

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Castle Theater Collection**

Processed by  
Matt St.Hilaire  
Fall 2015

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1904-2015
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

## Brief History

The Castle Theater opened on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1904 in Bloomington, Illinois. During its initial run, the Castle featured Vaudeville shows and silent films. In 1916, the theater relocated to 209 E. Washington, nixing the Vaudeville acts and focusing solely on films. The “new” Castle Theater remained open until 1988 when financial difficulties forced the theater to close. The Castle found itself resurrected in 2003 when a young ISU graduate named Ben Slotky purchased the building and set out to restore it to its past glory. After renovations running into the millions, the third incarnation of the Castle opened. Well received upon its reopening, the fanfare quickly died down and, four years later, the Castle closed once again. Finally, in 2010, the Castle found its doors opened once more albeit not as a movie theater, but as a music venue.

## Scope

The collection includes newspaper articles, promotions, upcoming event fliers, and miscellaneous items from the Castle’s history.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: “Old” Castle Theater (First incarnation) Listings and Advertisements

- 1.1 Upcoming programs, *Daily Bulletin*, November 21, 1904, p. 3
- 1.2 Upcoming programs, *Daily Bulletin*, November 29, 1904, p. 3
- 1.3 Upcoming program, *Daily Bulletin*, December 19, 1904, p. 3
- 1.4 “Anniversary Week,” Advertisement, November 25, 1905, p. 5
- 1.5 “Biggest Movie Picture Show in Town,” Advertisement, September 3, 1908, p. 7
- 1.6 “Home of the Pipe Organ,” Advertisement, *Daily Bulletin*, September 11, 1910, p. 7.
- 1.7 “The Home of the Pipe Organ,” Advertisement, January 28, 1911, p. 6
- 1.8 Advertisement, “Castle, Home of the Pipe Organ,” August 20, 1913, p. 6
- 1.9 Program for 5-reel movie, *Count of Monte Cristo*, December 1913.

### Folder 2: “Old” Castle Theater (First incarnation) Newspaper Articles (Pantagraph unless noted)

- 1.1 “Castle Theater Opens,” *Daily Bulletin*, Nov. 21, 1904, p. 4
- 1.2 “Castle Theater,” November 22, 1904, p. 9
- 1.3 “Castle Theater’s Swell Opening,” *Daily Bulletin*, November, 22, 1904, p. 2
- 1.4 “Castle Theater Dark for Week,” *Daily Bulletin*, April 15, 1910, p. 4
- 1.5 Photograph of first Castle Theatre, from *Pantagraph* 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, 1946 (no date or page number).

### Folder 3: “New” Castle Theater (Second incarnation) Movie Listings and advertisements (Pantagraph unless noted)

- 3.1 “Castle Theater Opens Monday, January 24,” January 22, 1916, p. 5.

- 3.2 "Triangle Plays Castle Theater," January 24, 1916, p. 5.
- 3.3 "Diane of the Green Van," May 8, 1919, p. 3.
- 3.4 "Oh, Boy," Staring June Caprice, August 9, 1919, p. 3.
- 3.5 "Go Back to God's Country," November 13, 1919, p. 3.
- 3.6 "Joe Lewis vs. Max Baer," September 28, 1935, p. 10.
- 3.7 "Air- Conditioned Castle," June 28, 1938, p. 5.
- 3.8 "Melody Ranch," January 15, 1941, p. 2.
- 3.9 Movie Listings, August 21, 1941, p. 13.
- 3.10 "Election Results," November 6, 1944, p. 2.
- 3.11 "The Hitler Gang," November 30, 1944, p. 2.
- 3.12 "Waterloo Bridge," and "Identity Unknown," June 10, 1945, p. 6.
- 3.13 "Fun in Acapulco," November 27, 1963, p. 6.
- 3.14 "Murderers'," January 27, 1967, p. 15.

**Folder 4: "New" Castle Theater (Second incarnation) Newspaper articles (*Pantagraph* unless noted)**

- 4.1 "New Castle Theater To Open Monday," January 22, 1916, p. 10.
- 4.2 "Throngs Attend New Castle Theater Opening," January 25, 1916, p. 11.
- 4.3 Announcement of remodeling and addition of air-conditioning unit, April 10, 1938, p. 8.
- 4.4 "Castle Opens After Much Remodeling," June 28, 1938, p. 12.
- 4.5 "Prize Given For Movie Review," July 11, 1940, p. 11.
- 4.6 "Castle Theater Purchased By Decatur Firm," April 9, 1952, p. 7.
- 4.7 "With The Castle's Closing, an era in moviegoing ends," June 10, 1988, C2.
- 4.8 Picture of Projections, June 10, 1988, C2.

**Folder 5: Slotky Ownership (Third incarnation)**

- 5.1 "Screen Gem," May 8, 2003, *Pantagraph*, D8-D9.
- 5.2 Menu circa 2003.
- 5.3 "Celtic Christmas," flyer, December 8, 2005.
- 5.4 "New Kings of the Castle," *Pantagraph*, June 26, 2007.

**Folder 6: Music Programs 2010-2015 (Fourth incarnation)**

- 6.1 Schedule card, Grand Opening Week, Celebration Shows and month of October, October 2010 (2 copies).
- 6.2 Schedule and "coming soon" card, June 27-September 20, 2013.
- 6.3 Coming Soon flyer, September 4-18, 2014.
- 6.4 Coming Soon flyer, December 31, 2014-April 7, 2015.
- 6.5 2014 New Years Rock-N-Eve at the Castle flyer.
- 6.6 "Battle of the Bands," Advertising card, April 11, 2015.
- 6.7 "Jammin' For Hammitt," Advertising card, May 30, 2015.
- 6.8 Coming Soon flyer, April 27-May 14, 2015.
- 6.9 "Chicago Farmer Full Band," Advertising card, May 9, 2015.

**Folder 7: Music Programs 2015-Present (Fourth incarnation)**

- 7.1 Coming Soon flyer, January- February 2016.
- 7.2 Flier: Stratus with Mielo Hercules, May 6 2016.

- 7.3 Flier: "Rescue Me" Tatiana Masi musical fundraiser for animal rescue organization, Aug 13, 2016.
- 7.4 Postcard: "Magic Mike Live Tour," December 4, 2016.
- 7.5 Flier: Battle of the Bands, April 21, 2017.
- 7.6 Flier; Suzy Bugguss, April 26, 2017.
- 7.7 Flier: Edward David Anderson's Black Dirt Revival, November 17, 2017. 2 copies.
- 7.8 Flier: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Heart for Africa Benefit Concert, August 19, 2018.
- 7.9 Flier: ¼ page: The Something Brothers with Mile Nielsen, September 7, 2018.

**Folder 8: Tickets and Miscellany**

- 8.1 Tickets (15), "Ben Hur," circa 1959 (14 tickets at \$1.75, 1 ticket at \$1.50).
- 8.2 Ticket (1), Big Stage & Cartoon Show, August 25, 1962.
- 8.3 Ticket (1), Season Pass, 1923.
- 8.4 Timeline from Castle, 1905 to 2003.
- 8.5 Note on article from *Home Town in the Corn Belt*.
- 8.6 Lobby card, "Ben Hur", circa 1959, stamped Castle Theater.
- 8.7 Ticket and drink wristband for Neko Case Show, January 27, 2018,