

This season's EOH newsletter!

Memories of the Earlville Opera House

Winter is here and we are busy planning a whole new year of wonderful events for the coming year. Before those memories fade, the Earlville Opera House is hoping to gather your memories of 2011 for our Memory Book! Really, whether your memory is from this year or considerably older, please send us a memory for our Memory Book!

The Earlville Opera House stands as a cornerstone of the central New York arts and entertainment of today but also from decades past. From 1892 to 1922, the Opera House provided a stage for live entertainment, such as vaudeville acts, three-penny operas, and traveling medicine shows. But it was in the early decades of the 20th century, when it was converted to a silent movie house, that it left its indelible mark in Laura L. Wedge's youthful memory. (Shown: EOH in 1892)



"Sometimes when I was very young back in the 1920's my Dad, Arthur Wedge, would start chores early on a Saturday night. He and the hired man would milk 30 cows by hand and Mom would prepare supper in the late afternoon so we could get to the Earlville movies on

time.

"We dressed up in a hurry, started the Maxwell, and later the green 1928 Buick, and drove from South Lebanon down the "dugway" to Earlville for an exciting evening. Usually we arrived at the Opera House a little late. As we climbed the stairs we could hear the pianist, often my cousin Ray Merrifield, accompanying the silent black and white action. He had to play by ear so he could watch the show and adjust the music with the appropriate speed and volume as the cowboys chased the cattle thieves or the hero kissed the beautiful heroine goodnight.

"Usually the feature was followed by a segment of stale news and a preview of the next week's shows.

"Then, hoping the car lights would hold out, we climbed the 'dugway' home. We had had a good time, but that 4:00 o'clock alarm would ring all too soon."

-Laura L. Wedge

Though Saturday matinees today often involve live performances, the Earlville Opera House continues to play to packed houses as a premier venue for family arts and

entertainment. We'll be having more wonderful programs to build memories in the coming year!

If you would like to start your own family memory, visit our website at www.earlvilleoperahouse.com for a listing of upcoming events or call (315) 691-3550 – we also have a "Memory Page" online if you'd like to send in your memories to be included in our Memory Book.

Best Wishes for a Happy 2012 from all of us at the Earlville Opera House!