

Community Spotlights

A dream becomes reality

As the Florence community grew, the need for a large meeting place with a theater became more and more of a reality.

There were focus groups and educational presentations to garner support for such a facility. Some of the things we had hoped for had to be left out of the final design — things like a covered drop off area out front and a center aisle in the theater. Compromises were made in order to meet our budget.

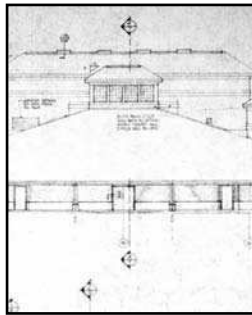
Once an architect was hired and a design was agreed upon, a fundraising team was put together. I was asked to serve on that team. It was my first opportunity to learn firsthand how to go about raising money on a larger scale.

We received training and learned

the “science” of a fundraising campaign. That knowledge has been used for many projects since that time.

We are very fortunate to have the Florence Events Center and I feel privileged to have had a small role in bringing the gathering place to fruition.

I get goosebumps every time I attend an event at the FEC, realizing that it is a dream come true for our community.



Kay King

Charter member of the FEC Fundraising Committee

20 years of friendship

It's hard to believe how fast 20 years have gone!

My neighbor Paul Cornett invited me to become involved with the Friends of the Florence Events Center in 1999. I was more than happy to get involved, since the FEC was one of the major attractions that prompted our decision to move to Florence permanently.

A few short years later, the Florence Winter Folk Festival was started as the brain child of Myrna Klupenger and Lis Farm. I was privileged to be able to help out in the early years by playing with the Old Time Fiddlers and then asking other friends to come and play during the day time.

Over the years, the Winter Folk Festival grew to be one of the premier

small Folk Festivals in the U.S.

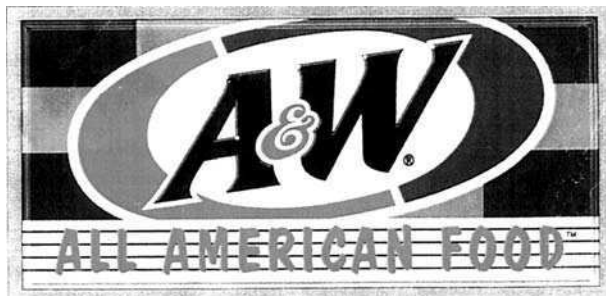
Long time friendships with many of the great performers of the 60's folk music turned out to be fortuitous as we were able to have such groups as The Limelites, The New Christy Minstrels, The Highwaymen, The Brothers Four, Tom Paxton, Tom Chapin and many others headline the festival.

But the most important part of the Winter Folk Festival — now the Winter Music Festival — is the Kids Konzerts. This annual event to bring music to the children in our schools was started by Rachel Pearson, a driving force behind the assemblies today.

I wish the FEC another 20 years of success!

Hal Weiner

Friends of the Florence Events Center

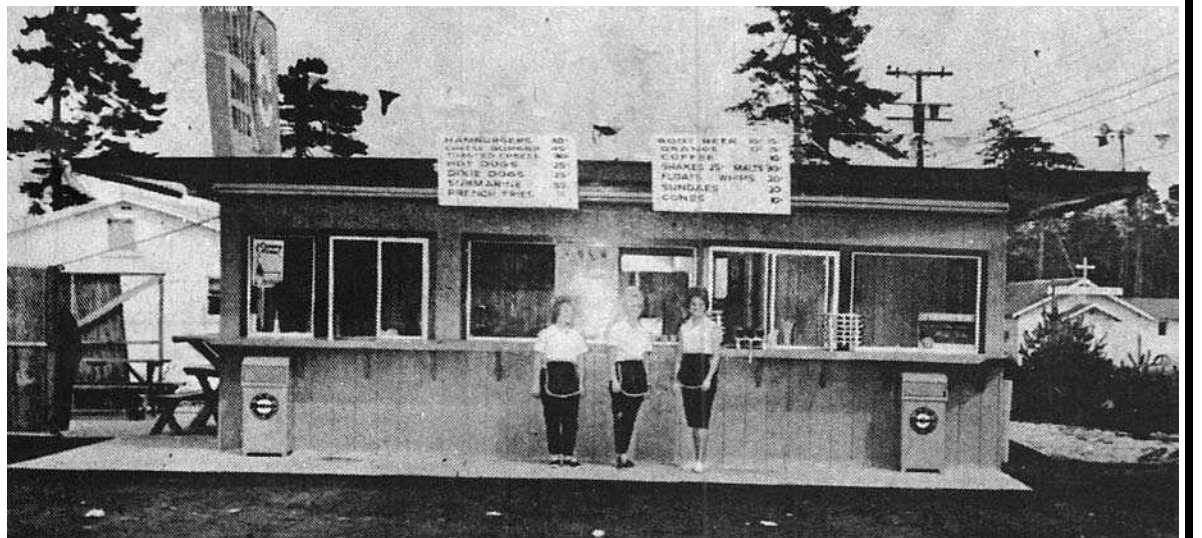


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