Theatres
In
Gloucester County, Virginia

Gloucester County Theatres

Resources

- Gazette Journal Archives
- Daily Press Archives
- Times Herald Archives
- Motion Picture Daily Annuals
- Personal Interviews

Early Gloucester Venues

Early Movie Venues included
High School Auditoriums

Botetourt High School – Kenney Auditorium
1928-1931

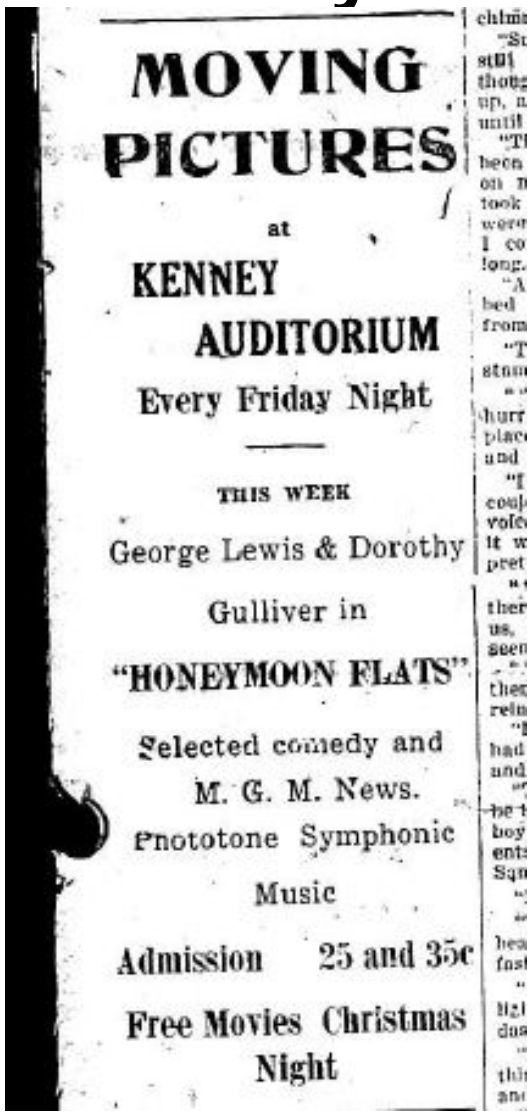
Achilles High School -- Gym-Auditorium
1930 - 1933

Kenney Auditorium

Named in Honor of J. Walter Kenney
Superintendent of Gloucester Schools

- Ads in Gloucester Newspaper 1930-1931
- Motion Picture Daily Annual shows 1928-1930
- Jan. 29, 1931 News Story – Fire in Movie Booth
  - While showing movie, film caught fire
  - Decided to end Silent Movies at Kenney
- The Edge Hill opened in May 1931

Kenney News Ad & Story



MOVING PICTURES

at

KENNEY AUDITORIUM

Every Friday Night

THIS WEEK

George Lewis & Dorothy Gulliver in

"HONEYMOON FLATS"

Selected comedy and M. G. M. News.

Phototone Symphonic Music

Admission 25 and 35c

Free Movies Christmas Night

FILM TAKES FIRE IN MOVIE BOOTH

FIRE PROOFING SAVES FLAMES FROM SPREADING.

Gym To Be Rushed And Talkies May Be Installed.

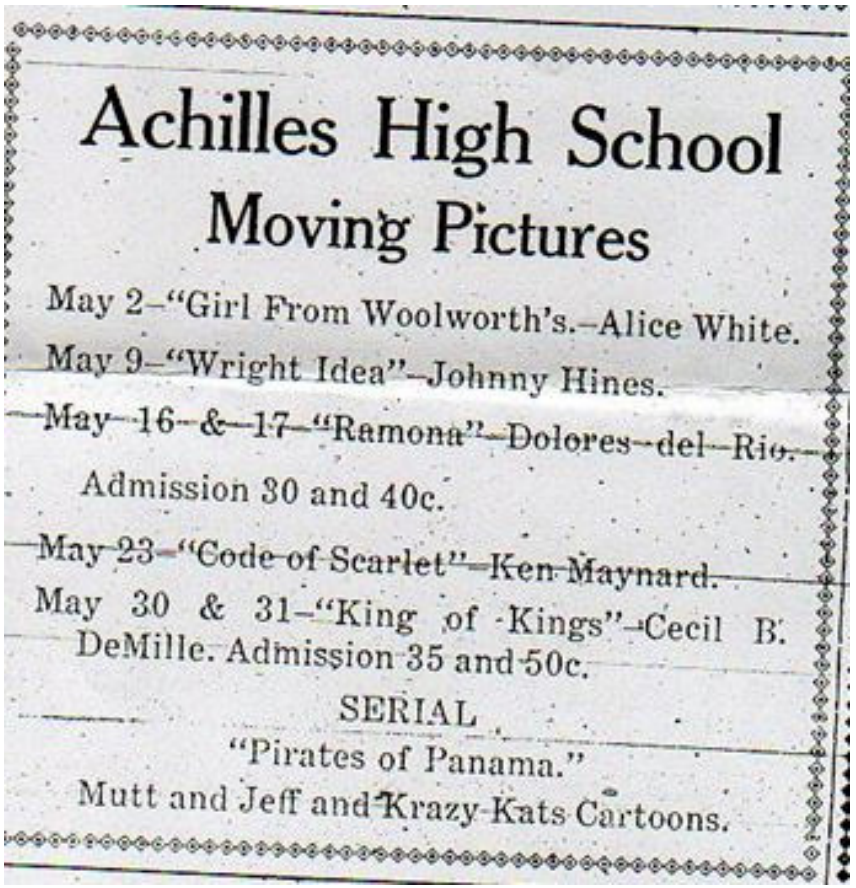
While the moving picture of Joan Crawford in "Modern Maiden" was being shown at the Kenney auditorium Friday night, the film caught fire and was practically destroyed, together with other films in the fire-proof booth. Sinclair Rhodes, operator of the machine, was slightly burned about the hands in a futile effort to extinguish the fire before it got beyond control. He also lost his coat and sweater, which were hanging on hooks in the booth. The picture machine was badly damaged. The asbestos lined booth confined the fire to its place of origin and there was no damage outside the booth.

The crowd in attendance at the show was small and there was no disorder or anything remotely approaching a panic. While some of the high school boys and girls rushed to the business section of the town for chemical fire extinguishers, others brought water from the basement, which was thrown on the fire and served to check it somewhat until the fire extinguishers arrived. The extinguishers quickly killed the fire.

Achilles High School

- Found only one ad in Gloucester Newspaper – in 1930
- Motion Picture Daily Annuals lists venue for 1930-1932

Achilles School
May 1, 1930



Achilles High School

Moving Pictures

May 2–"Girl From Woolworth's.–Alice White.

May 9–"Wright Idea"–Johnny Hines.

May 16 & 17–"Ramona"–Dolores del Rio.

Admission 30 and 40c.

May 23–"Code of Scarlet"–Ken Maynard.

May 30 & 31–"King of Kings"–Cecil B. DeMille. Admission 35 and 50c.

SERIAL

"Pirates of Panama."

Mutt and Jeff and Krazy Kats Cartoons.

All Silent Movies

Gloucester County Fairgrounds Edge Hill at the Courthouse

- The Gloucester Agricultural Association operated the Gloucester Fair at Edge Hill Farm at the Courthouse on 38 acres of land.
- The Auditorium burned in 1920 and was rebuilt in 1923
  - Used for Community Events during the year.
  - Used for exhibits and entertainment during the Fair.

Gloucester County Fairgrounds Edge Hill at the Courthouse

- Mr. Brown Farinholt purchased the Edge Hill Fair Grounds for about $7,000
  - Converted the Auditorium into a Talkie Movie House in 1931
  - Also included a Dance Hall – became The Star Theater in 1934 – for “colored” patrons

Edge Hill Auditorium
Gloucester County Fair Grounds

The Auditorium

Edge Hill Theatre
Courthouse Area
(Old County Fair Grounds)

Edge Hill Theatre
1931- 1956

- April 2 1931 – Auditorium To be Talkie
  - Auditorium built not long ago – substantial structure
  - Brown Farinholt buys Fairground Property –
  - Building to be converted into a Motion Picture Theatre
- May 7, 1931 – New Theatre to Open

Edge Hill Theatre

- The initial plan was to open May 8
- May 14, 1931 – Delayed to May 22
- May 22, 1931 – First Movie (sound film)
  - "One Heavenly Night" with John Boles
- July 23, 1934 – Adding "Colored Theatre" for the black patrons (would later be known as The Star Theatre)

Edge Hill Theatre

- Sept 3, 1936 - First Color Movie shown in county
  - "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" with Fred McMurray
- July 2,1938 – Catholic Church to use Theatre until Church building completed

Edge Hill Theatre

- Sept – Oct 1941 – Theatre Remodeled
  - Underwent complete remodeling
  - Floor dropped and now has a slope
  - Larger seating capacity
  - Two rest rooms
  - New sound equipment
  - Box Office relocated to outside

Edge Hill Theatre

- Oct 18, 1945 – First Sunday Showing
- June 9, 1949 – Leased to J.M. Oulahan
- May 24, 1956 – Theatre Closed Indefinitely – never reopened.
  - Last Movie shown was “Vera Cruz” with Burt Lancaster
- Nov 13, 1957 – Colonial Store opens on site.
- Today Village Lanes is on the site.

Edge Hill Theater Opening -1931

EDGE HILL THEATER

Gloucester, Va.

OPENING NIGHTS

Friday and Saturday, May 22-23

TWO SHOWS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
7 and 9 p. m.

SAMUEL GOLDWYN presents "ONE HEAVENLY NIGHT" with EVELYN LAYE JOHN BOLES & LEON ERROL

She HUNGERED FOR LOVE & FAME

Monday and Tuesday, May 25-26, 8 p. m.

This Giddy Universe in 1980
With Music-Girls-Hilarious Comedy-Startling Effects

"JUST IMAGINE!"

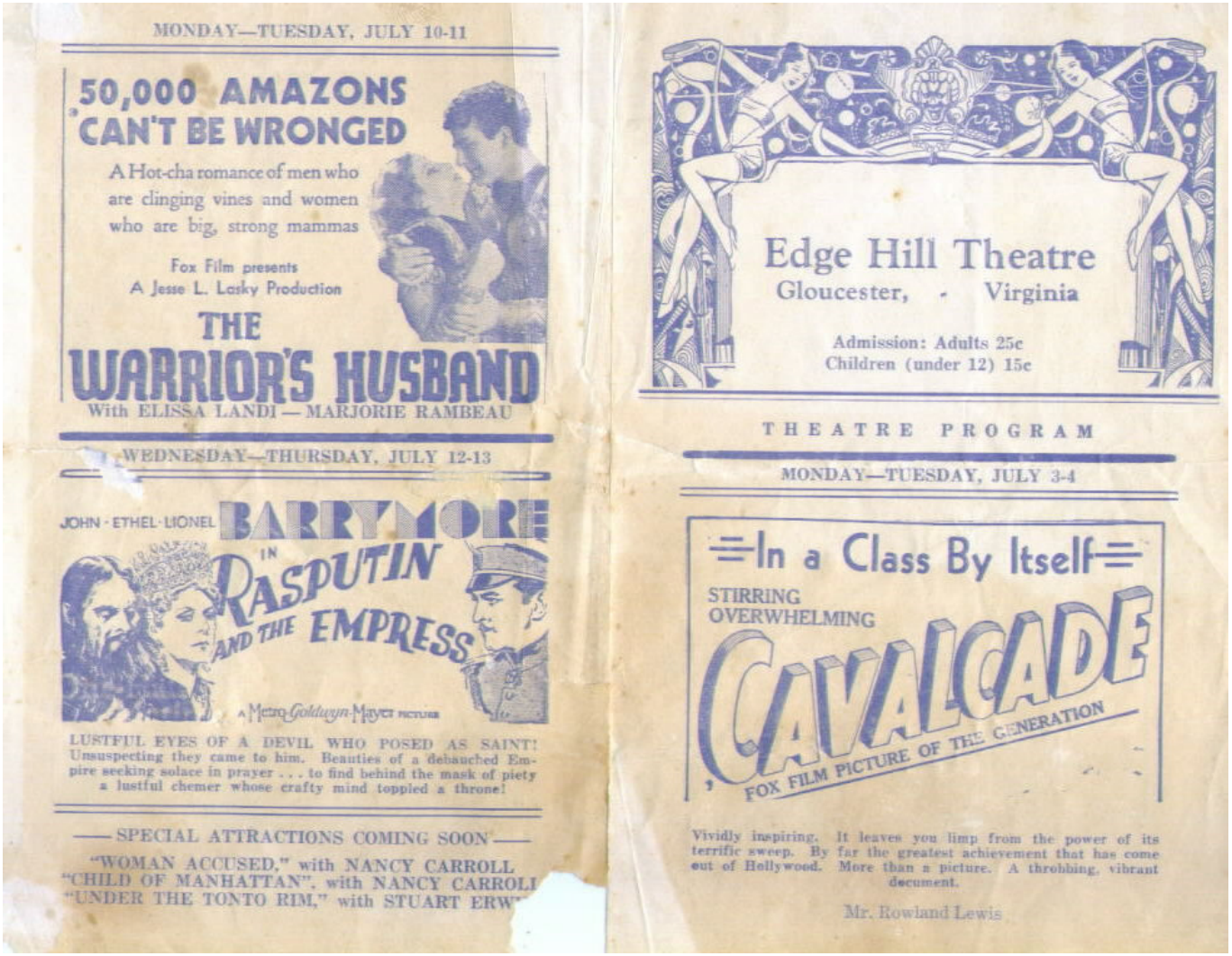
Friday and Saturday, May 29-30

Roland Colman in

"DEVIL TO PAY"

Admission 25 and 35c

Edge Hill Theatre
(Probably 1933)



MONDAY—TUESDAY, JULY 10-11

50,000 AMAZONS CAN'T BE WRONGED

A Hot-cha romance of men who are clinging vines and women who are big, strong mammas

Fox Film presents
A Jesse L. Lasky Production

THE WARRIOR'S HUSBAND

With ELISSA LANDI — MARJORIE RAMBEAU

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY, JULY 12-13

JOHN - ETHEL - LIONEL **BARRYMORE** IN **RASPUTIN AND THE EMPRESS**

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture

LUSTFUL EYES OF A DEVIL WHO POSED AS SAINT! Unsuspecting they came to him. Beauties of a debauched Empire seeking solace in prayer . . . to find behind the mask of piety a lustful chemer whose crafty mind toppled a throne!

— SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS COMING SOON —

"WOMAN ACCUSED," with NANCY CARROLL
"CHILD OF MANHATTAN", with NANCY CARROLL
"UNDER THE TONTO RIM," with STUART ERW

Edge Hill Theatre
Gloucester, - Virginia

Admission: Adults 25c
Children (under 12) 15c

THEATRE PROGRAM

MONDAY—TUESDAY, JULY 3-4

In a Class By Itself

STIRRING
OVERWHELMING

CAVALCADE

FOX FILM PICTURE OF THE GENERATION

Vividly inspiring. It leaves you limp from the power of its terrific sweep. By far the greatest achievement that has come out of Hollywood. More than a picture. A throbbing, vibrant document.

Mr. Rowland Lewis

Courtesy Ralph Parkes

Edge Hill Theatre

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY, JULY 5-6

THE MOST WIDELY DISCUSSED PICTURE of the DAY

"WOULDN'T HURT ME ANY TO HAVE A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAN IN MY RECORD!"

Diamond-Decked Lou... Faithful as Long as the Diamonds Held Out ... The Red-Light, Heart-break, and Hotcha Saga of Gotham's Glorious Sinner...

MAE WEST in

HE WAS HER MAN .... BUT

She Done Him Wrong

with

CARY GRANT

OWEN MOORE · NOAH BEERY · GILBERT ROLAND

A Paramount Picture

MAE WEST SINGS—

"Frankie and Johnnie"

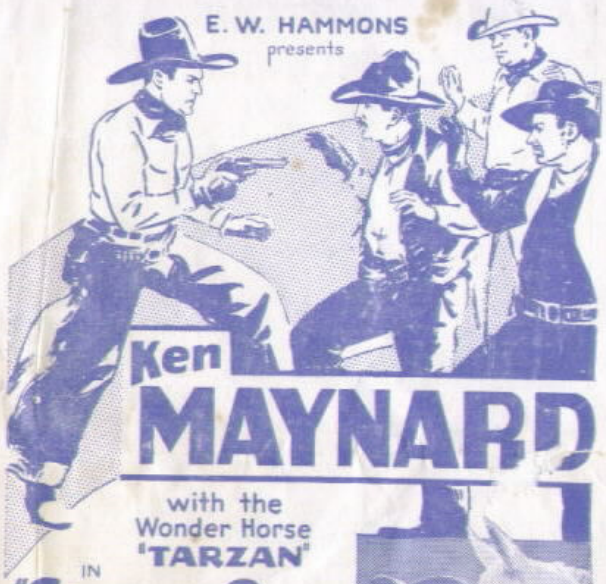
"A Man What Takes His Time"

Miss Skip Rawlings

Also, COMEDY and CARTOON

FRIDAY—SATURDAY, JULY 7-8

E. W. HAMMONS presents



Ken MAYNARD

with the Wonder Horse "TARZAN"

IN

"Come On, Tarzan"

Directed by ALAN JAMES

"We'll shoot it out with the Sheriff! We'll shoot it out with anybody!···They'll never take my horse!"

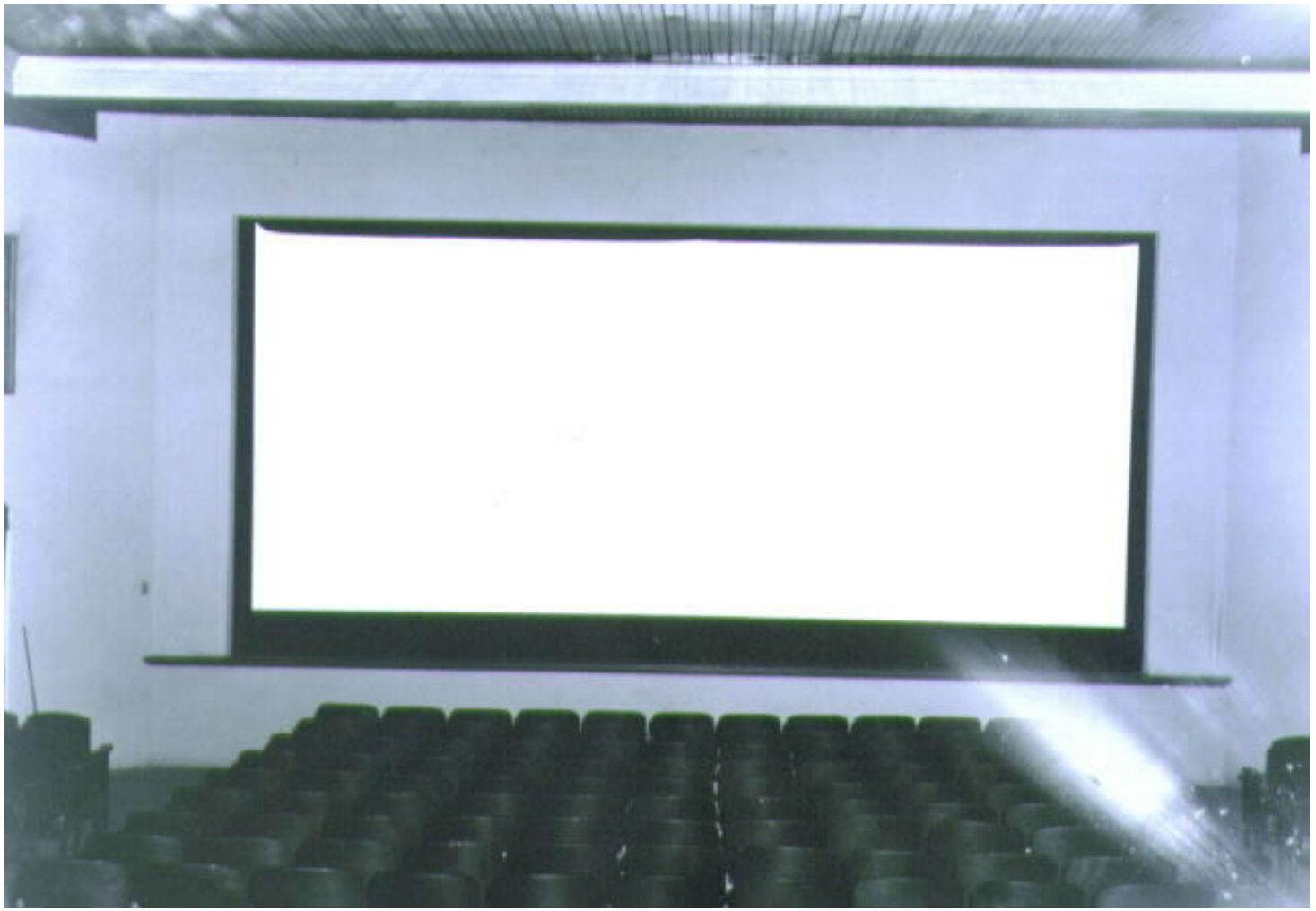
Brown Smith

Also, "STRANGE INNERTUBE," with the Taxi Boys

Also MICKEY MOUSE CARTOON

Edge Hill Theatre

Edge Hill Theatre Interior



Star Theatre
At
Edge Hill

Star Theatre -1934-1956
Adjacent to Edge Hill Theatre

- May 17, 1934 – Colored People to Have Moving Pictures
  - Star Theater to open per Brown Farinholt
  - The Former Dance Hall on the property will be converted
  - Will operate Friday & Saturday Nights
  - Well equipped for the exclusive patronage of the colored
- May 18, 1934 – First Ad for Star Theatre

Star Theatre

- April 4, 1935 – Last Ad for Star Theatre
  - From this point on it was referred to as the “Colored Theatre” in the Edge Hill ads.
  - Ran one reel behind Edge Hill showings
- Last ad for “Colored Theatre” at Edge Hill was listed May 24, 1956

Star Theatre

Star Theater

GLOUCESTER, VA.

FOR COLORED ONLY

Show Starts 8:30 P. M.

OPENING THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS

with KEN MAYNARD in

"Strawberry Roan"

Roaring Hoofbeats . . . a Struggle Between Two Giant Men of the West . . . Drama, Romance, Flaming Adventure!

ALSO NEWS, COMEDY and CARTOON

Adults—25c Children under 12—10c

Edge Hill “Colored Theatre”

EDGE HILL

THEATRE

HIT PARADE

WHITE THEATRE — One show Sunday, Monday and Friday starting at 7:45 p. m. Two shows on Saturday at 7:15 and 9:00 p. m.

COLORED THEATRE — One show on Sunday and Monday starting at 8:15 p. m. One show on Saturday at 8:00 p. m.

CLOSED Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

May 17, 1956

Maryus Community

- Hosted Two Theaters at a Cross Road
  - Maryus and Maundy's Creek Roads

The Asta – Leslie Williams

The Globe – Calvin Haywood

Asta Theatre - Maryus

Per Caption: About 1942 –

Mrs. Maria Williams & Mrs. Susie West

But Movie was not released until 1948

Asta Theatre – Maryus 1941-1955

- Built by Leslie Williams 1941
- First movie was “Back In The Saddle” with Gene Autry
- Sept 23, 1944 – Asta Owner (Leslie Williams) acquitted of showing movies on Sunday
  - Verdict: the operation on Sunday was essential to the economic and moral welfare of the community

Asta Theatre - Maryus

- Oct 11, 1945 – Fire at Theatre
  - Completely destroyed by fire
  - Will rebuild in about 8 weeks – loss of $10K
- March 28, 1946 – Accused acquitted in Asta Fire
  - Defendants acquitted after four day trial.
  - Deliberated only 20 minutes

Asta Theater - Maryus

- Nov 21, 1946 – Asta Fire Again
  - Fire of unknown origin destroys theater
  - $15-20 K loss
  - Undecided about rebuilding – But he did.

Asta Theatre - Maryus

- Sept 18, 1952 – Juke Box Damages
  - Leslie Williams and Jack Williams awarded $200 for damages.
  - Clarence Williams – across the road – blasted music from a loudspeaker during the movies disrupting the movies at the Asta
  - Just one of several feud actions between brothers Clarence and Jack

Asta Theatre - Maryus

- July 8, 1952 – Shot Fired into Theatre
  - No one caught

- July 30, 1953 – Murder in Maryus
  - Clarence Williams shot and killed brother Jack, wounded Leslie's wife
  - Sentenced to life – was later paroled and became a Preacher

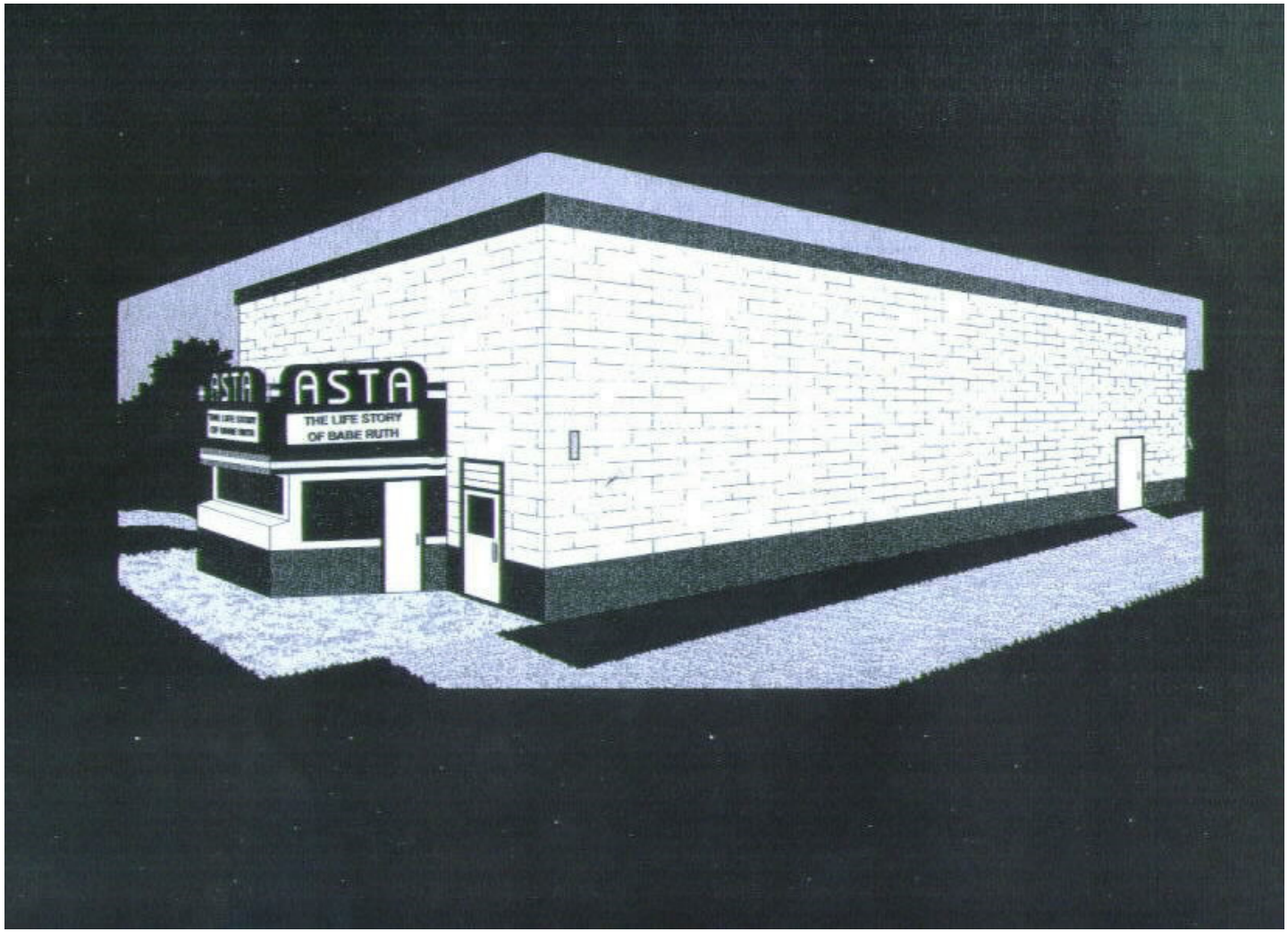
Asta Theatre - Maryus

- Closed in 1955 per Historical Society
- Equipment sold to new Tidewater Drive In which opened in 1955
- Building was used for storage and demolished in 1957

Asta Theater - Maryus

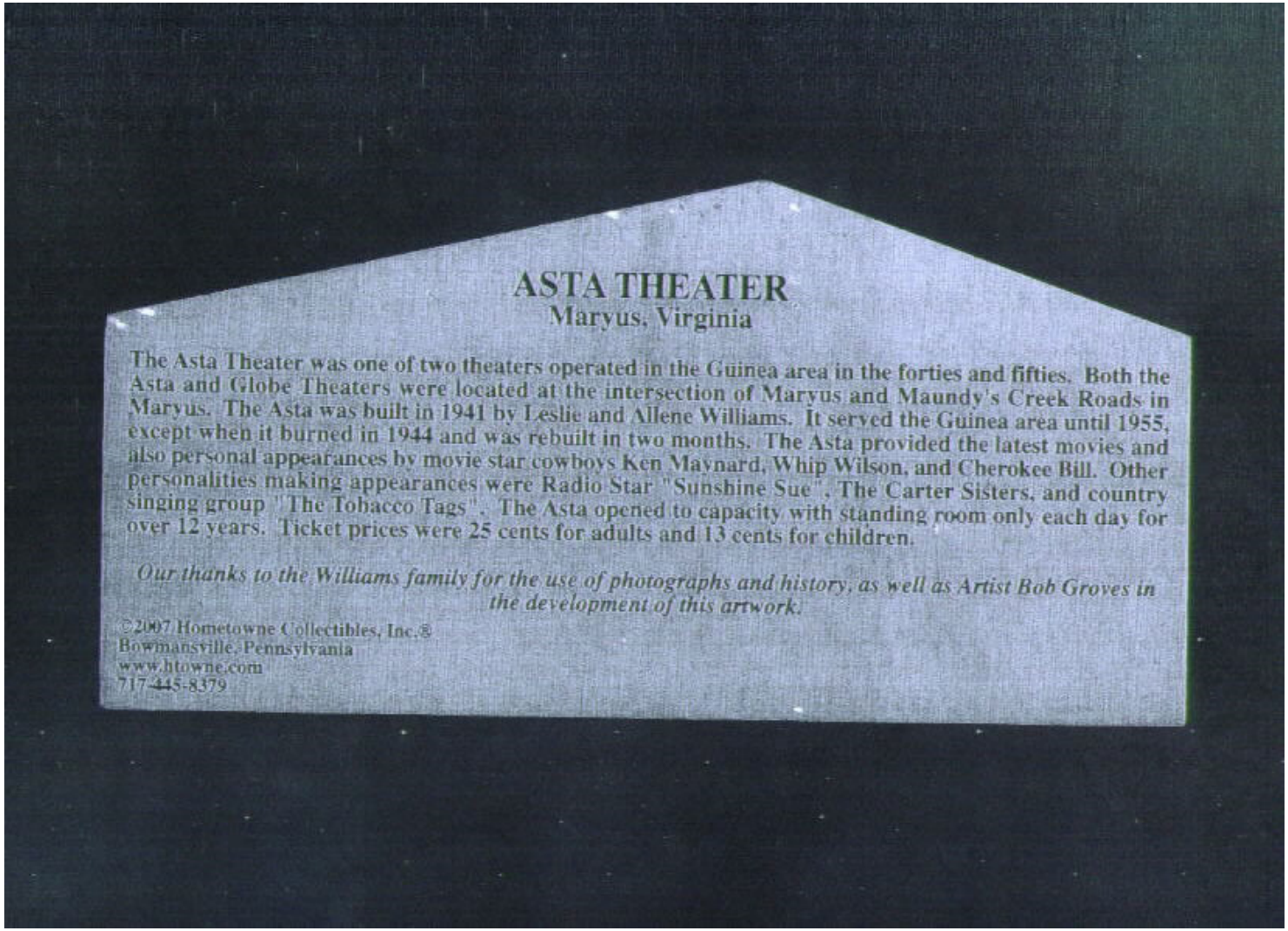
Feb 11, 1949 Ad in Daily Press

Asta Theatre - Maryus



Hometown Collectible – Sold by Guinea Jubilee

Asta Theatre - Maryus



Globe Theatre – Maryus 1946-1950

Courtesy: Willie Paul Haywood

Globe Theater - Maryus

- Short lived Theater – 1946 - 1950
- Built by Calvin Haywood to compete with the Asta
- Cinderblock Building – no indoor plumbing
- 350 seats
- Closed in 1950
- Calvin Haywood regretted theater
  - Quoted as saying not a good idea
- Storage – demolished in 1975
- No advertising found

Aerial View of Maryus in Gloucester County -

Theaters closed but buildings still standing

Abingdon Theatre

Wicomico, Virginia

(About where Wendy's is now)

Abingdon Theatre
1947-1966

- Jan 16 1947 – Opening Ad
- Managed by James Duncan and Charles Aubrey Ashe - brothers
- Seats about 400 people
- Had Stage Shows from time to time
- March 2, 1960 – Awarded $19K
- July 3, 1966 – Theatre Property For Sale
- November 24, 1966 – Closing
- Same floor plan as Rim – up the road

Abingdon Theatre

Abingdon Theatre
January 16, 1947

Grand Opening..

Abingdon Theatre

On Route 17 -:- Near Wicomico

Friday Night, Jan. 24

SHOWS 7 and 9 P. M.

We Are Proud to Present as our Opening Feature:

PARAMOUNT'S

"MASQUERADE IN MEXICO"

STARRING

DOROTHY LAMOUR and ARTURO DeCORDOVA

Come and See Gloucester's Newest and Most Modernly Equipped Theatre – Bring Your Friends!

POPULAR PRICES: Adults 40c Including Tax
Children 14c Including Tax
SHOW SCHEDULE: Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. 7:45. Fri and Sat. 7 and 9. Sun. Matinee 3 P. M.

COMING SHOWS

SUNDAY, JAN. 26
"SUNBONNET SUE"
With Gale Storm and Phil Regan

MON. & TUES. JAN. 27-28
"LOVER COME BACK"
George Brent and Lucille Ball

WED. & THURS. JAN.29-30
"LOVE LETTERS"
Jennifer Jones and Joseph Cotten

FRI. & SAT. JAN. 31 and FEB. 1
"BAD-MEN OF THE BORDER"
Kirby Grant and Fuzzy Knight
First Chapter "Mysterious Mr. M."

SUNDAY FEB. 2
"JUNGLE PRINCESS"
Dorothy Lamour

MON. & TUES. FEB. 5-6
"MISS SUSIE SLAGLE'S"
Sonny Tufts, Joan Caulfield and Veronica Lake

FRI. & SAT. FEB. 7-8
"UNDER ARIZONA SKIES"
Johnny Mac Brown
Chapter 2, "Mysterious Mr. M."
Popular Short Subjects with each show.

Abingdon Theatre Stage Show - 1949

ABINGDON
THEATRE
ROUTE 11 [illegible] NEAR WICOMICO

Thursday Feb. 16
"MOM and DAD"
Shows at 1 and 7 P. M. for ladies and high school girls
One show at 9 P. M. for men and high school boys
Admission 40c

Fri. Feb. 18
"TARZAN'S NEW YORK ADVENTURE"
Johnny Weissmuller, and Maureen O'Sullivan
Selected Short Subjects

Saturday Feb. 19
Smiley Burnette
"CODE OF THE PRAIRIE"
Also Cartoon, Serial and News

Sunday Feb. 27
John Garfield, Pat O'Brien and Frances Farmer
News and Shorts 1 & 4 p.m.

Monday Feb. 28
On The Stage
Peggy Stewart and Her Hollywood Review
On The Screen
"ROSE OF SANTA ROSA"
Stars Hoosier Hot Shots
Shows 6:00, 7:45 and 9:30 p.m.
Adm.—Children 20c—Adults 40c

Tues.-Wed. Mar. 1-2
John Wayne, Lorraine Day
"TYCOON"

Thurs.-Fri. Mar. 3-4
"TO THE VICTOR"
Dennis Morgan, Viveca Lindfors

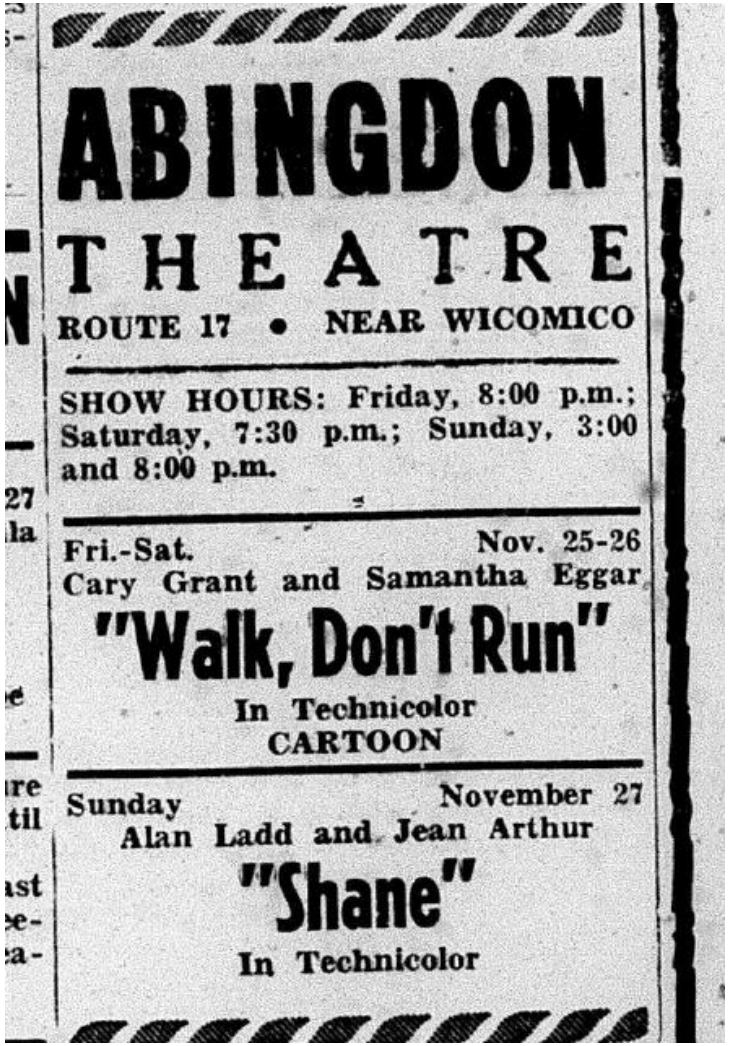
Saturday Mar. 5
Johnny Mack Brown
"TROOPER MAN"
Also News, Serial and Cartoon

IN PERSON! ON THE STAGE!
THE FAVORITE LEADING LADY OF ALL OUTSTANDING WESTERN STARS—
Peggy STEWART
STARRED IN OVER 65 WESTERN PICTURES—
SINGING and DANCING HER WAY INTO YOUR HEARTS—
ALL-STAR REVUE
Featuring
SLIM BERGMAN
THE 3 BROOME BROS.
MUSIC! COMEDY! DANCING! THRILLS!

Shows at 6, 7 and 9:30 p.m.—Monday Feb. 28th
Admission Adults 60c—Children 20c
Abingdon Theatre
Wicomico, Virginia

2/24/1949

Abingdon Theatre
Last Ad – November 24, 1966



ABINGDON

THEATRE

ROUTE 17 • NEAR WICOMICO

SHOW HOURS: Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Fri.-Sat. Nov. 25-26
Cary Grant and Samantha Eggar

"Walk, Don't Run"

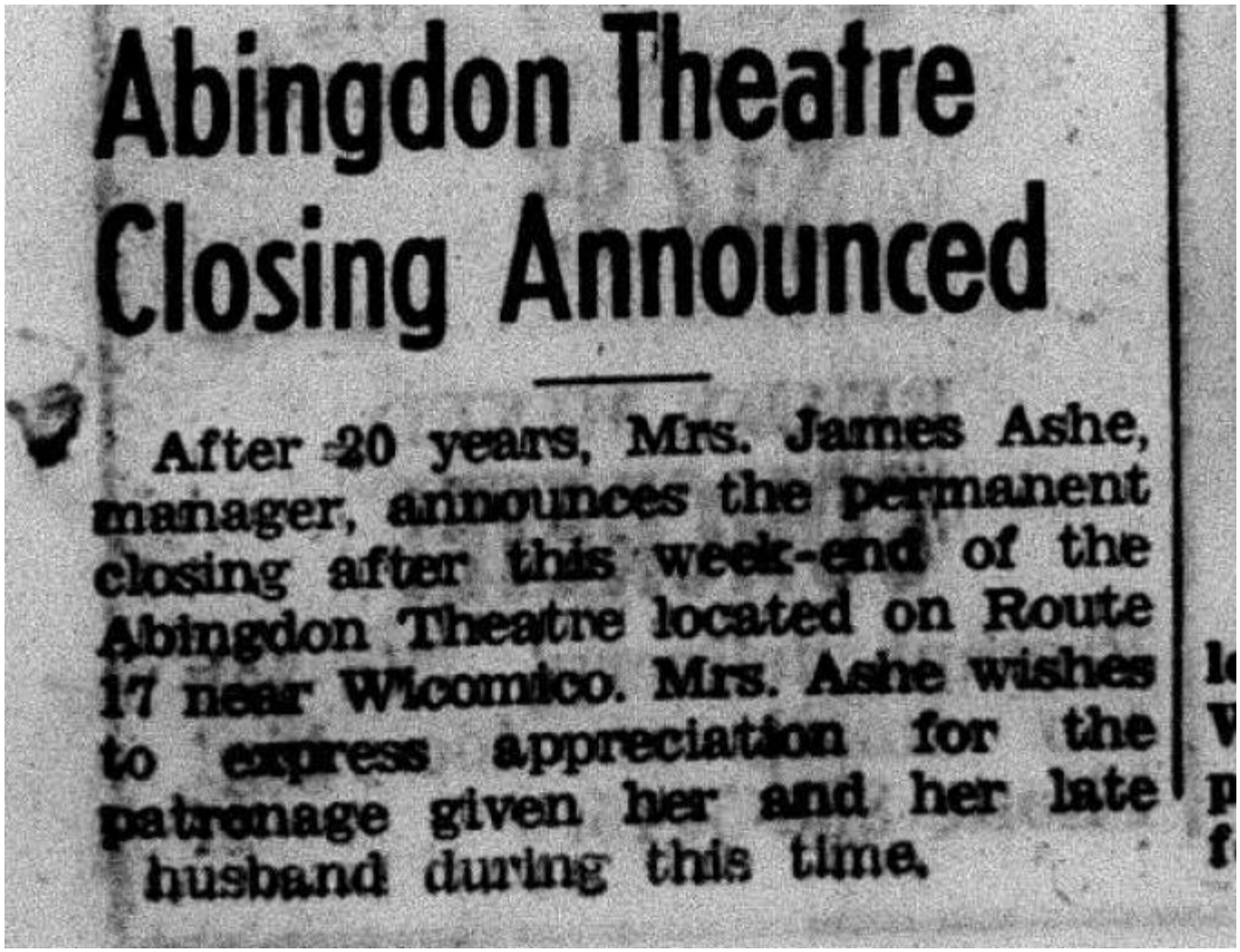
In Technicolor
CARTOON

Sunday November 27
Alan Ladd and Jean Arthur

"Shane"

In Technicolor

Abingdon Theatre Closing November 24,1966



Abingdon Theatre Closing Announced

After 20 years, Mrs. James Ashe, manager, announces the permanent closing after this week-end of the Abingdon Theatre located on Route 17 near Wicomico. Mrs. Ashe wishes to express appreciation for the patronage given her and her late husband during this time.

The Auditorium
A Black Venue

Auditorium
1947-1952

- Listed in the Motion Picture Daily Annual from 1947-1952
- Listed as a Black Venue
- Nothing in local newspapers
- Have never met anyone who remembers this location.

Rim Theatre
Hayes, Virginia

Rim Theatre
1949 -1957

- Black Theater owned by Leon & George Gregory and George Catlett (Mgr.)
- July 4, 1949 - Opened
- Advertised as “The Finest Entertainment for Colored Patrons”
- Seats about 300
- Across road from Wagon Wheel Tavern and Hub Cleaners
- Feb 20, 1953 – World Premier of Black Movie – Oscar Micheaux’s “The Betrayal”

Rim Theatre

- May 26, 1955 – First Cinemascope Picture – "The Robe" with Richard Burton
- Jan 27, 1957 – Last Rim ad found
- April 17, 1959 – Building for Sale
- Built on same floor plan as the Abingdon – different front façade.
- Building now serves as the Rock Church

Rim Theatre

Rim Opening

THE RIM THEATRE

NEAR
HAYES STORE
VIRGINIA

OPENED
JULY 4,
1949

OFFERING the FINEST ENTERTAINMENT for COLORED PATRONS

Owners of "THE RIM"

Leon Gregory | George Gregory | George Catlett

"Popular Entertainment in Deluxe Comfort at Popular Prices"
--On Route 17 Between Gloucester and Gloucester Point--

Owners of "THE RIM"

Leon Gregory

George Gregory

George Catlett

Rim Theatre

Enterprising Young Colored Businessman Established Tavern, Cleaning Plant, Theatre

Leon Gregory, of Lower Gloucester County, is Operator of "Wagon Wheel" and "Hub Cleaners"; Partner in "Rim Theatre"; Plans "Spoke" Tourist Camp

One of the most rapid rises in the business world of Gloucester and Mathews counties has been the career of a young colored businessman in lower Gloucester County, 29 year-old Leon Gregory.

A graduate of Gloucester Training School, class of 1936, Gregory studied for two years at Virginia Union University in Richmond, and worked in the Newport News Shipyard during the early war years. In 1941 he opened a small tavern on the Guinea road, which prospered sufficiently to al-

Mrs. Gregory, daughter Jacqueline, twin sons Leon, Jr. and Dorias, and Leon Gregory, Sr.

July 4, 1949

Leon Gregory – operator of Wagon Wheel, Hub Cleaners and Rim

Big name Black entertainers at Wagon Wheel

Operated a Baseball Park behind the Wagon Wheel.

Plans a Colored Tourist Camp on Rt. 17 – Spoke Tourist Camp

Rim Interior

Rim Advertising
Courtesy Ralph Parkes

The Abingdon & The Rim

The Rim – Later Years

Used Car Lot

The Rock Church

The Tidewater Drive-In
Hayes, Virginia

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre 1955-1974

- March 10, 1955 – R. Duval Williams & Billy Burke disclose plans to build a Drive-In
- Will be known as Tidewater Drive-In
- Large screen – can show Cinemascope
- Expects to be able to park about 260 cars.
- Opened May 28, 1955
  - First Movie was Randolph Scott in "Carson City'

Tidewater Drive-In

- Had separate parking and concessions for whites and “coloreds”
- July 19, 1956 – Community upset about Adult Movies on outside screen
  - “Tempest in the Flesh” – The most daring motion picture ever presented to the public

Tidewater Drive-In

Wed.-Thurs. July 25-26

The most daring motion picture ever presented to the public! The shameless story of a girl possessed by the uncontrollable desire that raged within her! An honest approach to a bold subject. Its frankness is startling!

"Tempest in the Flesh"

Color Cartoon

THE SENSATION OF TWO CONTINENTS!

ADULTS ONLY

Children not admitted unless accompanied by parents or guardian.

Adults only – but Children admitted – Must not have been to risqué

Tidewater Drive-In

- March 22, 1972 – Drive-In Sold
- Ernest Price, owner of Peninsula Twin Drive-Ins
  - Purchases from DuVal Williams and William ‘Billy’ Burke.
- Reopened under new management on April 6, 1972
- Always a Double Feature
- Movies Seven Days a week

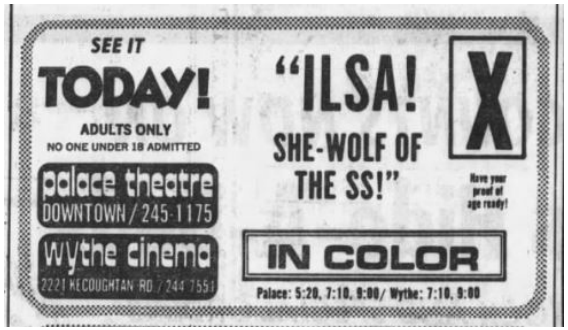
Tidewater Drive-In

- June 28, 1973 - Board of Supervisors hear complaints on X-Rated Movies
  - Complaints from neighbors
  - Board may enact ordnance requiring tall fence.
- July 5, 1973 – County to seek ban against obscene movies.
  - Decided against high fence
  - Will Take Court Action

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre

- In the 70's, most localities were cracking down on obscenity forcing the closing of theatres showing X and XXX-Rated Films
  - Downtown, Palace, Paramount, Warwick In Newport News
  - Lee, Green Acres Drive In, Hampton Drive-In in Hampton

X-Rated Theaters in Area



Tidewater Drive-In Theatre

- Theatre was target of constant vandalism
  - Had to close down for a while at times
- Closed seasonally for winter months
- Last ad found was Oct 24, 1974
  - "Those Dirty Dogs" with Stephen Boyd
- Storage Units on this site now on Old 17 near Hook Road

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre
May 28, 1955

Opening Saturday Night

TIDEWATER
DRIVE-IN THEATRE Hayes, Virginia

Located on U. S. Route 17, 2 miles North of York River Bridge

DuVal Williams, W. F. Burke, Proprietors

— Equipped With Latest RCA equipment for Regular and CINEMASCOPE Showings —
COME AS YOU ARE . . . ENJOY THE LATEST IN MOTION PICTURE ENTERTAINMENT
ON OUR GIANT 60 FOOT SCREEN

Two Shows Nightly
Starting at Dusk

Only $1.25
. . . For a Car Full . . .

WATCH FOR Our
Grand Opening CELEBRATION
at a later date

Visit Our
Snack Bar
Ice Cream—Milk Shakes
Root Beer—Orange—
Coca Cola—Pop Corn
Bar-B-Q & Candies
Cigarettes

OPENING NIGHT ATTRACTION
IN COLOR **"CARSON CITY"** With RANDOLPH SCOTT
ALSO COMEDY "BUGS AND THUGS"—PLUS "SEA SPORTS OF TAHITI"

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SUNDAY & MONDAY
Cinemascope — Color
"Beneath The 12-Mile Reef"
ROBERT WAGNER
TERRY MOORE
GILBERT ROLAND
ALSO "SOAPY OPERA"

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
In Technicolor
"CARNIVAL STORY"
Anne Baxter — Steve Cochran
Lyle Bettger — George Nader
Also "No Barking"

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
In Color
"DIAL M FOR MURDER"
Grace Kelly — Ray Milland
Plus "Zipping Along"

SATURDAY
D-O-U-B-L-E F-E-A-T-U-R-E
Dennis Morgan In
"CATTLE TOWN"
And
Victor Mature & Piper Laurie
In
"DANGEROUS MISSION"
In Color . . . Also "Thrifty Cubs"

Theatre Construction by James H. Williams. Electrical Work by Peters & Hall
PLUMBING BY . . . J. E. THORNTON

of 20

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre
May 31, 1972

Lots of Female Nudity in both movies per IMDb

Tidewater Drive-In

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre

Tidewater Drive-In Theatre

During Construction - 1955

Never Built
Courthouse Area

Theatre Never Built
1974

- Feb 28, 1974 – Newspaper Story
- New Movie theatre to be built here
- Plans announced to build a twin theatre behind the Grant City Shopping Center at the Courthouse.
- Will seat 350 each - Will cost $350K
- Will build on 2.18 acres behind Grant City
- Never built – no more information found

Hillside Cinema

Courthouse area

Hillside Cinema
1979 - Present

- May 4, 1979: Recreation Complex planned for Gloucester
  - Twin Theatre and Bowling Alley
  - Will be known as Hillside Cinema
  - Two 220 seat theaters
- Opened Dec 21, 1979
  - $350K cost
  - Built on site adjacent to old Edge Hill Theatre

Hillside Cinema

- Chuck Jennings, owner of the bowling alley, is theatre co-owner
- Don Mullins co-owner of Theatre
- Feb 21, 2001 – New Owners announced – M. K. and Belinda Kalanter

Hill Side Theatre
Dec 21, 1979

Hill Side Theatre
Dec. 21, 1979

Theaters To Open Friday

GLOUCESTER — Hillside Cinema, a twin theater, opens here Friday on the site of Gloucester County's first motion picture theater.

The theater is owned and operated by Hillside Cinema Inc., a corporation formed by Charles J. Jennings, who owns a bowling alley here, and Don Mullins, former athletic director at Gloucester High School.

A retired Air Force officer, Jennings bought a building formerly used as a supermarket by Colonial Stores and opened Village Lanes here in April 1978.

The bowling facility was expanded earlier this year about the time plans were made for the addition of the theater next to it.

Mullins has resigned from the faculty of Gloucester High School and will manage the theater.

Jennings said the theater will feature first-run movies and will be the only motion picture theater operating full time in the Middle Peninsula area.

The $350,000 project seats 231 in each of the two theaters. Jennings said it is equipped with the latest in theater stereo sound equipment. He said it is one of the first in the country to use a new spray type application of acoustical insulation.

The building was constructed in slightly over 90 days by Industrial Construction Corp., a Gloucester firm.

The bowling alley and theater, which Jennings sees as supportive of each other, provides a recreation-entertainment complex which its developers expect to serve a large area extending throughout the Middle Peninsula and into the Northern Neck. Jennings said Village Lanes already attracts considerable support from Northern Neck communities.

The site of the complex was used for years prior to 1928 as a county fair grounds.

Motion picture theaters were then operated on the property for many years. The last theater on the site was removed in 1957 to make way for a new supermarket.

Staff Photo By Mark Middlebrook

Landscaping touches are applied for approaching opening of theaters.

Grand Opening Ad

$350 K – 231 seats in each theater

Site for years was used for Gloucester County Fair.

Owned by Charles Jennings and Don Mullins

York River Crossings 8
Hayes, Virginia

York River Crossings
1997 - Present

- Feb 15, 1996 – Regal Cinemas to open 8 screen movie complex
  - Cost more than two million
  - Signed 20 year lease
  - Robert L. Freeman Jr. Managing Partner of York River Crossings Assn.
- April 8, 1997 – opens with 8 screens

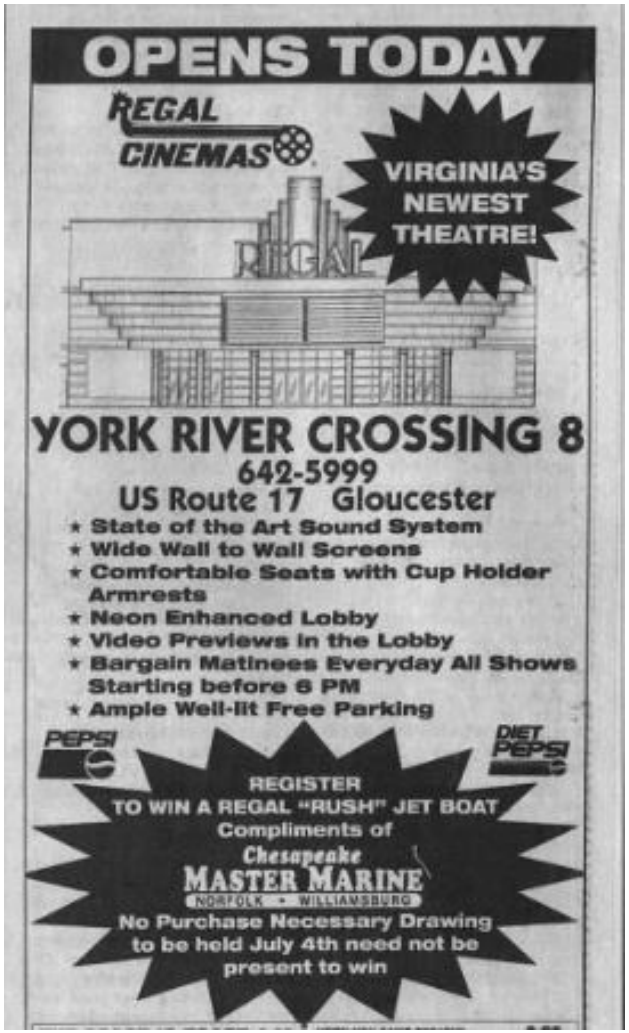
York River Crossings
1997 - Present

- March 16, 2001 – dropped Regal
  - Regal declared bankruptcy – reorganized – still a theater giant
  - Regal settled with owners by giving them all equipment for settlement from lease.
- March 22, 2001 – Local ownership to current time
  - Robert Freeman, Jr. Principal Owner along with Suttle family of Newport News
  - Now all digital

YRC Crossings – Regal Cinemas

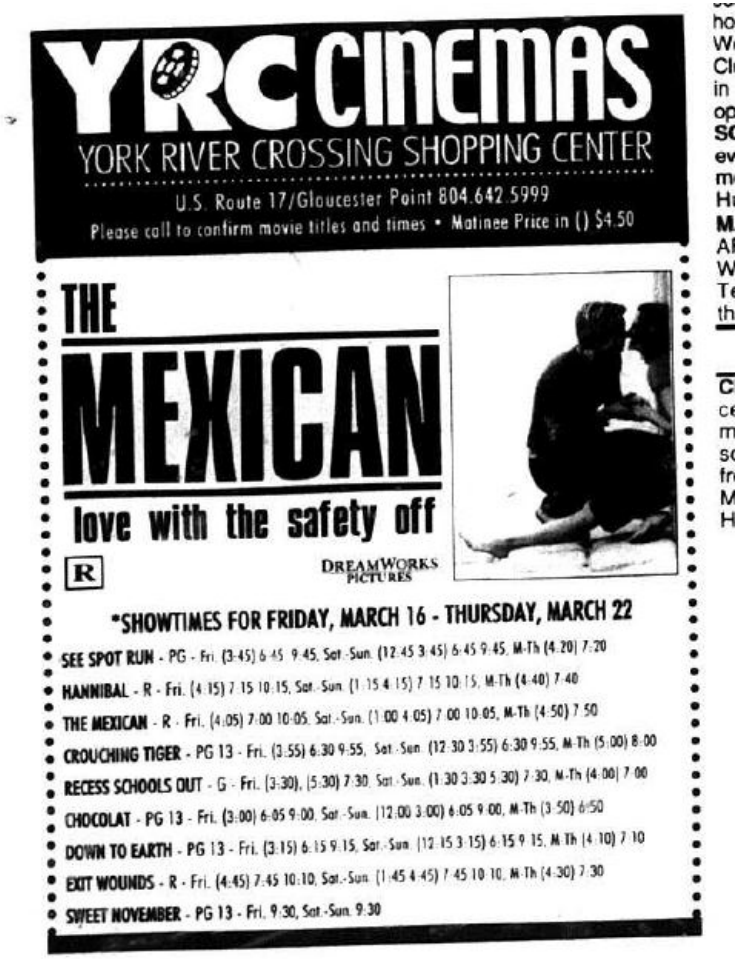
Theatre Announcement - Feb 7. 1996

YRC Crossings – Regal Cinemas



April 25, 1997

YRC Crossings Cinemas
First YRC – Non-Regal Ad



YRC CINEMAS

YORK RIVER CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER

U.S. Route 17/Gloucester Point 804.642.5999

Please call to confirm movie titles and times • Matinee Price in () $4.50

THE MEXICAN

love with the safety off

R

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

*SHOWTIMES FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 16 - THURSDAY, MARCH 22

SEE SPOT RUN - PG - Fri. (3:45) 6:45 9:45, Sat.-Sun. (12:45 3:45) 6:45 9:45, M-Th (4:20) 7:20

HANNIBAL - R - Fri. (4:15) 7:15 10:15, Sat.-Sun. (1:15 4:15) 7:15 10:15, M-Th (4:40) 7:40

THE MEXICAN - R - Fri. (4:05) 7:00 10:05, Sat.-Sun. (1:00 4:05) 7:00 10:05, M-Th (4:50) 7:50

CROUCHING TIGER - PG 13 - Fri. (3:55) 6:30 9:55, Sat.-Sun. (12:30 3:55) 6:30 9:55, M-Th (5:00) 8:00

RECESS SCHOOLS OUT - G - Fri. (3:30), (5:30) 7:30, Sat.-Sun. (1:30 3:30 5:30) 7:30, M-Th (4:00) 7:00

CHOCOLAT - PG 13 - Fri. (3:00) 6:05 9:00, Sat.-Sun. (12:00 3:00) 6:05 9:00, M-Th (3:50) 6:50

DOWN TO EARTH - PG 13 - Fri. (3:15) 6:15 9:15, Sat.-Sun. (12:15 3:15) 6:15 9:15, M-Th (4:10) 7:10

EXIT WOUNDS - R - Fri. (4:45) 7:45 10:10, Sat.-Sun. (1:45 4:45) 7:45 10:10, M-Th (4:30) 7:30

SWEET NOVEMBER - PG 13 - Fri. 9:30, Sat.-Sun. 9:30

YRC Crossings Cinemas

Lots of Memories

- Movies from 1928 to Present
- 12 Theatres – 9 white – 3 black
  - Auditorium (black venue) unconfirmed.
- One Drive In – Split sections for blacks and whites
- Maryus Feuds
- One Theater announced – never built

ASTA THEATRE
SO HUMAN....SO TRUE YOU'LL LAUGH AND CRY
A TREMENDOUSLY IMPORTANT EVENT
MOM and DAD
WOMEN MEN
Opening Saturday Night
TIDEWATER
DRIVE-IN THEATRE
Grand Opening CELEBRATION
OPENING NIGHT ATTRACTION
"CARSON CITY"
COMING ATTRACTIONS
"Beneath The 12-Mile Reef"
"DIAL M FOR MURDER"
"CARNIVAL STORY"
"CATTLE TOWN"
"DANGEROUS MISSION"
Tidewater
She forced her husband's son to commit the ultimate sin!
The STEPMOTHER
CHAIN GANG WOMEN
THE WARRIORS HUSBAND
Edge Hill Theatre
Star Theater
GLOUCESTER, VA.
FOR COLORED ONLY
OPENING THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS
"Strawberry Roan"
THE RIM THEATRE
NEAR HAYES STORE VIRGINIA
OPENED JULY 4, 1949
OFFERING the FINEST ENTERTAINMENT for COLORED PATRONS
Owners of "THE RIM"
"Popular Entertainment in Deluxe Comfort at Popular Prices"
—On Route 17 Between Gloucester and Gloucester Point—
ABINGDON THEATRE
IN PERSON! ON THE STAGE!
THE FAVORITE LEADING LADY OF ALL OUTSTANDING WESTERN STARS
ALL-STAR REVUE
SLIM BERGMAN
MUSIC! COMEDY! DANCING! THRILLS!
Abingdon Theatre
Grand Opening..
Abingdon Theatre
Friday Night, Jan. 24
"MASQUERADE IN MEXICO"
ABINGDON THEATRE
ROUTE 17 • NEAR WICOMICO
"Walk, Don't Run"
"Shane"
RIM THEATRE
HAYES, VA.
PHENIX CITY STORY
WICHITA
WEAK AND THE WICKED
SHRIKE
BULLETS FOR BANDITS
BILLY THE KID
Aerial View of Maryus in Gloucester County - 1963
Globe Theater
Abingdon Theatre Closing Announced
After 20 years, Mrs. James Ashe, manager, announces the permanent closing after this week-end of the Abingdon Theatre located on Route 17 near Wicomico. Mrs. Ashe wishes to express appreciation for the patronage given her and her late husband during this time.
Owners of "THE RIM"
Leon Gregory
George Gregory
George Catlett
FILM TAKES FIRE IN MOVIE BOOTH
FIRE PROOFING SAVES FLAMES FROM SPREADING.
Gym To Be Rushed And Talkies May Be Installed.
CINEMASCOPE COMES TO THE
RIM THEATRE
Hayes, Virginia
Sun. & Mon., May 29, 30
20th Century-Fox Presents in
CINEMASCOPE
The Robe
IN THE WONDER OF 4-TRACK HIGH-FIDELITY STEREOPHONIC SOUND
Colored News & Cartoon
Wed. & Thurs., June 1-2
Paul Henreid — Lois Maxwell
in
"MAN IN HIDING"
Also Serial — Manhunt in African Jungle No. 3
—CARTOON—
Fri., Sat., June 3-4
Wayne Morris — James Lydon
"THE DESPERADO"
Also Serial — Jungle Raiders and Cartoon
EDGE HILL
THEATRE
Show starts at 8 p.m. Daylight Saving Time, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Two Shows Wednesday and Saturday. 7:30 and 9:15 Daylight Saving Time.
Thurs. & Fri. Sept. 25-26
Joan Crawford, Melvyn Douglass
"A Woman's Face"
Also For Colored Thursday
MAE WEST
She Done Him Wrong
Ken MAYNARD
with the Wonder Horse "TARZAN"
Come On, Tarzan
ASTA
THE LIFE STORY OF BABE RUTH
MOVING PICTURES
at
KENNEY AUDITORIUM
Every Friday Night
THIS WEEK
George Lewis & Dorothy Gulliver in
"HONEYMOON FLATS"
Selected comedy and M. G. M. News.
Phototone Symphonic Music
Admission 25 and 35c
Free Movies Christmas Night

THE END