

# Daily Courier: 1948 Rutherford County film resorted, digitalized

Showing April 14

Mar. 29, 2015 @ 09:45 AM

Stephanie Janard

The DVD cover features a blue background with white text and several black and white images. On the left, a text block describes the restoration project. Below it are four small film stills. On the right, the title is written in a cursive font, followed by 'A film by Don Parisher - 1948'. Below this is a large film still of a woman in a factory, and two smaller film stills at the bottom. At the bottom left, contact information for the Rutherford County Historical Society is provided. At the bottom right is the NURAY DIGITAL logo.

**This is Progressive Rutherford County**

The restoration and digitization of this film, produced and directed by Don Parisher in 1948, is a heritage project of the Rutherford County Historical Society, coordinated by Robin S. Lattimore, Lesley Bush and Phillip White. The copy used for this project originally belonged to the late Morris & Sylvia Littman, and Dorothy Littman Zizes, owners of the Sylvan Theater in Rutherfordton, NC. Mr. G. Justin Zizes, Jr. donated the film to the Historical Society in 2014 for preservation.

*This is Progressive Rutherford County*

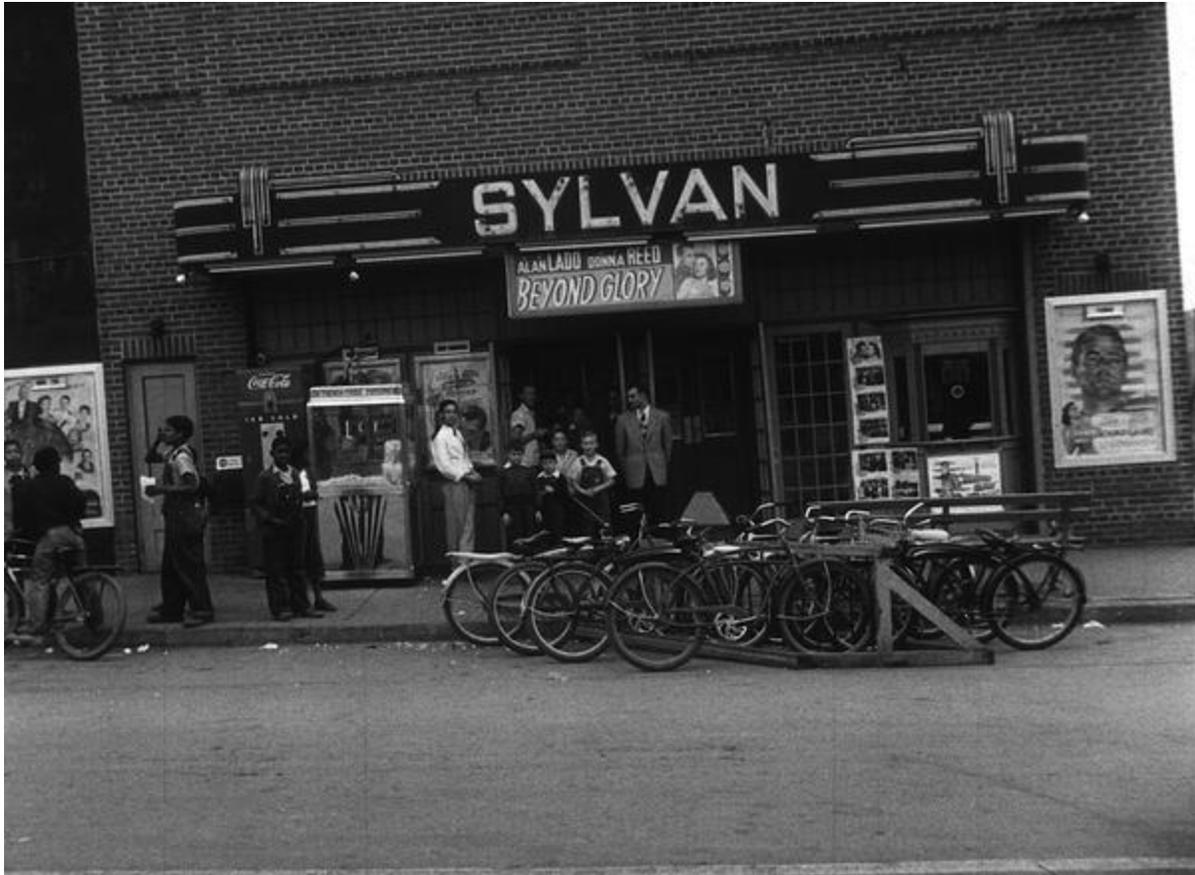
*This is Progressive Rutherford County*  
A film by Don Parisher - 1948

The Rutherford County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1044  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
www.rchsociety.org

NURAY DIGITAL

Contributed photo

The cover of the DVD: This is Progressive Rutherford County. The 1948 film will be shown April 14 at the Retro Cinema in Forest City and DVDs will be available at the showing.



*Contributed photo*

The Sylvan Theater in Rutherfordton was among theaters in Rutherford County in 1948 that played the film, *This is Progressive Rutherford County*. The film has been restored and will be shown April 14 in Forest City by the Rutherford County Historical Society.



*Contributed photo*

Contributed photo Millie Tanner (left) at the Doncaster plant in Rutherfordton with an employee. Doncaster and Stonecutter Mills are among textile plants featured in the 1948 film.

#### RUTHERFORD COUNTY —

Rutherford County in the late 1940s will be depicted on the big screen on Tuesday, April 14, the 236th birthday of the county.

The Rutherford County Historical Society is hosting the premiere of "This is Progressive Rutherford County" at the Retro Cinema theatre in Forest City.

The restoration and digitization of the film, produced and directed by Don Parisher in 1948, is a heritage project of the Rutherford County Historical Society, coordinated by Robin S. Lattimore, Lesley Bush and Phillip White.

The film was recently digitalized by Nuray Media based in Hilton Head, South Carolina with the help of Nuray's president Sharon Decker.

The copy used for the project originally belonged to the late Morris and Sylvia Littman, and Dorothy Littman Zizeses owners of the Sylvan Theater in Rutherfordton. G. Justin Zizes, Jr. (Dorothy's son) donated the film to the Rutherford County Historical Society in 2014 for preservation. The Zizes' were members of the Rutherford County Historical Society.

Although the county's public premiere of the movie is going to be April 14, the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County got a sneak peek of the film at its meeting Saturday at the genealogical library on Doggett Road in Forest City.

"It was on a television screen there. On April 14 it will be on the big screen at the theatre," Lattimore said.

The original film was done in October and November 1948, reported the Forest City Courier. It premiered in January 1949 in movie theaters across Rutherford County — Romina, Grace, Carolina, Sylvan and the Cliffside theatre.

"It was a 35 MM, full studio quality film," Lattimore said.

The film included full narration with a soundtrack.

"We can't tell for sure who paid for the film but it was meant to promote industry and business in Rutherford County," Lattimore said.

The movie begins with a country scene at the former J.J.Hamlin dairy farm where the Boy Scout Camp Bud Schiele is locate today.

"There are tractors with people in fields and then the film moves to downtown Forest City," Lattimore said.

Collins & Evans Company, Davis Sisters, Smith Drugs, Forest City Courier, churches, schools, town council, city hall, city officials and other businesses in Forest City are depicted.

"There is a good overview of Forest City," he said.

The movie moves on to Spindale where there is a feature on Stonecutter Mills and to Rutherfordton where there is a feature about Millie Tanner the Doncaster.

Union Mills and Alexander School are featured as well as Chimney Rock, Lake Lure, agriculture, dairy farms and cotton production."All those kinds of things that were meant to convey history of the county," Lattimore said.

The natural beauty of Rutherford County is also shown.

Movie tickets are \$6 for all ages and the show begins at 7 p.m.

Lattimore and a representative from Nuray will be at the theater to talk about the film and its resurrection to the big screen.

<B>2nd break out box:

Copies of the film on DVD will be available for sale in the theater lobby after the premiere. A Nuray Media representative (probably David H. Stone) will be on site before the film plays to tell the audience a little about Nuray. Sales will help the historical society recoup the money invested in restoration and copying the film which is about \$4,000.