from the late 1930's or early 1940's. The keys for our cabinet were long lost, and one of the money drawers was locked. The cabinets were made by the Klassen Co. in Los Angeles, which is no longer in business. They are refrigerated, and are designed to blow cold air over the contents. The photos in the Jones collection show they have always held candy, but after unlocking the money drawer, I found a tantalizing clue. It was an instruction sheet indicating that the compressor was made by the Kelvinator Company. It is a model 1945, and is for ice cream cabinets. It is possible that the cabinets were designed to hold ice cream, but the idea never caught on, so they were sold as candy cabinets. An extensive search on the internet turned up no information about them.

The cabinet has sat unused in the lobby for several years, but we are pleased to be using it once again. The former concession counter has been donated to the Hoquiam Senior Center, and a new smaller counter is being built by Correctional Industries. This will allow for more room in the lobby, and the counter will complement the candy cabinet. ❖

## Silver Screen Classics

Six new films have been added to our movie schedule in 2010 — all films from the 1930s through 50s. David Akers, our volunteer projectionist, is managing our new Silver Screen Classics Series. The lineup is *Casablanca*, *Road to Morocco*, *Shadow of a Doubt*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *My Little Chickadee* and *The Bad Seed*. The series is sponsored by Timberland Bank.

Our movie series has been a huge hit, and attendance has grown steadily since its inception in 2004. Remaining in our regular classic series for 2010 are *Airplane!*, *X-Men*, *Thunder Road* (with the Push Rods of Hoquiam), *Back to the Future Part 3* (with DeLoreans), *Mamma Mia!* and *Vertigo*. In addition, the Hoquiam Business Association is presenting *A Christmas Story* on December 18.

The film schedule can be found on our website.

## Dan Whyms to appear in CASH: The Living Tribute on April 3

The Hoquiam Business Association will be presenting McCleary resident Dan Whyms in concert on Saturday April 3rd. Whyms is a nationally renowned Johnny Cash tribute artist, and has been recognized by members of the Oak Ridge Boys Band, Marshall Grant of Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two, and Earl Poole Ball, a Johnny Cash pianist. Whyms is one of only a few Johnny Cash tribute artists that exist worldwide. His deep powerful baritone voice and picking of the acoustic guitar combine for an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Local artist Shaun Beebe and his daughter, newly crowned Miss Grays Harbor Outstanding Teen Blythe Beebe will open the performance.

## 4Cast will be the first to grace the new stage floor



Talented local vocalists (clockwise from left) Ted Spoon, Christine Hill, Keith Krueger, and Patty Sundstrom, accompanied by Merry Jo Zimmer on piano, will perform love songs on Sunday, May 2 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10/adults and \$5/students available at Harbor Drug and at the door

## Battle of the Bands May 28

Satsop River Rock Festival reunion organizer Tim Holderman, of Hometown Productions, will be presenting the Battle of the Bands at the 7th Street on Friday, May 28th. At this event four bands will be selected to appear at the Satsop River Rock Festival and Tin Cup Races Reunion at the Olympic Stadium on July 31st.

## Country star Tracy Lawrence in concert on May 29

Nationally renowned country recording artist Tracy Lawrence will appear in concert on Saturday May 29. The concert is being presented by Hometown Productions. Lawrence hit the national spotlight in 1991 when he was just 23, when his debut album, *Sticks and Stones*, was released.



Tracy Lawrence

His second album, the double-platinum *Alibis* spawned four straight number one smashes. His studio albums have accounted for more than 30 singles on the Billboard country music charts.

## Thank you to our 2009 Donors & Sponsors!

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Grays Harbor Community  
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Dorothy Bigelow

Roberta Cleland

Lynn & John Ogren

Margorie Stage

#### Supporting Actor (\$25 to \$49)

Edward Carleton Logue

Bill and Ellen Pickell

Larry & Judie Short

### Major funding

State of Washington (rigging)

Grays Harbor County (murals)

Dick & Pat Warren (stage floor)

City of Hoquiam (event  
promotions)

US Bancorp (stage floor &  
carpet)

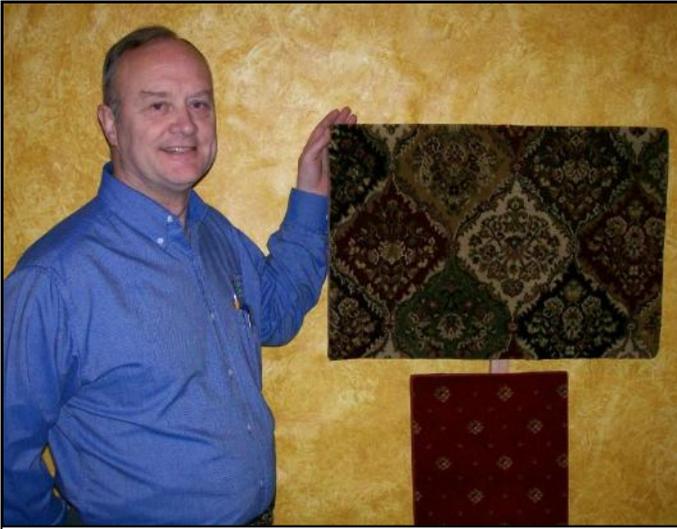
## Westport Winery releases Fleur de Lis Pino Gris benefitting the 7th Street Theatre

Westport Winery's Fleur de Lis Pinot Gris will be released on Saturday, June 12 at the winery's Fleur de Lis Festival and Art in the Vines. This event will go from noon to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday. There will be an outdoor French marketplace in collaboration with the Westport Art Festival Committee. Scott Lindemuth, a classical guitarist from Seattle, will be performing both days. A sculpture by Lindell Stacy-Horton will also be unveiled. Fleur de Lis is crafted in a Alsatian fashion (lots of

floral and fruit aspects on both the nose and the palate). It is aged in stainless steel so as not to overwhelm this grape's natural flavors with oak.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of Fleur de Lis Pinot Gris will benefit the 7th Street Theatre. Historical photographs of the theatre show that the three exterior front wall alcoves above the entrance were once decorated with dozens of fleurs de lis, so this wine is a perfect match for the 7th Street.





***The carpet is coming!***

***Grays Harbor Community Foundation funds new carpet***

***Jim Daly, director of the GH Community Foundation, stands next to the carpet samples***

In January last year the Grays Harbor Community Foundation informed us that they were interested in funding new carpet. We were asked to present three bids from local carpet vendors.

The theatre board studied several styles of carpet and chose the above, which is manufactured by Kane. The top sample will be installed in the lobby, up the ramps and across the main aisle. The other sample is an almost solid red with gold highlights and will be installed on the

vertical aisles in the auditorium.

After presenting our samples to the Foundation they decided to fund the entire carpet which is approximately \$42,000! The funding is provided by the Jeanne Hannaford Memorial Fund.

Ken Schoenfeld Furniture of Hoquiam, winning bidder, will be installing the carpet during the last two weeks of April!

A huge thank you to the Community Foundation board for this generous donation. ❖

***Stage Floor Repair scheduled in April***

As if we haven't had enough sprucing up going on we are privileged to announce that the stage floor will be replaced. Dick and Pat Warren of Hoquiam and U.S. Bancorp Foundation donated the funding necessary to replace the severely damaged fir flooring on the stage. The damaged fir will be replaced with much sturdier maple tongue & groove wood flooring. The front portion of the stage already has maple flooring, which will remain and be refinished. The entire main stage will be maple, and will be stained a darker color to help with lighting issues that occur with lighter colored floors.

The stage project will be completed by Christopherson Wood Floors of Tumwater during the last two weeks of April while the carpet is being replaced.

Be sure to come to our first event after these two projects, the 4Cast concert on May 2nd, and see the new carpet, stage floor, the stars in the sky and the stars on stage! ❖

***Support the 7th Street Theatre***

The 7th Street Theatre Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, and owns and operates the 7th Street Theatre. **General donations** are set aside into a special fund for restoration and preservation of the theatre building. Future projects include installation of a fire alarm system and exterior sealing and restoration of the front of the theatre. Funding for restoration work is also provided by grants.

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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The 7th Street Theatre is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation ❖ Thank you for your support!

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

# COMING EVENTS

**Johnny Cash Tribute**  
Saturday April 3 @ 7:00 pm

**HHS Showtime**  
Thursday & Friday April 8 & 9 @ 7:00 pm  
Saturday April 10 @ 2:00 pm

**Film: Road to Morocco (1942)**  
Saturday April 10 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday April 11 @ 3:00 pm

**Film: Airplane! (1980)**  
Friday & Saturday April 16 & 17 @ 7:30 pm

**4-Cast in Concert**  
Sunday, May 2 @ 7:30 pm

**Young Artist Showcase**  
Friday May 7 @ 7:30 pm

**Film: Shadow of a Doubt (1943)**  
Saturday May 8 @ 7:30 pm  
Sunday May 9 @ 3:00 pm

**HHS Choir Spring Concert**  
Monday May 10 @ 7:00 pm

Current event information can be found on our website: [www.7thstreettheatre.com](http://www.7thstreettheatre.com)

**Hope to Haiti: Benefit Concert**  
Saturday May 15 @ 7:30

**Film: X Men (2000)**  
Friday and Saturday May 21 & 22 @ 7:30 pm

**Battle of the Bands**  
**Satsop River Rock Festival**  
Friday May 28

**Tracy Lawrence**  
Saturday May 29—doors @ 7:00

**7th Street Kids Auditions**  
Saturday June 5 9:00 am

**Dancers Unlimited**  
Friday June 18

**Film: Thunder Road (1958)**  
Saturday June 19 @ 7:30 pm

**7th Street Kids Annual Musical Production**  
July 30, 31 and August 1

Movie Admission Price: \$5 adults/\$3 students

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

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