



The upper balcony of the Texas Theatre, 33 W Twohig, overlooks the 90-year-old stage Thursday, Jan. 25. The balcony no longer has seats. ALANA EDGIN/SAN ANGELO STANDARD-TIMES

# Texas Theatre sits silently, awaiting its next chapter

**Alana Edgin**

San Angelo Standard-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

Once the brightest star in San Angelo, a downtown 1920s landmark will most-likely celebrate its 90th birthday alone.

Stepping into The Texas Theatre, 33 W Twohig Ave., the first glimpse is saddening

The once-grand lobby has been almost gutted. Yet, as you move deeper, the building offers a stunning sight.

It remains a treasure, breathtaking and heartbreaking, frozen between various renovations and the origi-

nal grace.

Original Spanish-style architecture holds a back-lit glow, as the house lights shine upon the empty stage. Rows of seats on the floor wait, ready for the next show.

Lee Pfluger, current owner of the Texas, bought the Texas Theater in 1998 to “mothball it.”

This has allowed the theater to cling to its opulence without being scarred by renovators, who might not cherish it.

“I was trying to preserve it for future generations,” Pfluger said. “I think its a very important and iconic building for downtown.”

**See THEATRE, Page 3V**

## Theater

Continued from Page 1V

The Texas Theater has seen history pass on the global and local scale in its 90 years.

It showed San Angeloans the reality of World War II's D-Day onscreen, helping raise money for the war effort. Polio vaccines were given in the lobby. Silver-screen and real-world romances took place in the now empty theater.

People might not see that today.

The closed-off building no longer shines with that little-bit of Hollywood. The famous night sky, with twinkling stars and drifting clouds to represent Spanish outdoors, stays dark.

“When it was dark inside the theater, and they would turn the lights on...it was just gorgeous,” former usherette Loretta Cook said in a 2004 article.

In the 1950s, television stations and bad parking began to spell the theater's doom, according to archives.

The last time the public was invited in to see inside the aging landmark was in 2015, when the Ballet performed inside for two days in October.

Del Velasquez, director of Downtown San Angelo Inc. took part in a show before it sealed its doors. He remembers the Texas Theater from his child years.

“During my era as a child, the Texas Theater was an exciting place to get to go for any child growing up in San Angelo,” Velasquez said. “It was the mecca of theaters, and going to movies was a spe-

cial event in a child's life.”

Pfluger also performed on the Texas stage when he was around 7-years old, in 1946.

“I was a tap dancer at the time,” Pfluger said. “A good friend and I wore top hats, with candy canes on them. We did a shuffle-hop-step on that stage right there.”

Velasquez would like to see the Texas Theater turned into a historic movie venue. In order to do that, people would have to come in and spend “lots of money,” Velasquez said.

Those people would also need a passion for preserving history, and knowledge of how to take advantage of government incentives, he said.

“With that said, it's still an expensive proposition, a long term investment,”

Velasquez said.

Pfluger wants to see the Texas Theater restored to the wondrous piece of history it once was.

“I'd like to see it back, operating as a historic and iconic venue for the community and make it for any kind of public, civic or commercial events,” Pfluger said. “It would take a lot of imagination...for revitalization.”

Pfluger mentioned there had been some offers to give the theater a new life, but none have come to fruition, so far. “At some point in time, it'll happen,” Pfluger said. “This will get back to serving the community, as it did so many years ago.”

If you have a solid business plan to revitalize the Texas Theatre, contact Pfluger's office at 325-944-4444.