

person in her generation of her family to receive graduate from college.

She is also graduating as the Department Marshal, the graduating senior who has the highest grade point average in her department.

When the ceremony is over Brokenshire is not sure where her life will lead. She laughed when she said, "I guess the inevitable is upon me as I'm forced to look into the job market — something I've managed to avoid so far."

She is preparing to look for a job, hopefully in a theater area. "I hope I can find something in the realm of organizing events," she said.

Brokenshire doesn't rule out the possibility of continuing on towards a Master's degree either. "I'm already looking at maybe taking more classes," she said. "I'll have to talk it over with my husband and see where things head. After all, classes have been a big part of my life."

Dallas Drive-in opened 40 years ago

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Only the large weather-beaten screen and a few mangled speakers remain of the once popular Dallas Drive-In, which opened in April of 1951 with one of the then-popular Marx Brothers films.

The first owner of the Dallas Drive-In was B. G. Coon Construction Company who leased the ground from the Van Horn family of Dallas Township. The manager was Vern Grof.

Later the owner, according to Tom Alexander, whose parents were the last owners, was a woman from Brazil. Alexander does not know her name.

"My parents, Mary and the late Peter Alexander, purchased the drive-in during the summer of 1958 and ran it until 1982. They didn't own the property, they leased that, but they purchased the large

screen, the candy stand, and the speakers for 500 to 600 cars.

"In the early days of the drive-in, it was crowded every night and originally there was a playground up in the front for the younger children to play during the films," Alexander said.

Alexander said when his parents owned the drive-in, they opened up only the front section because by that time only about 250 cars came.

"We always played double features," said Alexander. "One film would be one that played at the conventional theatres and the second one was usually a 'B' film. The people usually came to be entertained and from June through August. The weekends were crowded. The week nights were slower."

Tom's father booked the features and his mother managed the refreshment stand where popcorn

was a popular item.

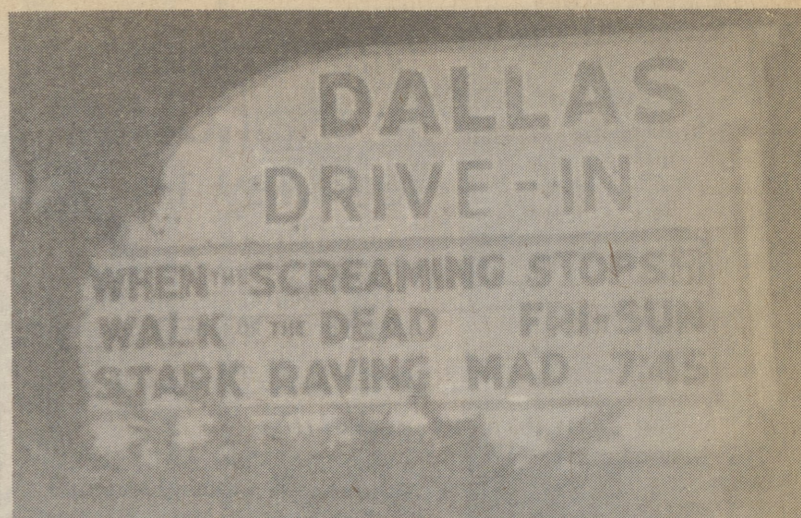
"We made the popcorn fresh daily at our Forty Fort Theatre and brought it out to Dallas," Tom said.

Tom was in charge of the food deliveries and the advertising. The Alexanders had high school students who staffed the stand and the ticket booth. They also had ramp boys who checked the cars to make sure no one would sneak in.

"The first film we played was 'Phantom,' a horror film," Tom explained. "We had two projectionists, Ron Colman of Ashley and Earl Orcutt of Forty Fort."

In their last year the Alexanders didn't believe the drive-in would continue to be a good investment because the business was beginning to dwindle due to television and videos.

"The 80's were a pretty bad decade," said Tom. "So my father didn't renew the lease and we



THE WAY IT WAS - The sign at the Dallas Drive-In tells of some of the shows that could be seen

auctioned off the candy stand, and the speakers."

"It's sad to go by and see nothing but the weather-beaten screen still up there."

"It was an interesting business while it lasted," said Alexander.

Following the close of the drive-in the property was sold by representatives of the Van Horn Estate to Andrew Sordoni of Commonwealth Telephone Company who has since sold the property to Penn State Seed Company.



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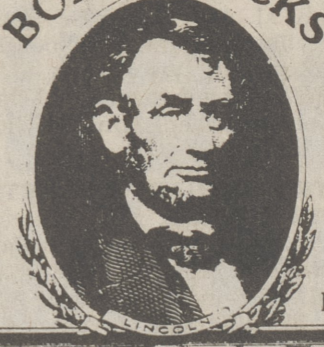
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