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Disclaimer: This document was written in 1995 and concerns memories of 1930s life; as such there may be opinions expressed or words used that do not meet today's norms and expectations.

- \* Transcript ID: AO-95-175PL003
- \* Scan ID: AO-95-175PL003
- \* CCINTB Document ID: 95-175-9a-c
- \* Number of pages: 3
- \* Date sent: 20 June 1995
- \* Transcribed by: Jamie Terrill/Standardised by: Jamie Terrill
- \* Format: Letter
- \* Details: from Arthur Orrell to Valentina Bold
- \* Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including all spelling and grammatical errors. Letter of local history information, enclosed with clipping from Bolton Evening News (Accession: AO-95-175AR002)

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20 June 1995

[redacted]

Great Lever

Bolton BL3 - [redacted]

Dear Val.

I write with just a few snippets of information re 'the cinema' which I have come across since we last met. By coincidence our local evening paper had a fair coverage of Bolton & District cinemas that existed over a long period. This was so recent as last night and so I felt that it would make a useful addition to your notes.

Reference is made to there being five cinemas in Farnsworth - alas they have omitted one called the Kings Hall a favourite of mine in 1925 located on an upper floor - the ground floor could have been a warehouse or similar use - until recently it has been in use for amateur dramatics.

I wonder if you are aware of the weekly supplements of the Sunday Times which are magazines giving a total of 1000 mini-biographies of film stars and directors of the past. Number 4 will be available next Sunday - they are most interesting and bring back many memories.

Additionally, in my pursuit of local history books that have mention of cinema going in the past I have made a note of items that you may find of interest and are as follows

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A locally produced book - A4 size approx. 50 pages called "Bolton Memories" by Norman Kenyon - it has 5 pages referring to cinema going published by Neil Richardson - £3.00 of [redacted] Stoneclough.

Another I came across as I wandered through the artifacts shop at the Bolton Museum was called \*see below "My Lancs Childhood" by Catherine Rothwell £2.99 was £10.95 - with 5 pages of cinema topic - a glance through it showed that as a pre-teenage girl her favourite film star was Tom Mix - she regretted that she could not remember the name of his horse - - which I shall always remember was 'Tony' - of course at that time other well known cowboy stars had horses with names familiar to cinema goers - a turning point seemed to arrive when talkies became popular and so we got the 'singing cowboy' such as Gene Autry and Roy Rogers - Quite a few of the original stars eventually became directors and producers, even stuntmen. Many stars of quality did not make the grade when talkies arrived due to lack of voice potential.

\*Produced by a firm called "OWL BOOKS" a Lancashire publishing company.

I will do promised photographs of cinema locations as soon as convenient and let you have them

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During a conversation we had I mentioned an interest in a "Mass Observation" subject done by Tom Harrison a while ago with special emphasis on Bolton life. I said that on looking through my collection of audio tapes I had some relating to the subject including one of "Humphrey Spender, photographer" - On replaying them I found them most interesting again.

If you are interested in them and I hope that they are not identical to information you already have it would give me pleasure to record them so that you too would have copies - I did the recordings from radio some years ago.

Finally I trust that the above is of help to you in your project - if I can be of further help do not hesitate to ask.

Thanks again for the second interview I really enjoyed it and it gave me additional pleasure to show you a little more of historical Manchester.

Very Best Wishes

Arthur