



# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

October 2020 / ISSUE SIX / VOL 2

**Theatre Spotlight:** In November of 1905, Colonel Brown announced to the townspeople of Concordia, Kansas, his plans to build a fully outfitted opera house. The formal opening of the Brown Grand Theatre took place September 17, 1907. In the words of Carl "Punch" Rogers who was in attendance opening night, "The firemen who were at the doors were in full uniform and the ushers at the door wore white gloves. I'll tell you, that night local society sort of quivered. It was all beautiful . . . yes it was."



Dilapidated and closed in the 1970s, a decade long effort was required to renovate and re-open in 1980. Everett Miller purchased the Theatre from owners Jack and Hanalesa Roney with the idea of purchasing for the purpose of restoring it. In the 2000s another campaign actually restored the theatre to its grandeur. In 2019-20 another campaign replaced all 450 seats in the theatre. The Brown Grand Theatre was recognized as a National Historic Building and listed as such in the National Historic Register in 1973.

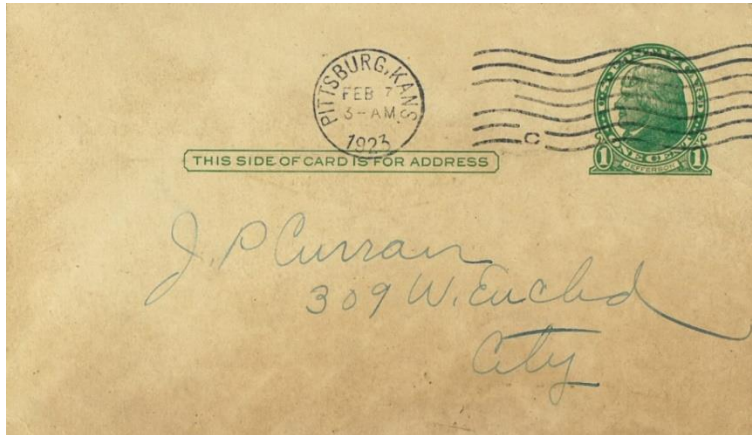
**Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce honors businesses and community members!** The 2020 Annual Banquet was held out doors at Kansas Crossing Casino to announce the honors awarded by the chamber this year. The *Spirit of Pittsburg Award* recipients were Rebecca Adamson,



Dr. Timothy Stebbins, Dr. Linda Bean. The *Small Business of the Year Award* went to Riggs Chiropractic. *Educator of the Year Award* was awarded to Cooper Neil at Pittsburg High School. *Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award* went to Lori Ann Spacheck. The Business Education Alliance Awards went to *Business Partner of the Year* Southeast Kansas Works, *Volunteer of the Year* Mark Johnson and *Education Partner of the Year* Kelynn Heardt. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to Pittsburg Chamber for making it possible.

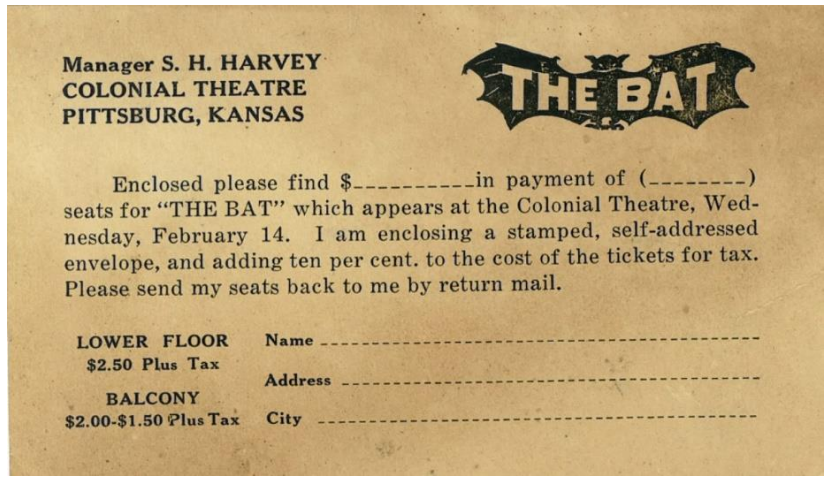
**This year's "1920 Circle Annual Fund Drive" starts in October.** The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation is launching its 1920 Circle Annual Fund Drive with a \$30,000 matching gift incentive. Your gifts made between now and December 31st will be matched dollar-for-dollar. 1920 was the year the Colonial Theatre opened its doors for the first time. We hope you will join us!

**Blast from the past!** Skip Urich is a good friend of the Colonial Fox Theatre and a respecter of historical treasures. Last month he came in with a 1923 post card for the play *The Bat*. According to



Skip, "*The Bat* was a highly successful play in New York in 1922 and several road companies took the show to other areas." Skip also noted the ticket prices. "At the time \$1.50 and \$2.50 was very expensive compared to the cost of a \$.25 show." He continued, "it was mailed to J. P. Curran a local attorney so they may have been trying to reach out to wealthier community members." This postcard was received only three years since the grand

opening of the Colonial Theatre now known as the Colonial Fox Theatre. S. H. Harvey was the manager of the theatre during this time period before passing on his title to the Pittsburg Amusement Company in 1926. *The Bat* is a three-act play by Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood that was first produced by Lincoln Wagenhals and Collin Kemper in 1920. It was later turned into a film in 1926 along with a novelization in the same year. Many thanks to Skip for preserving this piece of history and making it available for the Colonial Fox archives!



**Did you know?** The earliest known coal mining in southeast Kansas was about 1850 and was carried on to a limited extent by residents of neighboring sections of Missouri. As settlers came into what became Crawford and Cherokee counties, more coal was mined from year to year.

**QUESTIONS?**

Please call us at (620) 235-0622 or e-mail us at [info@colonialfox.org](mailto:info@colonialfox.org)  
 Our website – [www.colonialfox.org](http://www.colonialfox.org) Our address - P.O. Box 33 / Pittsburg, KS 66762

The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.