



## *De's Dazzles – Road to Success*

Thank you to the Adams Community Chamber for the honor of John McMahon Volunteer of the Year! And for the Adams Community Foundation Grant to repair our fascia and gutters this spring! Our historical story would make a great book, with a little mystery, loss, adversity, growth, disappointment, detours, and triumphs! This road to success is always under construction!

**CHAPTER 1 *Optimistic Dreams*** 1900–1902 FC Reese purchased the corner lot after the great fire burned down the First National Bank and pieced together a plan to build the opera house.

**CHAPTER 2 *Growing*** 1902 – Mid-20S Vaudeville acts arrive by train. Fiddle contests sell out. High School Students perform plays. Declamatory (speech) contests do well.

**CHAPTER 3 *Struggles are Real*** 1920S TO 1934 Different owners try to make it work. American Theater opens and opera house audience dwindles. Try something new with greased pig contests on stage and boxing matches on main floor. Tragedy strikes with the death of FC Reese in the basement. Then the opera house goes dark.

**Chapter 4 *Change is Good*** 1935 –1999 Gauthier and Field families own the Free Press located on the first floor. Their children played basketball in the auditorium. Technology is changing.

**CHAPTER 5 *Needing Guidance*** 1999–2000 Field family donated building to the city with the hopes that one day it could be restored to a functioning opera house. A non-profit organization is formed and starts planning.

**CHAPTER 6 *Raising Funds*** 2000–2012 Architect created a restoration plan. Fundraising and more fundraising. Opera House received grants.

**CHAPTER 7 *Fesh Start*** 2012 – 2020 Live entertainment. Tours. Rentals. Steadily growing. Won national SCORE awards. All roads that lead to success must pass through the hard work boulevard at some point in time.

**CHAPTER 8 *Covid*** 2020–2022 Covid shut down. The ghost light stands alone. The pain is real. It is tempting to park along the road to success.

**CHAPTER 9 *Big Come Back*** 2022 – 2024 Sold out Sidewalk Prophets Concert. Largest number of tours in one year. Sold out CCR concert. New board members. More determination. More dreams.

To make a best-selling book, the book should be one you just can't put down, with a little strangeness, some controversy, in extreme situations that give you a reason to care. That way people tell other people who tell others, word of mouth is the most effective selling tool we have! So, will you help spread the word about the opera house? Thanks for the two thumbs up!

Sincerely,  
*De Heaton*  
Executive Director  
2/2/24