

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
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**Capitol Theatre Collection**  
**Collection Number: 1584 WFCHS/THL**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Initial processing undertaken by Archives staff in 1998. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in January 2025.

**EXTENT:** 0.25 linear feet

**CREATOR:** Capitol Theatre

**DATE:** 1927 -1964

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES:** Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** This collection contains memorabilia, reminiscences, photographs, a movie poster, and a lobby sign that belonging to the Capitol Theatre of Winchester, VA.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** The Capitol Theatre started as the Empire Theater on North Cameron Street, Winchester, VA. That theater was sold to Warner Brothers and renamed the Capitol in 1927. The entrance was moved to Rouse Avenue at that time. The Farmers & Merchants Bank of Winchester purchased the building in November 1964. The Bank subsequently closed the movie theatre and used the building and property to expand bank premises.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Michael Foreman, *Images of the Past* (Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1980).

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gift of multiple donors.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

Courtesy Pass, 1964, 1 leaf, printed

List of employees, 1960s, 2 leaves, typescript

News articles, 1986-1996, 26 leaves, printed (photocopy)

Opening Program—Dec. 6, 1928, 1 item printed

Popcorn storage bag

Program, Ads, etc., 3 items, printed

Reminiscences by Clarence Johnson, Jr. 1999, 6 leaves, typescript

Salary Receipt—Feb. 20, 1964, 1 leaf, printed

Ticket—Capitol Theatre Presents “To Be or Not To Be” (June 1-3, 1942) no. 321; 1 ticket, printed

Film Canister, used by Capitol Theatre, empty

Weekly Time Registers/Ledgers—[March 3, 1962-Dec. 27, 1962], [Jan. 3, 1963- Jan. 9, 1964], 2 items, printed booklets with handwritten text

Projection Rods—arc carbon negative and positive

Button off of coat from the Capitol Theatre uniform

Pin worn on the Lapel of the Capitol Theatre uniform

Posters

Movie Topics—Nov. 19, 1937, 2 pages, printed, 1 item,

Poster of the Helen Morgan Story

Poster – “Forever, Darling” starring Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, and James Mason, 22 x 14, color 1956.

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 26**

Sign: “Continuous Shows To Day, Matinee, Evening, Adults and Children, Colored Balcony”

**Physical Location: Art Rack**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

**[1584-001]** Arthur Godfrey Day at Capitol Theatre in Winchester, VA. Arthur Godfrey (left) holding a promotion poster created by local artist Nick Sempeles (right). Queen Shenandoah XXVI, Kathryn Eisenhower, on left. Contributed by Wayne L. Patteson, Arthur Godfrey was Grand Marshal of Apple Blossom Festival XXVI, May 1, 1953.

**[1584-002]** Stuart "Pappy" Dyke as truck driver for Rouss Fire Company at Capitol Theatre. Eleven women in full length gowns are unidentified. Contributed by Wayne L. Patteson, 1958.