

1942 Tin Scrap Metal Drive



This 1942 tin scrap metal drive, put on by the Hemptown School in front of the East Main Street Royal Theater, has a host of children who many in town will recognize. The children were rewarded with a movie ticket, popcorn and a Coke for their contribution to the war effort. Wilson Cobb, owner of today's Sword Printing, is seated to the right of the "L." Next to Wilson is Max Ralston, one-time bank president of the Fannin County Bank and former mayor of Blue Ridge. The Royal Theater was a joint business venture between Jack Jones and W. A. Tilley in the late 30's. When the theater got too small, according to Jack, he had another theater, The Rialto, built in 1954, just a few feet away from the Royal Theater where Mountain Holly Quilt Shop stands today. Some time later, he also had the Blue Ridge Drive-In built and his wife, Helen, still owns it to this day. Jack was an entrepreneurial sort and owned many a building in Blue Ridge. He started the first self-serve store in Blue Ridge in the building that now houses Hub County Art and Antiques (D... .. (L... .. W... .. G... ..)