

20 June 95.

(1)

GREAT LEVER  
BOLTON BL3

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 Tarnworth - 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 perusal 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

(2)  
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. 7 Ringley Rd Stoneclough

Another I came across as I wandered through the  
artifacts shop at the Bolton Museum was called  
see below\* "My hanco 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

(3)

During a conversation we had I mentioned an interest in a "Mass Observation" subject done by a 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 <sup>the</sup> 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