

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE 7th STREET THEATRE

Feb. 2: Outstanding Teen Pageant, 7 pm

Feb. 3: Miss Grays Harbor Pageant, 7 pm
(Tickets \$15 per nt./\$25 both, available at Harbor Drug and Rosevear's)

*Feb. 9 & 10: Valentine's Special Movie—Roman Holiday, 7:30 pm, starring Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn, Eddie Albert (1953, USA approved, 118 min.)

*Feb. 17: Ian & Joy Dorsch and Friends, concert, 7:30 pm (\$12 adults/\$3 students)

Feb. 21 & 22: Hoquiam Middle and High School Choir and Band Concerts, 7 pm, free

Mar. 10: Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret, comedy, dance, concert, 7:30 pm (\$22 adults/\$9 students, available at Harbor Drug and City Center Drug)

Mar. 17: Mudcat (Dan McKinstry), concert, 7:30 pm (\$8 adults/\$4 students at the door)

*Mar. 23 & 24: Raiders of the Lost Ark, movie, 7:30 pm, starring Harrison Ford & Karen Allen (1981, Rated PG, 115 min.)

*Mar. 31: St. James's Gate, concert, 7:30 pm (\$12 adults/\$3 students)

*April 20: Young Artist Showcase, concert, 7:30 pm (\$7 adults/\$3 students)

*April 27 & 28: The Birds, Hitchcock classic movie, 7:30 pm, starring Rod Taylor, Jessica Tandy, Suzanne Pleshette (Rated PG-13, 118 min.)

*May 12: Michael Partington, concert, 7:30 pm (\$12 adults/\$3 students)

May 18-19: Parks School of Dance presents The Wizard of Oz, 7 pm

*May 25-26: Monty Python and the Holy Grail, movie, 7:30 pm, starring Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones (1975, Rated PG, 90 min.)

June 1 & 2: Grays Harbor Dance presents Broadway Remix Dance Recital, time TBA

*June 8 & 9: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, movie, 7:30 pm, starring Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson, Peter Ostrum (1971, Rated G, 100 min.)

June 16: Tryouts-Treasure Island, 9 am (7th St. Kids)

July 27 & 28 (7:30 pm); July 30 (2 pm): 7th Street Kids present Treasure Island

*Movie Admission Price: \$5 adults/\$3 students
*Presented by the 7th Street Theatre Association

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

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Backstage at the 7th Street...

Where stars light the sky and the stage

Winter 2007 ■ Volume 2, Number 1

Board pays tribute to past board members

In our last newsletter, we featured Ed Bowers on the cover. In 1986, Ed donated money to the Grays Harbor Community Concert Association, allowing them to purchase the 7th Street Theatre. The following article pays tribute to two other board members who were actively involved in the Theatre during Ed's time.

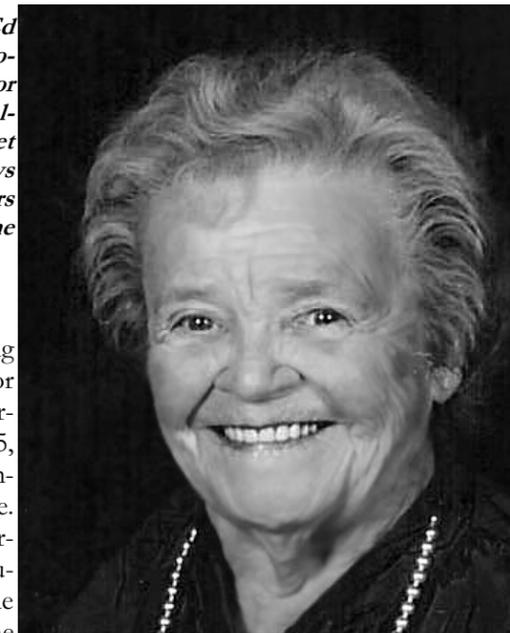
Pat Stevenson

In 1965, Pat Stevenson began working as a bookkeeper/office manager for Interstate Asphalt Company in Aberdeen, owned by Ed Bowers. In 1985, Ed sold the company, and Pat continued to work on the books at home. About this time, the Theatre was purchased by the Grays Harbor Community Concert Association. Idabelle Lewis, who handled the books for the concert association, wanted to retire, and Ed said he had "just the person for the job."

Pat took over the bookkeeping duties for the Theatre at this time and handled all financial aspects of the Theatre until she handed the books over to the current board in 2003.

Pat remembers many fundraising drives to help save the Theatre. A few years after she became Board Treasurer, they decided to print and sell collectors' plates as a fundraiser. A Nancy Bowman print reproduction was on the front, and a bit of history about the Theatre painted on the back. Only 500 individually numbered plates were issued.

They had sold some of the plates when they realized the print on the



backs was coming off. So, they got as many plates back as they could, but not all were replaced. An entirely new batch of plates had to be ordered. One of these was recently donated to the Theatre. It is on display in the glass concession stand.

One of Pat's most memorable fundraising drives was the sale of homemade blackberry pie à la mode.

According to Pat, "A bunch of us little old ladies hand-picked these berries on one of the gal's property in Montesano. We took them home, cleaned them, and made pies. We sold individual pieces at Loggers' Play-day—with ice cream!" There were also "penny cans" located around town at many Hoquiam businesses.

In 1929 and 1930, when Pat was in

the 1st and 2nd grades, she remembers coming to the Theatre to see movies. Her family moved to Satsop and returned when she was in the 6th grade.

On Thursday nights, there was "Bank Night" or "Keno Night." She also remembers attending the Theatre (paying 10¢ to get in) to see the Saturday matinees starring Buster Crabbe in the *Flash Gordon* and *Buck Rogers* sci-fi series, which ran during 1936 through 1940.

When Pat would come to the Theatre as a child, she distinctly remembers looking down through the crowds and spotting her mother in the lower auditorium.

"My mother was beautiful and had this wonderful corn silk-colored hair, and I could always spot her immediately in the crowd when I went to the movies," Pat states.

When asked about a favorite aspect of her time with the 7th Street Theatre, Pat quickly replies with "It sure kept me out of trouble," but goes on to say that she values the Theatre as one of the last remaining and oldest atmospheric theaters on the West Coast, and wants to see it survive.

"I'd like to see the ceiling fixed in my lifetime," she emphatically states.

From the Board: "We love you, Pat, and sincerely thank you for all of your hard work in keeping the Theatre alive."

Note: Our March 31st concert featuring St. James's Gate is dedicated to Pat Stevenson.

Please turn to page 2.



MEMBER

7th Street Theatre Board

President—Ray Kahler

Vice President—Mickey Thurman

Secretary—Ernie Lysen

Treasurer—Karen Scott

Additional Board Members:

Matt Hirschfelder

Jim Heikel

Ken McDonald

Mickey Miller

Diane Stokes

Lane Youmans

“7th Street Kids” Liaison:

Jeannie McNeal

Backstage at the 7th Street

Editor:

Phyllis Jones

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

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Board pays tribute (from page 1)

Bob Brawley

In 1988, Bob Brawley was recruited by Myra P. Shelley, a well-known local organist who played for years at Coleman Mortuary. She asked him if he could come and “help out a little bit” at the 7th Street Theatre. At this time, Bob played saxophone in the Aberdeen Elks Band and was an avid lover of jazz music.

From the time Bob joined the Board and became head maintenance person at the Theatre, he spent 99% of his waking hours at the Theatre, according to Pat Stevenson. He painted the entire interior of the Theatre. The paned glass windows above the shops had been painted over, and the State historical people said the paint had to be removed. Bob recruited volunteers, and they removed all the paint from the glass. Then they repainted and sealed the moldings.

Bob retired when he joined up with the Theatre, and handled all maintenance at the Theatre during the time he was involved, which was approximately 12 years. He was Vice President of the Theatre Board during this time, too. Then he cut back due to health reasons.

Many major facility repairs happened during this time, including replacement of the heating system and patch sealing of the leaky roof. Much damage had occurred during the previous years, and thanks to Bob Brawley the Theatre is still in decent condition.

Bob perfected the system of hoisting plywood sheets up to the auditorium ceiling to prevent damaged plaster from falling.

During the days, he made repairs to the foundation, plumbing, dressing rooms and seats (to name just a few jobs), and on the nights of concerts, he helped out in the lobby. In addition, Bob was the contact person for performers.

According to Linda Borth, who opened the Sweet Shoppe in 1989, Bob “took care of the Theatre like he would have looked after his own



Photo courtesy of Leah Brawley

home. He loved it and hated not to be able to come down to the Theatre and be involved after he was disabled. He was a man for all seasons, one of those volunteers that kept us all going. If it leaked, he mopped it up, and if it was cold, he made it warm.”

Sadly, Bob passed away on June 10, 2006. The Board is indebted to Bob Brawley for the many years of hard work he devoted to the Theatre, helping to save it from deterioration.

Note: Our February 17 concert featuring Ian and Joy Dorsch is dedicated to Bob Brawley. ♦



More Volunteers!

Butter Boy (Lane Youmans) and Popcorn Man (Bob Martin) get ready for movie night. We offer real butter! Swanson’s Supermarkets donated \$100 worth of butter. (Photo courtesy of Betsy Seidel)

Thank You To Our Wonderful Supporters!

2006 Movie Sponsors

7th Street Sweet Shoppe
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Ray Kahler
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Harold & Patricia Warren

General and Leading Actor Memberships

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Maxine Cross
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Bill & Vella Garrison
Dennis & Mary Lou Gregory
Linda Hall
Helen Hepp
Martha Hill
Marlene Johnson
Keith & Carol Krueger
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Other Donors—August through December 2006

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If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so today!



Donation of Matched Funds

A \$600,000 matching funds appropriation has been awarded to the Theatre by the State of Washington. Matched funds will be used to repair stage rigging and auditorium renovation. Your tax-deductible contribution will be greatly appreciated. Please designate “Matching Funds Appropriation” on your donation.

Yes! I’d like to help!

Matching fund donation: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

(Used for upcoming event notification only)

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

*The 7th Street Theatre is a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation.
Thank you for your support!*

Building improvements continue at the Theatre

New Rigging System is Theatre's priority project



The stage rigging replacement project is the largest fundraising project the Theatre has encountered. The cost to replace the backstage rigging, platforms, catwalks, and curtain is \$625,000.

The condition of the rigging has become a safety concern for all users of the theatre, and it is our priority project.

To date, we have raised approximately two-thirds of the necessary funding, which includes the State of Washington matching funds.

In addition, we have received \$100,000 from the Bishop Foundation, \$5,000 from Weyerhaeuser, \$5,000 from the Bank of the Pacific, \$500 from Rognlin's, and over \$11,000 from other businesses and private donors.

A grant application was sent to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation in August 2006, and we should hear back from them by the end of February.

We are also seeking funds from other grant sources, and an application will be sent to the Murdock Foundation within the next month. All donations received are applied to this project. ♦

Donation allows exit door upgrades and hot water

Dick and Pat Warren of Hoquiam recently donated \$15,000 to the Theatre, which will be used to replace the panic hardware on exit doors.

The alley and "J" Street exit doors will receive new hardware, and parts from those doors will be used to repair the front door hardware.

This plan not only will be a safety upgrade, but also will mean the chains won't have to be removed and re-

placed on the Theatre exit doors prior to and after every event.

We are leaving the front door hardware intact, as it has historic value and fits in with lobby décor better than the newer hardware. Also, those exit doors are easier to access by Theatre users.

This donation will also allow us to add hot water to the men's and women's restrooms and the utility room.

The Theatre Board sincerely thanks the Warrens for their generosity. ♦

Treasure Island comes to the 7th Street Theatre

Hoist the Jolly Roger! The "7th Street Kids" has chosen *Treasure Island* for its 2007 summer production. This slightly off-beat, rollicking musical version of the classic Robert Louis Stevenson book tells the story of young Jim Hawkins, who sails on the *Hispaniola* to Skull Island in search of the buried treasure of Captain Flint.

During his adventures, Jim meets up with the memorable and colorful character Billy Bones, Black Dog, Ben Gunn, Long John Silver, Polly the Parrot, and the Phantom Crew of Captain Flint.

Treasure Island features many speaking and singing roles for both boys and girls.

Auditions for *Treasure Island* will be held at the 7th Street Theatre on Saturday, June 16 at 9:00 a.m. Kids who are ages 7 through 16 on the day of auditions are invited to try out for a role in the musical. No preparation is required. Those who audition will be taught a short dance and song which they will perform for the directors and producers.

The directors and producers will choose 50 performers for roles in the summer production.

Rehearsals begin during the week of June 18 and run on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The "7th Street Kids" will perform *Treasure Island* for the public on Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, July 30 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available at Rosevear's, Harbor Drug, and at the 7th Street Theatre box office one hour before performances.

You won't need a map to find this treasure at the 7th Street Theatre this summer! If you have questions, please call Jeannie McNeal at 360.532.1097. ♦



Kids, ages 7-16! Come audition for this rollicking musical on June 16, 9 pm, at the Theatre!

Local Artists

Second "Young Artists Showcase" set for Friday, April 20

Last April, twenty-two of the Harbor's most talented young vocalists, pianists, and instrumentalists performed at the 7th Street's first "Young Artists Showcase," hosted by the 2006 Miss Grays Harbor, Sydney Rees.

The concert featured a wide variety of musical styles, and audience response was extremely positive, with many people asking that it become an annual event.

The concept of the "Young Artists Showcase" is to give outstanding music students from local schools and private studios an opportunity to perform before a wider audience, and also to give members of the community an opportunity to hear these outstanding musicians.

Each individual or ensemble performs one or two selections, not to exceed a total of 10 minutes.

The "2007 Young Artists Showcase" will be held on Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m.



Young Artists Showcase, 2006

Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger

Music teachers may nominate students (including ensembles) by contacting Ray Kahler at:

kahler@techline.com or 533.2710
or Ken McDonald at:
ken@aberdeenrealty.com or 533.7100
or Maxine Cross at:

meguitarra@aol.com or 480.5515.

Students from both Grays Harbor County and Pacific County are eligible to participate.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for students and will be available at the door beginning at 6:45 p.m. ♦

Local talented performers open each concert of the 2006-2007 series

For the past two years, we have used local talented performers as opening acts for each concert in our series. Dancers, vocalists, and musicians from the Harbor have impressed our audiences at each concert.

As part of our 2006-007 series, we are proud to have our own board president, Ray Kahler, clarinetist, accompanied by pianist Ellen Pickell, open on May 12 for the Michael Partington concert.

On February 17, local pianist Jonathan Gerber will perform prior to the Ian and Joy Dorsch concert, and "Percussion Concussion," an amazing performance that must be seen, will open prior to the St. James's Gate concert on March 31. ♦



Local vocalists Dustyn Moir and Megan Kelly, accompanied by Christine Hill on piano, perform prior to our first concert of the season— "Seattle Chamber Players"— on October 8, 2006.

(Photo courtesy of Keith Krueger)

HAVE FUN AT THE MOVIES!

Would you like to help pick a movie?

Last year, we ran a ballot at two movies with 12 choices for movie patrons to choose from. The winner was *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was shown last September.

The ballot proved to be such a big hit with our movie patrons that we decided to make it an annual event. The ballot will be handed out at the first four movies of the year, and the winning film will be shown in September, as our annual "Patrons' Pick" movie.

How do we choose the movies listed on the ballot? In October, our movie committee members each bring choices for the movies for next year. Since we show only nine movies per year, there are a lot of movies that don't make the pick.

Twelve of the movies *that are not chosen* are listed on the "Patrons' Pick" ballot, along with some random choices from previous years' picks.

Yes, you can vote four times (or eight, if you come both nights), but you must come to the movies to be able to vote! Come join the fun! ♦



Betsy Seidel (aka "Santa") drops a stuffed camel into the Starbucks toy drop box. Starbucks baristas, Heather Greninger and Melissa Binion, help serve coffee and hot chocolate to our movie patrons. (Photo courtesy of Betsy Seidel)

In 2006: Starbucks teams up with the 7th Street for Christmas

On Thanksgiving weekend, November 25 and 26, Starbucks brought in free coffee and hot chocolate to serve to all patrons attending our Christmas movie, *The Shop Around the Corner*.

This was part of a Christmas fundraising event sponsored by Starbucks and the Starlight Starbright Foundation, in coordination with the Theatre.

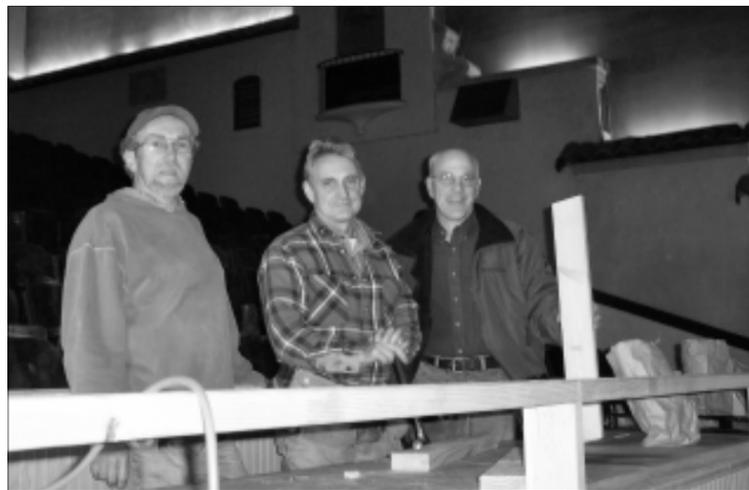
Patrons were asked to bring new, unwrapped toys for children in long-term hospital care over the Holidays.

According to Melissa Binion, the Starbucks coordinator in charge of setting up the event, they ended up with well over 90 toys to send to the Foundation!

This was fun for all, and we look forward to working with Starbucks in the future. ♦

Work Progresses at the Theatre

Sound System, in progress since 2004, becomes a reality



Left: G.H. Fine Woodworking Guild volunteers (l-r), Mike Ajax, Bob Sholes, and Bruce Kuhnau, take a break from building the sound booth to smile for the camera lady.

(Photo courtesy of Mickey Thurman)

In 2004, the Theatre began a massive fundraising drive for a much-needed sound system for live performances, and incorporated into the movie sound system. In the past, equipment has been borrowed and set up in the middle of the auditorium for all live performances, with wiring running up the aisle to a temporary location near the light board table.

The Theatre now has one of the most technically advanced sound systems in Grays Harbor County. The system boasts a 40-channel Allen & Heath mixing console, professional-grade JBL speakers with Dolby surround sound, and a Clear-Com system (an intercom system so the stage crew can communicate with workers at several locations throughout the auditorium during a show).

Thanks to grants from the Bishop Foundation, G.H. Community Foundation (McCaw Family Fund), Rayonier Foundation, Sierra Pacific Foundation, a U.S. Bancorp Challenge Grant, and donations from Weyerhaeuser, Aberdeen Realty, Friends of the Hoquiam Aquatic Center, Hoquiam High School Classes of 1940, 1943, and 1955, and over \$10,000

from private donors and funding from the State of Washington, we were able to secure the necessary \$110,000 for a state-of-the-art sound system installed by CCI Solutions of Olympia. CCI is a well-respected sound system contractor who has installed systems in Benaroya Hall and Safeco Field, in addition to concert halls, educational facilities, auditoriums, and performing arts centers around the country.

In mid-November, local electrical contractor Platinum Electric, along with volunteers (including HHS Choir students and City of Hoquiam AmeriCorps workers) headed by the Theatre board's technical director, Matt Hirschfelder, began the daunting task of running conduit and necessary wiring to the new location.

Jim Daly, Mike Walden, Jim Bergen, Ed Jahn, John Moselage, Mike Ajax, Bob Sholes, and Bruce Kuhnau, members of the Grays Harbor Fine Woodworking Guild, donated 115 hours of labor to build a sound booth. The location of the booth was voted as the least intrusive location by the board, and also will allow us to replace the seats at rear center of the lower section of the Theatre. The booth has been stained to match the color of the woodwork in the Theatre.

In November, CCI Solutions began the installation of speakers above the proscenium arch, the front corners of the auditorium and the center of the ceiling. To accomplish this, workers had to build 45-foot-high scaffolding to install the speakers. The speakers are mounted on a Unistrut system using 1,000# cable supporting the speakers. This method has prevented us from damaging the historic ceiling, as there are only small holes through which the cable runs. CCI worked around a busy Theatre schedule and had to build, tear down, and rebuild the scaffolding around events scheduled at the Theatre during November and December.

We are extremely proud and excited to use our new system and sincerely thank all volunteers and our wonderful community who have supported us in this project. This new sound system will improve our sound quality during all events, resulting in a memorable experience for theater patrons. In addition, we are able to provide quality sound equipment to all groups who rent the Theatre for performances.

Thank you, everyone! ♦



Above left: New soundboard sits next to the light control system in the new booth. Above right: Center speakers are installed by CCI Solutions. (Photos courtesy of Mickey Thurman)



Above: CCI Solutions crews install speakers above the proscenium. (Photo courtesy of Mickey Thurman)