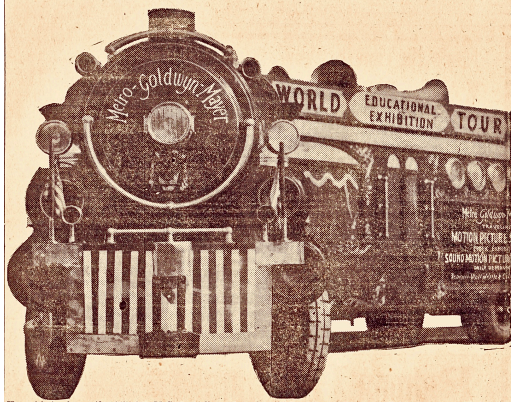




Hollywood Studio on Wheels to Visit Sumner Next Wednesday



Herewith is shown the \$150,000 M-G-M studio on wheels, which will pay Sumner a brief visit next Wednesday afternoon. See news story on this page for details.

Sumner Standard, 8-28-1936

Looking back to 1936

The Train that Came Down Main

The afternoon of September 2nd, 1936, Sumner citizens came as close to Hollywood as they would be that year or probably, any year.

Peter Constaniti and Mike Barovic, owners of the Riviera Theatre arranged a Sumner visit of MGM's Traveling Motion Picture Studio, a miniature Hollywood on wheels, equipped with motion picture cameras, sound equipment and an expert crew of studio technicians.

Called "The Globe Trotter" it was built around a trackless locomotive. Fire engine red and trimmed in gold and chrome, It measured over 70 feet long and nine feet wide. It had a fully functioning talking picture recording studio and a projection booth that showed film on a six by five foot rear projection screen. MGM billed it as "The Eighth Wonder of the World". The cost to build it? \$150,000 in 1930's dollars, sounds like a lot but it came with a whistle and a bell.

In the mid thirties MGM sent the Globe Trotter on a world tour to show the public the inside workings of motion picture making. People could tour through the unit and then, from outside, watch film on the rear projection screen at the back of the studio car.

MGM also used the Globe Trotter to search for new talent. Advance men would precede its appearances and hold auditions at local theatres. They would then schedule the best candidates for a recording session on the traveling studio.

Both Sumner papers reported that auditions were not held here. The stay was too short. That's too bad, reporting on any local participant would have been prime local news.

(continued on page 2)

GREAT NEWS FOR OUR PATRONS!!

M. G. M.'s \$150,000

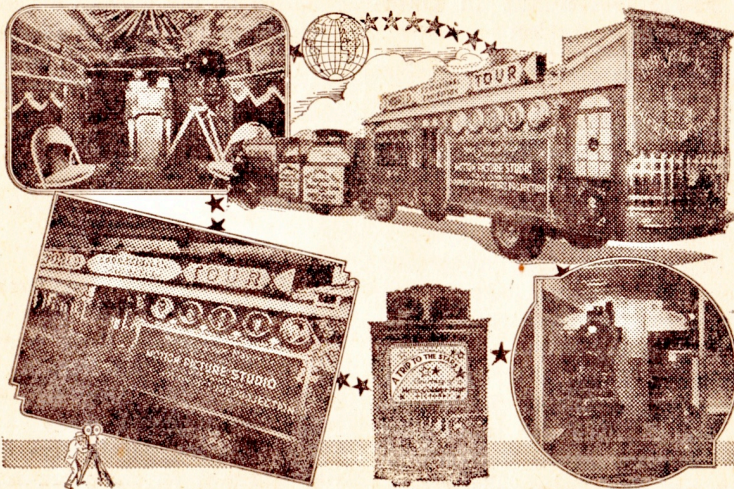
Traveling Motion Picture Studio

WILL STOP IN FRONT OF THE RIVIERA THEATRE

Wednesday, September 2, at 2:30 P. M.

You are all invited to inspect this completely equipped
HOLLYWOOD STUDIO ON WHEELS

FREE — With the Compliments of the Riviera Theatre



(TOP) Voice Recording Studio with complete Western Electric sound equipment and public address system — The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer traveling motion picture studio on World Tour.
(LOWER LEFT) Studio entrance through which the public will pass to view recording and projection of sound pictures. (CENTER) Screen and rear projector system. (RIGHT) Glass enclosed Projection Room showing latest projector and Western Electric Reproducer set.

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(from page 1)



Rear projection screen



Clark Gable touring the Globe Trotter, Sorry, Clark never came to Sumner
www.footnotemaven.com

The Globe Trotter had a lot to experience; the crew of camera and sound men, technicians and make up artists demonstrated equipment and answered questions about their work.

Imagine yourself there, that Wednesday afternoon in Sumner, population 2000. There would have been no distraction from television, smart phones or the internet in 1936. The main event of the day would have been the Hollywood train on Main Street.

Heading East on Main with a police escort, the seventy foot long, fire engine red, smoking, tooting, two unit vehicle slowly made its way down to the Riviera for the Sumner segment of its world tour. The movie showing at the Riviera when the Globe Trotter was in town was "The Harvester" starring Alice Brady, Russell Hardie and Ann Rutherford. It was not an MGM studio picture.

MGM had more than one of these trackless trains traveling the country from the mid 1920's through the late 1930's.

This one was built in 1924 by the H.O. MaGee Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. Harry Magee eventually built sixteen trains of varying designs, all of which had gasoline engines. The live steam effect was generated by oil dripping on an exhaust manifold. Puffs were created by revolving blades in the smokestack.

The Globe Trotter was retired in 1937 and the locomotive was later sold for scrap as part of the build-up to World War II.

We still have trains that stop in Sumner. They can take you to points North until you are in Seattle or points South until you are in Lakewood. But none will get you to Hollywood. The only chance for that was on Wednesday, September 2nd, 1936.

The Riviera Theatre was originally the Liberty Theatre built by Dominic Constaniti in 1924.

In 1936, when the Globe Trotter traveled to the theatre, the Riviera was managed by Paul Constaniti, Dominic's son, in partnership with Mike Barovic, who was Dominic's father-in-law. The Constaniti and Barovic families were involved with seven local picture houses in the area. They had the pull to get the Globe Trotter to visit Sumner. Their business life was one of perpetual promotions. Ticket contests, tie-ins with local merchants, booking vaudeville style small stage acts, and opening their stage to local school and civic group events. They kept the theatres, and Main Street, busy.



In the 1950's the Riviera closed as a picture house but was still used at times for special events.

In 1973 it was torn down. The Bank of America drive-thru now occupies the space where Hollywood came to Sumner.

