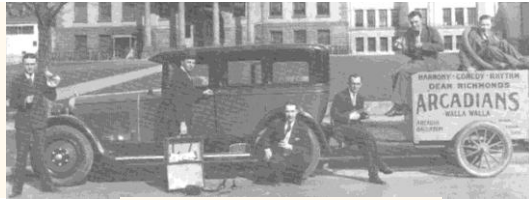


THE ARCADIANs

The Arcadians were billed as “a modern dance orchestra that combines all the natural spirit of youth with the musical skill of years of experience into a group playing all the latest types of dance music with an unusually fine rhythm colored with beautiful harmonic effects.”



Members of the Arcadians circa 1928

Instruments represented in the band over the years included violin, saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, drums, and piano, along with vocalists. In addition to playing regularly at the Arcadia Ballroom and Edgewater Park, the group toured the Northwest.

OTHER BANDS



May, 1938

A variety of other local and touring bands also played there at Edgewater and the Arcadia, including, among others, the Whitmaniacs, the Multnomah Hotel Orchestra, Sig Thorsen, Harry Snider, the Croxdale Serenaders, Les Hite & his Harlem Cotton Club, Kay Barclay & her All Girl Orchestra, Ernie Fields, and Ray Thompson.

Credits: Arcadians photo from Walla Walla, A Nice Place to Raise a Family by Bob Bennett. All others from Bygone Walla Walla by Joe Drazan. For more information, go to www.ww2020.net/historic-sites.

WALLA WALLA 2020 HISTORIC RESEARCH & PLAQUE SERVICE

If you would like to honor a building or property by obtaining a research report on its history all the way back to when it was bare ground owned by local Tribes, and by displaying a handsome plaque listing the date of construction, along with the names of owners and builders, you can do so by contacting the Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Service.

For qualifying properties, Walla Walla 2020 will research the title, construction, and occupant history, and provide a written report along with proposed plaque language. The research fee for residences is \$100; the fee for other properties ranges from \$150-\$250 depending on the complexity of the title and occupancy history.

Qualifying properties may be in any neighborhood but must be more than 50 years old, and have retained their architectural integrity. For those properties accepted, a photo of the current property along with the completed research report will be included in the Walla Walla 2020 Interactive Map of Historic Properties available on the internet at www.ww2020.net under the Architecture & Neighborhoods tab.

Following completion of the report, the property owner may order a plaque for display on the property. The cost of a basic 9”x 6” six-line plaque is \$50, with additional lines and sizes available on request. Application information is available online at www.ww2020.net under the Architecture & Neighborhoods tab.

Preparation of a report and/or plaque and inclusion in the Walla Walla 2020 Interactive Map of Historic Properties does not constitute the listing of the property on any official historic register. Such listings are at the discretion of the property owner.

For more information on Walla Walla historic sites, go to www.ww2020.net/historic-sites, email ww2020@charter.net or call 509-522-0399.

EDGEWATER PARK AND THE ARCADIA BALLROOM



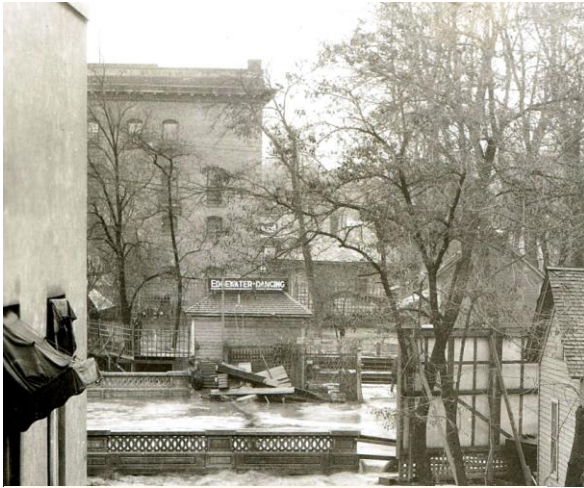
Arcadia Ballroom in the old Armory Building



Historic Sites & Markers Project
www.ww2020.net
PO Box 1222, Walla Walla WA 99362
509-522-0399
ww2020@charter.net

The Edgewater Park Dance Pavilion

The Edgewater Park dance pavilion was located just east of Colville Street between Main & Alder on the south bank of Mill Creek from about 1926 to about 1945. It was considered one of the finest outdoor dance facilities in the country, featuring both local and touring bands.



Edgewater from across Colville Street during the 1931 Flood

Edgewater offered open dancing, dance contests, dance exhibitions, jitney dancing, as well as boxing and wrestling matches and other events. Jitney dancing was the practice of paying for each dance in advance. Admission to a Jitney dance was free, but once inside the pavilion, dancers were escorted to a roped off area, where they purchased tickets for a few cents per dance. There were usually 16 dances per hour, and between numbers, rope boys cleared the dance floor and collected the money for the next number.

One of the first orchestras to play at Edgewater was led by Jackie Coogan, an early child star of the movies, with Betty Grable, later a prominent actress, as soloist. The Edgewater itself was featured in a film called "Movie Balls" whose chief photographer said it was "one of the most attractive outdoor settings for filming dance scenes I have ever seen. There may be larger and more expensively equipped

pavilions along the coast, but none have a better natural setting than this."

Edgewater Park was on land owned by the Schwarz family. It was developed with the idea that an outdoor dance pavilion would be a worthwhile addition to the city's recreation resources. During the winter and when there was inclement weather, the dancing was moved to the Arcadia Ballroom

The Arcadia was a dependable and attractive place to go when it was rainy or cold. But when the weather was good, the Edgewater with its 8000 square foot dance pavilion and cool breezes off the water was the place to be for dancers throughout southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. Willows lined the creek, there were benches along the railing, a bandstand on the east end, and strings of lights lit up the night.

What All Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon Has Been Waiting For.

DANCE EDGEWATER

OPEN AIR DANCING

TO-NITE

8000 Sq. Ft. of New Dance Floor

WAIT 'TIL YOU DANCE ON IT!
AND YOU CAN DANCE
ALL EVENING

GENTLEMEN 75c LADIES 15c

Dean Richmond's Arcadians
Augmented to 7 pieces
Dance Rhythm A'plenty.

ALSO!
5th Preliminary Walla Walla City Championship all around dance contest. Who is going to be Walla Walla's most popular dancing couple?

REMEMBER!

MONDAY IS BARGAIN NITE
Gents 50c Ladies 10c
THURSDAY — SATURDAY
Gentlemen 75c Ladies 15c

DANCE and STAY YOUNG

May, 1928

The Arcadia Ballroom

The Arcadia Ballroom was located on the upper floor of the old Armory Building where the plaza is now located at First and Main on the west side of Mill Creek.

The Arcadia featured public dances several nights a week and on all holidays, boxing and wrestling events, roller skating, and private parties, along with the Arcadia Dancing Academy.

During Prohibition, it wasn't unusual to see 500 couples on a Saturday evening on Arcadia's hardwood dance floor built over a sand base.

Dances and Dancing

Fall Opening

AT

ARCADIA

THIS WEEK!

ARCADIA'S WEEKLY PROGRAM

Every Monday is Bargain Night. Admission, gentlemen 40 cents and ladies 10 cents.
Every Thursday night is a week-end dance in combination with the White C. Lee Band of the Astoria Legion. Special features are planned for every Thursday. Couples 75 cents.
Admission Ladies 10 cents.
Every Saturday night the dance supreme of the week. Gentlemen 75 cents, Ladies 15 cents.
Every holiday there will be a dance at Arcadia. No expense will be spared to make these the biggest features of the year.

NOW BOOKING
Dean Richmond's Arcadians

Southeastern Washington's greatest Dance Band—this modern dance orchestra combines all the latest styles of music with the musical skill of years of experience has an ensemble group playing all the latest types of dance music with an unusually fine dance orchestra content with beautiful harmonic effects. Always featuring the latest in dance numbers.

DANCING PARTIES AT ARCADIA

Five hour parties at dance at the Arcadia where everything is available to make them a complete success.

BOB MYERS' COLLEGIANS

As it is impossible for us to fill engagements offered us and as a smaller orchestra is occasionally desired we are presenting the White and the Collegians now under our management. In charge Milton Anderson. Any number of instruments.

OFFERING A NEW SERVICE

Here is something new! From now on, in addition to supplying your dance or party with music, we are to be pleased to play your entertainment. We will give your dance free use of our tables, chairs and other feature dance equipment. Think about it now, see the necessity of the music and security of dancing at home. We will be on the job for you FREE! Let us know, ahead of time, just what you want and we'll do the rest. Remember, make no extra charge for this service.

ARCADIA DANCING ACADEMY!
Adah Losh Rose—School of Dancing
Assisted by R. C. Ribak

Ball, Interpretive, Acrobatic, Tap, Hiphop, Modern, Swing and all the latest types of ballroom dancing including the new Lindy Hop and grime.

No Embarrassment Learn to dance Reasonable Rates

Appointments by telephone 400 or call at the Arcadia Ballroom on corner the hours of 10:30 to 12:30, 1:30 and 4:30 to 6:30.

NOTE! Special Lindy Hop class commencing Monday night, October 1, at Arcadia. Make your reservations now to see the big action.

September, 1927

The premier Walla Walla band was the Arcadians, billed as "Southeastern Washington's Greatest Dance Band."