

Tate Theater

by Stephen E. Griffeth

The place to be on weekends was the *Tate Theater*! This was the social event of the week. The theater was located in the Tate High School auditorium.

Beginning in the late twenties or early thirties, the Woman's Club began sponsoring the theater. Miss Bessie Tate was president of the club and Colonel Sam and The Georgia Marble Company advanced them money for projectors and screens for the movies. They purchased the best equipment available at that time. The plans for the school included a balcony in the auditorium and part of this balcony was a projection room.

The screen on the stage of the auditorium was movable, so as not to interfere with normal school activities which required the use of the stage.

Mr. R.W. Ransom selected the movies to be shown each week. When he was no longer available to do this, Linton Holcomb took over the job. He would travel to Atlanta periodically to select pictures. In order to get good movies you sometimes had to take some that were not so good. Linton also sold tickets.

L.L. Dobson operated the projector and due to his sometimes "unavailability," Roy Holcomb learned the operation. After a period of time, Roy began operating the movies full time. He was paid \$4.00 a night and always in quarters and half dollars. Admission was 10 cents for students and 25 cents for adults, with the price later being raised to 25 cents and 35 cents. The movies were shown on Monday and Tuesday nights. The tenth and eleventh grade high school girls acted as usherettes.

Bill Ray was a deputy sheriff and was readily available in case of any disorderly conduct.

Roy G. Holcomb remembers the movies being shipped in and left in the hallway on Friday and returned on Monday. The movies were discontinued in October, 1951.

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