



Backstage at the 7th Street...

Where stars light the sky and the stage

Summer/Fall 2008 ■ Volume 3, Number 2

Celebrating 80 Years



1928-2008



Photo by Sativa Miller

Back: Janet Workman, Marv Hammell, Lane Youmans, Jim Daly, Melissa Youmans, Ken McDonald, Terri Youmans, Tom Quigg, Christie Goodenough, Corey Cowan, Paul McMillan, Bob Martin, Jim Heikel, and Mickey Miller
Middle: Doris Daly, Sandie Pennant, Alissa Thurman, Karen Scott, Tracy Woods, Jeannie McNeal, Claudia Self, Barbara Cowan, Betsy Seidel, and Maxine Cross
Seated: Cal Bray, Ray Kahler, Jenny Fisher, Jamie Brand, Mickey Thurman, Ralph Daniel, and Mark Izatt
Not pictured, but attended later: Ralph, Kelly, Sophie and Nels Hogaboom

Through the years since the 7th Street Theatre has operated as a nonprofit organization, many volunteers have helped keep the theatre running. If it were not for the enthusiasm, love, and dedication of these wonderful people, the 7th Street Theatre would not be open today. As our way of saying “thank you” to our volunteers, we hosted a dinner and photo shoot at the theatre on August 11th. Thank you to everyone who is involved.

The 7th Street Theatre is truly owned by the community!



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Backstage at the 7th Street
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Webmaster: Ralph Hogaboom
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*Board meetings are held monthly
on the second Wednesday.*

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Guest Article

A Season of Abundance for a Grand Dame

I can't remember precisely the first time I was in our 7th Street Theatre. I had to have been around eight or nine years old, shortly after my family moved here. I know I was awed at a seemingly enormous, beautiful edifice, flowering up through the broken sidewalks and weeds of downtown Hoquiam. Inside, the lobby absorbed me: sedate, a bit run down, a bit threadbare; deep with history and gravity yet as friendly as a neighborhood picnic in the park.

Coming up in Hoquiam I would attend many theatre events and take my turn in the footlights in several choir performances and a few stage ones. Most memorable for me was the summer prior to my high school freshman year, relishing the role of The Wizard of Oz's Wicked Witch of the West in the 7th Street Kids' inaugural season. Running about upstairs in the dressing rooms or fidgeting in the creaking seats during rehearsals, the theatre never lost its mystery, nobility, or sense of deep-rooted community.

When my husband, children and I moved back to Hoquiam in early 2007 it was easy to slide into small favors for the theatre because my mother and brother were both involved. I felt it was a privilege to be included helping the theatre and making our voice heard in our small way. My husband volunteered to craft the website and I took to designing movie programs. The opportunity allowed us to meet wonderful people and attend some of the most fun yet efficient meetings I've been in. At these gatherings sometimes we had to bring our small children who were welcomed (or at least tolerated) which meant a lot to us since unlike many volunteers, we aren't retired nor empty-nesters.



Kelly Hogaboom
Guest Writer

Most impressive to me in my work with the theatre is the scope and nature of the events hosted. This last season has reflected the gamut from world-class talent (such as The Mosaic Brass Quintet) to regionally-based street performance ensembles (last year's Applaudville show was a favorite of my family's). The monthly movie showings reflect the theatre's history as well as bringing old-fashioned family fun to a contemporary experience more often sated by Netflix and YouTube.

I've noticed the theatre has been blessed with high-quality volunteers who've put in time, put out marketing efforts, and acquired the monies and energy to make some real differences and bring quality events to our special theatre. Each person deserves a thank you for the boon to our community. A time as fulsome and exciting as this should not be taken for granted.

Kelly Hogaboom produces a local zine on Hoquiam's lifestyle, Sure Nail and Fire. You can see it at www.surenailandfire.com.

Note from Editor: We encourage guest articles. If you are interested in contributing an article to our semi-annual newsletter, please contact Mickey Thurman at 360-532-5501.

Serredells purchase the Theatre in 1976

By Callie White

When Rob and Cheryl Serredell bought the 7th Street Theatre in 1976, they were only 27 years old. To come up with the \$50,000 price tag, they had to sell their home -- and give up their secure existence.

The young couple moved into the theatre, converting the dressing rooms to an apartment while working day jobs (Cheryl as the head decorator and buyer for Pearson's, Rob as an estimating engineer for Lamb Grays Harbor), as well as running "The LaGolondrina," a Mexican restaurant they owned at the Morck Hotel (Rob cooked and Cheryl waited tables). It took two years for them to get the theatre ready for its grand re-opening.

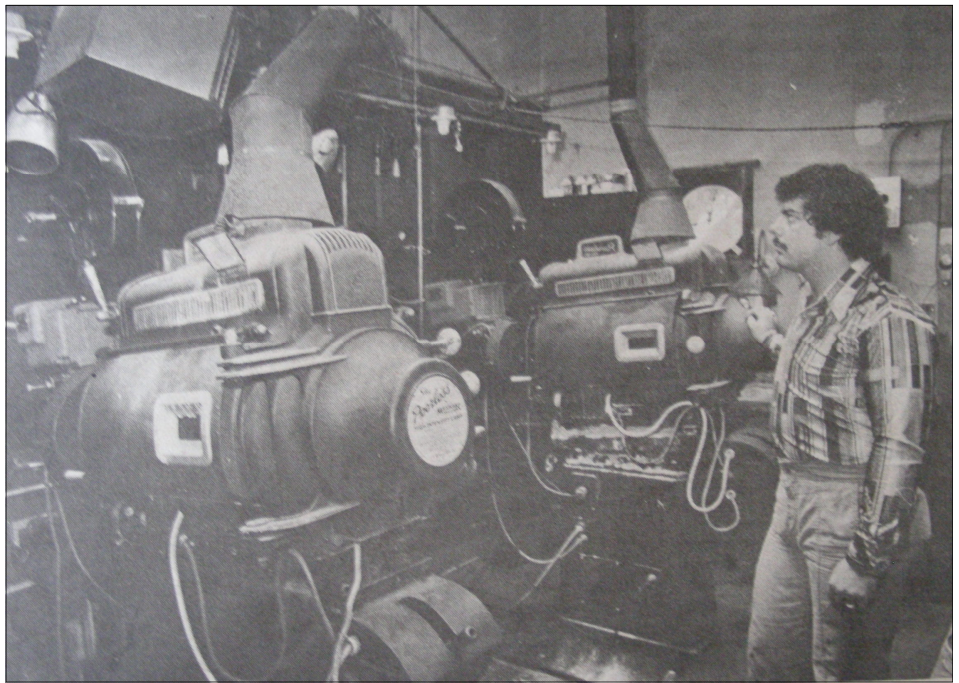
Serredell said he and Cheryl, both native Harborites and 1969 Aberdeen High School grads, knew what they were doing was bold — the theatre was decrepit — but they also had a vision for the historic structure, which was used sporadically during the '60s and much of the '70s.

It was a vision the previous owners, Jimmy and Gracie (Dolan) Cain agreed with. They sealed the deal with the Serredells with nothing more than a handshake.

"(Gracie Dolan) said that because of my beliefs and love for the theatre that her father would be pleased to know that I had it to love and preserve, for it was his love," Serredell said.

The Cains had other offers over the years, including one to turn the gorgeous atmospheric theatre into a three-screen pornography theatre. But Gracie, the daughter of former 7th Street owner Ed Dolan, said her father would "turn over in his grave" if the grand old gal, his crowning achievement, was reduced to such desperate circumstances.

"It was a struggle to make ends



Robert Serredell looks over the two huge projectors and the quadrasonic sound system in the 7th Street Theatre's projection room in 1976. (photo courtesy The Daily World August 20, 1978)

meet while restoring the theatre," Serredell said. But it was a challenge the young couple was well equipped to take on.

"Cheryl and I were a very strong and a forceful team," Serredell recalled. "We never got discouraged, and never saw obstacles as much as we saw opportunities. I was always the dreamer and it was Cheryl that would always bring it all back to reality."

And the work was sometimes overwhelming. The Serredells had to redo the electrical and plumbing, rebuild the projectors, install new sound systems and fix old ones, get the atmospheric lighting and dimmers to work again, rework the boiler (which couldn't be started up just for the apartment, so the two would go to the YMCA for a daily morning swim, which allowed them to clean up, Serredell said) and heating systems, learn how to work the air flow intake valves, fix roof leaks ... the list went on and on.

Living above the Theatre also meant having the "Spotlight Tavern"

as the Serredells' next-door neighbor (it was connected to the Theatre's back wall in what now is a parking lot). The crowd got out every night at 2:00 a.m., with motorcycle engines roaring, street fights, and police cars. The bar burned down, causing smoke damage throughout the Theatre.

Serredell said he got words of inspiration from his father.

"It may be a white elephant son, but do not ever let that stop you from your dreams, it is better to have tried and failed, you are young and can always pick yourself back up again and start over, but Do Not be a bitter old man in your golden years and thinking 'I wish I would have done that or at least tried and full of regrets!'" Serredell remembered him saying.

There were also gratifying aspects to sprucing up the 7th Street, like preserving all the original staging backdrops and side legs, which were 90 feet long and needed to be taken from the D&R, where they had been taken years before but which was too small

Please turn to page 4

for them to ever be used. It took two tandem pickup trucks to bring them back to the 7th Street.

"They were originally painted in Chicago and shipped to the theatre via railcar," Serredell recalled. There was a Spanish Villa scene with fountain (still in use) and a complete forest with its "legs" (no longer at the Theatre).

"All of these drops had been professionally done in 1928 and appeared as if you could walk right into the scene," Serredell said.

"We had the original Vaudeville curtain that was pulled between shows and girls line danced out in front — tap danced on the hard maple front part of the stage with the floor pocket lights," he continued

Gracie Dolan Cain gave Serredell the 1912 nine-foot Concert Grand Baldwin Piano that had been shipped from Chicago for the grand opening of the Theatre in 1928 as a housewarming present.

"I have the piano to this day, in fact it has been rebuilt by the piano

master builder who took care of and tuned pianos for Liberace," Serredell said. "It is a beautiful instrument and my part of the theatre and Mrs. Dolan and her father."

Even though the couple was young, they had a lot of experience with local theaters. Cheryl had worked at the Aberdeen Theatre during high school, and both were involved in Miss Grays Harbor before they bought the 7th Street. From 1976-1981, the Serredells ran the pageant.

In addition to Miss Grays Harbor, Serredell said the Theatre hosted "Kathleen Ronald's Dance Extravaganza, Kathleen Walsh's Spring and Christmas Dance Recitals, and many other events where we had major classical Columbia Artists and rock stars and vaudeville stars perform."

The Theatre also hosted films, many of them first-run, competing with the Aberdeen Theatre.

"We were amazed at winning the bid for 'The Blue Lagoon' with Brooke Shields and Christopher Atkins," Serredell said. "We also had

'Star Wars,' and the 'Dragon Slayer,' which were unbelievable on the big screen of the 7th Street and the Dolby Surround Sound system that we had."

The Serredells also played the "classics," he said, like Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Jimmy Stewart, Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor.

Despite all the challenges and sacrifices, the Serredells say they have no regrets and enjoyed their stewardship of the 7th Street. With the encouragement and volunteer efforts of friends and family, they helped to preserve a piece of Harbor history. ‡

Thank you to Robert Serredell and Cheryl Gruber for the great information they provided, and for purchasing the 7th Street at a time when demolition or defacement was likely.

Also thank you to Callie White for editing the article.

Concerts

By Ray Kahler

Due to the Theatre being closed for the stage rigging project, our Live Arts committee decided not to schedule a concert series for 2008-2009. We have some ideas for concerts for the first half of 2009, including a fourth annual Young Artist Showcase, and will pursue those after the Theatre has re-opened. We also hope to produce a Music Teachers Showcase in the fall of 2009.

Many of our most successful concerts in recent years have featured local talent. If you know of local musicians you think should be considered by our Live Arts committee, or if you would like to join the committee and help with planning concerts at the Theatre, please contact Ray Kahler at

kahler@techline.com or 533-7860.

If you are looking for musical performances in the local area while the 7th Street is closed, in addition to the Bishop Center, the Raymond Theatre is just a short drive to the south. The Raymond Theatre has an outstanding Sunday Afternoon Live concert series planned for 2008-2009, starting with famed Irish tenor Anthony Kearns in two special appearances on November 1 and 2 at 2 p.m. Sunday's concert is already sold out, but tickets are available for Saturday's concert for \$25 by sending a SASE with check to SAL, P. O. Box 925, South Bend, WA 98586. For questions, email sundayafternoonlive@comcast.net or call (360) 875-5831.

The Sunday Afternoon Live Series continues on Nov. 23 with Bill Harley,

Jan. 25 with jazz ensemble Pearl Django, Feb. 22 with the Washington State American Legion Band, March 22 with The Alley Cats, April 5 with Avner the Eccentric, and ending May 10 with Brownsmead Flats.

All concerts start at 2:00, and ticket prices are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Tickets are available at South Bend Pharmacy, Sandra's Art & Frame (South Bend), Sagen's Pharmacy, or P. O. Box 221, South Bend, WA 98586. ‡

Further event listings at the Raymond Theatre can be found at <http://www.cranberrycoast.net/raymondtheater/index.php>

News *Quigg's Raiders perform organ transplant*

By Mickey Thurman

Early this year, during a meeting to discuss what kinds of fun things we could do to celebrate the theatre's 80th birthday, it was mentioned that we knew where the original organ was located. The Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society has records online of most theatre organs in the Pacific Northwest. In 1944 the organ was moved to Parkland's Trinity Lutheran Church, and in 1960 was purchased by George Martin and taken to his home in Clute, Texas. Volunteer Betsy Seidel decided to get the organ back. She did — with the help of Tom Quigg and Pat Oleachea and many others.

Betsy contacted Mr. Martin and found that he actually had the organ for sale. Soon an article appeared in

The Daily World and within a few days Tom Quigg contacted Betsy saying he and Pat wanted to donate the funds to bring the organ back home.

On March 10 the group formerly known as "Quigg's Raiders" — Tom Quigg, Lane Youmans, Marv Hammell, Mark Izatt, and Dave Luttinen (of PSTOS, who supervised the crating of the pipes) — headed to Clute.

In record-breaking time the Raiders moved, catalogued, photographed and loaded the pipes and all organ-related pieces into a U-Haul. The Clute volunteer Fire Department helped load the console into the back of the moving van.

Mark Izatt and Marv Hammell headed home in the U-Haul with the organ — a 2,700 mile trek.

On March 20 the organ arrived and was unloaded by volunteers at the

theatre. The console is back in its original location in the orchestra pit. The pipes and parts are stored under the seating area.

So what is happening with the organ now? Well, Betsy's husband, Bob Martin, took a strong interest in its restoration and has agreed to pursue this project. It will take a few years, as there are many parts that need to be repaired, the pipes need to be cleaned and installation is a huge project. The pipes will eventually go back into the pipe chambers, which are located in the front sidewalls of the theatre.

The board members want to thank everyone from this community who has helped and been very supportive of this wonderful project. What a fitting celebration for the 7th Street Theatre's 80th year! †

Below: One of the many crates that were built to house the pipes for a safe trip



Volunteer Marv Hammell is overwhelmed at the sight of the voluminous organ parts which have been stored in a garage for more than 45 years

Photos by Lane Youmans



Right: Members of the Clute Volunteer Fire Department help move the console from Mr. Martin's home to load into it into the U-Haul

J.P. Patches & Gertrude: The Men Behind the Makeup — April 5, 2008



Photos by Joe Brand



Top left: Bob Newman (Gertrude) Chris Wedes (J.P.) and Bryan Johnston (who wrote Northwest Icon, a book about J.P. Patches) Top right: Many people brought in their own souvenirs for autographs.

Over 375 people from across the state (some even came from Montana!) attended the Men Behind the Makeup celebration. J.P. Patches (Chris Wedes) is also celebrating his 80th birthday this year. Chris and Bob said this was one of the biggest crowds they'd had. Proceeds from this event were donated to Children's Hospital, and in turn, the 7th Street Theatre now has a paver at the JP & Gertrude statue site in the Fremont District in Seattle. ‡

Many Patches Pals stood in line to get autographs

BACK TO THE FUTURE brings DeLoreans from the Pacific Northwest



Photos by Mickey Thurman



August 23rd, the second night of *Back to the Future*, brought 12 DeLoreans and owners to town to celebrate their favorite movie. We invited members of the Pacific Northwest DeLorean Club to the theatre, and they were excited to attend. They had so much fun, they want to do it again next year. Over 300 people attended the movie Saturday night, and many strolled through the street admiring these collector's cars. More photos and a video are located on our News & Blog page ‡

Stage Rigging Replacement Project underway this fall

After more than three years of fund-raising for the single most expensive project undertaken in the past 10 years, the theatre's stage rigging replacement project is finally underway.

In 2004 Candela Theatre Consultants

of Seattle was hired by the theatre to conduct an inspection and submit a report for the rigging. Candela's report stated that the stage rigging had "outlasted its life expectancy by 51 years." That was four years ago! The catwalks, walkways and ladders will be upgraded to meet safety standards, and our plan is to replace all stage curtains, if the final bid comes in at our budgeted amount.

In addition to funding received by the State of Washington in 2005, several grants have been received, and

over \$60,000 in private and business donations have been raised for this \$700,000 project.

Our architect, Alan Gozart, of Harbor Architects, has been working closely with Candela and PCS Structural Solutions with bid preparation and final drawings. Bids will be reviewed by the theatre board in September, and the schedule calls for fabrication to begin in late October and demolition following in November.

The project will be completed by mid-January. ‡

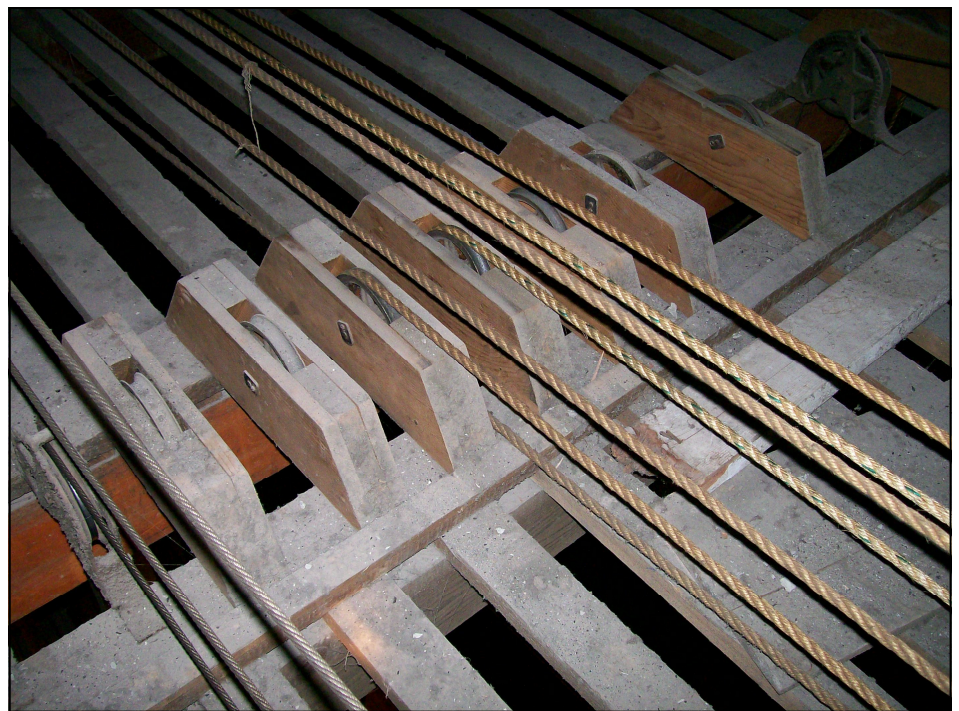
What's next?

Our board has been working diligently to obtain bids for several projects. The most exciting news we'd like to share is regarding the ceiling. After receiving estimates of over \$500,000 to replace the ceiling, board member Lane Youmans researched the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation for historic structures, specifically standards for plaster, and concluded that an integrity inspection could save much of the plaster. The board chose to hire a conservator to inspect the ceiling.

Ornamental Plaster Expert of Federal Way conducted an inspection and evaluation of structural integrity of the plaster ceiling. The integrity report concludes that only some of the plaster needs to be replaced. The entire ceiling will need to be repainted. The new estimate for the plaster repair and replacement, painting (including scaffolding) and restoring the stars is approximately \$250,000.

Other project estimates received:

- Sealing and painting front of theatre—\$25,000
- Carpet replacement—\$31,000
- Replacement of stage flooring—\$14,000
- Fabricated lighted 7th Street candlestick sign—\$60,000 ‡



Part of the pulley system located above the stage, used for raising and lowering the backdrops, curtains, and light bars. The wooden planks will remain, but metal flooring will be installed over the top. (photo by Lane Youmans)

Door hardware finally upgraded — no more chains!

A few years ago Dick and Pat Warren donated money to replace the exit door hardware. Unfortunately, it took years to complete this project due to the fact that the door hardware used in the theatre is a special order item and is only manufactured when enough orders have been placed. Finally, this year the hardware arrived, and board member Jim Heikel found a local locksmith — Joe Prieur — of E-Z-Key Locksmith of Westport who had the skills to tackle this project. All exit doors, except the front doors, have been upgraded (we don't have to secure them with chains any longer!) and parts from the old hardware have been used to repair the front doors. The closers on the front doors have also been cleaned and repaired. ‡



Workers from Phoenix Sign Co. remove the old marquee



Volunteers paint the entryway on June 28

Marquee restoration

In June the theatre received a generous donation from Dick and Pat Warren of Hoquiam to restore the deteriorated marquee. Phoenix Sign Co. of Aberdeen was hired to restore the marquee and donated the labor for removal and installation. The marquee was not original to the 7th Street. After researching photos in the historic Jones Photo Collection, we believe it was installed in 1942. Signage was apparently an issue in 1928 when the theatre was built. The only marquee-type signs were mounted at the ends of the overhang. In 1928 an awning ran around the entire building, blocking the view of the upcoming events to those walking directly beneath the overhang. In approximately 1929 a new candlestick sign was installed, replacing the original, which had a lighted reader board announcing events at the bottom of the candlestick. This would have been seen from many areas in downtown Hoquiam. Employees would have had to climb up over what is now the Sweet Shoppe to replace the letters. ‡

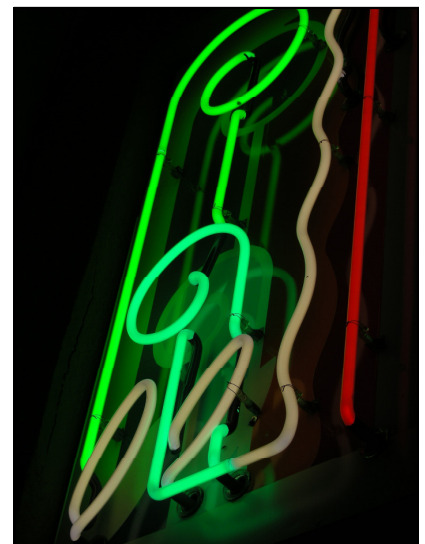


Rusted marquee ends prior to restoration



The new marquee is a replicate of the original, incorporating the original tracking system and letters, which have been repainted.

A complete photo album of the marquee project can be found on our website under News & Blog



New neon!

You can still Save A Seat!

Seat Drive Pledge Card

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

I would like to dedicate the following seat(s):

\$200 Balcony (upper) section Qty: _____ = \$ _____

\$250 Main section seat(s) Qty: _____ = \$ _____

\$500 Loge seat(s) (top two rows, main section) Qty: _____ = \$ _____

I don't wish to buy a seat at this time, but I will make a donation of \$ _____ toward the Save a Seat campaign.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ 7th Street Theatre Association, PO Box 777, Hoquiam WA 98550

You may also pay online with your credit card or PayPal account at www.7thstreettheatre.com "Save a Seat"

Inscription: Please print clearly! Use one form per inscription. Your message may include up to 16 characters per line. Characters can be upper or lower case. Spaces count as one character. You may use letters, numbers, and/or the following three symbols: & / - (ampersand, slash, or dash). Each of these symbols count as a character. No other punctuation may be used. All inscriptions reviewed by committee.

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Example:

M	R		&		M	R	S		R	U	D	O	L	P	H
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	O							

Annual Membership Gift

Annual membership gifts are used for operations. We thank our past members, and welcome new memberships. The following levels are available. (Director and Producer levels will be acknowledged in our concert and movie programs throughout the next year)

Membership Gift:

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

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

7th Street Theatre Association, PO Box 777, Hoquiam, WA 98550

Helpers needed for seat removal



Have you sat here? If not, you have most likely sat in a similar seat.

The 7th Street Theatre's original 80-year-old seats are ready for a seat-lift. They will be restored this fall by Washington Correctional Industries.

In early October the seats and backs will be removed for shipment.

Would you like to help, or do you know someone who would? Are you a high school student looking for community service hours?

Please contact Lane Youmans at 360-533-6140 or email at laneyoumans@hotmail.com to help out.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008

Sept. 13 - @ 7 pm

Lounge Acts 2008, featuring Harvey Danger and Schoolyard Heroes. Tickets \$20, available at Rosevear's and www.kurtcobainmemorial.org

Sept. 19 & 20 @ 7:30 pm

Movie: *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade* (1989) Starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery, PG13 (our final event in 2008 and 80th birthday celebration on the 20th)

October 1 through mid-January 2009

Theatre closed for stage rigging replacement project and seat restoration!!!!

2009

Feb. 6-7@ 7:30 pm, Feb. 8 @ 2 pm

HHS Drama Dept. presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Feb. 13-14 @ 7:30 pm

Annual Valentine's event—*Take your Honey to Hoquiam*—movie info to be announced at a later date

Feb. 27 @ 7 pm

Miss Grays Harbor's Outstanding Teen Pageant

Feb 28 @ 7 pm

Miss Grays Harbor Pageant

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

7th Street Theatre Association
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Celebrating 80 years