

The historic 1931 Art Deco Fox theater has re-opened as a performing arts theater after a \$31 million remodel. <http://www.foxtheaterspokane.com/> As the project moved on, there was very little interest in the old electrical artifacts that made the “magic” happen. I couldn’t bear to see the old gear scrapped, so now I have a storage locker full of antiques destined for restoration as a museum display.



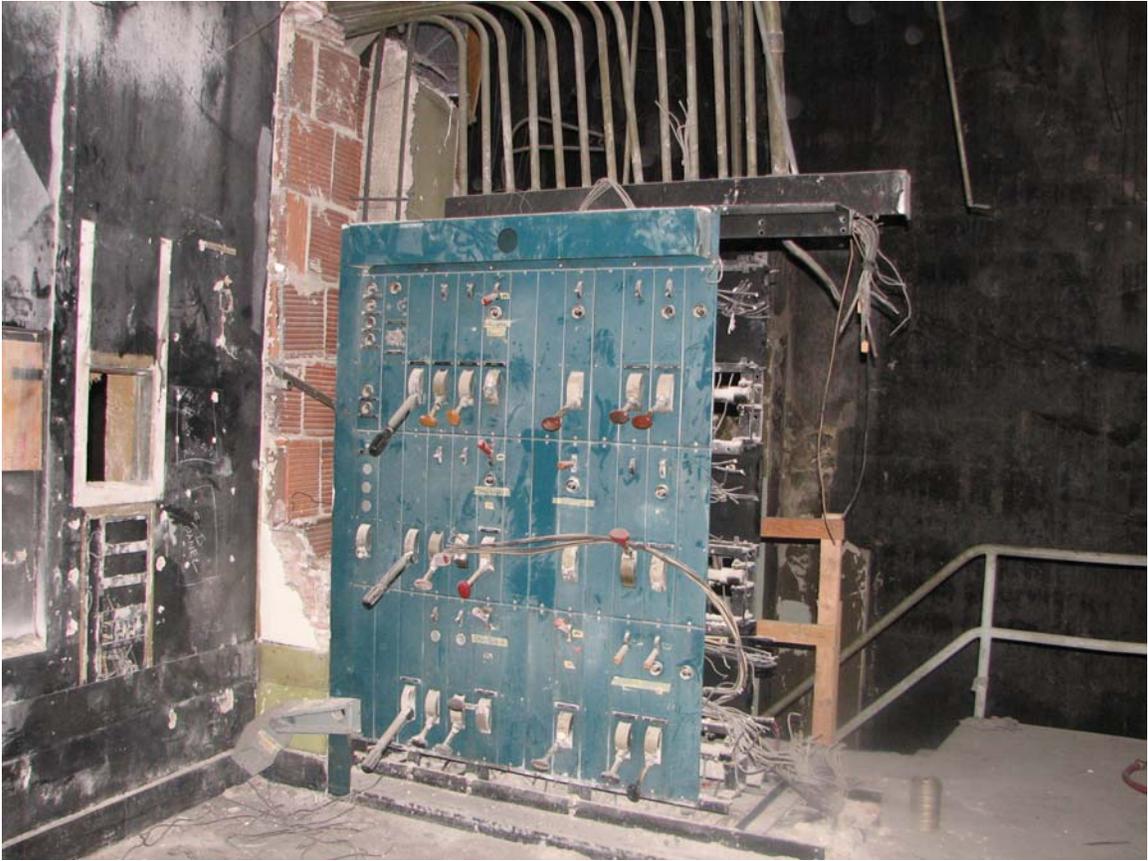
The Westinghouse stage dimmer was the largest item (2 ½ tons)



The Westinghouse D.C. distribution panel was also a large item. It had the controls for projector motor-generator speed, D.C. switching and fuses.



When the projection booth walls came down the second dimmer was left standing



The projection booth dimmer had to come out one piece at a time



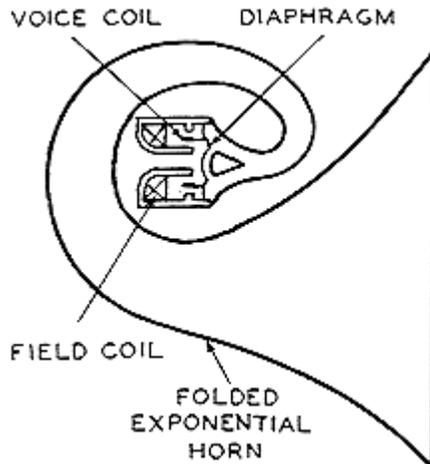
On the projection room wall, in front of each projector was a control for the dousters, power, and a stage buzzer button, and another buzzer to wake up the organist.





There were several original Weaver curtain motors and controls. The Westinghouse dimmers had buttons which operated these, and lights which confirmed the open or closed status. The theater was also a performing arts center, which meant that when operating for stage productions, the behind the screen loudspeakers had to be moved behind the projection screen.

The original, full range horns and drivers were long gone, but I may have located one of them. One of the motor generator sets and batteries were devoted to the rack of sound amplifiers and the field coils of these horns.

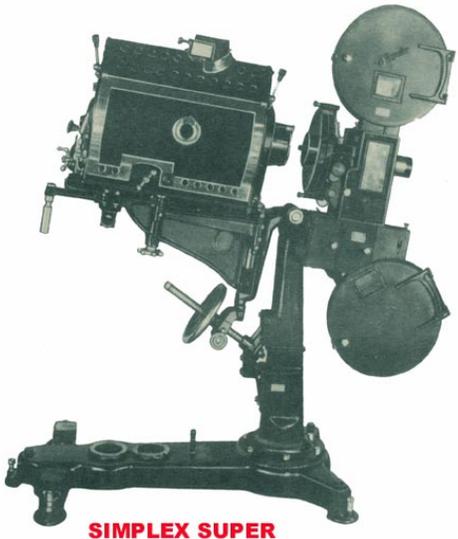


There was a rewriter for 20 minute reels. By law, the nitrate film could not be rewound in the projection booth, so there was a separate rewind and splicing room.

There were two motor generator rooms; one for the sound & house phone system, and another for the seven arc projectors. A "grid room" provided D.C. switching, and adjustment of motor speed.

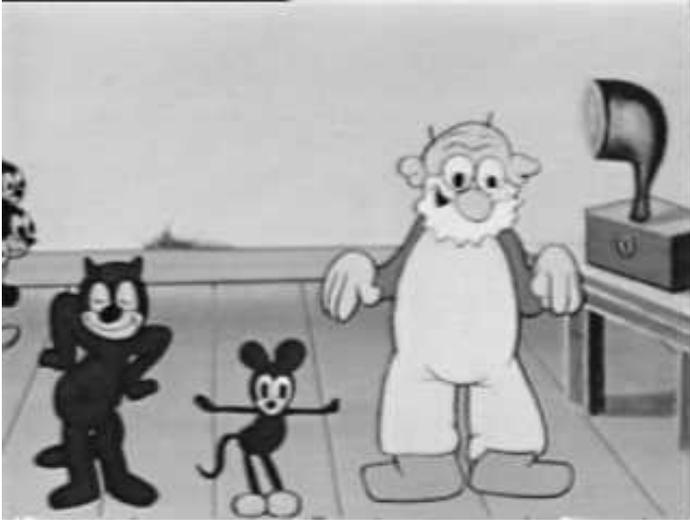


The original projection room looked like this. There were provisions for 8 arc projectors, but only 7 were installed. The middle one is a double lamp house that was two projectors on one stand, used for visual effects.



The original Simplex Super projectors were also long gone, but shortly after these were running, a much more robust version of the Simplex Supers were installed. We have the cast iron bases for those.

They must have been too heavy to remove as the equipment was upgraded over the years.



In the dust and debris, we found various chunks of film with the original movietone sound track.

The booth was equipped to store Vitaphone discs for synchronized disk + film, however the original installation was sound on film equipment. It was unknown if there would be a requirement to have dual format projection until the final 1931 specification.



We have located a Simplex Super that is of the type installed in 1934. If we display it, it will have to be retro-fitted with an earlier sound head that matches the early vintage original equipment.



**There's lots more to show if anybody is interested.
Jeff Burnett – W.S.U. School of Architecture
505 Carpenter hall, Pullman, Washington 99164-2220
(509) 993 1513 Cell**