In the early years of the twentieth century, Cleveland’s Slavic Village was graced with several entertainment houses which featured the new “moving pictures” of “photoplays” as they were called. The most prominent of these was The Olympia Theater, located at 3365 East 55th Street. Opened as a vaudeville house in 1912, it featured “moving pictures’ as part of the entertainment. Read the Cleveland Press article chronicling its grand opening on Friday, April 12, 1912. As celebrations progressed, the Titanic steamed steadily toward its historic destiny in the North Atlantic off the coast of Newfoundland. That very same newspaper would headline its sinking a few days later.

The organ mentioned in the article was a Moeller, two-manual pipe organ of 24 ranks, Opus 1299, ca. 1910. The organist, Herbert Sisson, was organist at Epworth Memorial Church in University Circle for many years and was also organist at the Alhambra Theater at Euclid and East 105th Street.

It is interesting to note that The Olympia Building last sold in 2014 for $435,000, a price that included only the ground floor stores and apartment suites as the auditorium had been demolished many years ago.

Fleet Avenue was once home to three small moving picture houses. The site of The Edison Theater at 5331 Fleet Avenue, the corner of East 54th and
Fleet, is occupied today by *Bert's and Son Auto Parts*. At present, nothing is known about this theater other than its location.

Nearby at 5222 Fleet Avenue is the **Roll Call Bar**. This building was originally the location of **The Washington Park Theater**. This small theater seated 300 and was no longer listed as a theater by 1930.

**The Vandora Theater** at 6308 Fleet Avenue seated 450 and had stopped operating by 1930 also.

**The Luna Theater** operated at 4061 East 71st Street. The building was renovated at a cost of $215,000 and opened in January 1998 as **Looney’s Pub and Eatery**. The building is now closed and vacant.

Nearby at 3990 East 71st Street, **The New Victory Theater** operated as a 780 seat house until the 1950's. Used since its closing for several purposes, it sits now decaying and abandoned.

Several industry periodicals from the early twentieth century corroborate the existence of several of these neighborhood theaters.

In *The Moving Picture World* of June 25, 1916 is reference to a fund-raising showing of the film “A Baby’s Fight for Life” sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Motion Picture Exhibitors’ League as part of the “better babies” campaign of that time.

In *A History of Cleveland and Its Environs, The Heart of New Connecticut*, published in 1918, is reference to Mr. Samuel Manheim, age 25, who negotiated a lease for **The Olympia Theater** for $50,000. A prominent real estate broker, he was instrumental in several theater leases in the Cleveland area. See below:
Olympia Theater, c. 1914

Olympia Theater interior
MANY ATTEND OPENING
Olympia Invites Thousands to See Pictures and Hear Speakers.

The opening of the new Olympia Theater, E. 55th and Broadway, Friday evening, was a gala event. Admission on that night was by invitation only and the crowd that packed the beautiful house was representative of the population of that part of the city. Several prominent men of the neighborhood spoke; there was music from the big organ at which Herbert Sisson presided; Mary Glesner Vaughan sang, and several splendid photo-plays were shown.

The crowd cheered everything in the house from the drop curtain to the $10,000 organ. It all surprised and delighted them. The house seats 2,000 and is one of the largest and most beautiful theaters in the United States devoted exclusively to moving pictures. It is to be operated in connection with the Alhambra, the Grand and the Globe, with J. H. Michael as general manager.

Among those who spoke at the opening were Joseph Hodous, Councilman D. J. Zinner, representing Mayor Baker; Camil Wiesenberger, who spoke in Bohemian; C. J. Benkoski, and Councilman Joseph Pelm?ski, representing the city.

Photo-plays and high-class musical features will make up the Olympia entertainment. It is open every evening from 8:30 to 10:30, with afternoon performances Saturday and Sunday.
Herbert Sisson, Who Inaugurated the Municipal Organ Recitals in Music Hall, Cincinnati

Hook & Hastings Cincinnati Music Hall organ, Opus 869, factory assembly, 1877
A. B. FELGEMAKER ORGAN CO.
BUILDERS CHURCH ORGANS
Head Office and Factory, ERIE, PA.

Our organs represent the product of the knowledge gained from the experience of constant organ building for nearly half a century—and are unequalled in Tonal Effects and Mechanical Excellence.

Established 1865

We have placed more organs in the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana than any other builders.

Also have organs in almost every state in the country.

If interested write for new catalogue.

We urge investigation and comparison.

Have built organs for nearly 1100 churches.

“PIERCE PIPES”
MEANS A DEGREE OF PERFECTION NOT ELSEWHERE OBTAINED

Sam'l Pierce Organ Pipe Co.
READING, MASS.
Correspondence Solicited

The Jennette Loudon School of Music
M. JENNETTE LOUDON, Director
Pianist Beethoven Trio

Herbert J. Sisson
617 The Arcade, Cleveland, O.
Organist Epworth Memorial M. E. Church

J. Warren Andrews
Address: The Church of the Divine Paternity, Central Park West and 76th St., New York.
Special Short Courses in Organ Study, in Form of Lectures and Illustrations. Speciality prepared and adapted to the needs of those who can spend but a short time in the city. Send for Catalogue.

from Lloyd’s Church Music Directory, 1910
ations including the Royal Arch Chapter, the
Knights Templar Commandery and the
Scottish Rite Consistory. He also belongs to
the Royal Acrenum and the Independent
Order of Odd Fellows. Harry A. Wadsworth
married Etta C. Miller. She was born at
Ravenna, Ohio, where they were married, and
she died at Garretsville in 1907. J. L. Wadsworth
was the only son. His sister and the
younger child is Bessee, wife of A. M. Cline,
a resident of Lakewood, Ohio. Mr. Cline is
connected with the United Banking and Sav-
ings Company of Cleveland on the West Side.

Joe L. Wadsworth grew up and was ed-
culted at Windham, Ohio, graduating from
high school there in 1897. The following year
he attended the high school at Garretsville,
Ohio, and was graduated there in June, 1898.
In October, 1898, he arrived in Cleveland and
during the next five years was connected with
The Lockwood Taylor Hardware Company.
That company first honored him with a posi-
tion in the capacity of order boy, and on
his merit promoted himself until he was travel-
ing salesman and covering an important ter-
ritory in Central New York State. In 1903
Mr. Wadsworth went with the Cleveland Gas
Light & Coke Company, remained there a year,
and then for three and a half years was cir-
culation manager in charge of the sub-
scription list of all the publications of the
Penton Publishing Company. His next posi-
tion was an accountant for three years with
the Audit Company of Cleveland, following
which for two and a half years he was an ex-
aminer in the state department of banks and
banking. On July 1, 1914, he formed his
present alliance as treasurer of the State
Banking & Trust Company.

Mr. Wadsworth is a democratic voter. He
is affiliated with Gaston G. Allen Lodge No.
629, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at
Lakewood, Webb Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch
Masons, Holyrood Commandery, No. 32,
Knights Templar, Lake Erie Consistory of
the Scottish Rite, and Al Koran Temple of the
Mystic Shrine. His home is at 1321 Ramona
Avenue in Lakewood. Mr. Wadsworth at
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1910, married
Miss Florence H. Keller, daughter of Charles
A. and Ellen (Palmer) Keller. Her mother is
deceased. Her father who lives on Wade
Park Avenue in Cleveland, was a soldier of
the Union army during the war and is still
active in service and one of the oldest em-
ployees of the Cleveland postoffices. Mr. and

Mrs. Wadsworth have one daughter, Ellen
Charlotte, born August 17, 1913.

SAMUEL W. MANHEIM was born at Cleve-
land, March 29, 1893. He has not yet attained
the dignity of his twenty-fifth birthday, and
when his youth is considered in connection
with the business interests he has handled and
still maintains, his career is a remarkable in-
stance of success and individual talent. At
the outset it should be mentioned that he is
not the son of wealthy parents and started
life as close to the bottom as any business man
in Cleveland.

His father, William Manheim, was born
near the border line of Germany and Poland,
came to Cleveland many years ago, and is
now living in the city, a retired merchant.
The mother was born in Germany and died in
1901, when Samuel was eight years of age.

At the death of his mother, he was placed
in the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum,
where he remained until graduating in 1910.
Being thrown on his own resources, he worked
for several years in different lines, barely
making a living, but in 1913 entered the field
where his success has been achieved. This
was handling business investments, and since
then he has been buying and selling and act-
ing as broker for a number of established
business houses.

Mr. Manheim makes a specialty of amuse-
ment enterprises. During the past four years
he has negotiated and built seven different
theaters and has acted, as broker for at least
150 theaters, involving lease and investment
values from $1,500 to $50,000. These the-
aters have been located all over the State of
Ohio. One of the most important of these
transactions was the negotiating, building and
leasing of the Wind A Mere Theater at Lake
Front in East Cleveland. The grounds and
building involved an expenditure of $600,000.
The building, besides furnishing quarters for
theater and dance hall, has twenty stores.
Mr. Manheim negotiated and sold the lease of
the Olympia Theater at Fifty-fifth and Broad-
way for $50,000, and also handled the lease
of the Alhambra Theater at 135 Euclid Ave-
une, for ten years at $15,000 a year. In 1918
he sold the Priscilla vaudeville house, East
Ninth and Walnut streets, for $40,000. In
January, 1918, Mr. Manheim organized the
Manheim-Wolett Amusement Company,
which now owns and controls four theaters, the
Milo Theater, 800 seating capacity, at Miles
Avenue and East One Hundredth Street; Iris Theater, 1885 West Twenty-fifth Street; Uno Theater, West One Hundred and Twenty-fourth and West Madison Avenue; and Liberty Theater, at Geneva, Ohio. Mr. Manheim is president of the corporation. In July, 1918, he organized the Morrison, East One Hundred and Fifth Street Garage Company, taking over the garage of the same name, with capacity of 100 cars, the second largest garage in the East End. Mr. Manheim is president of this corporation.

Mr. Manheim is affiliated with Cleveland Lodge, No. 18, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Civic League and in politics is strictly nonpartisan.

MARTIN L. WRIGHT. Two generations of Ohio people have utilized and appreciated the services of Dr. Martin L. Wright as a dentist, and he is almost the dean of the profession at Cleveland, where today he is still carrying the burdens and responsibilities of professional work at the People’s Bank Building on West Twenty-Fifth Street. He comes of a professional family. His father was both a physician and a dentist, and one of the very first to devote all his energies to the practice of dentistry in Cleveland. Representing the third generation, Doctor Wright has several sons who are dentists, one of them associated with him in partnership.

A native of Cleveland, Dr. Martin L. Wright was born November 19, 1846. His father also bore the name of Martin L. and was born in the north of Ireland in 1816 and was brought in infancy to the United States by his parents, who first located in Massachusetts. He came as a pioneer to Northern Ohio, married in Huron, Ohio, and was one of the early graduates with the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Western Reserve University. He practiced medicine in Huron for several years, and in 1842 located at Cleveland, where he was almost exclusively a dentist. Dr. Wright, Sr., died at Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1863. He was a democrat in politics. The maiden name of his wife was Maria Remington, who was born in Vermont in 1815, and during the greater part of her life lived in Cleveland, dying while on a visit at Paynesville, Ohio, in 1882. She was the mother of five children; Jennie M., who married Chester Stoddard, a lake engineer, and both are now deceased; Mary, who married Lansing Ford, a locomotive engineer, and both of whom died in Cleveland; Dr. Martin L.; Maria, who died in Cleveland, the wife of John Mullen, an undertaker; Nellie, who lives on East Seventy-Ninth Street in Cleveland, wife of Henry Kein, a hardware merchant.

Martin L. Wright, Jr., was educated in the Cleveland public schools, graduating from high school, and in that early and interesting period of his youth many of his thoughts naturally turned upon the great struggle then engaging the North and South. In 1863, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Cleveland Grays, and in 1864 was called into the National service with the One Hundred and Fiftieth Ohio Infantry for a hundred days. The regiment was sent to Washington and did its duty in repelling Early’s attack on the defenses at Washington. After the war Doctor Wright returned to Cleveland and for two seasons enacted with some success the role of an actor with John A. Elsler. He then zealously applied himself to the study of dentistry and has now practiced that profession for almost half a century. He was located at Paynesville and at Chardon, Ohio, but in 1890 returned to Cleveland and has had all the patronage he could well attend to.

Doctor Wright is a democrat in politics. He usually supported the party organization in state and local affairs, but several times has exercised his decided independence when national problems were at stake. Thus he voted for Grant and many years later was a Roosevelt supporter. Doctor Wright is a member of the Christian Science Church and his fraternal affiliations are with Hailey Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Thatcher Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, Forest City Commandery, Knights Templar, Wellington Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Wellington, Ohio, Red Cross Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and he is a member of Memorial Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Dr. Wright owns a modern home at 1376 Cook Avenue in Lakewood. He has an interesting family. In 1888 he married Miss Elvina Rogers, who was born in Ohio and died at Cleveland in 1893. She was a granddaughter of Eber D. Howe, founder of the Cleveland Herald in 1819, the first newspaper published at Cleveland. Dr. Wright by his first wife has four children: Harry, a dentist practicing with his father; Alta, wife of Dr. John B. Gillette, a Cleveland dentist; Mabel, who married Walter Walsh, a salesman living at Los Angeles, California; and Dr. W. W., who is a...
Cleveland, O.,—The biggest and most far-reaching activity Ohio motion picture operators have ever undertake was presented in the form of a promotion by the way Benjamin J. Naylor, president of the Northwestern Ohio Motion Picture Exhibitors' League, characterized the "better business" campaign the league has just commenced.

For the week ending June 13, 414 picture theaters in the city and vicinity will be showing a parade formed by the campaign. According to arrangements made in advance, the campaign will be carried on in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health, and will end up with a tour of the city by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Not only will the picture men contribute money to the campaign to raise funds to help the babies, but they have the use of their theaters and permitted Camco Film Clubs in several cities, to hold funds for the dispensary in each theater.

Ten downtown theaters show the film June 13, following a parade formally opening the campaign. Contributions came in from community groups, and the total amount of the money raised was over $300.

The campaign continues through June 15, in addition to the July 4th holiday.

"The Enjoy-U's Own Weekly.

Cleveland, O.—C. Vincent C. Schrader, president of the Enjoy-U, theater, 750 south avenue, will give a address on "The Enjoy-U's Own Weekly" to the members of the Enjoy-U chapter of the Cleveland Athletic Club. The address will take place at 8:30 p.m. on June 15.

"Where Are My Children?" in Ohio.

Cleveland, O.—The film "Where Are My Children?" has been taken up in Ohio with great interest. It was shown at the Ohio State Fair and at the Cincinnati Opera House. It was bought privately by Mrs. George Harder, former head of the Cleveland Athletic Club, and the film was shown at the Enjoy-U theater.

Children's Dance at the Olympic.

Cleveland, O.—The Olympic, located at 1500 Fillmore Street, has been taken over by a group of children who have been attending the Olympic for several years. The children have been spending their days at the Olympic, where they have been making plans for a children's dance to be held on June 15.

May Build Theater in Youngstown.

Youngstown, O.—Mrs. W. Dehne, in charge of the Youngstown Film Club, has announced that the Youngstown Film Club will build a new theater in Youngstown. The club has been considering the possibility of building a theater for some time, and is now preparing to take the necessary steps to make the dream a reality.

CINCINNATI NEWS LETTER.

CINCINNATI, O.—Mr. and Mrs. John D. McCann have announced the inception of "The Cincinnati Film Co." The company will produce and distribute films in the Cincinnati area.

Small Fire at Museum Theater.

Dayton, O.—A small fire in the operation room of the Museum Theater on Vine Street, caused a loss of about $100 to the operators of a fire and some other damage and incidental damage to the building. Fire Department and assistant engineer answered the alarm at the museum.

Michigan Showmanship Notes.

Michigan—The feature of the week in Michigan will be the "Museum of Natural History" at the Museum Theater in Detroit. The film will be shown on Saturday and Sunday, and will be followed by a special on the history of the museum.

Michigan Theater Changes.

Jenison, Mich.—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miller, owners of the Michigan Theater, have purchased a theater in Jenison, Mich., for their Michigan Theater.

Small Fire at Museum Theater.

Dayton, O.—A small fire in the operation room of the Museum Theater on Vine Street, caused a loss of about $100 to the operators of a fire and some other damage and incidental damage to the building. Fire Department and assistant engineer answered the alarm at the museum.

Children's Films at Zanesville.

Zanesville, O.—The Zanesville Film Club will present a series of children's films during the month of June. The films will be shown at the Zanesville Opera House, and will be followed by a special on the history of the film club.

MICHIGAN NEWS LETTER.

Special to the Moving Picture World from Midwestern News Service.

Michigan Showmanship Notes.

Michigan—The feature of the week in Michigan will be the "Museum of Natural History" at the Museum Theater in Detroit. The film will be shown on Saturday and Sunday, and will be followed by a special on the history of the museum.

Michigan Theater Changes.

Jenison, Mich.—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miller, owners of the Michigan Theater, have purchased a theater in Jenison, Mich., for their Michigan Theater.

Small Fire at Museum Theater.

Dayton, O.—A small fire in the operation room of the Museum Theater on Vine Street, caused a loss of about $100 to the operators of a fire and some other damage and incidental damage to the building. Fire Department and assistant engineer answered the alarm at the museum.