

## Joyo theater stint continues in Havelock

### PEOPLE Profile

By Gerry Beltz  
Staff Reporter

For the last 14 years, Don and Edy Montgomery have kept the Joyo Theater, 6102 Havelock Avenue, up and running.

The Joyo, the only independently-run movie theater in Lincoln, has been in business since 1927, and Don was a patron of the theater long before he ever owned it.

"Back then it was the Hopalong Cassidy and Gene Autry films, then after World War II started it went to a lot of John Wayne movies," Don said.

The Captain Midnight serials, he said, were the most popular pieces when he went to the Joyo as a boy. Don can remember bikes from children going to the shows would be "strung up from the corner down to the alley."

Prices for admission were a bit lower then: nine cents (including tax). "An enterprising young person could go the park and pick a bushel basket of dandelions in exchange for a free ticket, Don said.

In March 1979, when Don was selling a piece of property he owned in Milford, he came across an ad for the Joyo in the newspaper and contacted the owner.

There were other possible fates for the Joyo at the time, including a warehouse or an adult film the-

ater.

Don said he bought the Joyo with plans to use it for income when he retired from the business of commercial art, which he has been in for 40 years.

"You don't have to spend that much time doing it," he said. "Three, maybe four hours a day maximum."

"The problem is you have to be there every day, just like farming."

Both Don and Edy said the main reason people went to the Joyo was the hometown atmosphere of the theater.

"The first thing they say is 'Hey, this is just like the theater back home,'" Don said. "Back in that era, all of them were built the same."

"The sidewalls were all coated with the same material. They all had maroon curtains."

Don said the Joyo was the only theater in Lincoln that had body-formed seats, which slide out and lean back when you sit down. The theater also offers its customers a lot for their money, he said.

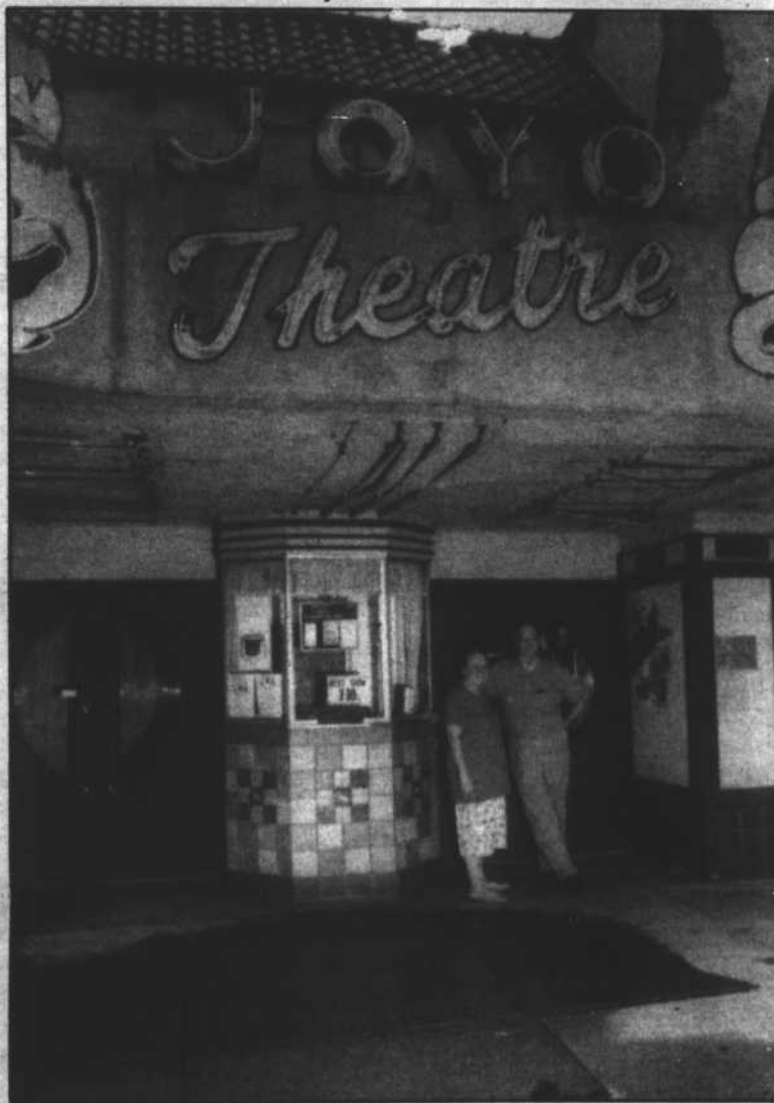
"... We offer a wider variety of choices in the concession stand — with cheaper prices than the bigger theaters," he said.

Edy added, "For a dollar, you get a real value."

Don said the family-oriented format of the Joyo is another major factor for its consistent patronage.

"It's a mom and pop family-type theater," he said. "They want to come here with the kids and sit down and relax and not be embarrassed. That's our market. We play

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Damon Lee/DN

Don and Edy Montgomery outside the Joyo Theater in Havelock, which they have owned for 14 years.

## Disney film fails to make movie magic "Hocus Pocus"



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

Walt Disney Pictures has always been associated with making movie magic. Unfortunately, the only thing magical about its latest feature, "Hocus Pocus" (The Lincoln, 12th and P streets), is the name.

The story centers on the Sanderson sisters — Winifred (Bette Midler), Sarah (Sarah Jessica Parker) and Mary (Kathy Najimy) — three witches boiling toil and trouble for the residents of 17th century Salem.

The terrible trio is busted and hanged after stealing the life force (killing) a young female Salemite, but not before they turn her brother into an immortal feline. They also cast a spell that will allow them to return to life after a virgin lights a black flame on Halloween night.

This is the segue into 20th century Massachusetts. And a feeble one it is. A smart-aleck kid, Max (Omri Katz) lights the flame to impress a pretty girl (Vinessa Shaw) and scare the heck out of his sister (Thora Birch). He scares all of them, including himself when the sisters return ready to renew their wickedness.

What follows is supposed to be madcap adventures in the traditional Disney style. Some of the scenes are mildly amusing, perhaps even more so to a younger audience. But the overall feel inspires only a yawn and

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## Paranoia of cold war displayed in 'Prisoner's Dilemma'

### Summer Reading

"Prisoner's Dilemma"  
William Poundstone  
Anchor Books

By Mark Baldridge  
Staff Reporter

The bomb was still new in those days — a terrible novelty.

Many considered it a monstrous weapon, one that should never be used again. They wanted it banned, destroyed or placed at the disposal of the United Nations: no single nation should be allowed to possess so great a tool of destruction.

Then, late in 1949, the situation changed forever: The Soviet Union began testing atomic weapons. The long paranoia of the cold had begun.

"Prisoner's Dilemma" by William Poundstone takes the reader into the thick of those double-dealing, fright-

ened times.

Political theorists in the free world arguing over what to do next were guided in part by a new mathematical model called "game theory." And game theory's "prisoner's dilemma" was touted by some to signal the only appropriate response to Soviet atomic capability.

Public figures — among them the secretary of the Navy, British philosopher and pacifist Bertrand Russell and mathematician John von Neumann, declared that the only rational decision was to wage immediate unprovoked nuclear war on the USSR and unite all the world under one government, headed by the United States.

Von Neumann's argument bore particular weight. As part of the original Manhattan Project and father of game theory, he had the ear of military strategists at the highest levels. He was considered by many to be the world's greatest genius.

Today, in light of the recent crumbling of the Soviet Union, such tactics seem outrageous and misguided in the extreme.

It is to Poundstone's credit then

that he recreates the paranoia and mistrust of those dark days by a simple examination of game theory and the prisoner's dilemma in particular.

The arguments for blowing up the Soviets in 1949 take on weight even as one's sense of outrage against such a proposition grows.

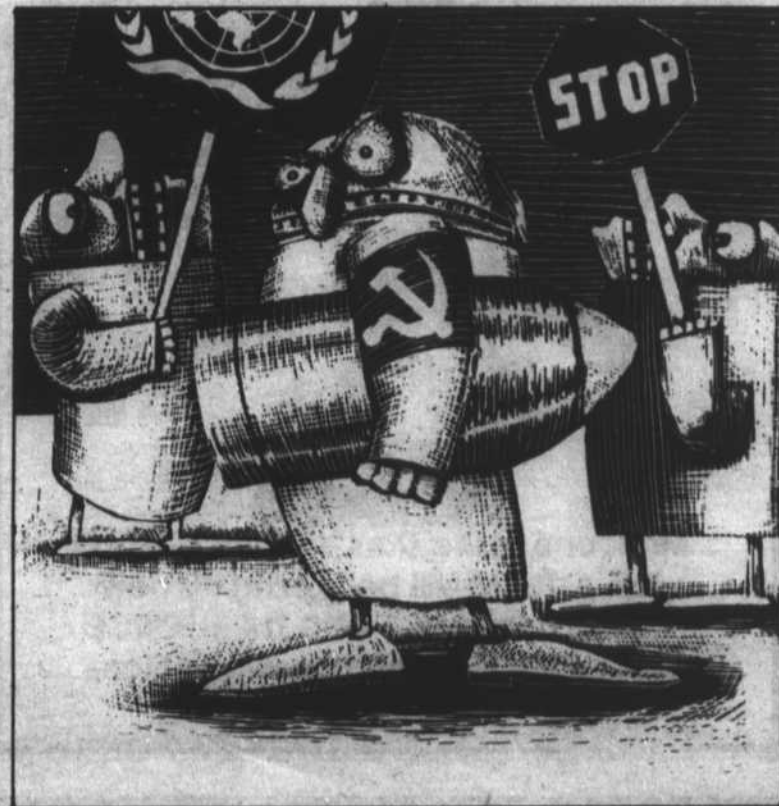
It is this split reaction of fear on one side and horror on the other that defines the early decades of the cold war: It was a schizophrenic time.

No one was to be trusted, the enemy was everywhere, and old American ideals of tolerance and freedom of opinion were suspended in the prolonged emergency of the Red Menace.

Younger people may find all this a little hard to believe. The spirit of the age has changed. We are more aware of the dangers, perhaps.

But the human capacity for fear and mistrust is more solidly entrenched than we imagine and we will no doubt hear from it again in America.

Poundstone's book, then, serves as a kind of skeleton key to those times — for those of us fortunate enough to have come of age on this side of the Iron Curtain.



David Badders/DN