

## Air conditioning at Movies worth admission



*The Avalon at 645 Main St. opened in 1923 and was renamed the Cooper in 1947. Loyd Files Research Library Museum of Western Colorado photo file*



*The Strand Theatre opened at 349 Main Street in 1928 and in 1935 it was renamed the Mission. In 1945 the named was changed to the Joy Theatre. Loyd Files Research Library Museum of Western Colorado photo file*



*Almost directly across Main Street from the Mission was the Kiva at 342 Main 1937. The Kiva closed in 1946. Loyd Files Research Library Museum of Western Colorado photo file*

(Second in a series)

By Kathy Jordan

In the 1930s, air conditioning was a new thing in movie theatres in Grand Junction, and summer heat made the theatre a good way to spend a hot summer afternoon. Since home air conditioning was almost non-existent, the theatre was most likely one of a few places where people could keep cool.

My husband, Teddy, said that as a kid in the early 1950s he liked to go to a movie to cool off. He and his friends would save the tops of the caps on milk bottles. These could be cashed in for five cents so that they could spend the afternoon keeping cool in the “movie house.”