

Faisley,
Renfrewshire.

Dear Miss Kuhn,

First of all apologies for a ribbon which is acting up! You will have to put up with a red black blend, I'm afraid!

I was most interested in your appeal re. old movies and movie going generally in the Neville Garden programme this lunch-time. I don't know if I can contribute really very much for you are likely to have many helpers, I should imagine. Anyway, I [redacted] (giving away my age more or less!) I [redacted] (where it then had 3 cinemas - none now) but also spent many holidays in Glasgow with my grandparents and therefore frequented many of the Glasgow cinemas. They lived in Partick which pre-war had five cinemas: The Tivoli (Crow Rd) The Rosevale (now bingo) The New Partick (Vine St.) and now gone. The Western (it remained derelict as you probably know for many years across from Dowanhill St. and the Standard which many don't remember but was situated in Dumbarton Road - (taperwiter finally jammed!)? Sorry!) - further east in Dumbarton Rd, near Church Street.

It is quite vivid to me the queues that was part of cinema-going, even in the suburbs of Partick and Hillhead. "Double-bills" were the order of the day, plus travel, cartoon (always) and newsreel. And it was possible, I can recall, to be admitted to the "leapits" of the Western and Standard with jam jars in lieu of pennies! This for a programme which could last more than 3 hours! - I queued for probably two hours at least for "Gone with the Wind" when it appeared in the Regal. But the Paramount was "the cinema" (Videon Renfield St.) for it had no doubted

atmosphere - but the Regal had the
movable organ for interval entertainment
"The Picture House" (later Gaumont) had a
marvellous foyer. I recall as well the
La Scala with 100 restaurant.
I recall in the Paramount for "Victorian
(1937?) the Great" - seeing it three times in
one day for a shilling! The queues
would be long. West Regent St. and
down West Nile St. - The same ritual
we went through when "Sixty Glorious
Years" brought Anna Neale to reinforce
the earlier box-office success!

At Parkside, - the "New Parkside" had
for children the best Saturday morning
programme imaginable. - A western usually +
Lancel + Hardy or George Formby + a serial
with Larry Austin Clarke, a cartoon,
a travelogue + the newsreel, of course.
But at any time the Vine St. cinema
had the best value money - usually
4 hours in the evening! (Even in later
years.) What predominates in my
recollections is the "infinite variety" of
films. - There was none of this irritating
duplication of the same film being

shown in different suburbs. You could be sure that the Grosvenor or Salon at Sheffield or the Commodore at Easttown showed never be playing the same films as Parkside were showing.

In the new years, I still visited Glasgow a lot, meeting up now with friends - and we could virtually look the papers AND FIND your favorite actors. During a phase of watching Mack Bros. films, I recall making our way to the Prince's at Springburn (only a few pence in the time!) to see a double bill of two Mack Bros. films. You could find two westerns, or a combination of thriller + comedy or western. Only musicals and the big epics tended to be 'single features.' Cinema-going was a compulsive habit then - now I never go. I have no idea what they are like as cinemas, but the range of horror upon horror is a complete turn-off. In all our years in Paisley (about 20) we have been to the local Kelburne but once - and one other cinema but once. There is just no comparison P.T.O.

with the old days.

I went less after the war, not that there was any marked deterioration - for for it! - but increasingly I went to the theatre more and more.

On my visits to Adloa (now working in), the three cinemas there did great business for many years. During the war, in two of three cinemas it was absolutely necessary to book for a Saturday night - no matter what was showing. - Still good films then, of course! Pre-war the decent was on American films - post-war British came more and more to the fore - and rightly so! But I remember as a boy pre-war an uncle or aunt saying "we won't go to that one - it's BRITISH!"

Neville Gaden was right about the "1/4d" seats but not the "popcorn" incidentally. That is an anachronism! All I can recall was waitresses serving ice-cream tubs and pokes of sweets. - No counters, no snuff. - No popcorn ... too noisy!!
How we put up with "the smoke"

in those days, I will never know!
No one obviously complained, as we
suffered with smarting eyes. Terrible
at times, but still the cinema was
the place to go!

If I can help you in any other
way, please let me know! I think
I must have been in 90% of the
city's cinemas from Kildare in the east
to Dalman in the west.

Without doubt to go to the
Paramount, La Scala, Regal or Ascut
(Amisland - later the Odéon, I think)
were major events - and later ~~the~~
the intimacy of the Commo (GAT) where
"Hamlet" (Olivier) "Third Man" "Fallen
Idol" first appeared to packed houses!

Yours sincerely,

L.T. Stirling