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Ida E. B. Jarron
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Dear Mr Peart

When I was in Gorleston recently I was most interested to read your letter in the [Great Yarmouth] 'Mercury' and see the photo of the Regal. As a child I attended the official opening of the Regal at which Merle Oberon was present.

I was born in 1921 in Gorleston. The first film I saw was a silent version of 'Peter Pan' of which I have no recollection except the face of Wendy's mother. The next film I saw was 'Chang', a film about elephants and then the first speaking film [The] Jazz Singer.* My father won two free seats at the Gorleston Coliseum. It was for three months and I went twice weekly as the films were only on for three days. This must have been about 1930. Later on I used to go to the cinema every Saturday mostly in Yarmouth. If we went to the cinema before 4pm all the cinemas cost sixpence for the back stalls--all except the Gem which charged fourpence!

In those days an A feature film was shown plus a B feature, the News and often a cartoon as well. I remember seeing all the short Laurel and Hardy films as extras.

*I saw Trader Horn in which a boa constrictor ate a deer - ever since then I have had a horror of snakes and cannot look at them and occasionally have nightmares about them!!

There are many many other films I can remember--modern cinema has less attraction for me although technically etc they are better than the oldies but now that they are so much longer there is always so much "padding" in them.

Yours sincerely

Ida E B Jarron