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[redacted]

Clydebank

29 Nov. 1994

Dear Annette,

I am President of the Clydebank branch of the WEA, which you visited recently. My name is Ruby Stewart and my birth date is [date and month redacted]/13. So now 81 years, and found it difficult to answer your questionnaire, since it applied to a later date. My family came to live in Clydebank from the N.E of Scotland when I was eight years old. My first memories were of going to a small picture hall named the Cinema but the C was a hard sound so usually called the Kinsky. It was entered by a down sloping passage which had a peculiar smell of the spray they used. It was considered a poor class of picture hall, but it was a great treat to us as there was always the continued story with the heroine being tied a railway line. The name Pearl White comes to mind. This picture hall was near where I lived, but when I was a bit older and allowed to go down to Clydebank we went to see films shown in the Cooperative Hall. Here is where I think of Clara Bow. Then came the great invention of the talkies and I will remember going with two chums from the Singer factory where I worked and would have been 17 or so. I was married at 24 yrs in 1937, though Allan and I courted for several years. Both of us were active in many ways, but the problem of marriage had to be shelved as the employment situation was so bad it was difficult to save any money. We were not ardent picture goers, but the special ones come to mind like Gone With the Wind in a hall just of Sauchiehall St. Deanna Durbin was a favourite. We went to the Glasgow Empire

where the best talent in the world performed such as Gracie Fields, Cab Calloway, Hutch etc etc. The Clydebank Blitz was on 13 & 14 March 1941 and on 13th I was invited by friends to have dinner in Lewis's Polytechnic at mid-day then to the Paramount where "The Mask of Zorro" [possibly referring to *The Mark of Zorro* (1940)] was showing. I would never have remembered this but for the significance of the date.

I really don't help you very much but just thought I would let you know I was interested in your talk.

Clydebank was well served in the early days with the Bank Cinema, The Empire, Pavilion, Palace. In the thirties the plushy La Scala was opened now bingo + snooker. Yours Ruby Stewart