

7-12-2016

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Wendy Bradley Richter

Arkansas State Archives, wendy.richter@arkansas.gov

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Recommended Citation

Richter, Wendy Bradley, "Arkadelphia's Sky-View Drive-In Movie Theater" (2016). *Articles*. 161.
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Arkadelphia's Sky-View Drive-In Movie Theater

By Wendy Richter
For the Siftings

Many long-time Clark County residents can recall going to a movie at Arkadelphia's SkyView Drive-In outdoor movie theater. The drive-in was located about a mile north of downtown Arkadelphia on Highway 7/67. When owner Cecil Cupp opened the new facility in the fall of 1950, it was believed to be one of Arkansas's finest, with state-of-the-art equipment and modern conveniences.

Cecil Cupp also owned Arkadelphia's Royal Theater. He first came to Clark County to attend Henderson-Brown College in 1916, and worked at the Royal while a student. From this beginning, Cupp's successful career in business got off the ground. He founded the Arkadelphia Broadcasting Company, and became president of Citizens First National Bank. Cupp was active in local civic affairs as well, but became president and chairman of the board of Arkansas Bank and Trust in Hot Springs, leaving Clark County about 1959. Interestingly, his son, Cecil Cupp, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps, serving both ABT and Citizens Bank as president.

Cupp's SkyView Drive-In opened on Tuesday, October 3, 1950. The initial showing was Paramount's "Streets of Larado," starring William Holden. Adults paid forty cents, and children ten cents, to see the movie on the forty by fifty-foot screen. The new facility offered many amenities. For example, The Daily Sift-

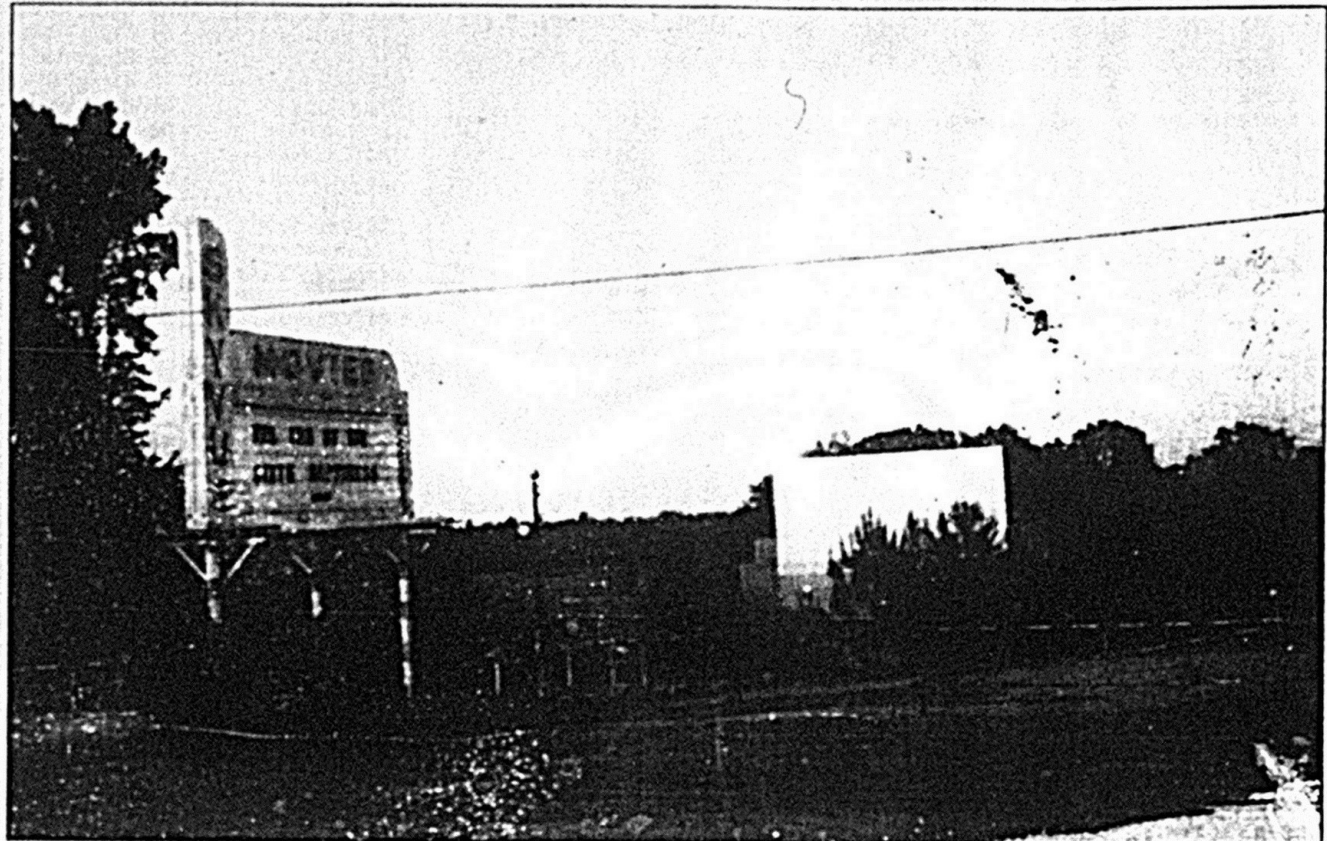


IMAGE IS COURTESY OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ings Herald stated that "Individual inter-car speakers will provide excellent sound." Each car ramp was constructed at a grade to optimize viewing. A centrally-located snack bar (with patio!) provided

refreshments to the movie-goers.

The SkyView closed in 1976.

For additional information about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum ([\[countyhistory.org\]\(http://countyhistory.org\) or 230.1360\) or the Clark County Historical Association's Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library \(\[www.obu.edu/archives\]\(http://www.obu.edu/archives\) or 245.5332\).](http://www.clark-</p></div><div data-bbox=)