

# Theater owner takes movies back to childhood

By Kristy Pipher  
Staff Writer

As a young boy, Frederick Bollen lived six blocks away from the local movie theater and was best friends with the owner's son, but never in his wildest dreams did he believe that one day he would own it.

Bollen used to ride motorcycles with his friend. One day his friend told him that his father was going to be selling the theater. Bollen, who has lived in New Cumberland his entire life, couldn't believe his ears.

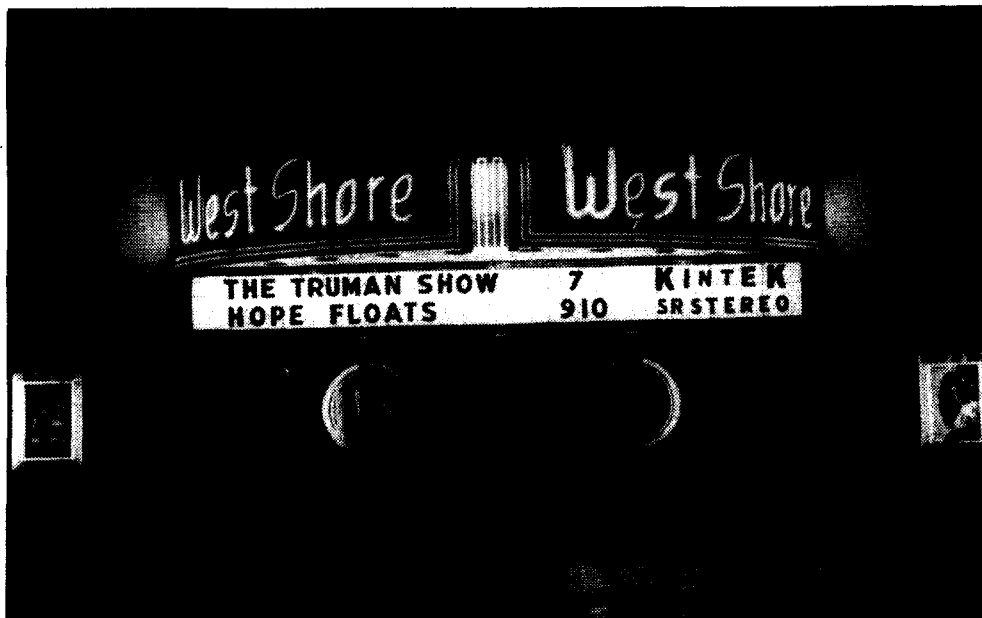
Today, Bollen and his mother are co-owners of the West Shore Theater.

It was just named "Best Movie Theater of 1998" by City Beat magazine and it is not hard to see why.

The grand opening of the theater was held on Jan. 22, 1940. Bollen and his mother purchased the theater in December 1986.

The West Shore Theater, nestled in New Cumberland, is a diamond in the rough. Moviegoers can see the latest flick on the big screen, get soda, candy and popcorn without breaking the bank. When was the last time you spent less than \$10.00 on a Saturday night date?

Prices for moviegoers range from \$2 to \$3



Frederick Bollen realized a childhood dream when he purchased and revitalized the West Shore Theater. Now it is one of the best small, local movie theaters.

depending on the evening. Refreshments start at 50 cents — a candy bar is less expensive there than at the local A-Plus convenience store. Bollen said he tries to keep prices low for his customers.

Behind the counter you will see Bollen's wife Debra serving up the refreshments. It's

not hard to see that this is a family affair.

"I'm a moviegoer," he said. "I always thought it would be cool to go to a place like when you were a kid."

Bollen thinks the inflated prices customers pay for refreshments at other theaters are a shame. He goes to the other local theaters to

view movies before bringing them to New Cumberland.

"I don't want to become a millionaire," Bollen said. "I enjoy doing it. I want other people to enjoy it too."

Part of the appeal of the theater is the decor. It hasn't changed much over the years. The original curtains still hang beside the screen but several years ago during a flood, the motor was ruined so they remain stationary. Bollen said he would like to replace the motor, but time and money are limited since he does all the work himself.

The 450-seat theater used to have the reputation for the worst sound system in local theaters, but Bollen's hard work has paid off. After five years of many long days and nights installing the new sound system, the theater is now considered the theater with the best sound system.

And Bollen did have a chance to be on the production side of the big screen. He was an extra in Major League 2. He had the opportunity to meet Charlie Sheen and Tom Berenger while they were filming the movie in Harrisburg.

Look carefully and you might catch a glimpse of him. He did -- in his own movie theater.

# Everybody loves a parade, unless they're part of it

## The Harrisburg Holiday Parade looked much different to those walking, marching or jiggging

By Barb Roy  
Entertainment Editor

Unless it is the Fourth of July, you freeze in a parade. Those are your two choices: freeze or broil. But they're (supposed to be) fun, and probably the biggest draw: they're free.

Unless, of course, you're in the parade and in charge of a float, as I was with the Coyle School of Irish Dance for the Nov. 21 Harrisburg Holiday Parade. Then you rack up all kinds of bucks constructing eye-catching things like 8-foot rainbows and Christmas trees that take four hours to tie down on the float. Of course, they always seem to fall down just as you reach the judges stand. This year was no exception.

There were about fifty of us (ages five to adult) dancing in the street, doing jigs and reels. Our float proceeded us with parents and young siblings riding on it and waving and throwing candy. Unless you know someone in the crowd, no one smiles at you and waves. Kids, they might, but not adults.

It's a strange and uncomfortable feeling to make eye contact with strangers and be waving at them like a dolt, because they clearly are freezing, and their "wave hand" is under a blanket. Then there are the hostile "What-the-heck-are-you" stares; they gaze at you with baffled looks on their faces.

Maybe it's just us. We no longer look like

we know what we're doing. After the first two hours of waiting to march, followed by five minutes of actual hard jumping and hopping down the street, we're tired. So we all walk and hop and stumble, and none of us end up doing the same steps at the same time anymore.

We get selfish, the crowd hasn't heard "Christmas in Killarney" 57 times in a row, but we have. So we let the next song on the CD come on. It's "Kalua-Kalua Christmas" crooned by Bing Crosby. We all perk up and start hula-hula-ing. A couple of dad's on our float stand up and start to air surf.

The crowd is still bemused, but it's an improvement for us, because we would rather be in Hawaii right now than Killarney, or especially Harrisburg. The high school band that is following us starts to play "The Heat Is On." We all change to a jive-walk, like a drill team. We're versatile and there's not a whole lot of people watching for the last mile of the route anyway.

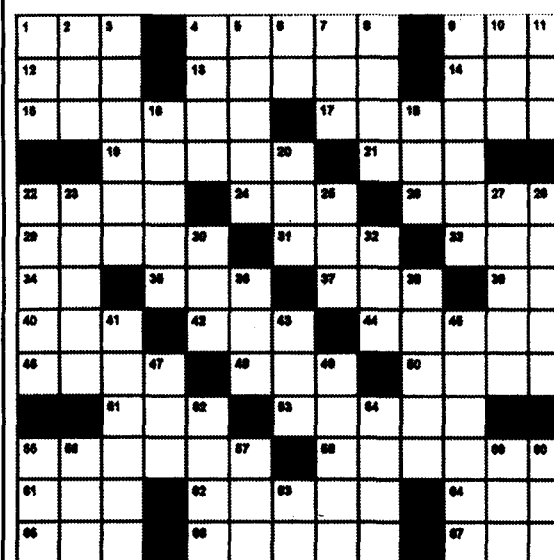
Finally, we reach City Island where the parade began. We disband in good spirits because despite everything, it has been fun. Plus we can now go somewhere to get warm. The awards ceremony is at 2 p.m., but no one stays since it is two hours from now. I read the results in the newspaper three days later.

First and third place in our division were won by a dance and baton group. Second place? A greyhound club. Excuse me? We

saw them, about thirty dogs being walked by their owners. Yeah, some of them had cute antlers and coats and bows tied on to them; but could they do a jig???

Next year, we'll be there again, but this time we've learned: we plan to do our jig while walking our pets while twirling batons. Just try to top that.

## CROSSWORD COMPANION



### Answers on page 6

#### ACROSS

- 1 Flaw  
4 Plebe  
9 Cap  
12 Metal  
13 Odor  
14 S.E. state (abbr.)  
15 Household  
(Literary)  
17 Beetle  
19 Happening  
21 \_\_\_ Carson  
22 Wise  
24 Help  
26 Tableland  
29 Utilizers  
31 The Raven (Poet)  
33 Green  
34 Indefinite pronoun  
35 Price  
37 Tree  
39 Eastern state (abbr.)  
40 Number  
42 Water barrier  
44 Pro

- 46 Great lake  
48 Rove  
50 Concern  
51 Against  
53 Jury  
55 Beautiful view  
58 Medicine for cuts  
61 Var. of -al (suf.)  
62 Hanging rope  
64 Watch  
65 Pig pen  
66 Angi-knock fluid  
67 Auricle  
the American Revolution (abbr.)  
16 Veer  
18 Goal  
20 Edge  
22 Group of rooms  
23 Flower  
25 Male deer  
27 Flavor  
28 Knowledgeable  
30 Unhappy  
32 Fairy  
36 Sack  
38 Clubbed  
41 Pleasantly  
43 Chart  
45 Luggage  
47 Age  
49 Flower  
52 Number  
54 Carol  
55 Relative (slang)  
56 Feline  
57 Bed  
59 Edu. group (abbr.)  
60 Ever (Poetic)  
63 Exclamation

#### DOWN

- 1 Mother (slang)  
2 Form of be  
3 Back out  
4 Close in  
5 Stadium  
6 Perform  
7 Uncle (Prov. Eng.)  
8 State  
9 Former  
10 Indicating ileum (comb. form)  
11 Daughters of