

INTERVIEW WITH GERALDINE FURGESON
SUBJECT: THEATRES

My first recollection of a theatre in Palmyra was when I was about 9 or 10 years old. We lived in Macedon and used to take the trolley. Arriving too early for the movie, we'd get off at Stafford Street, walk up to Jackson, down to Cuyler, and by the time we got to the theatre, it was open. We sat on hard, wood benches. Crystal Theatre.

Finally, we moved to Palmyra and every Saturday night we went to the opera house. Who can forget Manager Harry Averill and Florence Griffin, who sold the tickets? My first movie there was Norma Talmadge in "Kiki".

The Opera House, in its heyday, was the "Roxy" in this vicinity. Road, home talent shows were given every year. From its stage, Nadula Parker, Hazel Shimmin and I entered our short-lived careers as dancers. We danced to the movie of "Gioworm". Our local electrician, Karl Engel, made headpieces with a light, which we controlled as you would a flashlight in our right hand. The name of the operetta was "Windmills in Holland." We danced during the intermission. This operetta was put on by our school. Local village talent put on plays, etc., also.

The demise of the Opera House occurred about 1927 when the Strand Theatre opened. No more sliding down those beautiful, wide banisters or saying good night to

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Mr. Averill, who usually stood at the door at the close of the performance.

The Strand was a beautiful theatre. With its maroon carpeting, loges of wicker furniture, and most comfortable, soft seats, one could drift off with the movie whether in Hawaiian Islands, N.Y.C., Europe, or elsewhere. T.V. closed the Strand.