

HISTORY & FOLKLORE

From The Liberty Gazette, Thursday, May 4, 1972 -

A.R. Milentz Was Second of Four Generations of Movie Theater Operators

Funeral services for Arthur Robert Milentz Sr., 77, of Liberty were conducted at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 30, at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Jim Shelton and Rev. Melvin Davis officiating. Burial was the Fairlawn Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Allison Funeral Service, Inc. of Liberty.

Mr. Milentz died at 5:50 a.m., Saturday, April

29, at Kersting Hospital, Liberty. He was a native of St. Louis, Mo., but had lived in Liberty since 1929 where he was owner of the Park and Milentz Drive-In theaters. He had formerly owned theaters in Freeport and Daisetta.

He was a member of the Liberty Lodge #48, AF&AM and the First Methodist Church. He was a prominent businessman and rancher.

He leaves one son, A.R. Milentz Jr. of Liberty; one sister, Mrs. Winona Wright of Columbus; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Pallbearers were Dr. A.O. Sitton, Dr. Don P. Schulz, Travis Brand, Max Hardy, Sam Partlow, Ernest Dunn, Joe Blake, Tom Odell, Reuben Allison, Nelson Waldrop and Kenneth Dismukes.



Mr. Arthur R. Milentz Sr. in 1961. He once operated Dayton's Rio Theater for a short while in 1935.

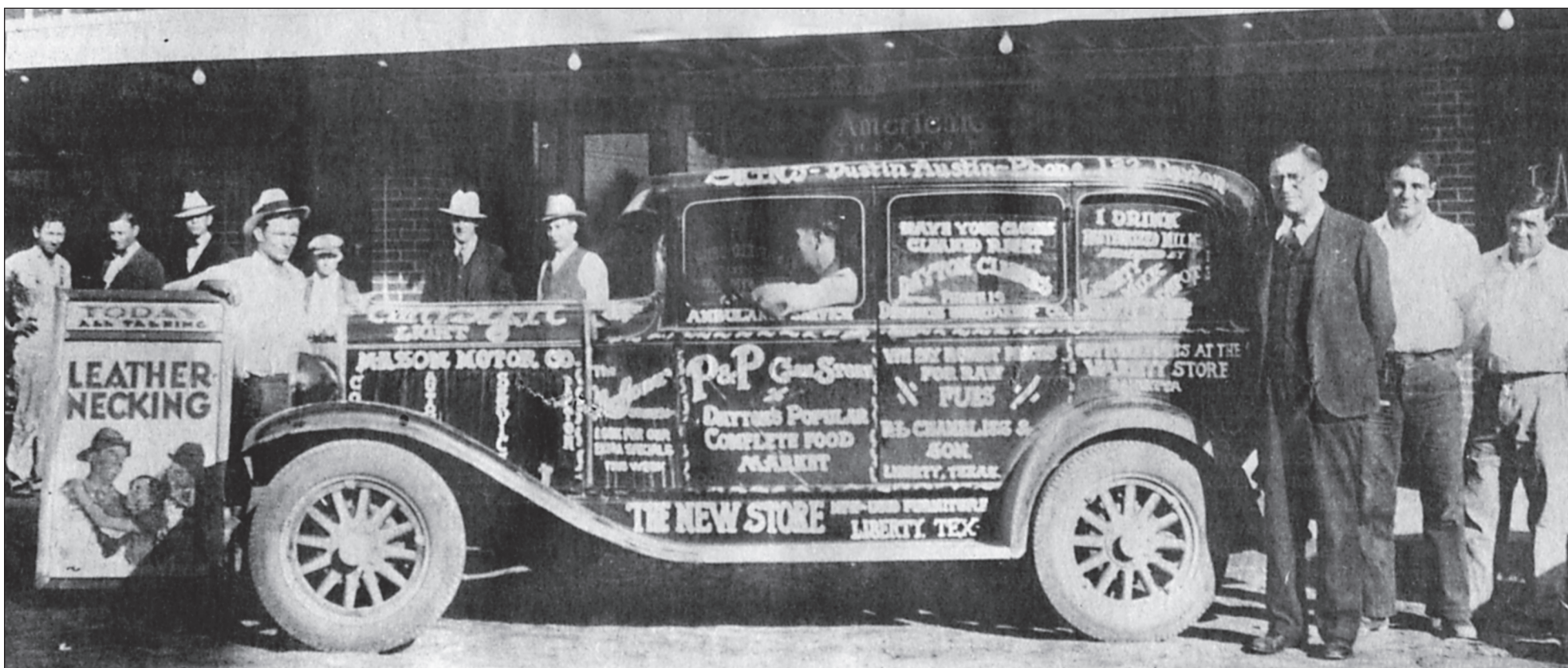


Mr. A.R. Milentz Sr. was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Above is the home where he was born in 1894; below is the building in which he had his first store in 1918. He took this picture of it in 1954.



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Mr. Arthur Robert Milentz, left, who died this week, has been a pioneer in the movie theater business. He is seen here in 1948 at the funeral of his father, Albert Robert Milentz, who owned the first theater in Columbus, Texas, early in the century. In the center is A.R. "Bob" Milentz Jr. with sons, Carl and Ray on the ground. At right is Mr. Carl Milentz, brother of the late Mr. A.R. Milentz Sr., who operated the Daisetta Theater in the 1930s to World War II, when he went to San Antonio and built a theater.



An old car used in a theater promotion stands outside the Milentz operated American Theater in Liberty. Next to the car at right is Mr. Goot. Behind the car at left is Mr. A.R. Milentz Sr. The American Theater was originally the Ager Theater and Mr. Milentz renamed it when he bought it. After he built the Park Theater in the late 1930s he put the other on part time.

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