

HULL'S DRIVE-IN

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DOUBLE
FEATURE

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When the sun goes down... "STARS"
the "STARS" come out!

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\$6 per person - Kids 11 and under are FREE!



Places to cuddle at the drive-in

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July 13, 2001 — *Nostalgia lovers Don and Susan Sanders know a thing or two about drive-in theaters. They recently co-authored Drive-In Movie Memories (Carriage House Publishing, \$19.95) as a sequel to their coffee-table book, The American Drive-In Movie Theatre (Motorbooks International, \$29.95). You also can visit their Web site at www.americandrivein.com while awaiting their upcoming movie, Drive-In Movie Memories. The movie, premiering the first weekend of September, will then be available on cable and home video. The couple traveled to 40 states over the past 10 years to document this American cultural icon, discovering in the process that everyone has a drive-in story. "I went to the drive-in with a boy who wanted to do everything but watch the movie!" recalls Susan. Here, Don shares drive-ins worth a detour with USA TODAY's Craig Wilson.*

Brazos Drive-in

Granbury, Texas

"One screen location opened in 1954. It's just like it was when built. It has a small-town feel with great cheeseburgers. There's outdoor seating, too! Bounce with your friends on vintage metal lawn chairs in front of the concession stand where speakers hang nearby so you can get out of your car and watch the movie in the open air." 817-573-1311.

Movie Manor Motor Inn/Star Drive-in

Monte Vista, Colo.

"This classic has a playground and great food. And there's an extra bonus: You can watch movies (through a large picture window) from your motel room," which faces a giant outdoor screen and has sound piped in. "It's in excellent condition. It's like perfect. An added bonus: cool Colorado nights." 800-771-9468 or 719-852-5921.

Rodeo Drive-in

Port Orchard, Wash.

"They have three screens, a playground, swap meets and FM sound. For my perspective, northern Washington gives you a good picture because there's very little ambient light." 360-698-6030.

Silvermoon Drive-in

Lakeland, Fla.

"It's the only drive-in we know with homemade pizza and beer. Features the original neon sign. It's one of Florida's first drive-ins (built in 1948), but it's still in very good shape." There's a swap shop/flea market on Saturday and Sunday mornings. 863-682-0849.

66 Drive-in

Carthage, Mo.

"Completely restored (and reopened in 1998), it's located directly on old Route 66. It has its original glass-block ticket booth, plus its original neon sign. It's cool." 417-359-5959.

Hull's Drive-in

Lexington, Va.

"When the owner died, local townspeople founded Hull's Angels. Their efforts kept the drive-in open. It has its original grass field (from 1950), which slopes nicely to provide a great view of the screen." It's the country's only non-profit, community-owned drive-in. *540-463-2621*.

Capri Drive-in

Coldwater, Mich.

"The original family runs the theater, which has great food and the original neon sign. Great FM sound system, too. This family (Tom and Sue Magocs) really knows what a drive-in experience should be. Cool nights!" *517-278-5628*.

Becky's Drive-in

Berlinsville, Pa.

"Possibly America's best drive-in experience. The same family has run the theater for 50 years. They were showing movies here before there were drive-ins, setting up chairs behind a restaurant. Formerly known as the Route 45 Drive-In, this operation is one of the earliest drive-ins in America. It has never closed. Great family atmosphere, complete with pony rides." *610-767-2249*.

Skyline Drive-in

Barstow, Calif.

"Re-opened in 1996 (after being dark for nine years), it features two screens and clear California nights. There's a clean, comfortable concession stand. The setup is pristine." *760-256-3333*.

49er Drive-in

Valparaiso, Ind.

"There's a brand-new air-conditioned concession stand, which serves Orville Redenbacher popcorn, this city being the home of his popcorn. It was brought back from the dead 17 years ago. It's in great shape now." *219-462-6122*.

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