

Bye! Bye!

SPLINTERS

SEAT CAMPAIGN

Dear Friend:

When the **TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE OUTDOOR DRAMA** had its premier performance in August 1964, (after organizing in '63), the natural slope of the transformed “potato patch” adjacent to the **June Tolliver House** easily accommodated lawn chairs for seating. It was an economical mode of seating as well as comfortable. However, they were not permanent and could be somewhat “rickety”. In damp weather the legs of the lawn chairs would sink in the chips and become off-balance. It wasn't long before the time came when they had to be replaced.

So in the late 60's wooden benches with backs were designed and built on the site by Board members, Cast members and Volunteers. A successful campaign raised enough money for the materials. The new benches gave a more permanent atmosphere to the theater plus they were relatively comfortable. They were sturdy in many ways, but subject to weather damage. After numerous years rotting of the bench's wooden legs in the dirt and wood chips covering the grounds of the theater became a problem of maintenance, and splinters began to raise their “ugly sticky points”.

Now, after about forty years of “patching” and repairs, the time has come to replace the “splintered” benches with a permanent weather resistant seating that will last for many years to come. This would also allow the theater to be utilized from early spring through late fall, weather permitting, for other events such as concerts, festivals, children's theater, mountain music evenings, etc..

Once again we need the support of the community – businesses, cast alumni, professionals, companies and citizens – to help us with this project. Our goal is \$100,000 for the installation of approximately 326 seats, 6 to 8 handicap wheelchair spaces, repairs to the front apron of the stage and also the pond, waterfall and bridge from the audience area up to the stage. Our designs for this project have been completed by Thompson & Litton Architectural Firm of Wise, VA.

All of the seats will be of a polypropylene that will fold up when not in use to allow for drainage during wet weather. Each seat will also have a cup holder for the audience's convenience in the placing of drinks, programs, etc. The new seating and the grounds are also designed in a style allowing us to retain the rustic and natural setting of the theater as much as possible.

The first four rows of seats will be priced at **\$500** each and known as the **FOX Seats**. These seats will be dark forest green in color and a plaque will be placed on the back of each seat telling who donated the funds for that seat and in whose honor (or memory) that seat represents. There will be a total of 84 seats available in this area.

