

Livonia Mall To Welcome New 'Twins'

The "twins" are at the Livonia Mall and will open officially on Wednesday, Oct. 13—that's when the doors will swing open to the new and unusual twin theaters, Cinema 1 and 11.

It marks the first twin deluxe theater operation in the suburban Northwest Detroit area. It will be under the supervision of one of the nation's leading theater management companies—General Cinema Corporation of Boston.

Originally a father and son operation, conceived and projected to prominence by the late Phillip Smith and now headed by his son, Richard, it was for years known and operated as the Smith Amusement Company.

It established an enviable record in many sections of the land for progressive innovations in the field of motion picture entertainment.

The "twins" are located on the west side of the huge Livonia Mall, near the entrance to Crowley's, and are designed to take care of all customers—from nine months to 90, with the best and latest movies.

Separate units permit the showing of different pictures in each auditorium which are joined by a single lobby.

The late Phillip Smith, under the identification of the Smith Amusement Co., was the first to successfully operate drive-in theaters in the United States. He introduced them in 10 different states as early as 1935.

His first in Michigan was the East Side Drive-In in Harper Woods. It was followed by the West Side Drive-In in Oak Park which is still operated by the General Cinema Corp.

The first California style restaurants also were opened in the Detroit area known as Richard's Drive-In and the Am-Jo Doughtnut shops.

The Smiths were responsible to a great extent for the present pattern of drive-in theater operation. It was their plan of providing free playgrounds for children that aided in the tremendous growth of the outdoor theaters.

More recently, under the direction of Richard Smith, emphasis has been placed on the creation of new and modern indoor theaters to serve patrons in areas surrounding large shopping centers.

The first such operation was started in 1950 in the Framingham area of Boston. It became the talk of the industry and has set the pattern for dozens of theaters that have been opened and are operating successfully.

These theaters offer the finest in screen entertainment to the public in the atmosphere of informality and with the accessibility found in a shopping center.

General Cinema Corp., the foremost sponsors of the new and novel "twin" theaters has several in operation at the moment and 25 scheduled for completion by the end of 1965.

Immediate public acceptance of these now-in operation, assures that many more will be built in the near future.

Patron comment and suggestion is an important guide to the decisions on which plans for future expansion are made. Frequent surveys of patrons attending theaters operated by the Cinema Corp. keep the management alert to the desires of customers.

Such surveys will be made in the new Livonia operation and the types of pictures presented will be determined by the thoughts of the patrons.

Richard Kline, Detroit division manager for General Cinema, announced that Don Hooten will be manager of the

new Livonia operation, with Mike Wilson as his assistant. The new "twin" will be open daily with continuous showings starting at noon.



Richard Smith

Piggins Cites Ex-Bar Owner

Former Nankin bar owner Bernard "Benny" Ratkos, free under a \$1,000 bond, awaits trial Oct. 13 on charges of violating Grand Jury secrecy rules.

One-man Grand Juror Edward S. Piggins, now in his fourth week of investigating charges of large scale traffic ticket fixing in the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, cited Ratkos who stood mute upon arraignment Friday before Recorder's Court Judge Vincent J. Brennan.

The warrant, signed by Piggins, charges that Ratkos Wednesday "did disregard and/or failed to keep secret his testimony (of Tuesday) and did utter information involved in this Grand Jury inquiry, and did make comment on testimony or evidence pertaining to this inquiry."

It found guilty of the high misdemeanor, Ratkos could receive up to one year in prison and a fine of \$1,000. Ratkos, 60, recently returned from a two-month trip to Poland and was summoned to appear before Piggins.

He is the former owner of a bar at 6021 North Wayne Road, just south of Warren, now the Westland Bar, but then known as the Ben R. Lounge.

Ratkos resides at 8975 North Wayne Road.

The bar has been named by the "Big Five" deputies, who touched off the probe, as a "depot for fixing" under Ratkos' ownership.

Nankin Justice Michael J. Bradley's two aides, Mrs. Lorraine Williams, his legal secretary, and Mrs. Dolores Czaplewski, his court clerk, also appeared before Piggins on Friday.

The judge expects to be in Cleveland until Friday, attending a Masonic convention, but said his staff of investigators and attorneys would continue to interview witnesses.

He announced that he could return at any time he is needed to take testimony.

Franklin High Parents to Get Orientation

Parents of Franklin High School 10th graders will have their own "orientation" program on Wednesday evening, Oct. 6.

They are invited to attend a special Open House at Franklin which will feature abbreviated class schedule designed to enable parents to visit each of their child's classes for about 10 minutes. During this time the classroom teachers will outline course objectives and procedures. Because of the brevity of the class periods, there will be no opportunity for parents to consult teachers concerning individual problems at this time.

In addition to the schedule of classes, the agenda includes a period of time early in the evening when visitors may tour Franklin High School to acquaint themselves with the facilities.

At 8 p.m., visitors will meet in the Leire Theater for brief introductory remarks concerning sophomores and their problems. The schedule of classes will follow this introductory period. After classes, a refreshment period in the school cafeteria will give parents and school personnel opportunity for informal conversation.

Oakland County CC Plans an Open House On Two Campuses

Oakland Community College will be open to the public on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. The Open House will afford interested persons an opportunity to visit the new college which opened its doors on Sept. 1 to upwards of 4,000 students.

Both campuses will be open to the public. Auburn Hills campus is located at 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Heights; and the Highland Lakes campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

Fisher Body Honors 2,600 for Service

Nearly 2,600 employees at the Fisher Body plant in Livonia will be honored beginning Monday for their length of service, it was announced by Paul D. Pender, plant manager. Only in the past few years, 2,570 people will be receiving awards for five and ten years service. In all, 1,250 men and 1,320 women will receive length of service awards. Their combined service totals almost 25,000 years.

The awards, consisting of various styles of jewelry containing the Fisher Coach emblem, will be presented over the next eight weeks. Those employees having 40, 35 and 30 years of service will receive their awards this week.

Pender said that three employees will be receiving the 40-year award, 11 the 35-year award, and 37 the 30-year award.

The employee with the longest service at the plant is Clarence (Sparky) Elliott, 831 Mead, Dearborn.

He started with the Ford Division of General Motors as an office boy 43 years ago. He came to the Livonia Fisher Body plant in 1934 where he was made superintendent of production control, the position which he holds at the present time.

Honors for the longest service among hourly-rate employees will be shared by two ladies, Ann Blivet of Auburn Heights, and Minnie Weaver of Clarkston. Both were employed on the same day, 39 years ago at Fisher Body in Pontiac.

Anna has spent most of her time on assembly operations while Minnie has been engaged in sewing operations. Both worked on bomb fins during World War II, and both came to the Livonia plant in 1957.

During the next two months, nearly 70,000 employees in Fisher plants across the nation will receive awards for their length of service, making the program what is believed to be the largest in industrial history.

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Three Local Areas Study Poverty Plan

Representatives of three western Wayne County communities will meet tonight (Wednesday) to discuss joint plans for setting up a Community Action Program under the Office of Economic Opportunity's anti-poverty efforts.

At Forbes of Redford Township, David Jones of Livonia and a representative of Nankin Township will meet in the Redford Township Hall. They are expected, according to Redford Twp. Supervisor Jack McDonald, to draft plans for a regional survey to determine needs and draft a program.

The meeting comes on the heels of an exchange between McDonald, who is also chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, and Mayor Jerome Cavanagh of Detroit over the destination of federal funds for Wayne County's poverty program.

McDonald said, referring to Cavanagh last Wednesday, those with greater political in-

fluence in Washington get funds first.

"Detroit has received \$5 million in anti-poverty funds since the program began and has been approved for \$7.3 million more. The outcome, on the other hand, has \$3 million in projects which are receiving no attention from the federal OEO."

Cavanagh replied that McDonald's statement was "ridiculous" and added, "I know of many Republican mayors throughout the nation who have received large sums of anti-poverty money. All that is needed is a good program that complies with federal regulations."

In Redford Township, a citizens committee came up with a Community Action Program last spring, but McDonald blocked their recommendations when right-wing groups raised some protests. Later, he said he wanted the program placed on a regional-wide, not a Township-wide basis.

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