

Marked by Arrival of VITAPHONE

BIRMINGHAM Pride of Its Name

HERE! ONE SOUND - PICTURES

See how this Theatre places itself
and most beautiful theatres in
the world

Information on Prices

All inquiries, there will positively be no
prices.

matinee Saturday, with musical comedy try-

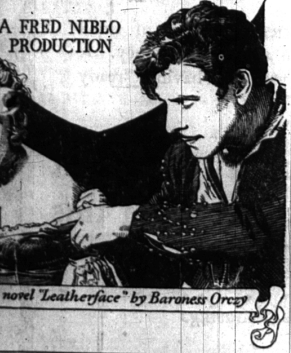
All the big pictures ever made bought and
his theatre, and are equipped to present them
in fashion. Get the Birmingham habit—see

SUNDAY AND MONDAY

Samuel Goldwyn
presents

Gold man and Banky in TWO LOVERS

A FRED NIBLO
PRODUCTION



the novel 'Leatherface' by Baroness Orczy

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY



George Bancroft

IN 'THE DOCKS OF NEW YORK'

WITH
BETTY COMPTON
BACLANOVA
A Paramount Picture

All
Musical
Arrangements
Made and
Played By
Morgan
Gareau

THEATER BLDG. TAKES PLACE IN SOCIAL LIFE

Birmingham Uses Kunsky Theater, Shops As Social, Business Center

OPENING IS RECALLED

In one year, the village of Bir-
mingham and its people have
come to use the Kunsky Bir-
mingham Theater building as some-
thing of a social and business center.

Constructed at a cost of more
than \$100,000 and opened in a
blaze of glory Nov. 22, 1927, the
theater itself and the stores on
the first and second floor soon
found a place in the life of the
community.

Villagers will long remember
that opening night. Color and
pomp made the occasion a gala
one. Surrounding it was a Pros-
perity Week. During that time
Birmingham dressed in its gayest.
The stores were decorated. The
streets were attractive with ban-
ting and fancy lights and flags.
The Birmingham Eccentric issued
daily. Municipal departments put
on exhibitions. In short every-
thing happened to allow the peo-
ple of Birmingham to get better
acquainted with their town.

Few villagers will forget the
thrills given them the final day
of Prosperity Week, by Harry
Brooks, Birmingham's well known
pilot who later met death.

He filled in for a squadron of
airmen who were snowed in on
their way here and gave the
crowd more thrills in his flivver
plane than was believable.

Then came the opening of the
theater. It was a great night.
Full dress was in order and Bir-
mingham looked its best. Virginia
Farrar cut the silk ribbons and
opened the door of the new build-
ing. The crowd entered to gaze
upon splendor beyond what they
had hoped for.

The shops in the building and
the offices located soon after the
completion of the structure and
have had great attraction for the
villagers since that memorable
day a year ago.

Nine of the ten stores of the
theater building have been rent-
ed. Most of the offices in both
wings of the building are occu-
pied. A bowling alley is operated
in the basement under the north
end of the structure.

The building is almost a dis-
tinct shopping center in itself,
serving the needs of Birmingham
from practical every angle of
merchandise demands. Its short
distance from the intersection of
Woodward and Maple avenues
makes it readily accessible and
this has been the greatest reason
for its popularity as a shopping
district.

Career of Theatre Owner Is One of Constant Success

The Kunsky-Birmingham thea-
ter is observing its first anniver-
sary with the presentation of the
first Vitaphone sound picture.
The career of John H. Kunsky,
who now operates 13 Detroit and
suburban theaters, dates back to
the real cradle days of the movie
industry.

Kunsky was born in Detroit.
His first job was a minor one with
the Caille brothers, manufactur-
ers of coin-operated machines.
He eventually became a partner
of the late A. Arthur Caille, in
the operation of a coin-vending
machines. In the summer of
1905, Kunsky and Caille heard of
a public hall projecting pictures
on a sheet. They went east to
view this marvel. After having
the machine demonstrated, they
purchased one. That is how De-
troit was given its first motion
picture theater.

Five Cent Show

A five-cent theater with about
300 seats was opened at 28 Mon-
roe avenue, Detroit. A penny
Arcade still flourishes on the spot.
Prosperity smiled on the first
nickel theater. Thus encouraged,
Kunsky opened the Star theater
in Gratiot avenue, a slightly lar-
ger auditorium. And then in
1908, just 20 years ago, the Kun-
sky chain began, the new link be-
ing the Kunsky theater at Monroe
avenue and Farmer street. That
was Detroit's first 10-cent thea-
ter.

The Majestic was built on
Woodward avenue. It was De-
troit's finest theater at that time.
In this house was shown the first
feature picture of multiple reels,
Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt, in "Queen
Elizabeth." It was followed by

TWO 'FURORS' ARE REVIEWED

First Projection Machine Re- viewed By John Kunsky Is Recalled

Announcement that the Kun-
sky-Birmingham will celebrate its
first anniversary with the presen-
tation of the first sound picture,
brings to attention an interesting
comparison between the furor
now being caused by "sound pic-
tures" and the attention given to
the first motion picture.

Today, the idea of "sound pic-
tures" is being eagerly grasped by
public and theatre men alike.
There seems little hesitancy in
taking hold of this "new thing."
Back in 1905, when John H.
Kunsky heard of the first prac-
tical demonstration of a motion
picture projection machine, there
was no such ready acceptance of
new ideas. Mr. Kunsky went east
to see this new thing. He came
back to Detroit and opened what

James K. Hackett in "The Prison-
er of Zenda."
The Liberty Theater, Farmer
and Bates street, Detroit, became
the finest theater in Michigan up
to that moment. The Liberty
broke down the prejudice of
many against the movies, in De-
troit. The Liberty drew the
"silks and satins," as they ex-
pressed it in those days.

The Liberty also presented
Mary Pickford's first long pic-
tures, "Toss of the D'Urbervilles,"
and "In the Bishop's Carriage."
And in the Liberty, Mr. Kunsky
pioneered a new step in movie
music—the first "symphonic or-
chestra." It boasted of five pieces
plus a pipe organ. In 1914
Mr. Kunsky took over the Wash-
ington Theater, a failure as a
stock house. The idea of a pic-
ture theater opening "away north
near Grand Circus Park" was
scuffed at. The Washington
made another forward movement,
not only in location, but in size
(1,348 seats) and in fact it gave
Detroit a 15 piece orchestra.

Succeeds
The Washington succeeded—ir-
respective of dire predictions. The
Musical Union opened in 1916,
Adams a year later; the Capitol
in 1921; the State in 1925 and the
Royal Oak in 1928.

While expanding downtown,
and creating a new theater dis-
trict, Kunsky Theater, at the sub-
urbs, the Garden was succeeded
by the Alhambra, Woodward ave-
nue at Kenilworth, then the
Strand, Delray and within the
last 18 months a new Kunsky
frontier was established with thea-
ters in Birmingham, Redford and
Royal Oak. The newest member
of the Kunsky family being the
recently opened Fisher Theater.

was the first motion picture
theatre in this part of the coun-
try. While the idea of motion pic-
tures aroused the public curiosity,
going to see the "nickel show" was
considered a rather "stuffy" pas-
time and few people openly went
to the "movies."

It prospered, however, because
while the "elite" would not go to
the "cheap show," the general
public welcomed the novelty of
screen entertainment. Just a
few years later the Kunsky chain
of theatres was founded. The
Kunsky-Birmingham being one of
the newest links and the first out-
skirt theatre to be equipped with
Vitaphone sound equipment.

DONALD KUHN MADE ASSISTANT MANAGER

Donald Kuhn, of Detroit is to-
day assistant manager of the Bi-
irmingham Kunsky Theater.
Mr. Kuhn has been employed
by the Kunsky corporation for
the past two years, being trans-
ferred here from a position of
assistant manager of the Royal
Oak Theater.

Phone your news items to The
Eccentric. Phones 11 and 12.

Greetings:

We are indeed happy to extend
greetings to our tenant - The
Kunsky Birmingham Theatre -
on the occasion of their first anni-
versary.

Congratulations:

on the policy of our tenant which
has given Birmingham the re-
markable Vitaphone so soon
after its introduction in the larger
cities.

BRIGGS COMMERCIAL and DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

BUHL BUILDING RANOLPH 6785

... We wish to commend
the Kunsky Theatre for its
latest Progressive move.

... We sincerely hope
the theatre may thereby gain
the greater popularity it
deserves.

* * *

The Devoe Paint & Art Shop

In the Theatre Bldg.

THE IRENE HAT SHOP

congratulates
its neighbor -

The Kunsky Theatre

on the event of its First Anni-
versary and the installation of
VITAPHONE

TO THE Kunsky Birmingham

Theatre

May all your future birthdays be marked
with such a splendid and remarkable
record.

BERTINE BLEAZBY GARRETT

Lingerie - Gifts - Children's Wear
In the Theatre Bldg.

Hearty Wishes!

We think that the installation of
the new Vitaphone is a truly splen-
did accomplishment and a fitting
climax to your first year in Bir-
mingham.

BIRMINGHAM RECREATION

Exclusively Bowling
In the Theatre Building

a worthy anniversary

A SHORT history, but born
of a policy of basic mea-
sure - led by the desire of
real service. Congratulations,
neighbor.

BRAUN LUMBER CORP.