

THE GEM THEATER - Everyone remembers the Lincoln Theatre, but the first moving picture theater in Warwood was the Gem Theater (late 1900s, 1920s). Leon Herbert "Lee" Hoffmann owned and operated the first movie house, called the Gem Theater, at 1813 Warwood Avenue. From the entrance on Warwood Avenue, the theater had a long, narrow passageway to the rear of the building where the motion pictures were shown. An ice cream parlor was located beside the front entrance. Later, a pool room was added. Mr. Hoffman's occupations were listed in the City Directories as tobacconist, confectioner and stogie roller. He and his first wife Lottie Lee Winder had 2 sons: Leon Herbert Hoffmann, Jr. and Winder Hoffmann. He died in St. Petersburg, Florida in November 1960 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Wheeling.

Entertainment.

Something quite novel in every feature will be the entertainment given by the young people of the Corpus Christi school on Friday evening, May 31, at the Gem theatre. The proceeds of the affair will be given to the Corpus Christi school. The tickets are now in the hands of the school children.

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Pool Room.

Mr. L. H. Hoffmann, proprietor of the Gem theatre, will open a pool room in a part of his theatre building. There being no pool room in this part of town, Mr. Hoffman should succeed as all young men like the pastime.

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1813 Warwood Avenue