Dixie Theater Restoration

Dixie Theater Then & Now

Present Day

After Remodel

Original Projectors

The Dixie Theatre

Mission Statement

The restoration of the Dixie Theatre in Mansfield is an initiative to provide the community with a performing arts center to be used for musical performances, theatre plays, and community events. The City of Mansfield and the Sebastott Development Council are seeking the resources to revitalize this historic building which has stood for over 100 years.

Relevance

Through this restoration, memories of the theatre would be preserved, while providing new and lasting celebrations for future generations. The city would like to seize the opportunity to use this historic asset to promote economic development and enhance community involvement.

What has been done?

*2005: Building was purchased from Joe Jackson.

*Grant obtained by USFS for $4,000 to develop plans.

*Plans were completed by architect.

*Interior cleaned by volunteers.

*$15,000 matching grant AEDC.

*Part of back wall (old window area) repaired by brick mason.

*Floor below ground level filled with gravel and concrete.

*Materials purchased (lumber, etc.)

*300 theater seats donated by Ft. Chaffee.

*Donation of Heat Pump pledged by Rheem.

Where do we go from here?

*Secure structure (repair roof, electrical, etc.)

*Complete remodel (interior & exterior)

*Establish stage, seating, light & sound.

*Meet Fire & Safety Codes.

*Construct parking area.

Original Popcorn Machine

Original Ticket Tumbler

the WIZARD of OZ
The Dixie Theatre
"GONE WITH THE WIND"
BEYOND THE LAST FRONTIER

Early Uses

Little is known about the history of the Dixie Theater. The building was likely built sometime in the 19th century. It was originally believed to be the Hickerson Ford dealership then later a Dodge auto agency. It was converted into a movie theater around World War II.

Some Known Past Owners

On January 30th of 1899, J.W Harper sold the building to Thomas Cherry for 100 dollars. On August 26th of 1911, W.B Sexton sold to John Gosset for $5,500. In 1917, I.A Harmon and T.J. Rodgers sold to Presson for $1200. In September 1920, W.H. Presson and Jarvis Presson sold to Bertha Presson fo $2,250.

DIXIE THEATRE

Some Known Past Owners

Elizabeth Protus Martiska sold to Family Theater Inc. and took a loan of $35,000. Gene E. McClooney mortgaged theater for $86,000. In September of 1994 Joe Jackson had plans to turn it into a dinner theater. In 2008, Joe Jackson sold the theater to the city of Mansfield for $25,000.

News Articles

Hometown Highways

HOMETOWN PLACES

The bands play for free and admission is free, Walker said. Money is made from donations, food sales, raffles and silent auctions, she said. Merchants and civic groups do their part by donating things like food, cauliflowers, cups and paper plates.

The donations of money, materials and labor have provided the 50-50 matching funds for a $25,000 Arkansas Rural Community Development Grant that city officials picked up in Little Rock last week.

Marion Mathis, Mansfield's economic development director, said restoration organizers hope to meet this week with project architect Carl Cummings and engineer Donnie Williams to determine the next step in the restoration.

Mathis

The building "still looks real bad right now, but with the $30,000, we're trying to get it stabilized and get the roof repaired so we can re-

See THEATER, Page 6B

Concerts play into plans for theater

Mansfield music building's lifeline

DAVE HUGHES
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

MANSFIELD — Mansfield is drawing on the power of music to restore the town's old Dixie Theatre.

The community of 1,119 in south Sebastian County has been enjoying free concerts nearly every month for the past year to raise money to breathe new life into the old building that has been vacant for 30 years.

Becky Walker, one of the leaders of the restoration effort, says the concerts have raised between $12,000 and $15,000.

Walker

Another fundraiser was held Saturday night at Mansfield City Hall that featured the music of bluegrass and country bands Just Us and Common Thread.

The secret to the fund-raising success so far has been offering a variety of music, Walker said, which attracts a larger pool of audiences and their donations.

"Each month we try to have somebody different, like country or bluegrass or gospel, or we've had rock and we're going to have jazz in November and the next month is blues," Walker said.

HUNTINGTON, ARKANSAS
AND SURROUNDING AREA INCLUDING WITCHERVILLE, DAYTON, & ARKOAL!

WRITERS CORNER
MEMORIES OF DALE STEVENS
By Dale Stevens

Dale Stevens, now a resident of Long Beach, California, lived in the Mansfield/Huntington area in the late fifties...
A time he calls "the best of my life."

Hi, My name is Dale Stevens. I live in Long Beach, CA, but lived in Mansfield and Hartford for a few years back in the late fifties. I would like to share a little history about Mansfield as I remember it back then.
Well, back in the late fifties, my father and mother, Doyle and Ina Stevens, had a little hamburger stand there in Mansfield. I can't remember the name because it's been so long ago, but it was on the east side of the road just across the creek as you came in to town. I remember on the weekends, we would get to stay in town with my parents while they served burgers.
It was just a little place, not big enough for us four boys to hang around in, so my father would give us each a quarter, and we would take off to the Dixie Theater. Back then, all you needed was a quarter—ten cents to get in, five cents a piece for popcorn, candy, and a soda.
After the show was over, Mom and Pop was still running the burger stand, so we would get to wandering around town. It wouldn't take long before old Sheriff Tyson, who was the sheriff back then, would be giving us all kinds of trouble. Not too many people liked Sheriff Tyson back then, and he especially didn't like me and my brothers because we would run the streets at night and find his bottles. You see, he had a drinking problem but too many people knew about, but me and my brothers knew all about him.
We ended up moving back to California in 1961, so my uncle took over the burger stand. His name was Clyde Earl Stevens. He did everybody in town's taxes, everybody knew him.
Well, he got this idea after visiting us in California. He went back to Mansfield, knocked down the burger stand, and built one of the first miniature golf courses in Arkansas. He had some problems with his family, so he had to give it up. Shortly afterwards, he passed away. I don't know what happened to the golf course.
I sure would like to come back and see Mansfield, but probably won't be able to. It was probably the best time of my life back there.

About Huntington || City Government || City Services || Church Directory || Business Directory || Historical Archives
Upcoming Events || Witcherville || Dayton || Arkoal || Writers Corner || Musicians Corner || Credits || Home

This is a community website and the help of the community is not only welcomed, but deeply appreciated.
Please contact us at [illegible]

CUSTOM WEB DESIGN by [illegible] || Best Viewed With Screen Resolution Of 1024x768 || Copyright © 2007, Huntington, Arkansas

Mansfield Economic Development Director Marian Mathis (right) said theater seats donated by the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority will help hasten restoration of the Dixie Theatre in Mansfield.

Theater

◆ Continued from Page 1B

[illegible] Mathis said.

The project has received support from Lt. Gov. Mark Darr, who grew up in Mansfield and said in a statement that he treasured his time there.

[illegible]

Backers of the project hope to restore the 1940s building into a theater for the performing arts and community functions. They said it could cost $150,000 to restore the building.

[illegible]

> Backers of the project hope to restore the 1940s building into a theater for the performing arts and community functions. They said it could cost $150,000 to restore the building.

Mathis said the theater remained open until the 1950s, when [illegible] turned to television for their entertainment. It reopened in the 1980s for a short time before closing for good, he said.

The city bought the building for $20,000 in 2006 from Joe Jackson, who had [illegible]

[illegible] Community Development Grant shortly after acquiring the building.

[illegible]

The project has benefited from volunteer labor and nonmonetary donations.

[illegible]

Boys at the Mansfield Juvenile Treatment Center south of town also have volunteered many hours working on the building, Mathis said. Recently, they helped take the plaster off the walls and tear down the old ceiling board, as well as clean up debris, he said.

The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority donated [illegible] theater seats from an old Army theater that was torn down, Mathis said. The Dixie Theatre had more than [illegible]

Historical Society has special guest speaker

By Special to the Democrat
Tuesday, August 14, 2012 3:09 PM CDT

at 7 p.m. at the Wilkinson Community Room at Farmers Bank, Greenwood.

Special guests will be Robert and Becky Walker and Marion Mathis-committee members of the Dixie Theatre Restoration Project.

The Dixie Theatre, located in Mansfield, Arkansas is a wonderful old and historic building, which has stood for over 100 years in downtown Mansfield. Many people, like Becky Walker, have memories of going to the Dixie Theatre as a youth and realize the importance of preserving this landmark building.

The committee is working to secure donations for this project and possible matching grants. The old Theatre has several very interesting items inside such as original projectors, original popcorn machine and the original ticket tumbler. Also stored inside are 300 theater seats that were donated by Fort Chaffee.

After the restoration has been completed, the Dixie Theatre will be a wonderful place for the town of Mansfield to have events such as music shows and other community activities. There are several fund-raising events being organized for the coming months and any help is appreciated.

Becky & Robert Walker inside the Dixie Theater.

Everyone is invited to come to the meeting - Becky Walker will present a DVD Presentation. For more information call Ruth McConnell 996-2962 or Glenda Wallace 996-6210.

printable version e-mail this story

Sections
Front Page
Archives
Business News
Church Directory
Classifieds
Contact Us
Correspondence
Entertainment
Features
Guestbook
Health
History
Honor Roll
Jobs
Local News
Obituaries
Real Estate
School News
School Calendar
School Menus
Society
Sports
Stocks

Submissions
Engagement
Anniversary
Wedding
Subscription
Classified Line Ad

Special Sections
View Index

News Links

Quick Links

Online Poll

Search the Web
Find
Web Directory
Yellow Pages
White Pages

COOL DEALS
Learning Oasis and Toy Zone - $10 for $20 to Spend in the Store
Purchase today's Cool Deal and receive $20 to spend on teacher resources and unique games and toys from Learning Oasis and Toy Zone for only $10. This deal can be used at both Learning Oasis and Toy Zone locatio...

To View Display Ads Currently in the Newspaper... Click Classifieds and go to Specific Category

88°F
forecast
Sponsored by:

The memorial service for Arkansas Game & Fish Officer Joel Campora was held Friday afternoon at the Waldron High School Athletic Complex, where he was honored by family, friends, fellow law enforcement and Game and Fish officers, and a large turnout of community members. (Photo by Don Jones)

Dixie Theatre renovations continue

By Don Jones

The Dixie Theatre Committee is underway with the progress in utilizing the money received from a grant. The City of Mansfield was awarded a 50/50 grant of $15,000 from the Arkansas Department of Rural Services in October 2012. To date, the committee has hired Brad Howard Construction as the contractor and have spent $10,000 of the $30,000 replacing and stabilizing the trusses in the Dixie Theatre. The old stage has been demolished and duct work has begun.

The Dixie Theatre Committee, Robert and Beck Walker, Bobby Shepherd, Carl Cummings, Dollie Gage, Glen and Jan Hurt, Jill Wagoner, Joe McCuthen, Marion and Treva Mathis and Warren and Nancy Looper, meets the second Thursday of each month. Their goal and vision is to establish a venue for the community that will excel in pride to host events such as weddings, showers, meetings, class and family reunions, musical performances and a variety of community events. Target date for this phase is expected by late September

(Theatre continued on Page 5A)

Bluegrass Festival gets underway

By Don Jones

The official kick off for the 36th Annual Turkey Track Bluegrass Festival gets underway tonight, June 12, with the traditional Hog Roast beginning at 5 p.m. The public may be used is a share plus their own eating utensils with the Lovett's providing the hog and of course the famous baked beans. Music festivities get underway with the Turkey Track Band on stage first beginning at 7 p.m. Other performers scheduled for [illegible] night include Watauga Mountain Boys at 7:45 p.m. , Bluegrass Martins at 8:30 p.m., The Larkins at 9:15 p.m. and Southern Raised at 10 p.m.

Thursday afternoon activities get underway at 1 p.m. with the Larkins, The

(Festival continued on

Board Meeting

The Hartford School Board meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Library. The public meeting scheduled for tonight will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary library.

Y-City Flood Victim Support/Assistance

To help local flood victims from the Y-City/Boles/Parks area, bring your contributions to Southside Baptist Church (129 Abby Lane, Waldron, AR - Next to the Farmer's Co-op). There will be someone at the chichi 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 5th through Tuesday, June 11th. Acceptable Items Include: Monetary, Non-Perishable Goods, Cleaning Supplies and New Clothing! Examples: Gatorade, snacks, toiletries, work gloves, shovels, buckets, first aid items, cleaning supplies, socks, etc.

Memorabilia

Postcards sent to the theater in 1920s and 1950s

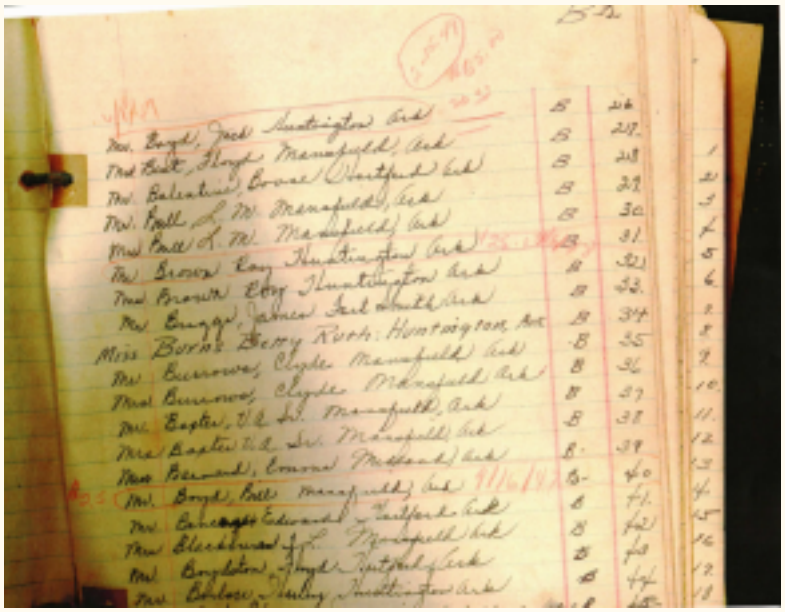
DIXIE Theatre
MANSFIELD, ARKANSAS
DOUBLE FEATURE PROGRAM
THE CARPETBAGGERS
PLUS
THE LEGEND OF TOM DOOLEY
CARTOON
DIXIE THEATRE
MANSFIELD
Announcing...
Pretty Baby
DENNIS MORGAN
BETSY DRAKE

Movie Posters from 1900s

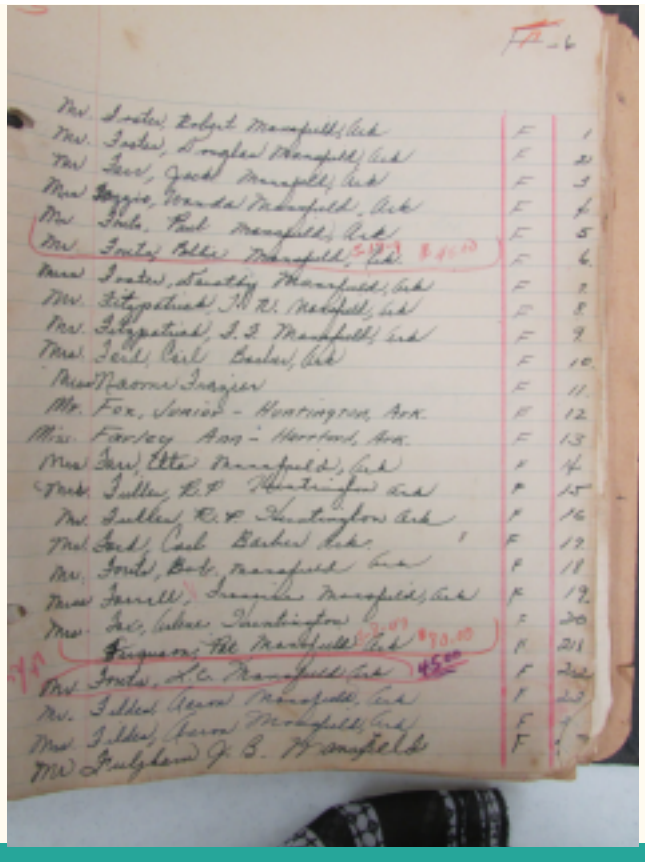
MAY 1984
SHOW STARTS AT 7:00
DIXIE THEATRE
Mansfield, Arkansas
ADMISSION
ADULTS ——— $3.00
CHILDREN —— $2.50
(12 & UNDER)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 27 & 28
MICHAEL CAINE
JOSEPH BOLOGNA
Blame It on Rio
R
PLUS
Porky's II
The Next Day
R
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 4 & 5
Where the Boys Are
R
PLUS
BETTE MIDLER
JINXED
R
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 11 & 12
RACHEL WARD
JEFF BRIDGES
AGAINST ALL ODDS
R
PLUS
The Man Who Loved Women
BURT REYNOLDS
JULIE ANDREWS
R
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 18 & 19
THE ICE PIRATES
PG
See A Totally Special Adventure!
ROBERT URICH
MARY CROSBY
PLUS
POLTERGEIST
PG
DON'T MISS IT.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 25 & 26
Reckless
R
PLUS
CHUCK NORRIS
FORCED VENGEANCE
R

1985
Showtime
7:00 PM
DIXIE
THEATRE
Mansfield, Arkansas
ADMISSION
ADULTS —— $3.00
CHILDREN —— $2.50
(12 & UNDER)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 19 & 20
TIMOTHY HUTTON
TURK 182
PLUS
BROAD STREET
PAUL McCARTNEY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 26 & 27
WITNESS
Harrison Ford is John Book.
PLUS
THE RIVER RAT
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 3 & 4
FRIDAY THE 13TH
THE FINAL CHAPTER
JASON IS BACK
PLUS
FRIDAY THE 13TH PART V
A NEW beginning
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 10 & 11
Vision Quest
PLUS
Finders Keepers
FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 17 & 18
PORKY'S II The Next Day
PLUS
The Pig Strikes Back!
PORKY'S REVENGE!

DECEMBER
1983
SHOWTIMES
FRIDAY — 7:00 PM.
SATURDAY - 2:00 PM.
& 7:00 PM.
DIXIE
THEATRE
Mansfield, Arkansas
ADMISSION
ADULTS —— $3.00
CHILDREN —— $2.50
(12 & UNDER)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 & 3
THE STRONGEST MAN ON EARTH
HERCULES
The Incredible LOU FERRIGNO
PLUS
BLAKE EDWARDS
CURSE OF THE PINK PANTHER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 & 10
JACKIE GLEASON · MAC DAVIS
THE STING II
PLUS
Another World, Another Time...
The DARK CRYSTAL
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 & 17
The Bandit is at it again!
JACKIE GLEASON
PAUL WILLIAMS
PAT McCORMICK
JERRY REED
SMOKEY and the BANDIT PART 3
PLUS
ROCK AND ROLLER DISCO!
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 & 24
"EVERY ONE SHOULD SEE THESE TWO GREAT CHRISTMAS TIME CLASSICS"
JAMES STEWART
DONNA REED
FRANK CAPRA'S
It's a Wonderful Life
PLUS
The Bells of St. Mary's
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 & 31
[redacted]

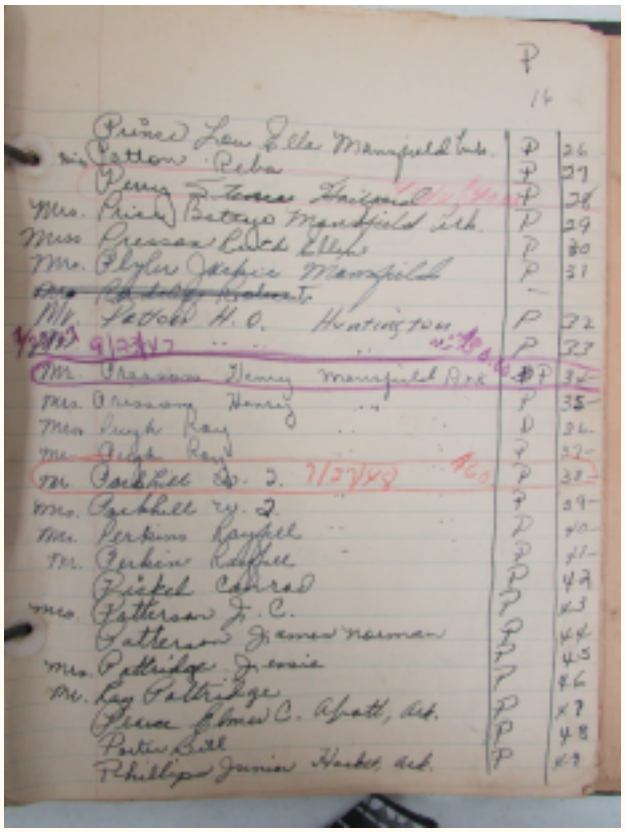


Book showing all those who went to the theater and if they won the drawing and how much they won.



FA-6

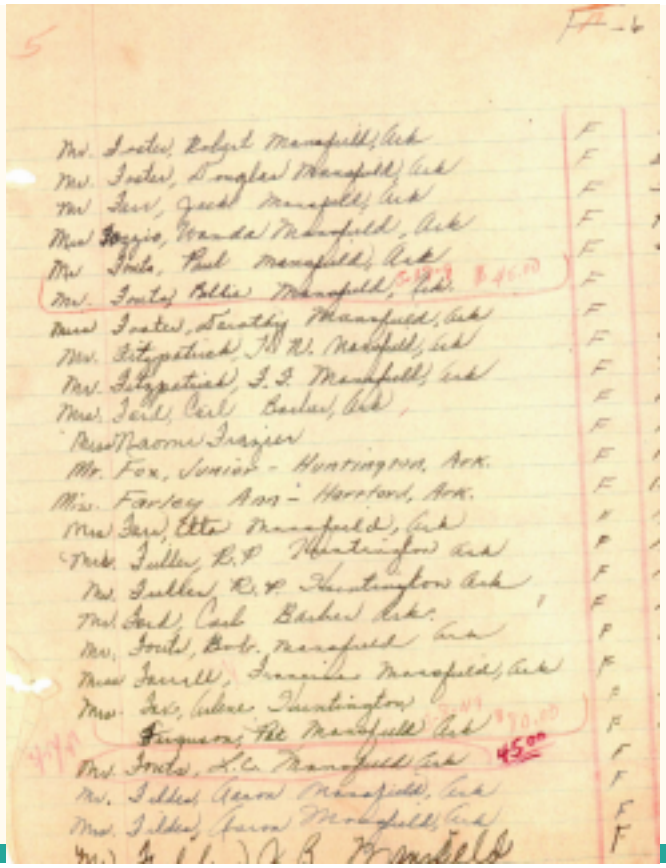
Mr. Foster, Robert Mansfield, Ark	F	1
Mr. Foster, Douglas Mansfield, Ark	F	2
Mr. Farr, Jack Mansfield, Ark	F	3
Mrs. Foggio, Wanda Mansfield, Ark	F	4
Mr. Fouts, Paul Mansfield, Ark	F	5
Mr. Fouts, Billie Mansfield, Ark. 3/17/47 $45.00	F	6
Mrs. Foster, Dorothy Mansfield, Ark	F	7
Mr. Fitzpatrick, J. R. Mansfield, Ark	F	8
Mr. Fitzpatrick, J. J. Mansfield, Ark	F	9
Mrs. Ford, Carl Barber, Ark	F	10
Miss Naomi Frazier	F	11
Mr. Fox, Junior - Huntington, Ark.	F	12
Miss Farley Ann - Hartford, Ark.	F	13
Mrs. Farr, Etta Mansfield, Ark	F	14
Mrs. Fuller, R. P. Huntington Ark	F	15
Mr. Fuller, R. P. Huntington Ark	F	16
Mr. Ford, Carl Barber Ark	F	17
Mr. Fouts, Bob Mansfield Ark	F	18
Miss Farrell, Francine Mansfield, Ark	F	19
Mrs. Fox, Arlene Huntington	F	20
Ferguson, Pat Mansfield Ark 3/7/47 $70.00	F	21
Mr. Fouts, L. C. Mansfield Ark 45.00	F	22
Mr. Filden, Aaron Mansfield, Ark	F	23
Mrs. Filden, Aaron Mansfield, Ark	F	[illegible]
Mr. Fulgham J. B. Mansfield	F	[illegible]



P

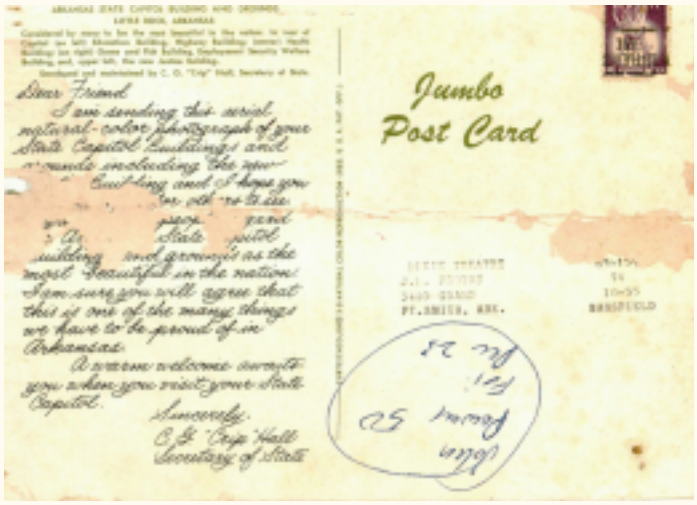
16

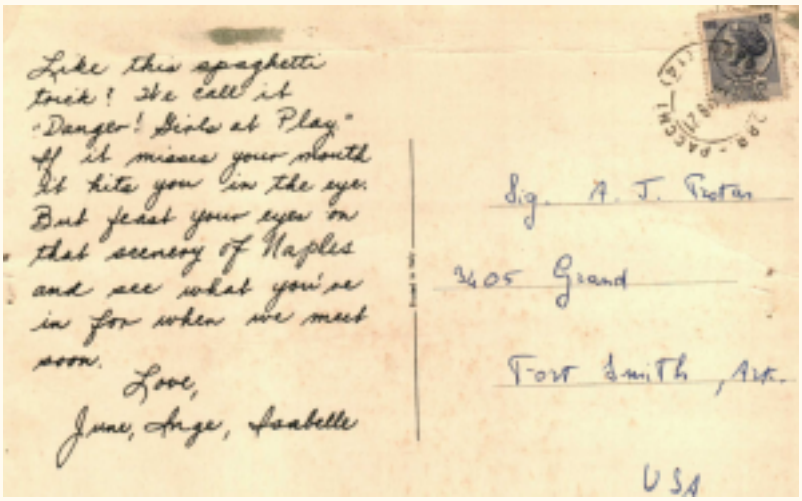
Prince Lou Ella Mansfield Ark.	P	26
Mrs. Patton Reba	P	27
Perry Teresa Hartford 4/2/47	P	28
Mrs. Price Betsye Mansfield Ark.	P	29
Miss Pressan Ruth Ellen	P	30
Mrs. Plyler Jackie Mansfield	P	31
~~Mrs. [illegible]~~		
Mr. Patton H. O. Huntington	P	32
9/23/47	P	33
Mr. Pressan Henry Mansfield Ark	P	34
Mrs. Pressan Henry	P	35
Mrs. Pugh Ray	P	36
Mr. Pugh Ray	P	37
Mr. Parkhill W. J. 7/27/48	P	38
Mrs. Parkhill W. J.	P	39
Mr. Perkins Rayfell	P	40
Mr. Perkins Rayfell	P	41
Pickel Conrad	P	42
Mrs. Patterson J. C.	P	43
Patterson James Norman	P	44
Mrs. Pattridge Jessie	P	45
Mr. Ray Pattridge	P	46
Pearce Elmer C. Abbott, Ark.	P	47
Porter Bill	P	48
Phillips Junior Hackett, Ark.	P	49



ADVENTURE'S MOST STIRRING ERA BROUGHT TO LIFE!
COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
ROGUES of SHERWOOD FOREST
Starring
JOHN DEREK DIANA LYNN
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR
George MACREADY Alan HALE
Screen Play by George Bruce
DIRECTED BY GORDON DOUGLAS
PRODUCED BY FRED M. PACKARD

Postcards sent to the theater





Like this spaghetti trick? We call it "Danger! Girls at Play" If it misses your mouth it bits you in the eye. But feast your eyes on that scenery of Naples and see what you're in for when we meet soon.

Love,
June, Inge, Isabelle

Sig. A. J. Foster
3405 Grand
Fort Smith, Ark.
USA

Postcards sent to the theater

Macao

dear Mr. Pratas—

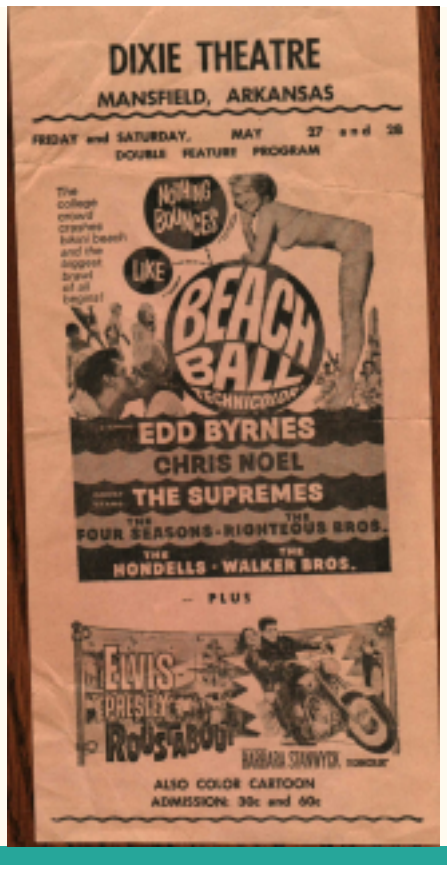
It's hot here, but wait
until you see me in
"Macao", the RKO Radio
Picture directed by
Josef von Sternberg. It
sizzles! Bill Bendix
stars with me. Regards

Jane Russell

Bob Mitchum

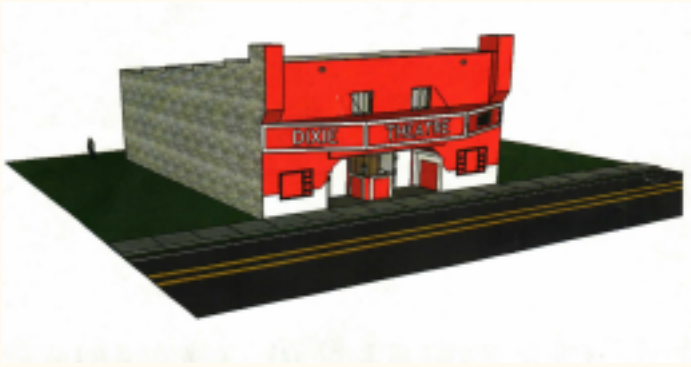
Mr. A. J. Pratas
Alpine Theatre
Mansfield, Ohio

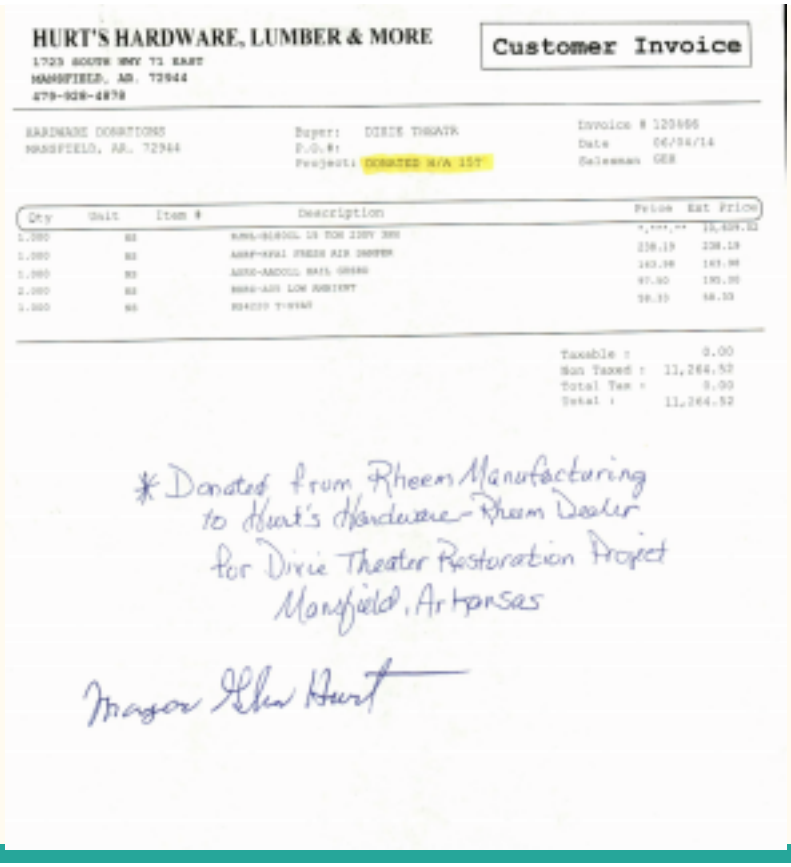
LOBO
DIXIE


DIXIE THEATRE
MANSFIELD, ARKANSAS
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, MAY 27 and 28
DOUBLE FEATURE PROGRAM
NOTHING BUT BEACHES
LIKE
BEACH BALL
TECHNICOLOR
EDD BYRNES
CHRIS NOEL
THE SUPREMES
THE FOUR SEASONS · RIGHTEOUS BROS.
THE RONDELLS · WALKER BROS.
— PLUS
ELVIS PRESLEY
ROUSTABOUT
BARBARA STANWYCK
ALSO COLOR CARTOON
ADMISSION: 30c and 60c

Donations,Fundraisers, and Grants

- Grant obtained by USFS for $4,000
- Grant obtained by AEDC for $15,000
- 300 theaters seats donated by Ft. Chaffee
- Donations pledged by Rheem
- Interiors cleaned by volunteers
- Annual Bluegrass Festival
- Motorcycle Run
- Poker Run
- $5,000 donated by Joe Jackson





HURT'S HARDWARE, LUMBER & MORE
1725 SOUTH HWY 71 EAST
MANSFIELD, AR. 72944
479-928-4878

Customer Invoice

HARDWARE DONATIONS
MANSFIELD, AR. 72944

Buyer: DIXIE THEATR
P.O.#:
Project: DONATED M/A 1ST

Invoice # 123666
Date 06/04/14
Salesman GEB

Qty	Unit	Item #	Description	Price	Ext Price
1.000	EA			*,***.**	10,829.52
1.000	EA			238.19	238.19
1.000	EA			163.98	163.98
1.000	EA			97.90	193.00
2.000	EA			98.33	68.33
1.000	EA				

Taxable : 0.00
Non Taxed : 11,264.52
Total Tax : 0.00
Total : 11,264.52

* Donated from Rheem Manufacturing to Hurt's Hardware - Rheem Dealer for Dixie Theater Restoration Project Mansfield, Arkansas

Mayor Allen Hurt

MANSFIELD'S
7th ANNUAL
Saturday
May, 18
2013
Rain Date
May 25th, 2013
POKER RUN
Registration begins at 9am at the gazebo on the square.
Poker
$10 per hand-NO LIMIT
PROCEEDS go to the Dixie Theatre Restoration Fund
Hamburgers & Hotdogs
50/50 Drawing
Bike Games
Prizes
For More Information Contact, Becky Walker - Event Coordinator - (479) 461-6723

MANSFIELD'S
6th ANNUAL
POKER RUN
Saturday May 19,2012
Registration Begins at 9 am
At the Gazebo on the square
Bikes leave out at 10 am
Hamburgers / Hotdogs
50/50 Drawing
Bike Games
Prizes
T-Shirts
$10 PER HAND - NO LIMIT
PROCEEDS
Go to the DIXIE THEATRE
Restoration Fund

1st ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

MANSFIELD CITY LAKE
Saturday - September 29th
11AM - 7PM

Featuring: Southern Sound, Crossroads, Rusty Plow Band, Lakeview Bluegrass Boys, Willing Heart, and Common Thread! Bring your lawn chairs! Come and stay all day! Concession, vendors , t-shirts, and much more!
Admission $5 per person
Kids 12 and under Free!

**If Rain-Will Re-Locate to Mansfield High School Cafeteria

For More Info Contact Becky @ 479-461-4723

Proceeds go to the Dixie Theatre Restoration Fund!

NO ALCOHOL!

Donations, Fundraisers, and Grants

The city of Mansfield received $74,000 rural community grant.

Pictured are AEDC Grants Manager Jennifer Chunn, WAPDD Grants Manager Tracee McKenna, Senator Terry Rice, Mayor Larry Austin, Representative Jon Eubanks, Becky Walker, ARDC Commissioner Lonnie Turner, Governor Asa Hutchinson, AEDC Rural Services Director Alex Johnston, ARDC Chair Jamie Pafford-Gresham, AEDC Deputy Director Amy Fecher, and AEDC Executive Director Mike Preston

Mansfield Landmark Gets Grant

By Rusty Garrett | Posted: Monday, July 3, 2006 12:00 am

TIMES RECORD • RGARRETT@SWTIMES.COM

The city of Mansfield has received a $15,000 grant to help fund restoration of the Dixie Theater, a downtown landmark.

The Arkansas Rural Development Services grant requires a local match, which the city will provide with labor and donated materials, according to Marion Mathis, economic development director for Mansfield.

The city acquired the theater from previous owner Joe Jackson several years ago.

Jackson bought the building with the original intent of operating a restaurant or converting the structure to a home. But when Mansfield Mayor Glen Hurt approached him about the possibility of reopening the theater, he agreed to let the city undertake the project.

Mathis said a $4,500 U.S. Forest Service grant was used to hire an architect to develop a restoration plan.

The city intends to convert the theater to a community center and will outfit it with a stage and facilities suitable for public events and entertainment.

Mathis said the city will likely begin work on the plans in the fall.

Hurt said the building that houses the Dixie, likely built in the early years of the 20th century, was believed to have originally been the Hickerson Ford dealership, and later a Dodge auto agency. He said it was converted to a movie house in the years prior to World War II.

Regardless of who owned the Dixie, who operated it and how many times it may have changed hands before it finally closed in the 1970s, Hurt says many Mansfield residents have developed a strong attachment to the modest brick building.

The Dixie will not be reopened as a theater, although the screen, projectors, 340 folding seats and even the popcorn machine remain in the building.

Jackson also stipulated in his agreement with the city that the facade of the building, with its awning and ticket booth, must be retained so the building will continue to look like a theater.

BRUCE HOLLAND
ASSISTANT PRO TEMPORE
SENATOR
[illegible]

THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

[illegible]

Oct. 20, 2014

Arkansas Rural Community Grant
101 East Capitol, Suite 202
Little Rock, AR. 72201

Re: Grant Application for Dixie Theater, Mansfield, AR.

The City of Mansfield is applying for a grant of $75,000 to complete the renovations to the Dixie Theater in Mansfield, AR. This theater is over 100 years old and has been a focal point in community activities in the City of Mansfield. However, it is in desperate need of repairs and update to make it safe for continued community activities. This theater will be used as a community meeting place, performing arts activities and many other functions. It is so important to the town. The City Committee has had many fundraisers to help with the renovations, but need help to complete the project.

I am in support of the City of Mansfield's grant request for the Dixie Theater.

Sincerely,

Senator Bruce Holland

Joe McCutchen, Becky and Robert Walker represented the Dixie Theater Fundraising at the MHS Alumni Reunion

Community

Mansfield High School Alumni Reunion 2012

The original construction plan

Construction begins

WELCOME TO THE HISTORIC DIXIE THEATRE

Dixie Theater Today

DIXIE THEATRE
MANSFIELD
U.S.A.

Future Plans

The theater will be used as a community meeting place, performing arts center and for many other functions.

Historic Mansfield

oad Station at Mansfield, Ark., where many Rock Island and Frisco trains arrive and depart daily. Picture shows Gas Lights
corners of building, another proof that this town is lighted with Natural Gas.

In earlier days, the depot swarmed with passengers and freight-handlers, handling enough traffic to support a hotel and restaurant which were located just across the track from the depot.

AN ENGINE OF THE FRISCO RAILROAD. Picture taken sometime between 1887 and 1900. Standing on the left is the former R. M. (Bob) Allen, father of Ellis Allen of Mansfield.

MANSFIELD LUMBER MERCE CO.
SEAMAN'S MAMMOTH
CLEARING SALE
BUSINESS AS USUAL!!! DO YOU KNOW ANY
OF THESE PEOPLE?
LOANED BY: FRANK BOYD

BANK OF MANSFIELD OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
- WHERE'S THE AIR CONDITIONING?? -
LOANED BY: FRANK BOYD

GARDNER'S STATION AND CAFE
71 HIGHWAY MANSFIELD, ARK.
TRUCK AND TOURIST STOP
Coca-Cola
SINCLAIR
SINCLAIR
DELAWARE PEACH
17698

The community of Mansfield was named to honor W.W. Mansfield, a noted western Arkansas jurist who served on the state Supreme Court. On the day this c. 1910 photograph was made, a "solid west" parade was in progress, likely for a traveling show. A mounted "Indian" chief in a war headdress is seen galloping past a large sign promoting Selz Royal Blue Shoes, advertised at between $3.50 and $5 a pair. In the center of the photograph of the dusty street is a stagecoach.