

## Fabiano's Italian Restaurant

When you think of Fabiano's, you may immediately start thinking about your favorite specialty pizza, maybe the Loaded Baked Potato or Mrs. Fabiano's. Did you know that over 100 years ago in the very spot where you are enjoying your slice of pizza there used to be entertainment of another sort? In the early 1900s, Fabiano's was once a place of leisure for Douglas County locals, named The Kozytorium. It was the first moving picture theater in Douglasville.

I'm Rylee Govoreau from the Conference Center and Tourism Department and I'm here with Steve Jones from Community Relations. We have a lot more history to share with you on our Audio Tour, so stay tuned while we tell you more on your tour to Discover Douglasville.

Steve: Thanks Rylee! So, Fabiano's used to be a movie theater?

Rylee: It sure did! The Kozytorium was owned by Vander R. Smith, a well-known businessman who later became Mayor of Douglasville. Before owning the local movie theater, V.R. Smith bought cotton and other farm related items. Many say that Smith was the first person to run a business in this building, yet others are quick to point out that it was actually Joseph C. McCarley who built an establishment on the same lot. He built a five and dime store from the ground up. The store went from being a wooden shack to a brick building that was established in 1909. This store had almost everything for a price that could not be beat! McCarley's five and dime store was the Family Dollar of its time.

Steve: Wow, I can't believe things really used to cost a dime! So, when did the five and dime store become the theater?

Rylee: In 1914, the building was bought by V.R Smith and that's when he opened his theater. The sale of the five and dime did not end McCarley's entrepreneurship, however, and he ended up building next door. In his new building, McCarley sold cameras and printed photos. He named the business Douglas County Sentinel Printing Co. At his new business, McCarley drew customers in by advertising to sell a Kodak camera known as brownie for \$2.50, which in today's price would be \$57.25!

Steve: Wow. As someone who does photography for the Community Relations department, I can not imagine a camera being only \$2.50! What movies did the theater show?

Rylee: Smith wanted the Kozytorium to be a place where the people of Douglasville were able to find entertainment. The theater showed popular movies of the times like "The Neglected Wife" and "Double Cross". Built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many of the movies shown were silent movies, but that did not stop people from enjoying themselves! Talkies, as they were called, did not happen until 1927 when the movie the "Jazz Singer" came out. Ultimately, Smith's theater was a signal of progression and growth for the City of Douglasville.

Steve: That's all really cool. Are there any existing parts of the building that are original construction?

Rylee: I am happy you asked. Here's a fun fact for you! Next time you go inside Fabiano's, look at the floor. The mahogany flooring is original to the building! Can you imagine how many people have walked on this floor? Also, have you noticed that the ceiling is still curved? This helped the acoustics to be amplified in the theater. The history of Douglasville's past is still alive and well in the present!

Steve: Wow, thanks for sharing all that important history. I heard Fabiano's has Trivia, want to go put our history lesson to the test and share a pizza? I am also a big fan of their tater tots!

Rylee: I would love to! My stomach is growling after all this talk about pizza. There's a lot of rich history in this area and more to still learn, so if you haven't listened to the whole Audio Tour yet, stay tuned and head to the next stop!