

Jackson County Historical Society News

VOLUME TWENTY ONE, NUMBER ONE

NOVEMBER 2013



The Opera House, built circa 1907, Harmony Grove

The Jackson County Historical Society will meet at the Commerce Public Library on Sunday, November 17 at 2:30 p.m. A program on Jackson County Theaters will be presented by Boniface McDaniel. All are welcome to attend.

location: 1344 South Broad Street, Commerce GA 30529

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234, Commerce, Georgia 30529

(706) 207-6889

Newsletter

Jackson County Historical Society dues run from September to September and can be mailed to:

Jackson County Historical Society
P. O. Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529:

Individual –\$15, Family –\$25, LIFE members –\$100

The Historical Society's collection of books, files and research materials are housed in the Heritage Room of the Commerce Public Library.

An index of the collection and newsletters from 1997-2013 can be viewed on the library website:

<http://prlib.org/our-libraries/commerce-public-library/>

The Commerce Public Library is seeking funds to purchase a ScanPro 3000, a microfilm scanner with optical resolution over 500 dpi. This will make the census', newspapers, Confederate pension records and church records much easier to view and print high quality copies. Donations can be made to Scanner Fund, Commerce Public Library, 1344 South Broad St, Commerce GA 30529.

JCHS Officers 2013-2014

President:	Shirley Wilson
Vice-President:	Marie Parks
Recording Secretary:	Boniface McDaniel
Treasurer:	Tommy Benton
Directors:	James Mathis Jerry Legg
Past Presidents:	the late, Joyce Ethridge the late, Ann A. Jarrett the late, Richard Chambers the late, Jean H. Booth Betty Ann Mathis James Mathis Ralph Freeman Carol Tanner Marie Parks Tina Harris Charlotte Mealor Caine Campbell Mary Lynn Bell

Jackson County Movie Theaters

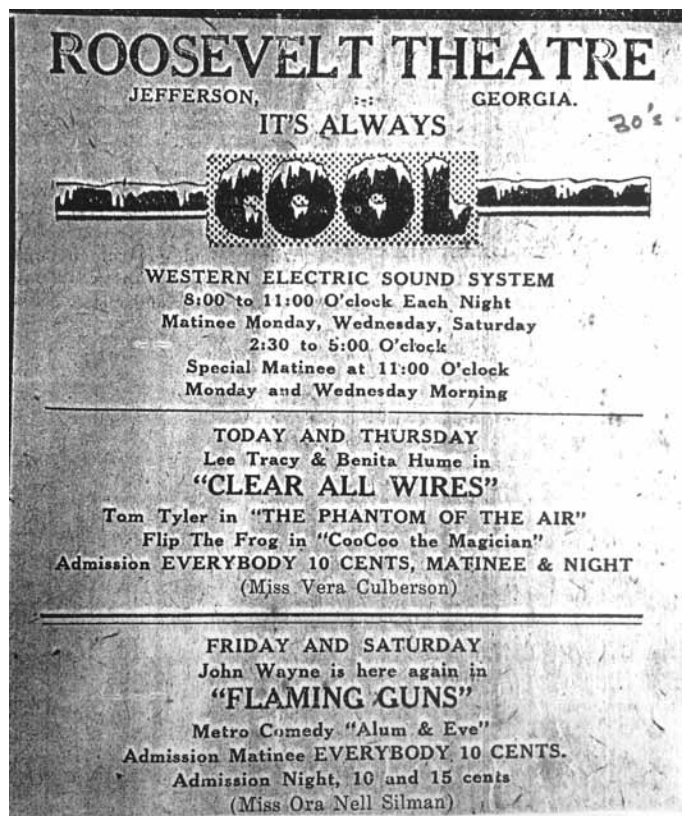
contributions from Todd Dorsey and Cecil Buffington's research

The early 1900's saw several entertainment venues open in Jackson County. The Opera House, the Colonial/Ritz and the Roxy Theatre operated in Harmony Grove/Commerce.

The Roosevelt and the Joy Theatres were operating in Jefferson.

The Hill's Silent Movie Theatre was located above the Hill's General Store in Maysville between 1921 and 1932. Vannie Hill's ten year old son, Aaron, operated the player piano to accompany the movies. The Mayes Theatre operated in one or more locations in Maysville.

The Commerce Drive-In Theater opened circa 1950 and was located off Hwy 441 and closed in 2001. The Wooddall family operated the Drive-In for over 30 years.



1932 advertisement in the Jackson Herald

ROOSEVELT THEATRE
JEFFERSON, GEORGIA.

7:30 to 11:00 O'clock Each Night
Matinee Wednesday, 3:30; Saturday 2:30
Special Matinee at 10:00 O'clock Wednesday Morning

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
MARLENE DIETRICH and LOUISE DRESSER, in
"SCARLET EMPRESS"
Short Subject—Beer and Pretzels
ADMISSION 10 and 20 Cents
(Mrs. Lizzie Bennett)

SATURDAY
KEN MAYNARD and CECILIA PARKER, in
"HONOR OF THE RANGE"
Comedy—Sealing Whacks
Admission Matinee EVERYBODY 10 CENTS.
Admission Night, 10 and 15 cents
(John H. Bailey)

MONDAY
ROSEMARY AMES and VICTOR JORY, in
"PERSUED"
Short Subject—Owl And Pussy Cat
Admission 10 and 25 Cents
(Miss Dera Key)

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
CHESTER MORRIS and MARIAN NIXON, in
"EMBARRASSING MOMENTS"
Serial—2nd Chapter of "RED RIDER"
Comedy—Time on Their Hands
Matinees Wednesday 10:00 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
Admission, Matinee and Night, Everybody 10 cents
(Miss Bess Young)

If your name appears in this advertisement, clip and present it at the door for a complimentary seat.

1934 advertisement in the Jackson Herald

The Roosevelt Theater was in operation as early as 1926 and was still showing films in 1958. It was a live performance venue for the **Dixie Jamboree** in the 1960's which featured **Tammy Wynette** in 1965. From 2007-2009, it also served as a live performance venue for **Mike's Down Under**.

The Joy Theater, owned by O. L. and H. K. Singletary, opened in 1946. A telegraph service was installed in the Joy Theater in 1947. The Theater was leased to Roy Martin for 5 years and Nat Hancock sub-leased the Joy and served as proprietor of both The Roosevelt and the Joy movie houses. The Joy Snack was managed by Marvin Lavender. Live Nashville singing groups such as **Hank Henry and the Cowboys** were a big success at the Joy. In 1950 the Joy closed due to lack of business.

The adult admission was increased in 1950 from .20 cents to .25 cents. Children admission remained .10 cents.

ROOSEVELT THEATRE
JEFFERSON, GEORGIA.

7:00 to 11:00 O'clock Each Night
Matinee Wednesday, 3:30; Saturday 2:30

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
SPENCER TRACY, KETTI GALLIAN, in
"MARIE GALLANTE"
Warner Musical Short, Vincent Lopez Orchestra
ADMISSION 10 and 20 Cents
(Stuart Lord)

SATURDAY
REX BELL, RUTH MIX, in
"THE TONTO KID"
Our Gang Comedy, "Hi Neighbor"
Admission Matinee EVERYBODY 10 CENTS.
Admission Night, 10 and 15 cents
(Harold Jacks)

MONDAY
CONRAD NAGEL, HELEN TWELVETREES, in
"ONE HOUR LATE"
Fox Song Hit, Bounding Main
Admission 10 and 25 Cents
(Mrs. Thelma Bloodworth)

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
BERT WHEELER, ROBERT WOOLSEY, in
"KENTUCKY-KERNELS"
Chapter 2, "MYSTERY SQUADRON"
Comedy, "Betty Boop's Prize Show"
Matinee Wednesday 3:30 P. M.
Admission, Matinee and Night, Everybody 10 cents
(Mrs. Max Silman)

If your name appears in this advertisement, clip and present it at the door for a complimentary seat. Jan 3, '35

1934 advertisement in the Jackson Herald

ROOSEVELT THEATRE 30¢
JEFFERSON, GEORGIA.

7:30 TO 11:00 O'CLOCK EACH NIGHT
MATINEE WEDNESDAY, 3:30; SATURDAY 2:30
Special Morning Matinees Wednesday and Friday 10 O'clock

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
NORMAN FOSTER, CHARLOTTE HENRY, in
"THE HOOSIER SCHOOL MASTER"
Paramount Technicolor Short, "The Song of the Birds"
ADMISSION 10 and 20 Cents
(Emma Blackwell)

SATURDAY
REX LEASE, JANET MORGAN, WALLY WALES, in
"THE COWBOY AND THE BANDIT"
Fox Short Subject, "SHE'S MY LILY"
Admission Matinee EVERYBODY 10 CENTS.
Admission Night, 10 and 15 cents
(Mrs. Rome Manus)

MONDAY
GEORGE RAFT, CLAIRE DODD, EDWARD ARNOLD, in
"THE GLASS KEY"
UNIVERSAL NEWS REEL
ALSO, SELECTED SHORT SUBJECT
Admission 10 and 25 Cents
(John Ed Freeman)

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
RALPH BELLAMY, VALERIE HOBSON, in
"RENEDEVOUS AT MIDNIGHT"
Chapter 2 of "Burn 'Em Up Barnes"
ALSO, SELECTED SHORT SUBJECT
Matinee Wednesday 3:30 P. M.
Admission, Matinee and Night, Everybody 10 cents

1935 advertisement in the Jackson Herald

The Opera House was built circa 1907 and named for the two men who financed it, Luke Davis and Mack Elliott. Traveling entertainment groups, Chataugas or Lyceums, local entertainment, revivals and silent movies were held there. It had dressing rooms and heaters with stove pipes that went through the roof. In the 1920's, the stage performances decreased and the auditorium was converted to a basketball court. Dr. Leatus Sanders converted it into a small hospital for a while and in 1928, the upstairs was used to house convicts who were paving Commerce's main street. It was used for offices and apartments until the 1950's when it closed.

RITZ THEATRE

SHOW OPENS AT 7 P. M. EACH NIGHT
SATURDAY, 2 P. M.
All Children Must Have Tickets

Friday and Saturday, September 10 and 11
DOUBLE FEATURE
"Western Gold"
With
Smith Balleu
And
"Block-Heads"
Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy

Monday and Tuesday, September 13 and 14
"The Counterfeiters"
With
John Sutton, Doris Merrick

Wednesday and Thursday, September 15-16
"High Tide"
With
Lee Tracy, Don Castle

Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18
DOUBLE FEATURE
"Where The Buffalo Roams"
Tex Ritter
And
"Exposed"
Adele Mara, Robert Scott

1937 advertisement in the Commerce News

The Colonial and Ritz Theatre and Opera House occupied the Eli-Day building. The central part of the Eli-Day building was the Colonial Theatre owned by Mrs. Vilet Edwards, wife of Farris Edwards. Mrs. Edwards sold it to Jimmie Jarrell who did extensive remodeling and changed the name to the Ritz Theatre. Cody Fowler operated the projector at the Ritz.



The Roxy Theatre opened in 1934. Currently occupied by **Our Town Antiques**, as of 2012. It was the original location of the A. D. Hood Garage, Radio Shop and Glass replacement shop. In 1934, Jimmie Jarrells purchased the building and made it into the Roxy Theatre. Mr. Sweetser ran the projector for the Roxy. In the late 40's, Mr. Marshall Melvin opened a Firestone Store on the left side of the building

RoxY
THEATRE.

MATINEE: MONDAY & THURSDAY AT 3:30
All Shows: 10-15 Except Thur-Fri Nights; 18-25c

THURSDAY and FRIDAY—THIS WEEK
Judy Garland & Frank Morgan in ***
"WIZARD OF OZ"

SATURDAY —
Roy Rogers & George (Gabby) Hayes in ***
"WALL STREET COWBOY"

MONDAY and TUESDAY —
Jew Ayers & Lana Turner in ***
"THESE GLAMOUR GIRLS"

WEDNESDAY — **DOUBLE FEATURE** —
Robert Young—"MIRACLES FOR SALE"
— ALSO —
"THE MAN THEY COULD NOT HANG"

THURSDAY and FRIDAY — **NEXT WEEK**
Wallace Beery—Virginia Grey in ***
"THUNDER AFLOAT"

above: 1939 advertisement in the Commerce News

right side: two 1942 advertisements in the Commerce News

ROXY THEATRE 43

MATINEE MONDAY AND THURSDAY 3:30 P. M.
NIGHT SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:30

Today and Friday
Starring Tracy and Katherine Hepburn in
"KEEPER OF THE FLAME"

—SATURDAY—
Tom Keene and Betty Miles in—
"THE DRIFTING KID"
With "Rusty" the Wonder Horse

—MONDAY AND TUESDAY—
"SERGEANT YORK"
Starring Gary Cooper and Joan Leslie

—WEDNESDAY—
"LITTLE TOKYO, U. S. A."
With Preston Foster and Brenda Joyce

Coming Next Thursday and Friday
Dick Powell and Mary Martin in
"HAPPY GO LUCKY"

ROXY THEATRE 4

MATINEE MONDAY AND THURSDAY 3:30 P. M.
NIGHT SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:30

Thursday and Friday (This Week)
"DESPERATE JOURNEY"
Starring ★ ★ ★ ERROL FLYNN

—Saturday—
"CYCLONE KID"
With ★ DON BARRY ★ LYNN MERRICK ★ JOHN JAMES

—Monday and Tuesday—
"HENRY ALDRICH GETS GLAMOUR"
JIMMY LYDON as HENRY ALDRICH. Supported By—
CHARLES SMITH, JOHN LITEL AND FRANCES GIFFORD

—Wednesday—
"STREETS OF CHANCE"
★ BURGESS MEREDITH ★ CLAIRE TREVOR ★

Coming Next Thursday and Friday:
"ARABIAN KNIGHTS"

ROXY THEATRE

MATINEE: Monday and Thursday at 3:00 P. M.

Saturday Show Starts at 10:30 A. M.

Night Shows: Begin at 7 P. M.

Today and Friday, March 27 and 28

"Till The Clouds Roll By"

With

June Allyson, Judy Garland, Kathryn Grayson,
Lena Horne, Van Johnson, Tony Martin,
Frank Sinatra, Dinah Shore, Robert Walker

Saturday, March 29

"Out California Way"

Starring

Monte Hale and Adrian Booth

Guest Stars: Roy Rogers and Trigger, Allan La
Dale Evans, Donald Berry

Monday and Tuesday, March 31, April

Craig Rice's

"Home Sweet Homicide"

With

Peggy Ann Garner, Randolph Scott, Dean Stocky
Connie Marshall, James Gleason, Anabel Shaw
Barbara Whiting, John Shepperd

Wednesday, April 2

"The Return Of Rusty"

With

Ted Donaldson, John Litel, Mark Dennis,
Barbara Wooddell, Robert Stevens

Thursday and Friday, April 3 and 4

Claudette Colbert, Walter Pidgeon, June Allyson

In

"The Secret Heart"

With

Lionel Barrymore, Robert Sterling, Marshall Thom

ROXY THEATRE

MATINEE: Monday and Thursday. Show starts at 3:30
P. M.

Saturday show starts at 10:30 A. M.

Night shows begin at 7 P. M.

All Children Must Have Tickets

Today and Friday, November 18 and 19

"Emperor Waltz"

With

Bing Crosby, Joan Fontaine

Saturday, November 20

"Eyes of Texas"

With

Roy Rogers

Monday and Tuesday, November 22 and 23

"Big City"

With

Margaret O'Brien, Robert Preston

Wednesday, November 24

"Linda Be Good"

With

Elyse Knox

Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26

"A Date with Judy"

With

Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Powell, Robert Stack
Technicolor

Two Matinees Thanksgiving, November 25,

2 o'clock and 4 o'clock

1946 advertisement in the Commerce News

1948 advertisement in the Commerce News

MOVIES ARE BETTER THAN EVER

ROOSEVELT THEATRE
 Thursday and Friday
 BING CROSBY IN
RIDING HIGH

Saturday
 GEORGE O'BRIEN IN
BULLET CODE

Monday
 VIRGINIA MAYO IN
BACKFIRE

Tuesday and Wednesday
 JOHN PAYNE, GAIL RUSSELL, JEFFREY LYNN IN
CAPTAIN CHINA

COMING NEXT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
 JOEL McCREA IN
STARS IN MY CROWN

JOY THEATRE
 Friday and Saturday
 DOUBLE FEATURE PROGRAM
 ROD CAMERON IN
RED CANYON
 ALSO
 FRED McMURRAY IN
SNOW IN THE DESERT

above: 1950 advertisement in the Jackson Herald
 right: 1949 advertisement in the Jackson Herald

ROOSEVELT THEATRE
 JEFFERSON, GEORGIA
 Thursday and Friday
 JOHN WAYNE IN
SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON

Saturday
 JIM BANNON IN
COWBOY AND PRIZEFIGHTER

Monday
 HOWARD DUFF IN
JOHNNY STOOL PIGEON

Tuesday and Wednesday
 Edmund GWENN, Donald CRISP, Geraldine BROOKS
CHALLENGE TO LASSIE

COMING NEXT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
 Van JOHNSON, John HODIAK, Ricardo MONTALBA
BATTLEGROUND

JOY THEATRE
 Friday and Saturday
 DOUBLE FEATURE PROGRAM
 BUCK JONES AND TIM McCOY IN
RIDERS OF THE WEST
 —AND—
 LON McCALISTER IN
KIDNAPPED

Jackson County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1234 Commerce, Georgia 30529

Portraits of a Southern Place

Published by the Jackson County Historical Society in 2007, it continues to be a great present for the Holidays. It contains 257 black and white photographs that document life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in Jackson County, Georgia. Among the collection are 54 photographs taken by photographer, Cicero Simmons of Talmo, circa 1910. The book includes an index by surname and most of the photographs identify the places and people depicted. This reprint is in paperback and is \$25.00 including tax. Checks and money orders can be made to the Jackson County Historical Society, P.O.Box 1234, Commerce, GA 30529. Copies can be purchased at the Commerce Public Library for \$25.00. Shipping cost is an additional \$3.00 per book. For special deliveries call Tina at (706)207-6889 or tina313@mindspring.com

