

For screen buff

Movie nostalgia turns into business

By SUSAN AVERILL

For three months, Michael Taub has been trying to make his hobby into his business.

A former steel worker, the 22-year-old Taub of Westland, decided that up in the air was no place to be. He followed a friend's suggestion and opened the "Classic Movie Center" in downtown Farmington.

To get to the center, you must take a circuitous route through the Farmington Book Center and through the Comic Center downstairs, making a sharp right turn at the bottom.

Fanned to the walls is picture upon poster of well-known movie stars—from Judy Garland with the wistful gaze to confident, cross-armed Robert Redford.

Ask Taub about each one and he could probably tell you the plot. Movies, you see, have always fascinated him. Not making them—he's not interested in that—just viewing them.

"Movies have been a hobby of mine every since I was a kid. I picked up a movie book once and started reading it—and that was it," he said, looking proud.

"I HAVEN'T MADE any films—I don't have any ambition to do that," he said with conviction, "seeming to find the idea distressing."

Yet he plays a starring role as the only three-dimensional human in his one-room store. The ceiling is the only one unoccupied by movies or posters.

His west wall is papered with cinema posters, which he sells for \$3. Movie buffs may note the evolution of artistic representation of movies and their stars, but those who buy are mostly interested in their own emotional connotations to the movie, he said.

Being hard to come by, the cinema posters are the only things Taub has bought from private owners. There's no set place I can buy these posters; there isn't a distributor. Most movie theater owners either keep the posters or give them to employees," he said.

Except for the racks of movies behind his counter, the other walls are occupied by photographs which he also sells.

"See this?" he said, pointing to the picture of a laughing young lady dressed in a disheveled gown. "Most people come in here and say, 'Who's that?'" Judy Garland, matured from the days of the "Wizard of Oz," was the lady in question.

Most of the stars in the still-life posters are more easily recognized. Particularly the famous Playboy published nude of Marilyn Monroe.

If the eyes are allowed to wander downward from Marilyn, they will notice that the subject has been expanded into book form by Norman Mailer.

A WIDER FOCUS of vision will reveal books on Charlie Chaplin. Frank

Sinatra and Ingmar Bergman. Not only are there biographies (Taub's favorite reading) on Newman, Brando and Flynn, but there are books replete with pictures depicting film histories and horrors.

Taub now spends about 50 hours a week working among his posters, pictures, books and ceramic figures of movie stars.

Behind the counter are the store's staples: 8 mm color and black and white movies. Anyone with the proper projector can enjoy color films of "Brian's Song," or "Cat Ballou" for \$49.

Those who dream of having their own movie theaters may begin with

old monster movies or copies of Our Gang and The Three Stooges.

Nostalgia enthusiasts with \$25 may relish an entire 1600-foot reel of Flash Gordon in black and white with sound.

Unless you already have a projector, the hobby may prove expensive. An adequate low-priced projector will sell for nearly \$200, with top-notch ones going for \$1200 and up, Taub said.

For those who must content themselves with photos and books, the Classic Movie Center also offers current magazines on filmmaking.

The store is open noon to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.



Mike Taub sits among the memorabilia of the screen world which has turned from a hobby into a business for the movie buff. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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"Homecoming Sunday," at Forest Hills Missionary Church has been set for Oct. 12 when Rev. Steve Stump has prepared a full day of activities for all the friends of Forest Hills.

The church is located at 30623 Twelve Mile Road, Farmington.

Laurie Smiley, a contralto, and Rev. Lloyd Shaw, a former pastor of the church, are scheduled to be part of the morning services at 9:45 a.m. which leads off the celebration of the church's 25th anniversary.

At 3:30 p.m. present members will get together with former members for a musical concert and this will be followed at 5 p.m. with a pot luck dinner.

At 6:30 p.m. services, the featured speaker will be Lloyd Livingston chaplain for the Detroit Lions.

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