



## *From Sandstone Minnesota ...* Midwest Country

Sandstone, Minnesota is not exactly the nation's entertainment capital. But, for many traditional country music fans it's a place they come to enjoy country music, the way it was in years gone by. Almost every weekend the stage lights up and the cameas roll, the theater is filled with the aroma of freshly popped popcorn, and people line up to yet another country show.

The theater at 309 Commercial Ave, Sandstone population 2000 opened in 1997 as a former movie theater. The building was built in 1921 in the days of sandstone's mining and railroad industry. It first opened as an opera house and the in the 1930's was converted to a movie theater.

Joe Jensen 61, wife Kathy along with their son Jeff bought the theater in 1997. Jensen was a TV repair shop owner and had been producing a television show

on the Twin Cities channel 23 in the early 90's. The show was recorded in the TV shop, ballrooms, and highschools.

The Theater is a smoke & alcohol free environment where Grand Ole Opry and Nashville artist perform such as Connie Smith, Kitty Wells, Stonewall Jackson, Hank Thompson, and David Frizzell to mention just a few.

Also local and regional artist from Minnesota Sherwin Linton, Connie Lee, and Branson artists Tommy & Debbie Horton, Ronnie Prophet, and Entertainers from just about anywhere will appear on Midwest Country's Stage.

Midwest Country has its own house band; Leroy Glazier, Joe Savage, Dehl Gallagher, and Brad Heck. The band backs a host of local, regional, and very often