
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.

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* Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including some spelling and grammatical errors.

PLEASE FIND TIME TO READ ALL

I THINK YOU MAY FIND IT INTERESTING

ZONIA IVES

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GT YARMOUTH

NORFOLK

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, FOR MAKING ME THINK AND REALIZE WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE I'VE HAD. YOU SAY NAME THREE NAMES, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE AS THERE WERE SO MANY GREATS. INCLUDING YOUR PHOTO EDWARD G. ROBINSON, CARY GRANT, MYRNA LOY, ANNE SOTHERN, DAVID NIVEN, I THINK WERE 40s BUT RICHARD ARLEN, RALPH BELLAMY, FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW, WILL FYFFE, THE CRAZY GANG, GORDON HARKER, RALPH LYNNE, RALPH BELLAMY WILLIAM POWELL, JOAN BLONDELL, DICK POWELL, ROLAND YOUNG, ROLAND CULVER, GEORGE SANDERS WERE ONLY SOME EVERYONE NEVER MISSED AS WE ALL [K]NEW THEY NEVER MADE A BAD FILM.

AS I SAID MY DAD OWNED THE LOCAL FLEA PIT (EVERY TOWN HAD ONE). OURS WAS THE PLAZA. MY DAD AND MUM WERE MUSIC HALL ARTISTS, WHEN VARIETY BEGAN TO DIE OUT A FEW ARTISTS TOOK CINEMAS ALL OVER THE PLACE. MY BROTHER STARTED HIS MUSICAL CAREER IN GLASGOW FUNNILY ENOUGH AT A PLACE CALLED "THE LOCARNO" WITH TEDDY JOYCE AND HIS 25 KILTIE JUNIORS, GEORGE CHISHOLM, STAN STENNET, AND VENNESSA LEIGH, LATER BIG STARS WERE WITH HIM. I KNEW HE USED TO DO TWO SHOWS A NIGHT ONE IN EDINBURGH SOMETIMES PUSHING THE OLD MORRIS IN COLD WEATHER TO START. THEY MADE THREE FILMS, "STEPPING STONES" WITH HAZEL ASCOT, "TALKING FEET", AND "CAVALCADE OF VARIETY". HE WAS 17 THEN. HE HAD A BIG CAREER IN VIEW, BUT AT NINETEEN IT ALL CHANGED. HE WAS IN SINGAPORE, BUT AFTER HE DIED I GOT SOME GREAT LETTERS SAYING HOW HIS SHOWS KEPT THEM ALIVE AT THE END OF THE DAY, AS THEY WERE SO HUNGRY AND ILL AND BERNIE GOT UP CONCERT PARTIES. WHEN HE CAME HOME BIG BANDS WERE FINISHED AND HE USED TO SERENADE ANIMALS HE'D SAY, AS HE WAS MUSICAL DIRECTOR AT ALL CIRCUSES SMARTS, CHIPPERFIELDS, BILLY RUSSELLS IN YARMOUTH, HE PLAYED FOURTEEN INSTRUMENTS, HE USED TO SIT WITH ME AS KIDS EVERY TEATIME WE WOULD GO TO MEET DAD SIT IN THE MIDDLE BLAKE [sic] ROW AND NO HEADS IN FRONT, AND WE WOULD BE WITH FLO ZIEGFELD, MR MICAWBER ALWAYS SINGING ALWAYS LAUGHING, I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW LUCKY WE WERE. DAD LET THE UNEMPLOYED IN THE MATINEE FOR 3d. IF THEY SMOKED THEY GOT 2 WOODBINES IF THEY DIDN'T THEY GOT A BAG OF PINK + WHITE COCONUT ICE. HE WOULD SAY ITS BETTER TO HAVE A FULL HOUSE AT 3d THAN AN EMPTY ONE AT 9d.

SAT MORNING THE KIDDIES BROUGHT A 1d AND A POTATO, THEY PUT POTATOES IN A SACK BY THE CASHIER AND THESE WENT TO THE LOCAL HOSPITAL AND WORKHOUSE WHICH AS THERE WAS NO NATIONAL HEALTH WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. "MICHAEL WINNER" MAKES ME SO COSS WHEN HE SAYS WE HAD VIOLENT FILMS. HE FORGETS WE KIDS HAD "U" FILMS, "A" FILMS WERE MUCH LESS VIOLENT AND AS KIDS WE DIDN'T SEE THEM, AND THE BAD MEN LOST, BUT WE DID HAVE MUSIC, WE ALL DREAMT OF BEING A FILM STAR, WE ALL LAUGHED WITH EACH OTHER, AND NOT AT EACH OTHER. I DO HOPE YOU WILL READ ALL THIS AND SOMEDAY POINT OUT TO WHAT CINEMAS WE HAVE LEFT, IF THEY HAD FOLLOWED MY DAD'S IDEA OF A FULL

HOUSE AT CHEAPER PRICES FOR MATINEES WE MORE THAN LIKELY WOULD HAVE A LOT LESS BINGO HALLS.

I WISH MY GRANDCHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATION HAD THE SAME WONDERFUL LIFE I HAVE HAD, BUT I'M AFRAID NOT.

VERY SINCERELY

ZONIA M IVES

P.S. I THINK PROGRESS IS THE WORST THING EVER THOUGHT OF!!