

\*\*\*\*\*

Disclaimer: This document was written in 1992 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: LS-92-006PL003  
\* Scan ID: LS-92-006PL003  
\* CCINTB Document ID: 92-6-3  
\* Number of pages: 1  
\* Date sent: 15 December 1992  
\* Transcribed by: Jamie Terrill/Standardised by: Jamie Terrill  
\* Format: Letter  
\* Details: from Lawrence Stirling to Annette Kuhn  
\* Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including some spelling and grammatical errors. Mr Stirling put a 50-year restriction on sharing personal background information.

\*\*\*\*\*

[redacted]

Paisley, [redacted]

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

Dear Miss Kuhn,

I thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> December, and I really must apologize for not attending your meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which I am afraid was nothing to do with the weather or other pressures - I simply forgot! It is to be hoped you will be having another meeting soon when we can really get together!

However, meantime enclosed is the questionnaire with some answers which may add a little to your researches. I can add a little more background here, as you may be a little confused as to how I covered such a range of cinemas at an early age. Although born and brought up in [redacted] (which had three cinemas well into the 60's and now has none) I spent a lot of time in Glasgow [redacted] for I loved the city at that time in the 30's - not least the tramway system! So in Partick alone there were five cinemas at one time, the Rosevale (now bingo as you know) The Tivoli (Crow Rd); The New Partick (Vine Street - the best for double feature lengthy programmes, Saturday forenoon specials for kids); The Western (opposite the foot of Dowanhill St - recently demolished

after standing in ruin for years) and the Standard (long since disappeared, just after the war) was located in Dumbarton Road between the street opposite the underground and the foot of Church St. (A fleapit!)

The Paramount (Odeon Renfield St) was clearly my favourite city cinema, with the Regent (now gone) and the Regal and The Picture House (later the Gaumont) also great favourites as well as La Scala. The Cosmo (now GFT) was always a favourite from the day it opened! I would of course travel as far as the Tudor (Giffnock) or to the Princes (Springburn), more travel of course when I was a bit older in post-war years. 1946 on was still a peak time for cinema and it was then sad to see so many closing. However, I see that your heading is Popular Cinema in the thirties! I can certainly recall very long queues not only in Glasgow but elsewhere. In Alloa, at one of the three cinemas (The Central) you had no hope of getting in unless you booked for the Saturday evening, so it was not unknown for me to have to queue on a Saturday morning at their booking office for tickets for Saturday night for my parents and sister. You were then lucky to get four seats at our price of 1/9d! The last film to be shown there incidentally was "Ben Hur" - sold out for the week, then the cinema closed for good. I stood in Glasgow for almost two hours for "Gone with the Wind" and indeed for any blockbuster.

Hope these little memories help somewhat. Until we do meet then...

Yours sincerely

[signed]

L. J. Stirling.