

Backstage

at the 7th Street...

...where stars light the sky and the stage

The Borths, always in the heart of the 7th Street

During its 81-year life-span, the historic 7th Street Theatre has had the good fortune to be taken care of by many people. In fact, if not for these theatre-lovers, the 7th Street would probably not be standing today. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to Roger and Linda Borth, whose hard work, dedication, and faith helped keep the theatre intact.

Roger and Linda met at the University of Washington in the early 1960s. In 1972, they partnered with George Simons in the former Hoquiam Coast-to-Coast store, which has since been demolished. In 1974 the Borths became the sole owners and operated the store until 2000 when it closed.

In the 1980s the Borths regularly played cards at the home of Ed Bowers, where they would discuss the Community Concerts that were held at the theatre. (*Editor's note: The Community Concert Association was an organization that managed bookings for musicians and performers across the nation for many years.*) For several years Ed Bowers had participated in the Grays Harbor Community Concert Association, and several of the concerts were held at the 7th Street. The Serredells, who had owned the theatre since 1976, put the theatre up for sale in 1986. The Grays Harbor Community Concert Association bought it, with the help of a donation by Ed Bowers.

Ed recruited Linda to the GHCCA board, where she was actively in-



Roger & Linda Borth, August 2009. Roger helped move the carbon arc projector (in the background) to the lobby in 2002, and Linda helped with the return of the concessions case from a garage sale held by the former owners.

involved for over a decade. Linda ran the membership drive, which meant she helped select the performers, got posters printed, prepared tickets, put together packets for memberships, arranged for volunteers to help with the memberships, and became the key contact person for the artists.

The early years were a struggle. Although memberships were strong in the 1990s, over time attendance to theatre events dwindled. "The memberships kept the series alive, and we made enough money to pay the performers, but many people who purchased tickets did not attend the con-

certs," Linda said.

In 1987 the theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Linda said they were told that this would help them get funding. "But it never did. I remember one time when we were going to put wallpaper up in the men's restroom and one of the state historic people came in and made us stop," she remembered.

In 1989 Linda opened the 7th Street Sweet Shoppe. The fountain, bar and large cabinet were for sale at the Corner Store in Cosmopolis and

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MEMBER

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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.*

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The Borths, from page 1



Associated Press
Seventh Street Theater: Friends of the theater have worked to restore and save the landmark Hoquiam building. They include (from left) Linda Borth, Ed Bowers, Else Korvell, Ruth Nielsen and Fred Root.

Local newspaper article from July 1987.

Linda wanted to purchase them and open an ice cream and sandwich store in the corner space. Roger said, "I wanted nothing to do with it. She borrowed \$5,000 from Pat Stevenson to purchase the fixtures." Linda ran the Sweet Shoppe until 1998 when it was sold. Roger, in the meantime, was running the Coast-to-Coast store.

"Because of Linda's involvement in the Community Concerts, I was drafted to help Bob Brawley, who was the resident maintenance person. I started out by putting the announcements on the marquee and

eventually took over the primary maintenance after Bob suffered a stroke," Roger said. He opened and closed the theatre before and after events, helped renovate the projection booth, moved out the carbon arc projectors, and got the room ready for a 35MM projector Linda found in a Puyallup theatre in 2002.

"I did everything from vacuuming, to carpet repair, cleaning all the gum off the floors, sweeping up after events, helping put the plywood up on the ceiling when the plaster began

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to fall, fixed the sump pumps under the stage, painted the lobby, and refinished the antique table that Linda got from the Aberdeen Museum. If something needed to be done, or a need to get in for an event, I was that guy," Roger said.

In the early 90s, the State of Washington gave the theatre funding that was matched by private grants and donations to add the second dressing room staircase, update electrical components, renovate office spaces and add a handicap-accessible restroom near the stage. While this project was underway, Linda and other "Friends of the 7th Street" organized several fundraising techniques such as placing donation cans at various businesses and selling homemade pies.

Linda has memories of the "mold and cold" of the theatre and learning how to turn on the furnace to heat it for events. She also remembers that the Hoquiam Development Association donated funds to buy two couches and the concessions case. Hoquiam High School began the tradition of using the theatre for drama department performances and concerts, and Linda was one of the main contact people for coordinating these rentals. She also worked with a cell phone company (now Verizon) when they installed towers on top of the theatre and equipment in the basement.

Today Roger and Linda both are actively involved with the Saron Lutheran Church, where much of

their social life is centered. Linda has been involved with Hoquiam Development Association, the Hoquiam Retail Trade Board and was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Daily World and is currently the director of the Hoquiam Food and Clothing Bank where both her and Roger spend all of their volunteer time.

Linda and Roger both stated that they were only "caretakers" of the "old girl" and helped keep it alive until "others came along and worked on grants and made her what she is today." The board thanks the Borths for over 15 years of their hard work, dedication, and unbounded spirit, without which the theatre would not be where it is today.

Joe Brand - newest board member

Joe Brand joined the board early this year, as our 11th board member.

Joe's wife, Jamie (our event coordinator) and their three children (ages 13, 11 and 5) moved to Hoquiam in the fall of 2006, while he was deployed to Iraq. They found their home while he was on leave in August and fell in love with the area. Joe moved here in December of 2006. Prior to that time they lived in Snohomish, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Hawaii.

Joe is a senior construction engineer in the Washington Army National Guard, where he trains and supervises between 6 and 21 individuals. Joe and Jamie run the family readiness program for the 176th Engineering Company. In this capacity, they handle fundraising to support the troops at a Christmas party and also hold regular barbecues and breakfasts for soldiers. Joe is also attending Grays Harbor College to earn an Associate's Degree in Technical Sciences for carpentry, will graduate in December 2009, and has been on the President's list every quarter.

While Joe was an active duty Marine he worked in security at the Bucks County Drive-in in Pennsylvania. He later became a projectionist there and has worked in this capacity at various theatres. While he was head projectionist at the Galaxy Theatre in Monroe, Washington, Joe and others helped promote the movie Pearl Harbor, and received a community outreach award from the Hollywood Reporter.

Joe says that his goal as a board member is to "defend the integrity and historic value of the 7th Street Theatre, while ensuring its longevity so that future generations can enjoy this piece of history."



Joe next to a DeLorean at Back to the Future Part 2 in August

Joe has been active in the movie committee prior to becoming a board member and has helped at many of our events. His vast knowledge of films is a huge asset. He is also one of our lead photographers, and can be seen in the background snapping shots at many of our events. He and Jamie also did a wonderful job handling all cooking and organization for our annual volunteer party held in August.

Ceiling project update

This spring the State of Washington appropriated \$330,000 from its capital budget for restoration of the ceiling!

The ceiling is probably the most important feature of the 7th Street's atmospheric design. There are 56 star lights in the ceiling, and it is painted with clouds to simulate an outdoor courtyard at dusk. (Note: This fall, we will be installing dimmers on the house lights and installing switches for the house lights at the sound/light booth in the auditorium. Among other things, this will allow us to bring the house lights down gradually and enhance the "dusk to darkness" experience in the auditorium, as well as make it easier for people to find their seats while the lights are brought down.)

Unfortunately, for several decades the ceiling has suffered water damage due to roof leaks. The entire roof was replaced in 2003, and the leaks have since stopped.

To prevent plaster from falling, several pieces of plywood were attached to the ceiling over the years. There are numerous water spots and holes, and many of the star lights are covered by the plywood.

In 2008 we hired an historic plaster restoration expert to evaluate the structural integrity of the ceiling. We had originally thought that the entire ceiling would need to be replaced, but the plaster expert's report found that only some areas (about 20% of the total ceiling area) needed to be completely replaced. The plaster "keys" are mostly in good shape. Keys are the portions of the plaster that were pushed through the metal mesh and lath when constructed and hold the plaster in place. Some of the metal mesh has rusted and lost its integrity.

The project is scheduled to go out for bid about the same time as this newsletter is published, and therefore, we do not have firm project

data. In addition to restoring the plaster, the ceiling will be repainted to match the original sky. The entire auditorium will need to have scaffolding installed. Depending on available funds, we will also restore the courtyard façade finish and other areas where the plaster has been damaged. The current project timeline is from October 12 through mid-January 2010, and the theatre is scheduled to be closed during that time.

Carpet replacement

The theatre has funding available to replace the carpet throughout the lobby and auditorium. We hope to have it replaced at the end of the ceiling project. We will be contacting three local carpet suppliers and obtaining bids for the carpet. However, because we do not have a final project timeline for the ceiling, we are unable to firmly commit to the exact time for the carpet replacement.

Blast from the past - Grays Harbor Washingtonian May 24, 1929

FOX BUYS DOLAN THEATRES FOR ABOUT MILLION

Purchase of the Dolan group of theatres in Southwest Washington including the 7th Street and Liberty theatres in Hoquiam and the D&R, Weir and Dream theatres of Aberdeen, by the Fox Washington Theatres, Inc. was announced yesterday. The transaction, which has been pending for the past 90 days, involved more than \$1,000,000, it was announced. The deal included leases and other equipment, but not the buildings themselves, which are still controlled by the Dolan interests.

In addition to the three theatres in Aberdeen and the two in Hoquiam, the Grand and Liberty thea-



Friday-Saturday — Matinee Daily 2 P. M.

New logo design in 1930 after the Fox purchase.

tres, Centralia, and the St. Helens and Dream theatres, Chehalis, also were included in the big transaction.

The nine former Dolan theatres now become links in the great coast-to-coast chain of Fox theatres, which now is the largest circuit of moving picture houses in the country, officials announced today.

...
Of particular interest to Hoquiam theatre-goers is the announcement

that the new management will institute a policy of showing feature pictures simultaneously in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. That is, when an outstanding attraction is brought to the Harbor, it will be shown in both Aberdeen and Hoquiam at the same time so that Hoquiam residents will not be obliged to leave the city to see the latest features.

First Music Teacher Showcase on Sunday, October 11th

Local music teachers who will be performing on Sunday, October 11 at 3:00 pm.

Front L-R: Roger White, Leslie O'Brien, Christine Hill, and John O'Brien

Row 2 L-R: Ian Dorsch, Merry Jo Zimmer, Beth Ginter, and Phyllis Pieffer

Back four L-R: Joy Dorsch, Connie Bevington, Ellen Pickell and Kari Hasbrouck



Photo courtesy Keith Krueger

For several years, the 7th Street Theatre has produced an annual "Young Artist Showcase" featuring talented young musicians and dancers from Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. On October 11, it's their teachers' turn.

On **Sunday October 11, at 3:00 pm**, thirteen area music teachers from the public schools and private studios will perform at the 7th Street Theatre. The Music Teacher Showcase will feature both solo and ensemble performances, including piano, strings, euphonium, flute, and voice.

Hoquiam High School band teacher Roger White will perform two pieces for euphonium, accompanied by piano teacher Ellen Pickell. Pickell will also perform Rachmaninoff's "Trio Elegiaque" with cellist John O'Brien and violin teacher Leslie O'Brien.

Flute teacher Connie Bevington of Elma and flute/piano teacher Beth Ginter of Raymond will perform a flute duet, accompanied by piano teacher Phyllis Pieffer. They have been playing flute duets together for over thirty years.

Tenor Ian Dorsch, the director of the Grays Harbor Civic Choir and a voice teacher at Grays Harbor College, will perform a duet with his wife, mezzo-soprano Joy Dorsch, also a voice teacher at Grays Harbor College, and will also sing in a quartet with soprano/mezzo-soprano Christine Hill and Christopher Kerr, who teaches music in the Ocosta School District. Joy Dorsch and Christine Hill, a voice and piano teacher in Montesano, will also be featured in a duet, and Hill will perform a vocal solo accompanied by guitarist Don

Stone.

Hoquiam voice and piano teacher Kari Hasbrouck will perform two songs that she composed, accompanied by a backup band comprised of her husband Dean Hasbrouck on drums, son Nathan Lord on background vocal and bass, and Brian Sterling on guitar.

Piano teachers Phyllis Pieffer and Merry Jo Zimmer will perform a piano duo, "Hungarian Rhapsody" by Liszt, and Pieffer will perform two short solo piano etudes by Scriabin.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children and are available at the door and in advance at Harbor Drug in Hoquiam.



Haunted theatre



Looking for something fun and scary to do in October? The 7th Street will have a haunted theatre featuring some of the theatre's own ghosts and goblins, who have volunteered to help provide several nights of excitement.

Even though the theatre is scheduled to be closed in October, we decided to utilize the dressing rooms and a portion of the stage for a Halloween haunted house tour. Entrance will be through the J Street door (across from the Oriole) and head up the stairs to the dressing rooms. Who knows where it will end?

Admission is \$2 for ages 13 and up and \$1 for 12 and under. Here is the schedule:

- October 23, 24 & 30—5 to 9 pm (Rated PG)
- October 25—3 to 6 pm (rated G)
- October 31—2 to 4 pm (rated G)
- October 31—4 to 9 pm (rated PG)

Movies and cars in 2009

American Graffiti, June 19 & 20
Back to the Future Part 2, August 21 & 22



Above: The theatre teamed up with the Push Rods of Hoquiam for a fun celebration and screening of American Graffiti.

Below left: Kaitlyn is excited about the DeLoreans and Back to the Future Part 2.

Below right: Two members of the Pacific Northwest DeLorean Club hamming it up before Saturday's showing. Next year — Part 3!



Volunteer Party 2009



On August 24th we had our second annual volunteer party at the Polson Museum Railroad Camp building. Joe and Jamie Brand organized a great outdoor barbecue for over 30 volunteers.

Throughout the year our wonderful volunteers help keep the theatre alive. Their dedication, spirit and hard work is an inspiration to us all. If it were not for these wonderful people, the 7th Street Theatre would not be open today. The 7th Street Theatre is truly owned by the community!

More photos of this event (and many others) can be found on our new Flickr photo album at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7thstreettheatre>

Photo courtesy Keith Krueger

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. 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. In addition to the ceiling restoration and carpeting (see article on p. 4) future restoration projects include stage floor replacement, exterior sealing and restoration of the front of the theatre. Funding for the restoration is also provided by grants.



Yes, 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.)

Or, I'd like to make a general donation!

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010

September 25 @ 7:30

Glenn Yarbrough in concert

Tickets \$20 Available at the door, City Drug and Rosevear's in Aberdeen, Harbor Drug in Hoquiam or brownpapertickets.com/1-800-838-3006

October 2 @ 7:30

Documentary film: Food, Inc.

Tickets \$5/adults & \$3/students (rated PG)
Available at the door

October 11 @ 3 pm

Music Teacher's Showcase

Tickets \$7 adults/\$3 students & children
Available at the door & Harbor Drug

Haunted House

Admission is \$2 for ages 13 and up and \$1 for 12 and under

October 23, 24 & 30-5 to 9 pm (Rated PG)

October 25-3 to 6 pm (rated G)

October 31-2 to 4 pm (rated G)

October 31-4 to 9 pm (rated PG)

--Closed for ceiling repair through mid-January--

February 5 & 6 @ 7:30 and February 7 @ 2:00

Hoquiam High School Musical Production TBA

February 26 @7:00

Miss Grays Harbor's Outstanding Teen Pageant

February 27 @ 7:00

Miss Grays Harbor Pageant

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Be sure to visit us at www.7thstreettheatre.com while the theatre is closed for ceiling repair!

Our News & Blog page will be updated regularly with news and photos from the ceiling project.

You can become a fan of the 7th Street Theatre on Facebook (link found on our home page)

Also friend us at www.myspace.com/7thstreettheatre

Updated event information can be found on our website: www.7thstreettheatre.com

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

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