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 Plain Dealer 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.

Designed by the Cleveland architect, George Allen Grieble, who also, incidentally, designed The Alhambra Theater, The Olympia Theater served as a motion picture house into the 1980's when the choice to show x-rated films assured its closing and eventual demolition.

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 a 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:
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; Camilt Wiesenberger, who spoke in Bohemian; C. J. Benkoski, and Councilman Joseph Pelcinski, 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.
1505 LIVES LOST AS TITANIC SINKS: OWNERS ADMIT ONLY 675 ARE SAVED

WRECKED LINER, CAPTAIN CLEVELANDER ON BOARD AND STILL

FINDS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE SAVED BY RESCUERS;

FEW MEN FOUND BY RESCUERS;

SEA SEARCHED FOR SURVIVORS.

Passenger List of S.S. Titanic

Cleveland Leader, Tuesday, April 16, 1912
ADVERTISEMENTS

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BUILDERS CHURCH ORGANS
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Pianist Beethoven Trio

The Jennette Loudon School of Music

203 Michigan Ave.
Chicago

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 78th St., New York.

Special Short Courses in Organ Study, in Form of Lectures and Illustrations. Specially 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
Herbert Sisson, Who Inaugurated the Municipal Organ Recitals in Music Hall, Cincinnati

Hook & Hastings Cincinnati Music Hall organ, Opus 869, factory assembly, 1877
Cleveland and Its Environs - 207

Samuel W. Manheim was born at Cleveland, 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 instance 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 acting as broker for a number of established business houses.

Mr. Manheim makes a specialty of amusement 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 theaters 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 $500,000. 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 Broadway for $30,000, and also handled the lease of the Alhambra Theater at 150 Euclid Avenue, for ten years at $15,000 a year. In 1918 he sold the Priscilla van de Venuis house, East Ninth and Walnut streets, for $40,000. In January, 1918, Mr. Manheim organized the Manheim-Wolcott 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, 185 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 150 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 in 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 1806 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 1852. 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. Ellsler. 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 Halyeeon 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 Elvena 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's Civic Work

Cleveland, O., Mission Picture Exhibitors Put Shoulder to the Wheel in Campaign for "Renaissance"—Raise Several Thousand Dollars—Theatres That Showed Special Film for the Discourage and Hospitals

By Robert Denham, Standard Theater Journalist, Cleveland, O., Special Correspondent

CLEVELAND, O.—The biggest and most impressive activity Ohio Mission Picture Exhibitors have ever engaged in, is the "Renaissance" campaign, which will be run by the Northern Ohio Mission, local chapters offering to run a special film for the benefit of the Mission. The campaign is scheduled for the first week in June, 1916, and the picture to be shown is "Renaissance," the new feature lent by the Mission to the exhibition for the purpose of raising funds.

The idea for the campaign originated with the new director of the Mission, Mr. William Young, who is also the manager of the Cleveland Athletic Club. He has been instrumental in the planning and execution of the campaign, and has been responsible for the success of the campaign so far.

The campaign has been running smoothly, and the exhibitors are looking forward to a successful outcome. The funds raised will be used to support the work of the Mission in the community, including the promotion of civic work and the support of local organizations.

Small Fire at Museum Theater

Dayton, Ohio—A small fire in the operating room of the Dayton Museum of Art, at 216 Valley Street, caused a loss of about $100 to the institution of a large fire, which caused other damage, and unfortunately destroyed a picture which was a real gem, but that there was no damage for art, and the museum, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Weidner, who is in charge of the museum, is moving to the restoration of the fire-damaged area.

The museum is now in the process of rebuilding, and the fire department is working to prevent the possibility of further damage.

Children's Film at Zanesville

Zanesville, Ohio—The pictures were projected at the Zanesville Museum of Art, in a fine white frame, in front of a large audience, which included children. The film was "One Child's Dream," and was shown to a large audience.

The film was presented by Mr. Charles Weidner, director of the museum, and was attended by a large number of children. The film was well received by the audience, and was considered a success.

The museum is now planning to show more films, and is looking forward to a successful future.

MICHIGAN NEWS LETTER

Special to Motion Picture World from Midwest News Service

Michigan Showmanship Notes

Yackon, Mich.—A local event was the opening of a new theater, the Michigan Theater, at 323 Michigan Avenue, in Yackon, Mich.

The theater is beautifully decorated and is equipped with the latest movie equipment. The management is headed by Mr. Charles Weidner, who is well known in the theater industry.

The theater is now open and is reaping a steady income. The management is looking forward to a successful future.

Michigan Theater Changes

Jansenville, Mich.—In the new plan, the Michigan Theater, at 211 Michigan Avenue, has been remodeled and modernized. The theater is now ready for opening.

The changes include the installation of new seating and the addition of a new projection room. The management is looking forward to a successful opening.

The new theater is located in a busy area and is expected to attract a large audience. The management is looking forward to a successful future.
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