

## HAROLD & BETTY OLSON

Harold and Betty Olson's involvement began with bailing water. The theater was closed in 2000 because it was in such disrepair. When Larry Flesch (previous owner) died in 2001, PAC bought the 84 year old building from Connie for \$25,000. The next year, they hired a contractor to replace the roof for \$26,000. From the time PAC bought the building until they could get the roof fixed, Harold and Betty would go down morning and night to empty the buckets placed under all the leaks.

Harold's water issues continued as he helped deal with floating debris in the basement. He salvaged several small Coke syrup bottles by snagging them with a rake as they floated around him. And so the renovation began.

The support beams were rotted because of all the moisture so the floor was "swaybacked". Harold and John Silvernale jacked it up using a transom and built an 18" pedestal base for each new post. The cement truck was parked out front and they transported cement by wheelbarrow, shooting it down from above through holes cut in the floor.

Also salvaged from the muck were several glass slides used to show the silent movies (the huge generator involved in the projection is still in the basement). Many of the images on the slides are still visible and have been preserved.

Harold and Betty were instrumental in building a small attached building behind the theater which protects the air conditioning units and precludes unwanted visitors from accessing the basement.

Betty worked in the Orpheum for Larry Flesch until it closed in 2000. Wendy Paulsen was the manager.

Harold and Betty have put in numerous hours salvaging, restoring and protecting this amazing piece of Pondera County's heritage.