

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS



Acts changed daily at theater's shows

Second of two parts

The Kunsky-Birmingham Theatre ad in The Eccentric on Jan. 19, 1928, not only promoted vaudeville Friday evenings but also Sunday (Continuous Performance). Still "So advance in prices."

News pages of The Eccentric didn't detail anything about the vaudeville acts, although there was a column of theater news that told about shows at Detroit's legitimate theaters—The Bonstelle, Cass, Garrick and Lafayette—as well as gave plotlines of the movies at the Kunsky-Birmingham.

By mid-March, the theater's ad read: "You will like the big week-end vaudeville show that have been secured especially for Birmingham. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 5 big acts. Changed every day, 5 big acts."

Friday's features were Gene Gorey and his Orchestra of 7 Pieces; the Midnight Stoppers, three dancers playing Birmingham just previous to an engagement at the Oriental in Chicago; Florence Mitchell, in song and dance; and Rose LaFrance, songs.

SATURDAY OFFERED Jack Douglas and Band, with Jack as master of ceremonies "and you should hear that band;" Patsy Griffin, songs that will delight you; Evelyn Hoffman, dancer extra-ordinary; Ted Stanley, comedy singing and novelty dancing; and the Serventy Twins, in snappy comedy dance of the Bowery.

Sunday's show was Harry Ludwig and Band; Miley Dolley in song and dance; Seb Meza, dancer extraordinary; Frances and Rex, two girls with feel that can dance, and Dean Newton, soloist with the Michigan Theatre Symphony Orchestra.

On Jan. 23, 1928, the Kunsky-Birmingham Theatre ad welcomed home "Birmingham's Boy Wonder Broadus Erle" who was scheduled for two shows only, on Friday night.

Young Erle was called a "child violin virtuoso, direct from a tour of the world's most notable vaudeville theaters. He was accompanied by Eddie Edwards. The ad described the show as "an artistic stage treat that will astound all Birmingham."

A PHOTO SHOWED Erle looking like little Lord Fauntleroy, a curly-haired moppet, wearing short pants and knee socks, a satin suit with ruffled shirt.

On Page 1 of the same issue, little boy Erle's sad loss of his violin was told. "Child Loses Old Violin, Burglars Escape with \$1,000 Instrument Owned by Prodigy," the headline stated.

The Erle home in Lathrup Township had been entered in the absence of Mrs. Carl Erle and her son's violin taken. "The boy uses the instrument on a national vaudeville circuit," the story read.

Two other area homes also were robbed, indicating the thief may accidentally have come across his valuable booty and not known in advance it was the young star's home.

According to the story, "Detailed descriptions of the stolen violin have been sent to police departments throughout the United States, and musicians' organizations have been notified also."

ON JULY 5, 1928, the Kunsky-Birmingham Theatre announced a different twist in its live entertainment—radio stars on stage.

"The screen's most cooling and refreshing entertainment to be presented with famous radio stars as the added stage attraction." On stage were "Detroit's most notable radio stars, Charlotte Meyers and Mary Tudor, charming singers of lovely songs."

The rest of the summer, however, ads showed just movies. But in the fall, live shows were back in the form of a special junior matinee on Saturdays with Junior Vaudeville.

Other stage attractions included Max Gail, Birmingham's Favorite, with his band and entertainers, Sunday, Sept. 9; Winifred Hutton, Heidi, Birmingham's Favorite Soprano and the Birmingham Harmony Boys (Bill Spence, Cliff Harper, Bill Twigg) at DeMolay Nights, Oct. 10; and a Masquerade Contest on Halloween Night.

On Nov. 8, 1928, the Birmingham Eccentric and Kunsky-Birmingham co-sponsored a Whistling Contest, offering \$25 in cash prizes to Birmingham's "best, funniest, loudest whistlers."

ON DEC. 6, 1928, The Eccentric ran two full pages of news stories and ads about the theater's first anniversary and congratulated the theater "on the new Viaphone"—talking pictures.

"Street Angel" a new Fox picture co-starring Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell was "to bring into use for the first time in Birmingham the new Viaphone."

The Kunsky-Birmingham was the first suburban theater in the Kunsky chain to be equipped with the Viaphone sound equipment.

After that, there were no more vaudeville acts listed in the ads for the Kunsky-Birmingham.

In November 1928, Al Jolson's "The Jazz Singer" played at the theater. This was the first talkie but presumably arrived in Birmingham without sound. Forthcoming movie ads all were promoting the stars talking on film.

And in May, 1929, the ad boasted, "Folks, you ain't seen nothing yet. Al Jolson in 'The Singing Fool' with Davey Lee and Betty Bronson. Hear him sing 'Sonny Boy.' No advance in prices."

So long, vaudeville.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Wood
Vinyl
Aluminum
Replace any style window
Founded 1946
Royal Oak 543-1011 Bloomfield 338-7700

bonded

GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS

Genie 450
\$175.00 installed

CRYPTAR II DIGITAL CONTROLS \$10.00 extra
1 Year Warranty—Any Suburb
ALLIANCE AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.
358-3833 SOUTHFIELD

AUTOMATIC CAR STARTER

IT'S
ALMOST
MAGIC!



FOR MOTHER'S DAY,
FOR FATHER'S DAY,
FOR YOURSELF

- Fully warranted for one full year against defects in material and workmanship.
- Can be installed in any make of car with automatic transmission.
- Turns on car engine, also heating, air conditioning, and defrosting systems when pre-set, any distance up to 400 ft.
- Anti-theft system turns motor off when car door is opened or foot brake is applied.
- Shuts off automatically after 12 minutes.
- Feel secure ... You can turn headlights on in advance when parked in isolated areas.
- Can be transferred from one vehicle to another.
- Ideal for Apartment and office users, also cardiac patients.
- Immediate installation. Your garage or ours. \$350 plus installation.

625-5559
AUTOSTART CO.

Distributor of REMOTSTART
6573 Dixie Highway Clarkston, Mich.

Thursday, May 11, 1978

(T-11D, S-7C, F-16C, Ro-17A) 1013D

Now at 5:30, 6 and 6:30 Joe Glover, Beverly Payne, Walter Cronkite

and the most experienced organizations in television news connect you with all the things you need to know about your world and yourself.

Nobody does it better.

TV 2
WJBK-TV DETROIT

TV2 NEWS
with Joe Glover & Beverly Payne,
at 5:30 and 6:00
CBS EVENING NEWS
with Walter Cronkite
at 6:30



Have the same energy bill in winter and summer.

I'm a Customer Service Representative at a Consumers Power payment counter. And since I see heating bills everyday, I know how they go up and down like Michigan's temperatures.

But you don't have to wait from one month to the next to find out what your bill is going to be.

With our Equal Monthly Payment Plan, you can have the same bill in winter and summer. Here's how it works. We'll average your yearly bill, then divide it into 12 equal payments. Once a year your account will be balanced for over or under payment.

The Equal Monthly Payment Plan won't save you money, but it will help you in planning your budget. Call Consumers Power Company and ask for the Equal Monthly Payment Plan. It sure works well for me.

WANDA HOWARD
Customer Information
Representative
Southeastern Region

"TEN THOUSAND WORKING PEOPLE
BRINGING ENERGY TO YOU"



Consumers
Power



Try-outs open to youngsters

Recalling old vaudeville days, the Birmingham Theatre will hold auditions Monday and Tuesday, beginning at 4:30 p.m., for junior vaudeville.

Programs of junior vaudeville were first presented at the Birmingham Theatre in 1928 when it was a vaudeville house as well as a movie house.

Parents and their children should use the backstage entrance off the parking lot to enter the theater.

The Birmingham Theatre will present its first junior vaudeville shows at

1 and 4 p.m. Sunday, June 11. The shows will give youngsters an opportunity to perform, live on stage.

If the first program is successful, the theater will continue to present junior vaudeville every three or four weeks.

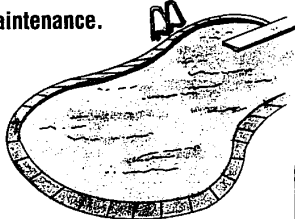
The theater plans this to be the only amateur entertainment it offers. Other shows booked, ranging from comics, singers and jazz musicians to Broadway attractions, will all be of professional caliber.

Considering a new swimming pool or Whirlpool?

we offer you

LOW, LOW, prices...plus one season

FREE maintenance.



We specialize in Hydrotherapy Spa pools

WE ARE A QUALITY POOL BUILDER...

NOT A VOLUME POOL BUILDER...

OPENINGS • CLOSINGS • ALL REPAIRS

S&O Pool Doctors

Tom Stubbs Deal Directly with the Owners 557-6555
Mark Orschkin 557-2657