Grand Lake Area Historical Society Annual Meeting

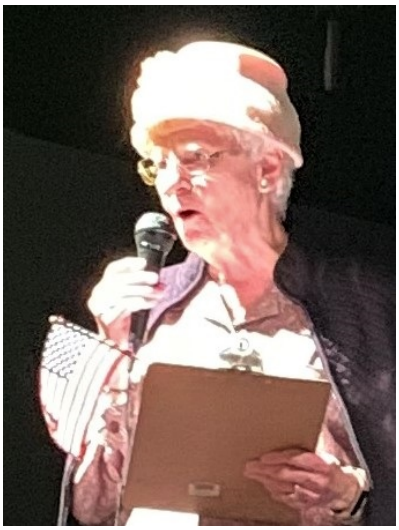
July 14, 2021
100th Anniversary of the Grand Lake Community House

Return to July 4, 1921

Middle Park Times Reporter (Kathy Means): A year ago in August 1920 the Middle Park Times reported that PH Smith and Mrs. Carrie Schnoor, from the Grand Lake Village Improvement Association, met with the County Commissioners to secure a building permit and funds to build a Community House in Grand Lake. Officers are: Leslie Ish President, James Cairns VP, Carrie Schnoor Secretary and PH Smith Treasurer.

PH Smith (Bob Means): We are here to request permission and funds to build a Community House in the public park at Grand Lake. A noted architect from Denver, Aaron Gove, drew our plans and gave them to us, which was no small donation in itself. We also have a well-respected builder who has lumber, a sawmill and a team of carpenters to begin the work this fall.

I will let Mrs. Schnoor fill you in on the ways we plan to use this building.



Mrs. Schnoor (Julie Cunningham): Our village is high in the mountains and because the snows of the long winters keep us shut away from the rest of the world, we have felt the urge for a community gathering place. For several years we talked of it and made plans for it but it was not until the Great War was over, leaving us with time and thought for new projects that a definite, workable scheme was brought about.

Ranchers need a central gathering place as much if not more than the people centered in the village itself. As a school teacher, we would like to have a place where the students can present programs and the parents can attend. Our school building does not have room for these activities.

The question of raising funds is always of fundamental importance. We thought it most feasible to procure the money for building by public subscriptions. The amounts were to be pledged either in money, labor or material.

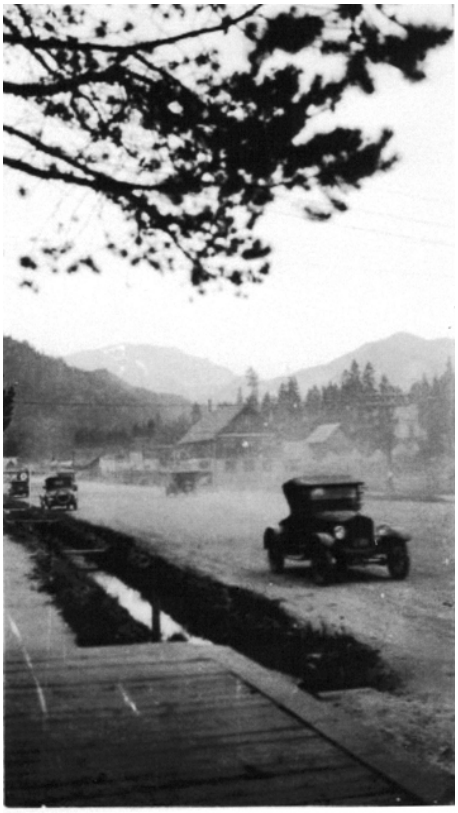
Commissioner (Jim Cervenka): Thank you for coming to our meeting. The permission for a Neighborhood or Community House in Grand Lake is granted and the Board will give $250 toward the building and promise to give a like amount, when the funds become available. We believe the building will add greatly to the attractiveness of the Lake and be a credit to the entire county. The board is strong for every movement of this kind that will make Grand County more inviting to the large numbers of summer visitors that come here.

Kathy:

Grand Lake in 1921: Grand Lake, less than one mile square, has 75 residents but a summer population of 2,000. There are many ranches in the surrounding area at an elevation of about 8700 feet above sea level in the mountains and valley of the Grand River.

This is a postcard of Grand Avenue in 1920. Welcome Rock

Howard Boehler First RMNP Ranger



Grand Avenue had a water ditch flowing from the North Inlet. Bridges crossed the ditch so people could get from their automobiles to the stores. This ditch was the water supply for Grand Lake businesses using hoses to bring the water into the store.

1921 Grand Lake Businesses

Cairns Store
Harbison Store
Selak Store

Kauffman House

Rustic Inn
Rapids Hotel

Pine Cone Inn
Grand Lake Lodge
Eslick Cabins
Lehman's Cottages
Nowata Cottage

Bunte Station & Stables
Olvey Auto Livery
Grand Lake Garage
Grand Lake Launch & Boat Livery
Granby & Grand Lake Mail & Stage

Grand County Light, Heat & Power
Mountain State Telephone & Telegraph

Corner Cupboard
Zick Grocery, Lunch, Rooms

Grand Lake Lumber Company
Henry Schnoor Lumber & Sawmill

The Color Shop
Ward Motion Picture Theater

The 100 foot wide Grand Avenue held many events, including rodeo.

Grand Lake Parade

Corner Cupboard

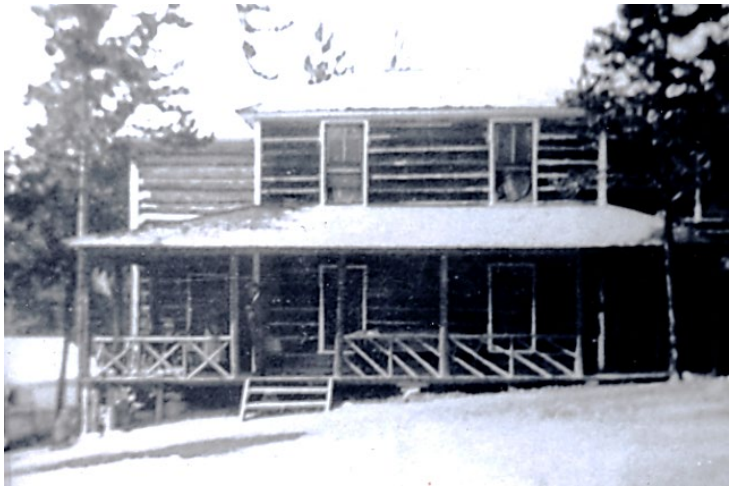
Pine Cone Inn

Harbison Store

Cairns Store

Rapids Lodge

Grand Lake Lodge

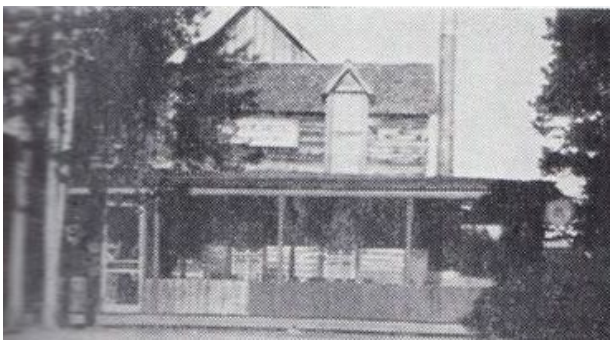


Kauffman House

Bunte Station & Stables

Nowata Cottage

Zicks Grocery & Cafe



Rustic Inn

Eslick Cabins

Grand Lake Mail and Stage
In front of Rustic Inn

Advertisement:

4th of July Celebration
Grand Opening of the Community House
Noon: Barbecue Dinner in the park
Afternoon: Horse Races, Bucking contest, Baseball, Games
Evening: Basket supper, boat rides, and Ball at the Community House
Dance the night away
July 4, 1921

I am a reporter for the Middle Park Times and am here in Grand Lake to learn about the day's events for the 4th of July celebration and the Grand Opening of the Grand Lake Community House. Here on Grand Avenue, I will meet and talk with the people on the street.

The video of this part of the program is available on the website.

Kathy: Hello – I'm with Middle Park Times and covering the events of this weekend. Tell me who you are and what brought you to Grand Lake……

How are you involved in today's activities?

P H Smith

We are here to request permission and funds to build a Community House in the public park at Grand Lake. A noted architect from Denver, Aaron Gove, drew our plans and gave them to us, which was no small donation in itself. We also have a well-respected builder who has lumber, a sawmill and a team of carpenters to begin the work this fall.

Bob Means

Caroline Schnoor

I came to Grand County with my husband when he was suffering from tuberculosis. My sister Belle was teaching here in Grand Lake. After my husband died, I began teaching. Later I married Henry Schnoor. I'm a member of the Woman's Club and on the committee to get the community house built. We've been working hard to get the building ready for this grand opening.

Julie Cunningham

Joe Cunningham

Henry Schnoor

I was born in Denmark, studied in Germany and came to Grand Lake to do some ranching. Built Green Mountain Ranch up on the Grand River. After moving to Grand Lake I had a sawmill and a blacksmith shop and began building cabins and houses.I am mighty proud of this new community house which we've been working on for a year.

Belle Kauffman

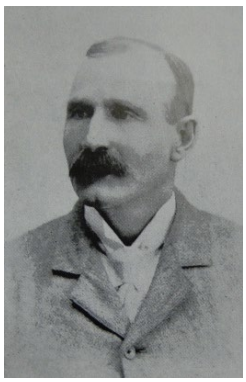
Came to Grand Lake to teach school in several years ago. After I got married my husband and I have the Kauffman House hotel. We have three girls. My husband died last year.

I'm busy taking care of the guests at the hotel and helping make box dinners for the picnic in the park this evening.

Where are my girls?

Elin Capps

James Cairns



I came to Grand Lake from Canada. During the mining days I built a store to supply all the miners who were prospecting in this area.

Today I'll be helping with some of the children's games on Grand Avenue in front of my store. There will be sack races, three legged races, and other fun things for the children to do.

Frank Reardon
Heather Bishop

Mary Cairns

I came to Grand Lake to teach school. After we got married, I couldn't teach any more. I began writing stories and articles and learning about the history of the area.

As a member of the Women's Club we have all worked to get this Community House for our town. It will be wonderful to have this meeting place for everyone.

Harry Bunte

My father and his two brothers came to Grand County and own a lot of land. We live on a ranch down in Stillwater and this year I opened the Rustic Stables at the end of Grand Avenue. We also have gasoline for those who come to town in cars. I'll be busy taking care of the horses coming to town and arranging the trail rides for the tourists.

Steve Batty

Henry Rhone

After I returned from the war I got married to Carolyn and we got a homestead along the Grand River where we could spend our summers

Today I'll be helping with the dinner at the park

Dave Sauer Lois Sauer

Carolyn Rhone

I was teaching school in Denver when we came to Grand Lake for the summer. We bought the old Ice Cream Parlor and decided to open a restaurant. Henry had been a cook in the Army and I just love to entertain. We have the Corner Cupboard Restaurant. I'll be helping serve the barbeque dinner and making box suppers for the tourists.

Gus Spitzmiller

I came from Michigan on a train headed for California after the big fire out there. I'm a plumber and thought I could find work. But I fell in love with the mountains, bought a homestead down at Stillwater and stayed.Today I'm making sure all the plumbing we've put in up at the Lodge and in the Community House will be working.

Ken Fucik

Georgia Eslick

My father had a sawmill where I worked and then I went to Empire to work at a restaurant. I met my husband Alfred, he was a miner. When he got sick and couldn't work we came to Grand Lake and we worked for my father. I ran the hotel for him and Alfred worked at the sawmill. We worked with our son to build the motor court and I'm busy taking care of the tourists.

Patti Stahl

John Zick

I had a grocery store and meat market in Denver and we decided to get out of the city and enjoy the mountains. Today I'm preparing all the meat for the noon barbeque dinner

Mary Zick

Alan Walker Lucy Fitch

We came to Grand Lake to open a grocery store here and also added a café. I will be busy keeping everyone fed.

Bruce Wiswall

The Color Shop opened this year. We sell photographs and color black and white pictures.

My wife Helen and I have a homestead here. My brother Wilbur and I have been taking photographs of the ski events in the county, the roads and scenery for promoting Colorado. Today I'll be taking pictures of all the events with my new Kodak panorama camera.

Jim Cervenka

Captain William McCarty

I came to Grand Lake with a motor boat to spend time on Colorado's largest natural lake. People began building houses around the lake and there was no road, so we began hauling people and belongings across the lake to their new homes. We will have boat rides after the evening box supper.

Larry Goscha Carol Goscha

Louise Millinger

Captain McCarty is my father. I teach school in Pueblo and I came up to help him in the summer with the boats and will be giving boat rides for the people here for the 4th of July celebration.

Johnnie Holzwarth

My folks have a guest ranch up the valley. Papa brought me here to help build the cabins and keep me out of trouble. Rode into town on my horse and parked it at the Bunte Stables.

Today I'll be playing in the baseball game later today. We're also planning some rodeo demonstrations here on Grand Avenue.

Ben Means

Alice Ish

My husband John Lapsley Ish came to Grand County in 1881 when he was 18 to work in the mining town of Teller. He built our home in Grand Lake in the Sunnyside addition in the 1890s. I married him and we homesteaded near Rand and we built the Rand Hotel which we operated until 1910. Then in 1915 we built the Rapids Hotel here in Grand Lake and in 1919 we built the Pine Cone Inn which is run by our son Leslie. Today I am helping other Women's Club members get the Community House ready for the Grand Opening.

Malene Mortenson

Tourist

I came to Grand Lake on a Circle Tour. A bus picked us up at the train station in Denver and we're on a three day trip. We stayed in Estes Park last night and today we drove over Fall River Road through RMNP. We're staying at the Grand Lake Lodge.

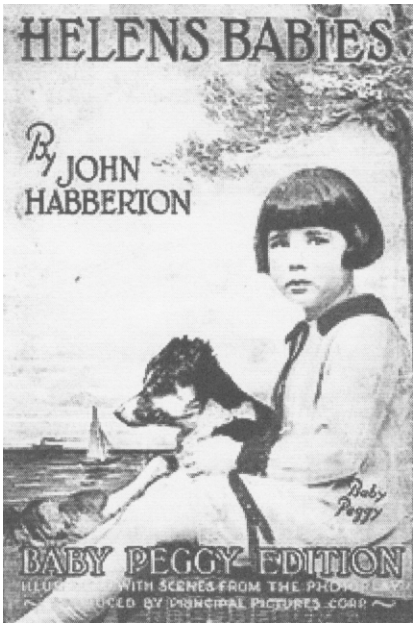
Today I'm going to go on a horseback ride into the mountains leaving from the Rustic stable. I also plan to go to take a boat ride and attend the dance tonight.

Sandia Bruton

Kathy: I'm heading into the Community House where a program is beginning.

While I get ready – let's see what is playing at Harry Ward's motion picture theater.

(Silent movie Baby Peggy and Brownie)



Peggy Montgomery was three years old in 1920 and she made over 100 movies. From 1943-45 Peggy's parents bought and operated the Sun Valley Ranch in Grand Lake. Peggy worked on the ranch for three years during the summer taking the guests on trail rides, serving meals and cleaning cabins.

Peggy changed her name later in life to Diana Serra Cary. She became an author and advocate for child stars protection.

Grand Lake Community House

100th Anniversary

Grand Lake Community House History

Building Completed summer of 1921 with the Grand Opening on July 4th.

Architect: Aaron Gove Builder: Henry Schnoor

Grand Lake Community House
Church, Picture Show, Dance Hall, Play House, Basketball Court
And just anything that comes to hand.
And a good time was had by the whole darned outfit

(comments were in a scrapbook with this picture)

The building is a large one-story log, Rustic Style meeting hall located in the center of Grand Lake's historic Town Square. It is 36' x 70' in size. The exterior is rough-hewn lodgepole pine logs in a slab style construction. The logs had no exterior treatment. The sloped roof had green asphalt shingles. The foundation consisted of poured concrete with a 300 square foot basement and a three-foot crawl space. There are nine windows on the building's south side (front) façade that are trimmed in plain milled boards. The off-center door also has plain wood surrounds.

Community events of the 1920s were recorded in the Middle Park Times.

August 12, 1921 Purchased new piano and a Grafonola for use in the Community House. Dances are being given regularly on Wednesday and Saturday evenings and the proceeds from these dances are used to make payments on the musical instruments. There is a splendid orchestra and all of our county people who like to dance are urged to attend.

September 9, 1921 A chimney is being built in the Community House so that the building may be heated. Planning to give the Pioneers a warm welcome.

Association is planning for a municipal camping ground to be ready for use at the beginning of the tourist season next year.

September 23, 1921 The meeting of the Grand County Pioneers held at Grand Lake last Saturday and was an enjoyable affair as had been anticipated. Many of the people arrived at the Lake early in the afternoon and enjoyed themselves by boating and sight-seeing around the Lake. Between 60 and 75 Pioneers and as many relatives and friends were seated at the Banquet served at the Rustic Inn by Mrs. Josephine Langley. After the dinner, the Rev. Hodges of Grand Lake made an appropriate address and delivered a eulogy on the members of the organization who had passed on during the past year. Captain McCarty and his daughter Louise placed his boats at the disposal of the Pioneers free, except for the ride around the lake in the moonlight on the Mickey after the banquet. He charged the nominal sum of 50 cents per person.

Mary Lyons Cairns wrote an article for The Farmer's Wife which was published in June 1922. Her great-granddaughter Heather will read parts of that article.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Because the snows of the long winter shut us away from the rest of the world, we have felt the urge for a community gathering place.

Raising funds is always of fundamental importance. We thought it was most feasible to procure the money for building by public subscription. The amounts to be pledged either in money, labor or material. No one was asked or urged to give more than he could afford.

The total cost of the building was $5,589.73. There were 95 personal subscriptions from $5 to $200. Because so many were permitted to give, the interest in the idea was widespread and a feeling of community pride and ownership was created.

The uses to which our House has been put are many. Several times the house has been open for the solemn services of a funeral. The first one for Jim, young, happy, care free Jim, who had worked on the building. Day after day he had labored with his saw and hammer, little knowing he was working on a monument to himself.

No community should be without a gathering place of this kind. With it, the people are better in thought and deed, richer in the comfort and blessings of unified service. One for all and all for one.

(Heather wore jewelry which belonged to her great grandmother Mary Lyons Cairns.)

1923 Community House in the public square is the center for the new tri-weekly dances under the management of Mrs. John Zick. Orchestra composed of Carl Collman, drummer, Arthur Gow, pianist, and Rufus Carter, banjoist will play at the Community house on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays and at Grand Lake Lodge and Pine Cone Inn – a total of six dances per week in Grand Lake.

1924 Winter Sports Frolic – school was dismissed and amateur skiers resounded from shore to shore along the lake. Everybody donned skis and had the time of their lives on the ski course near the village. Exhibition skiing by national jumpers was interesting and thrilling. That evening the ladies of the community finished off the activities of the day with a fine dinner at the Community House with 45 hungry mouths there to partake of the good things to eat. Following the dinner all enjoyed a social evening until late that night.

1924 Loren Eslick and George Hughes were hosts at a community dance at the community house last Saturday night. Some of the special features of the evening were the Grand March and the Virginia Reel. General dancing was enjoyed until a late hour. Doughnuts, cocoa and coffee were served. Music was furnished by the local orchestra.

1924 150 old settlers of Grand County in Grand Lake Sept 20 for reunion and banquet. Banquet was held at Rustic Inn, served by Mrs. Josephine Langley. Program was given at the community house followed by dancing until 2 o'clock a.m. Mrs. Harry Rhone served midnight supper to the merry congregation. Program included readings, dance, pianologue, Minuet dance in Colonial Costume, Solo and Grand March and dancing to the Old Settlers orchestra with "old time" music.

September 1925 Dr. Davis (minister) called a group of Grand Lake people together in the Community House to talk about organizing a Community Church. The idea is to use the Community House for the church, and to have all denominations in it, letting preachers of different churches who happen to be spending vacations here take charge of services each Sunday. Dr Davis suggested a yearly Sunday basket dinner to draw everyone together and create a religious friendliness among the natives and cottagers. Girls from the Grand Lake Lodge formed a choir. The same service was held at the Grand Lake Lodge that night, but more informal. A vesper service with 150 in attendance.

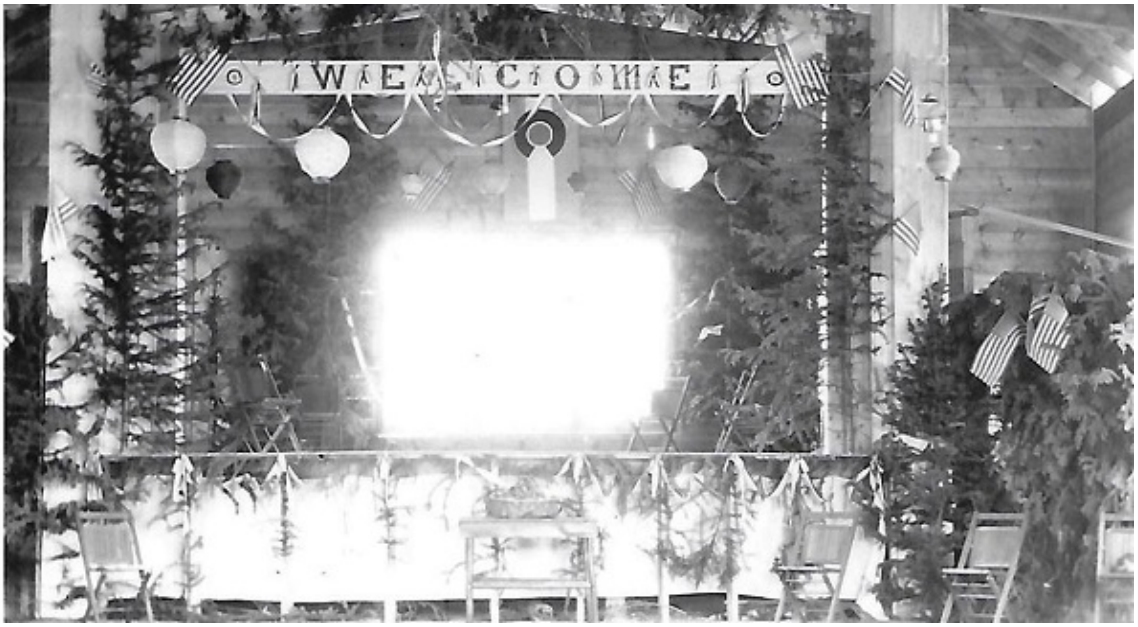
1927 May 26 Grand Lake school pupils presented the play “Diamonds and Hearts” at the Community House. A dance followed the play.

Two students were presented diplomas on May 27. The program included was the wedding of Tom Thumb in which Nellie Joe Young acted as bride, Bobbie Ish as groom, Ervin Spitzmiller as the preacher, Raymond Young as ring bearer, Patty Ish as flower girl, Jack Ish and Virginia Masterson as grandfather and grandmother and the following as attendants, Barbara & Gordon Spitzmiller, Evelyn & Jiggs Carr and Hazel Masterson. Mrs. Leslie Ish sang “Dawning” and Mrs. Spitzmiller and Mrs Ish sang a duet “Whispering Hope”.

Orchestra numbers were furnished by the Grand Lake orchestra, composed of Mrs. Goldie Hawkins, pianist, Andy Ehrhart, cellist, Cary Howard and Leslie Ish, violinists, Ira Myers on the saxophone and Ed Howard on the guitar. Two dances by the older pupils of the school furnished color and variety to the program, and a red, white and blue drill. A dance followed the program.

The history of the Grand Lake Women's Club, which was begun in 1912, gives evidence of their involvement with the Community House. From the beginning the women were involved with promoting and encouraging the development and improvement of the town. Carrie Schnoor, Carolyn Rhone, Mary Lyons Cairns and Belle Kauffman were all teachers who came to town and were active in everything. You have met several of them tonight.

The Woman's Club sponsored dances, bought tables – card tables and tables to serve food - and dishes for the Community House.



They cleaned and decorated, giving poinsettias for the house at Christmas and putting up a decorated Christmas tree every year. They planned card parties, potluck suppers and movie nights

1932

June 19	Hotel Convention Dance
July 15	Bridge Party
July 19	Folk Dancing for Children
August 30	Church Services
October 9	Halloween Party
October 22	Indian Summer Carnival
December 23	Public School Christmas Program
December 25	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 27	Community Christmas Program

1933 8th Grade Graduation

Barbara Spitzmiller, Irene Johnston, Dorothy McLaren

Barbara Spitzmiller, Gordon Spitzmiller, Patience Cairns, Dorothy McLaren, Irene Johnston

The club purchased playground equipment for the children to have in the yard. By 1933 they eventually paid to have the building cleaned. At Christmas time members made sacks of candy to be handed out at the yearly visit from Santa at the community house. In 1934 they supported building a basement for a community room to hold a kitchen and club and Sunday school rooms.

1932 May 22 was clean-up day. The Grand Lake Woman's Club ladies had dinner for the workers at the Community house.

Jack Ish, Mrs. Ed Thomas, Mrs. J L Ish, Mrs. Henry Rhone, Mrs. P H Smith, Mrs. Mary Zick, Mrs. Andy Christiansen, Mrs. L J Ish and Bob

Announcing the Opening of the
GRAND LAKE THEATRE
GRAND LAKE, COLORADO
On Friday and Saturday, June 14 - 15
featuring Shirley Temple in
"BRIGHT EYES"
also Cemedy and Cartoon
Admission 40c and 20c - - - Time7:45 p. m.
FOLLOWING:
Tues. and Wed., June 18-19 Will Rogers in "Judge Priest"
Fri. and Sat., June 21-22 "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch"
Comedy - - Cartoons
During July and August, shows daily except Sundays
Watch For Future Programs

In the summer of 1935, there was an advertisement in the Middle Park Times announcing the opening of the Grand Lake (Movie) Theatre. The first movie was "Bright Eyes" featuring Shirley Temple. With comedies, cartoons, and short subjects. Admission 40 cents and 20 cents beginning at 7:45 p.m.

A full listing of the movies was printed in the June 27, 1935 paper. There were no business listings in the Colorado Business Directory so the assumption is that they were presented at the Community House.

PROGRAM--GRAND LAKE THEATRE

DATE	PLAY	WITH
June 28 - 29	THE SILVER STREAK	Sally Blane
July 1 - 2	THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN	Will Rogers
July 3 - 4	FOLIES BERGERE	Maurice Chevalier
July 5 - 6	LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER	Gary Cooper
July 8 - 9	LADDIE	John Beal
July 10 - 11	ONE MORE SPRING	Janet Gaynor
July 12 - 13	RUGGLES OF RED GAP	Charles Laughton
July 15 - 16	WINGS IN THE DARK	Myrna Loy
July 17 - 18	THE MIGHTY BARNUM	Wallace Beery
July 19 - 20	THE LITTLE COLONEL	Shirley Temple
July 22 - 23	THE HOUSE OF ROTHSCHILD	George Arliss
July 24 - 25	THE PRESIDENT VANISHES	Arthur Byron
July 26 - 27	THE LITTLE MINISTER	Katharine Hepburn
July 29 - 30	The COUNT of MONTE CRISTO	Elissa Landi
Jul 31 - Aug 1	WOMAN IN THE DARK	Fay Wray
Aug. 2 - 3	ROBERTA	Ginger Rogers
Aug. 5 - 6	CLIVE OF INDIA	Ronald Colman
Aug. 7 - 8	LIFE BEGINS AT 40	Will Rogers

WITH COMEDIES, CARTOONS, and Short Subjects

OTHERS TO FOLLOW---*Save This Program*

In 1935 Mrs. Rhone asked members to place candles in their windows for the carol singing on Christmas Eve and they participated in the program with a Choral Reading.

WC sponsored an Amateur Night in 1936 at the Community House followed by a box supper to raise funds.

Azalia Carr, Fern Nair, Carrie Schnoor, Catherine Seymour, Carolyn Rhone, Ada Harsh, Susan Johnston, Allie Hawkins, Ruth Meyers, Helen Dixon, Nancy Redburn, Nellie Young, Leona Todd

Women's Club hosted the Moffat District meeting with Granby at the Community House. Members presented a choral reading "The Legend of the Lake", written by Carolyn Rhone, Mary Lyons Cairns and Caroline Holzwarth.

1938 Funeral services were held at the Grand Lake Community house for Nelson House, pioneer resident of Grand Lake, age 88.

The Grand Lake Junior Woman's Club

—presents—

"A Ready-Made Family"

A Three Act Comedy

AT THE

COMMUNITY HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 6

8:00 P. M. 1939

Admission: Adults, 50c; Children, 15c

DANCE FOLLOWING PLAY

Admission to Dance, 50c

Grand Lake Junior Woman's Club

—presents—

'A READY-MADE FAMILY'

A THREE ACT COMEDY

Directed by Amos Morrison

MAY 6, 1939

THE CAST

Agnes Martyn, a widow.....Mrs. D. Lindsey
Rob, her son.....Fred Jones
Marilee, her elder daughter.....Mrs. M. Jennings
Gracie, her youngest daughter.....Mrs. Ed Howard
Miss Lydia, her sister-in-law.....Mrs. R. C. Caddell
Henry Turner, a widower.....Ed Howard
Doris, his daughter.....Marjorie Johnston
Sammie, his son.....Milton Jennings
Begonia, the Martyn's darky cook.....Mrs. C. Edick
Nicodemus, the Martyn's colored handy-man....Clyde Edick

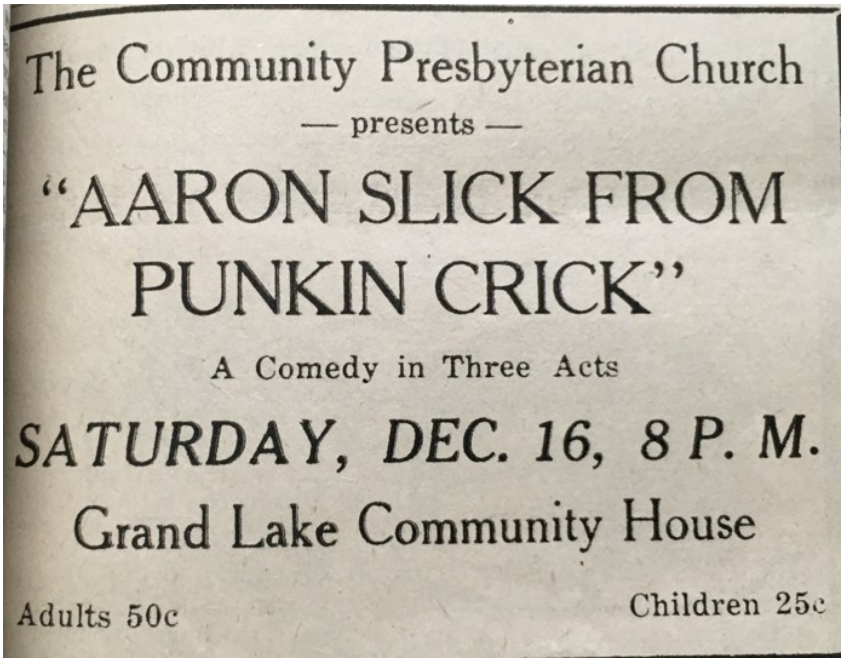
— Synopsis of Acts —

Act I. The living-room of the Martyn home. About twelve o'clock noon of a day in summer.

Act. II. The same. Fifteen minutes later.

Act III. The same. A few moments later.

In 1939 a play was presented at the Community House with local actors, sponsored by the Grand Lake Community Presbyterian Church


The Community Presbyterian Church
— presents —
"AARON SLICK FROM PUNKIN CRICK"
A Comedy in Three Acts
SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 8 P. M.
Grand Lake Community House
Adults 50c
Children 25c

Community Carnival
Grand Lake Community House
SAT. MARCH 1st, 1947
7:30 P. M.

For the benefit of the Youth Center to be estab-
shed for the development of youth in the community.

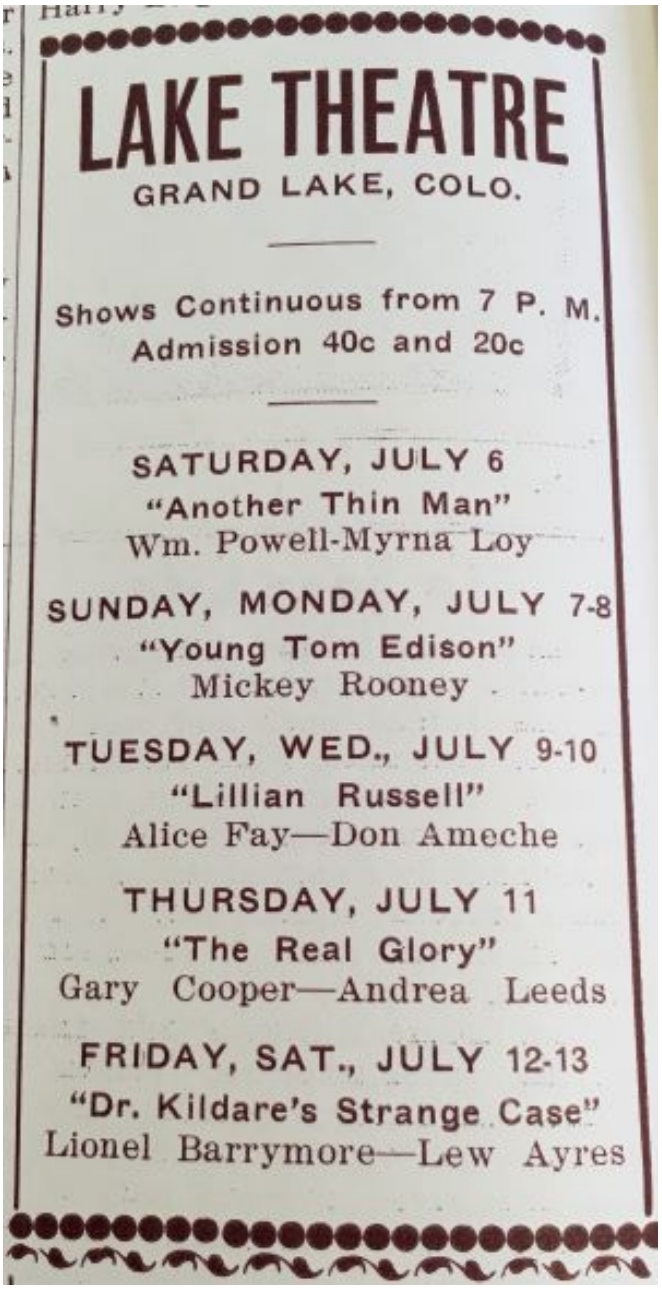
Every organization in the community will have a
ooth. Some of the items to be sold will be baked
ods, gifts, pop, ice cream, carnival goods, popcorn.
here will be a fish pond, bingo, and other entertain-
g events.

SQUARE DANCE
AND
ROUND DANCING
COMMUNITY HALL
GRAND LAKE, COLO.
SAT., MAY 21, 1949
$1.00 Per Couple — — Door Prizes
FREE REFRESHMENTS
Sponsor
SHADOW MOUNTAIN LAKES, INC.

In May of 1949 Square Dance and Round Dancing was held at the Community Hall $1.00 per couple with free refreshments and door prizes

A proposal to build shuffleboard courts for the city park, but at $300 or more each they were not completed. Woman's Club purchased horseshoes and pegs in 1954 which were eventually installed in the park. Playground equipment was repaired and new equipment purchased in 1959. The club purchased trash containers for the park.

The first advertisement of the Lake Theater was found in a 1940 issue of the Grand Lake Pioneer newspaper. From additional advertising about the movie theater in Grand Lake we know that in the summer movies were offered every night with two shows at 7 and 9 pm. During the winter the shows in Grand Lake were held on Tuesday and Friday nights.



LAKE THEATRE
GRAND LAKE, COLO.

Shows Continuous from 7 P. M.
Admission 40c and 20c

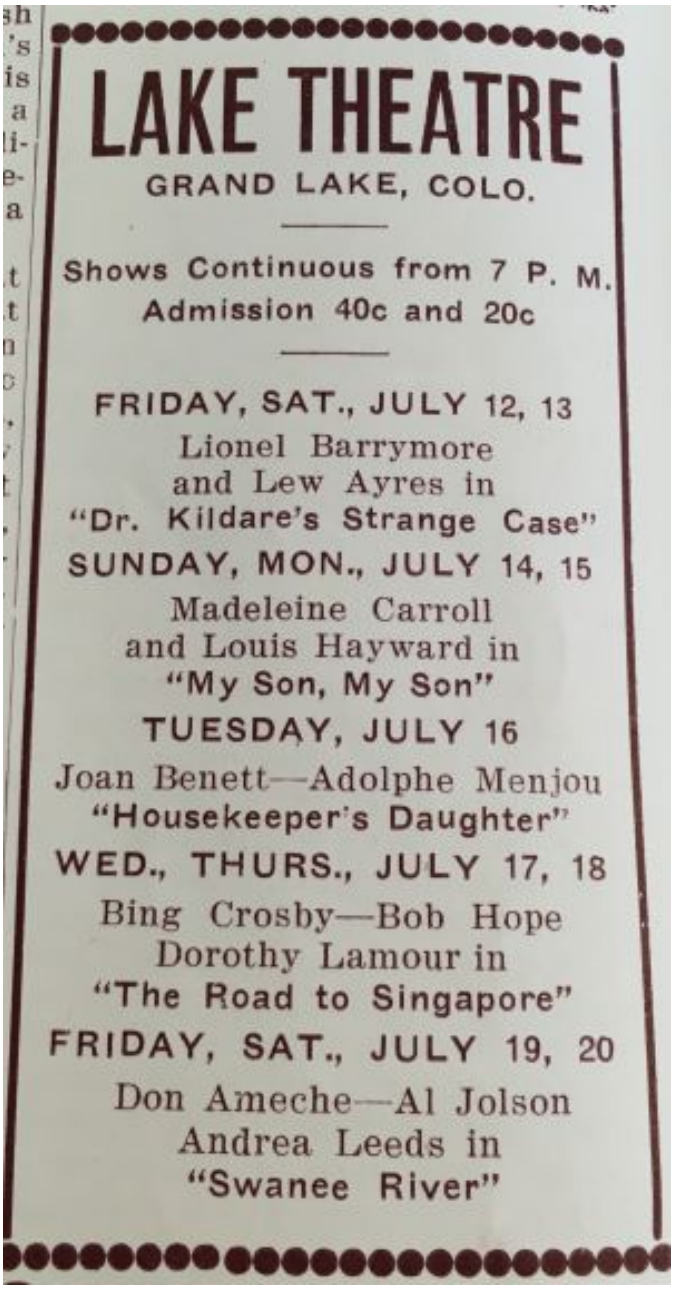
SATURDAY, JULY 6
"Another Thin Man"
Wm. Powell-Myrna Loy

SUNDAY, MONDAY, JULY 7-8
"Young Tom Edison"
Mickey Rooney

TUESDAY, WED., JULY 9-10
"Lillian Russell"
Alice Fay—Don Ameche

THURSDAY, JULY 11
"The Real Glory"
Gary Cooper—Andrea Leeds

FRIDAY, SAT., JULY 12-13
"Dr. Kildare's Strange Case"
Lionel Barrymore—Lew Ayres



LAKE THEATRE
GRAND LAKE, COLO.

Shows Continuous from 7 P. M.
Admission 40c and 20c

FRIDAY, SAT., JULY 12, 13
Lionel Barrymore
and Lew Ayres in
"Dr. Kildare's Strange Case"

SUNDAY, MON., JULY 14, 15
Madeleine Carroll
and Louis Hayward in
"My Son, My Son"

TUESDAY, JULY 16
Joan Benett—Adolphe Menjou
"Housekeeper's Daughter"

WED., THURS., JULY 17, 18
Bing Crosby—Bob Hope
Dorothy Lamour in
"The Road to Singapore"

FRIDAY, SAT., JULY 19, 20
Don Ameche—Al Jolson
Andrea Leeds in
"Swanee River"

Advertisements show that Ervin Theater had movies in Kremmling, Fraser and Grand Lake. Rice Devilla Ervin was the theater owner and he and his wife lived in Kremmling. They also had two projectionists living with them.

ERVIN THEATRES
Presents
WHERE THE BIG PICTURES PLAY

One Full Show and Short Subjects repeated for late comers starting promptly at 7:30. Anyone coming as late as 8 o'clock can see a full show.

LAKE THEATRE
GRAND LAKE

TUESDAY ONLY
April 1
Humphrey Bogart and Lizabeth Scott in
"DEAD RECKONING"
Bogart is back with his hands full of bad girl.

FRIDAY ONLY
April 4
Claudette Colbert and Walter Pidgeon in
"THE SECRET HEART"
with June Allyson and Lionel Barrymore.
You'll live this picture as you see it.

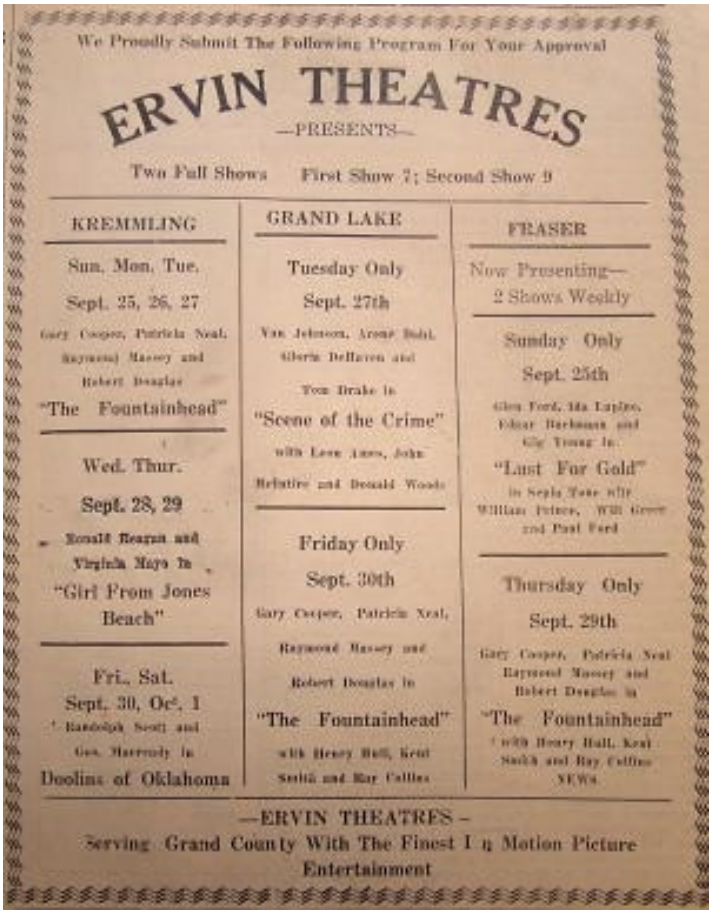
Latest Paramount News on Both Thursdays and Fridays

SPRUCE THEATRE
FRASER

SUNDAY ONLY
March 30
Van Johnson, Keenan Wynn and Pat Kirkwood in
"NO LEAVE, NO LOVE"
with Guy Lambardo and Orchestra
Crammed with big names, Jammed with songs and Laughter

THURSDAY ONLY
April 3
Cary Grant and Alexis Smith in
"NIGHT AND DAY"
with Monty Woolley and Ginny Simms
in Technicolor
Here's picture that will lift oyu to the stars

Latest Paramount News on Thusdays Only



We Proudly Submit The Following Program For Your Approval

ERVIN THEATRES
—PRESENTS—

Two Full Shows First Show 7; Second Show 9

KREMMLING

Sun. Mon. Tue.
Sept. 25, 26, 27
Gary Cooper, Patricia Neal, Raymond Massey and Robert Douglas
"The Fountainhead"

Wed. Thur.
Sept. 28, 29
Ronald Reagan and Virginia Mayo in
"Girl From Jones Beach"

Fri., Sat.
Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Randolph Scott and Gen. Marrody in
Doolins of Oklahoma

GRAND LAKE

Tuesday Only
Sept. 27th
Van Johnson, Arlene Dahl, Gloria DeHaven and Tom Drake in
"Scene of the Crime"
with Leon Ames, John Relstire and Donald Woods

Friday Only
Sept. 30th
Gary Cooper, Patricia Neal, Raymond Massey and Robert Douglas in
"The Fountainhead"
with Henry Hull, Kent Smith and Ray Collins

FRASER

Now Presenting—
2 Shows Weekly

Sunday Only
Sept. 25th
Glen Ford, Ida Lupino, Edgar Buchanan and Gig Young in
"Lust For Gold"
in Sepia Tone with William Prince, Will Green and Paul Ford

Thursday Only
Sept. 29th
Gary Cooper, Patricia Neal, Raymond Massey and Robert Douglas in
"The Fountainhead"
with Henry Hull, Kent Smith and Ray Collins
NEWS

—ERVIN THEATRES—
Serving Grand County With The Finest I n Motion Picture Entertainment

Martha Howard Boehner – "My earliest memory of a movie is from 1948 when I was 6 years old and there was the opportunity to see The Wizard of Oz. We sat on wooden folding chairs. I remember the scene in the movie of the witch riding her bike and taking Toto away riding in the basket on the back of her bicycle. It scared the daylights out of me.

Nancy Lavington – "I remember going to the movies in the 40s. Originally the seats were folding chairs and eventually someone donated theater seats that came from a theater in Denver. They were fancy velvety, maroon-colored ones. In the 50s, I worked at Humphries and they would keep the soda fountain open until after the 2nd show so theater goers could come in for a treat."

May 23, 1944
Election within the limits of Grand Lake to Incorporate the town
For Incorporation – 42 Against Incorporation – 6

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION
TOWN OF GRAND LAKE

—★★—

Notice is hereby given that an election of the qualified resident voters within the limits of the territory described in the notice thereof and as the same is described and platted in the petition and plat on file in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Grand County, Colorado, held on the 23rd day of May, A. D. 1944 by the commissioners appointed by the said Court and pursuant to notices published by posting as by statute in such case made and provided, the result was as follows, to-wit: "For Incorporation," forty-two (42) and "Against Incorporation," six (6). Majority in favor of incorporation, Thirty-six (36).

Notice is further given that by order of the County Court of the said Grand County, Colorado the said territory described and platted as aforesaid is incorporated under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Colorado in such case made and provided with the name and style of the TOWN OF GRAND LAKE and such town shall belong to the class of municipal incorporations known and designated by the Statutes of the State of Colorado as Incorporated Towns.

Witness my hand and the seal of the said County Court at my office in Hot Sulphur Springs, Grand County, Colorado, this 9th day of June, A. D. 1944.

HENRY O. GRAY,
Judge and acting Clerk of the County Court of Grand County, Colorado.
(Seal of County Court).
Publish June 15, 1944.

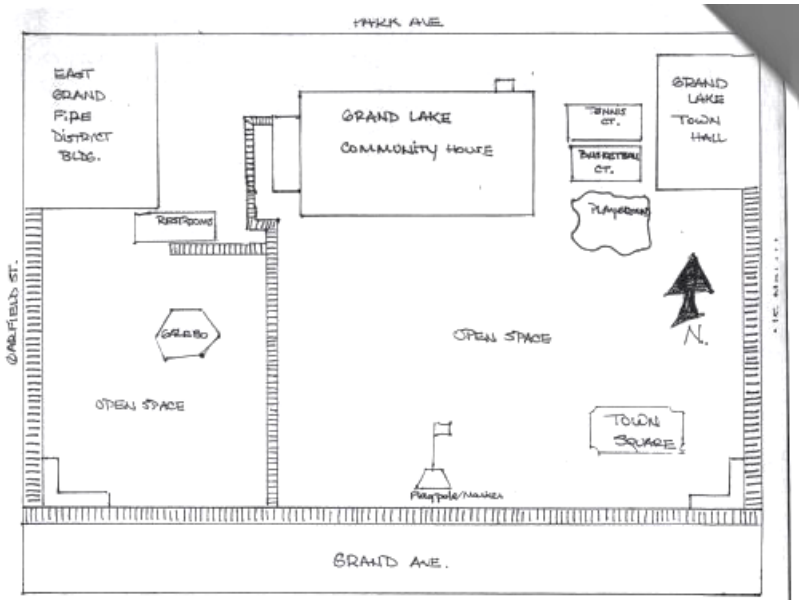
By order of the County Court of Grand County, Colorado, this territory shall be incorporated and provided with the name and style of the TOWN OF GRAND LAKE

July 22, 1944 The following men were elected to serve as the first group of officers for the newly incorporated town of Grand Lake:

Mayor: Leonard P Zick

Trustees:

Lester H Piper
Paul Trinder
Fred McLaren
Clyde Eslick
Henry Jacob Young
William E. Todd



The Juniper Club Bell Choir performed at the Community House in the 40s

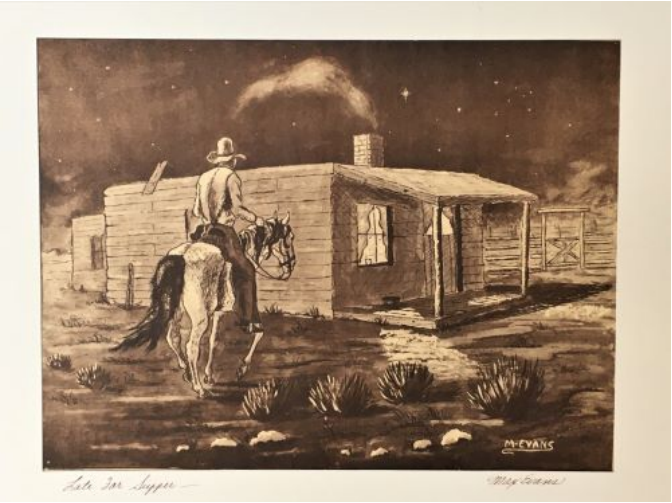
where we sneaked into the shows

Guy Allmeyer donated a large number of the Lake Theater posters which were used from the 1950s – 1970s. He also saved and donated a large number of flyers which were posted during that period of time. The posters were all displayed at the annual meeting on July 14, 2021.

“The Woman’s Club made draperies for the Community house in the 1950s. They sent for bedspread samples which were finally ordered. Directions were distributed at a meeting. Discussion was held at several meetings on how to get the curtains hung. Eventually a day came when the old chairs in the Community House were removed and the curtains were to be hung before the new seats were put in. Hanging was left to the men. The cost came to $106.89. Women’s club continued making curtains for the Chamber building and the Recreation center (Thompson building) in Grand Lake.

One of these drapes has been donated for an exhibit in the Community House by Guy Allmeyer

To go along with the drapes cowboy theme, a series of pictures drawn by Max Evans were displayed along the walls of the theater. Guy Allmeyer loaned these pictures to the Historical Society for display at our annual meeting. Max Evans was from Taos, NM an did his drawings in the early 1950s.



Florence and Paul Allmeyer purchased the theatre business from Red Ervin in 1953. Paul, Guy and Susan were their three children. Guy was 1 year old in 1953. They operated the theater only in the summer from May through September. I called his sister Susan Shields in Tucson, Arizona. Guy thought she might know how his mother got her nickname "Cokie". She said that her mother loved Coca Cola and her husband called her Cokie and it stuck.

Carolyn Rhone donated a piano to the theater. Cokie Allmeyer began inviting Lutheran ministers to conduct church services at the Community House when they came to Grand Lake for a summer vacation. Paul Allmeyer built a lectern for the services.

Cokie Allmeyer is seen at the back of the theater. Florence took a job in Denver in 1970 and the brothers, Paul and Guy, (18 & 22) ran the movie theater from 1970 – 1975.

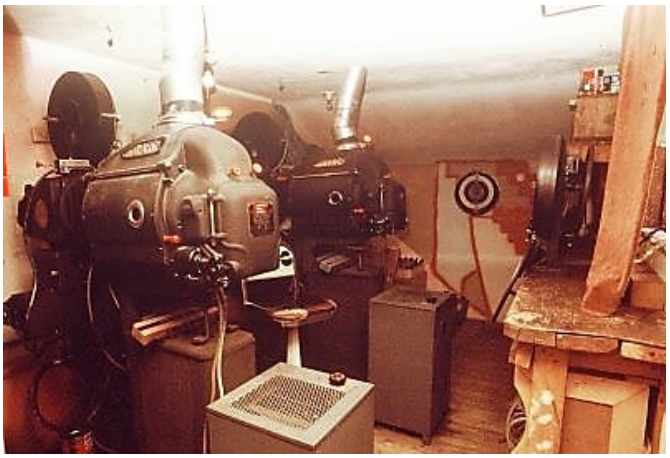
When Martha Howard was in upper elementary school and high school the theater was run by the Allmeyer family. "Cokie was a special friend to sooo many of the teenagers of the community. "

"At some point during my high school years I was hired to run the theater's concession stand which was set up in the entryway. Popped lots of popcorn in that big machine and sold the homemade caramel and cinnamon apples that were made in a local candy shop. Carole Moore was often the projectionist during those years and the movies were usually shown 2 or 3 times a night in the summer. The last movie was over around midnight and we'd help clean up the theater."

"I remember going to every Roy Rogers movie that came along and Gene Autry too. Later ones that stick in my mind were the horror films popular at that time, such as Them (about giant ants), The Thing and The Blob. I also remember The Day the Earth Stood Still from the early 50s and in the 70s we went to a Vietnam war film which was too upsetting to watch."

The Lake Theater was definitely an important part of growing up in the 40s, 50s and 60s in Grand Lake.

Paul and Florence separated in the mid-50s and were divorced in 1967. After they separated Paul moved to Granby and ran the El Grande theater. The children then helped their mother at the theatre in Grand Lake. Susan said she misses Grand Lake and the theater. She was the candy girl. They sold popcorn for 10 cents. They had a big heavy stainless-steel popper. They didn't have a cash register and figured everything in their head. They had an arrangement with Eleanor's Sweet Shop to sell fudge and divinity, Caramel apples (20 cents) and cinnamon apples for 15 cents. Bud Spitzmiller ran the projectors. Guy, at age 16 worked cleaning the Spitzmiller cabins. Friends were Tim Randall, Don Yaeger family at Devil's Thumb, Lewis family from Granby Drug Store



More memories: Wine only came in half gallon containers though, and so those were hard to get past Cokie but crowd enough people in at one time, you could get a half gallon by. But she'd normally catch us on one thing or another.

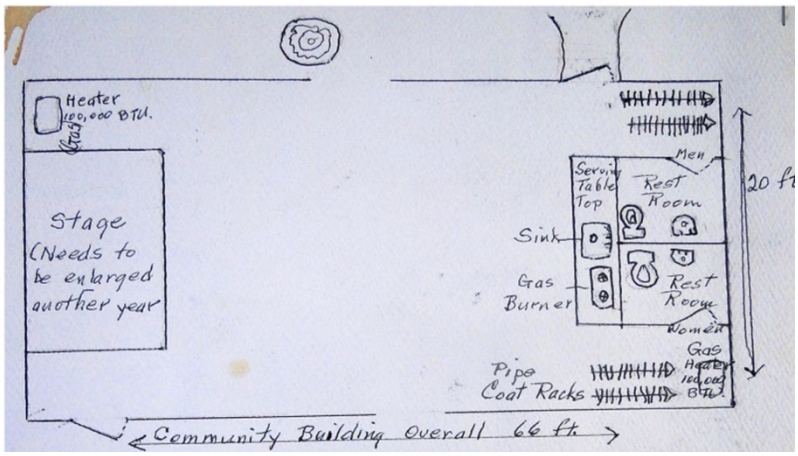
Jeanette: There was a theater so we would get to come to Grand Lake. 50 cents to get into a movie, and the lady that owned it was Cokie Allmeyer. And there were some kids, didn't have much money, they worked at the sawmill up by the park. She would let them if they didn't have the money. Anybody can just go in and watch movies, and that was in the community house.

Rich: Jeanette and I went to the show all the time. It was that or not much of anything else. A lot of the time I'd give her money to get into the theater; when I got change back, it'd be the same amount of money I gave her. It would be in, you know, like $1 or three or $4. Yeah, that happened more than once. She was a good community person.

Bob Scott remembers that the film canisters came on the Greyhound bus that stopped at the Grand Lake Lodge. He had to call the theater owners to pick them up and then they were returned for a trip back to Denver.

On Facebook there are memories of people about the Lake Theater – You Know you are from Grand County when……..

In the 1960s the Woman's club worked to modernize the Community Building. They funded a project to install two rest rooms and worked to get others to do the work. They spent three years trying to get someone to put windows in the restrooms and donated a mirror. They installed two gas heaters, sink and gas plate and iron pipe coat racks. The town council matched funds up to $500. Hot water heaters were purchased, a 30-cup coffee pot was purchased with 4000 Gold Bond Stamps for the Community Building and later was moved to Trinity in the Pines church.



In 1964 the town wanted to partition off the community building to separate office space and Woman's Club was to decide what goes to the dump. Club members varnished the exterior of the community building in 1965.

GL Women's Club purchased a playground set for smaller children and placed in the public park. They repainted trash barrels in the park and Thanks was painted on the sides instead of Trash. The club also built and paid for the installation of a tennis court in 1964-65. Cost estimate was $1800. It was understood it would be flooded for ice skating. Paving was $750 from a contractor who was resurfacing roads in the area. A member donated a net and the next year the club put up a chain link fence.

In 1966-67 the club made a garden in front of the Community Building with a statue in memory of Joe Astog, a local angler. In 67-68 they donated two picnic tables for the park. Painting by Elsie Patty of the statue and garden.

In the 1970s the club purchased a new net for the tennis court.

Arlen Gupton purchased the Lake Theater from Cokie Allmeyer in 1976. He was a school teacher and wanted to have something to keep his five children busy during the summers. Pam shared her memories of working at the theater when she was in junior and senior high school. Her father operated the theater until 1988. They had two shows every night and matinees in the summer. In the winter they had shows on weekends. They operated a popcorn stand and sold a sack of popcorn for $1 or a bucket for $3. Pam still has that popcorn popper.

There were cue marks on the film – the film came in two reels and they had to watch when to switch to the second reel. They had a lot of fun – they would make shadow pictures on the screen and they could stand behind the screen and still see the audience. She remembers someone on the screen smoking a cigarette and she went up to catch the ash when it fell. One night there was the shadow of a bat on the screen and they thought it was part of the movie but instead it was inside the theater. When the show was over, they had to clean the theater and sweep everything to the front.

Pam remembers they had to change the marquee with the names of the movie. There were large metal letters and they had to climb a big ladder. One time when she was on the ladder a motorcycle gang kept circling around the marquee. It was the fastest she ever got that job done.

Middle Park Times August 1985: Winter movies set for Grand Lake Theater

A new four-year lease was negotiated between the town board and Arlen Gupton for continued use of the Community building as a movie theatre. As its portion of the agreement, the town was to winterize the building.

The lease called for an annual payment of $9,000 compared to the previous $4,400 rental, with an escalation clause. In addition to a minimum 100-day lease for summer movies, the pact also called for 50 days of winter operation during 1985, 45 days in 1986 and 50 days in each of 1987 and 1988. The board agreed to winterize the building, hoping that in addition to winter motion pictures the building would be used for unspecified community events. We have listened to the public's desire for a theatre and have negotiated a more than fair lease. The Gupton's lease expired in 1989. No more movies.

In 1989 a number of improvements were made to the Community House, due primarily to energy and code requirements. These included the vestibule addition to the west entrance, a new heating and ventilation system, installation of insulated thermal pane windows, new interior theater lighting, and a wood plank handicapped entrance ramp. The interior remains unchanged with the original hardwood maple flooring, plaster walls and wood accent trim. The east end of the building has a stage and elevated backstage area which was part of the original building construction. The dimensions of the meeting room are approximately 36 x 40 with a ceiling height of 20 feet. Theater lighting has been added to enhance the annual stage productions.

The vestibule, which was added to provide a small entry lobby, handicapped entrance, and energy savings, also houses the theater lighting booth. It is constructed of frame with lapped wood siding stained to match the log exterior of the rest of the building.

Other modifications include removable lattice inserts for the windows which are used to provide shade during theater productions. The two chimneys and decorative spotlights. The fire siren on the roof has not been used for five years and there are plans to remove it.

1989 – Women's Club had an ice cream and cake sale to raise $334.92 Most of the money was used to buy five tables for the community building.

Grand County Theatre Association
cordially invites you
to preview the progress of
The Grand Lake Community House
on Friday, April 14, 1989.
Luncheon will be served
at one o'clock in the afternoon.
R.S.V.P.
(303) 887-2324
or
1-800-426-1945

April 14, 1989 – Grand County Theatre Association invitation to preview the progress of Grand Lake Community House. Luncheon served at 1:00 pm. Gene Stover, Mayor in 1989, spoke to a group about renovations of the Community House and offered the building for live theater.

The Grand Lake Area Arts Council was formed in the fall of 1989 with the help from the Colorado Rural Arts Initiative fund. Olde Fashioned Christmas – Terry Sidell and Pat Jones started the first Craft Bazaar. The three objectives of the first year, 1990, were to team with Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Grand Lake to celebrate the parks 75th anniversary, to provide a summer music series called "Music on the Green" and third, to provide winter entertainment with a Christmas play of some kind.

The Community Theater production of The Plight Before Christmas concluded the Arts Council's first year. Melodramas were presented for a week between Christmas and New Year's every year until 2014.

The Arts Council sponsored six performances of the Grand Lake Women's Club original Grand Lake Historical pageant from 1936 in 1990 for the park's 75th anniversary at the town and at the Timber Creek Campground amphitheater and the American Heritage Music Program. Women's club donated for the town's new sound system.

A fountain was placed in town park in memory of Marty Schneller who worked hard for the Repertory Theatre. The fountain was later moved by the old town hall building.

The town applied for the Grand Lake Community House to be added to the Register of Historic Colorado Places, making it eligible for financial aid in its maintenance and preservation.

In August of 1993 the 70-year-old Grand Lake Community House was listed in the register of Colorado's Historic Places. Through its designation as an historic landmark, the building became eligible for numerous grants to aid in its preservation and maintenance. As a result of a $130,000 energy impact grant, the town planned an addition to the hall to house the town offices and police department. In addition, running water and indoor restrooms were added to the hall and a kitchen installed.

Patience Kemp and town manager Mark Collins appeared before the Colorado Historical Society Board seeking a $40,000 grant to be used in repairs to the building. The board forwarded a "do pass" recommendation to the society's board of directors. If approved by the entire board, this money cannot be used to underwrite construction costs on the addition but can be used to improve the existing structure. Work is expected to begin very soon on replacing the roof, applying a preservative to the log walls and other major projects.

Carol Meine, Patience Kemp, Grace Eslick , Bernie McGinn Jim Cervenka

Jim Cervenka started working for the town of Grand Lake in 1992. From 1999 until 2004 he served as Town Manager. He now serves as president of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society.

A new addition to town hall was built in 1993. The new foundation was poured which will house the town offices, police headquarters and indoor restrooms and the Juniper Library will move into the present town hall. Woman's Club pledged $200 for kitchen furnishings. A refrigerator, gas stove and dishwasher were purchased from Gambles for $1,199.85. $50 was spent for silverware and plastic covers for the tables. The remodeled Community Center opened in 1994 and the Town officials moved into their new quarters in 1995.

In the spring of 1995, a sparkling new kitchen was added and has been given a real workout since opening in June. Senior citizens, youth groups and other community organizations have taken full advantage of the new improvement. In 1995 Woman's Club provided supper for fifty bicyclers staying overnight in the Community House. They served spaghetti.

In 1995 Live theater in Grand Lake was reborn and The Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater performed at the Grand Lake Community House. The theater moved into their brand-new theater in 2011.

As a result of the new improvements the Community House was delisted from the State Register of Historic Properties. The Grand County Historical Association sent a letter in August of 1996 to the State protesting the delisting.

It is still listed.

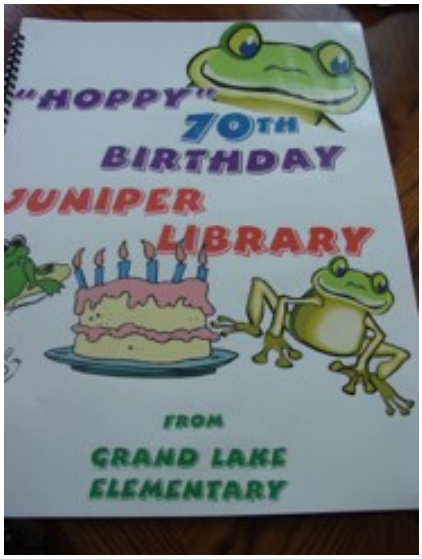
A permanent exhibit will be placed in the Community Center by the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. It will include a theater seat, framed drawing by Guy Allmeyer, the Cowboy drapery from the 1950s and a selection of posters. These items have all been donated by Guy Allmeyer to the Historical Society and Town of Grand Lake.

We are still preparing the signage to go with the items in the lobby of the Community House.

2007 – Board room at Town Hall renovated

After the Rep Theatre left the Community Hall, the building has continued to have many uses:

Old Fashioned Christmas continued with the Live Nativity, concerts, Father Christmas, Wreath contests on Grand Avenue and the yearly Melodrama.
Cabin Fever Follies, Library book sales, Craft Fair, elections, and organization meetings**.**



Grand Lake Area Historical Society Mission
To Preserve, Protect, and Promote
the History of the Grand Lake Area

Grand Lake Community House 2021