

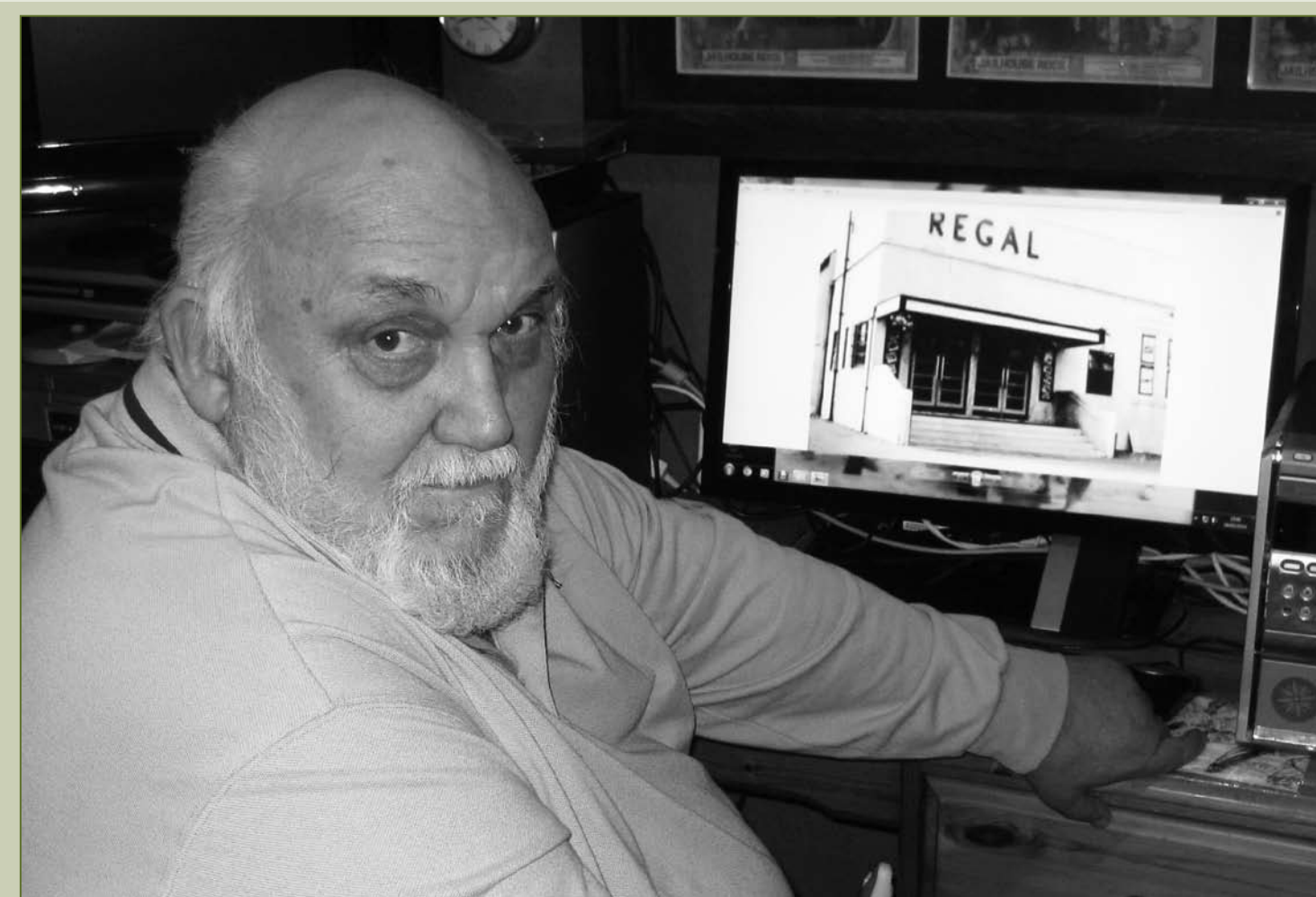
GLIMPSES OF HOLT

The Co-op came first

In 1935 a cinema was created in a hall behind the Co-op building in New Street (*photo*). It showed a regular programme of films but facilities were basic and it was unable to compete once The Regal had opened in 1937. The Co-op Hall cinema burnt down a week after the opening of The Regal!



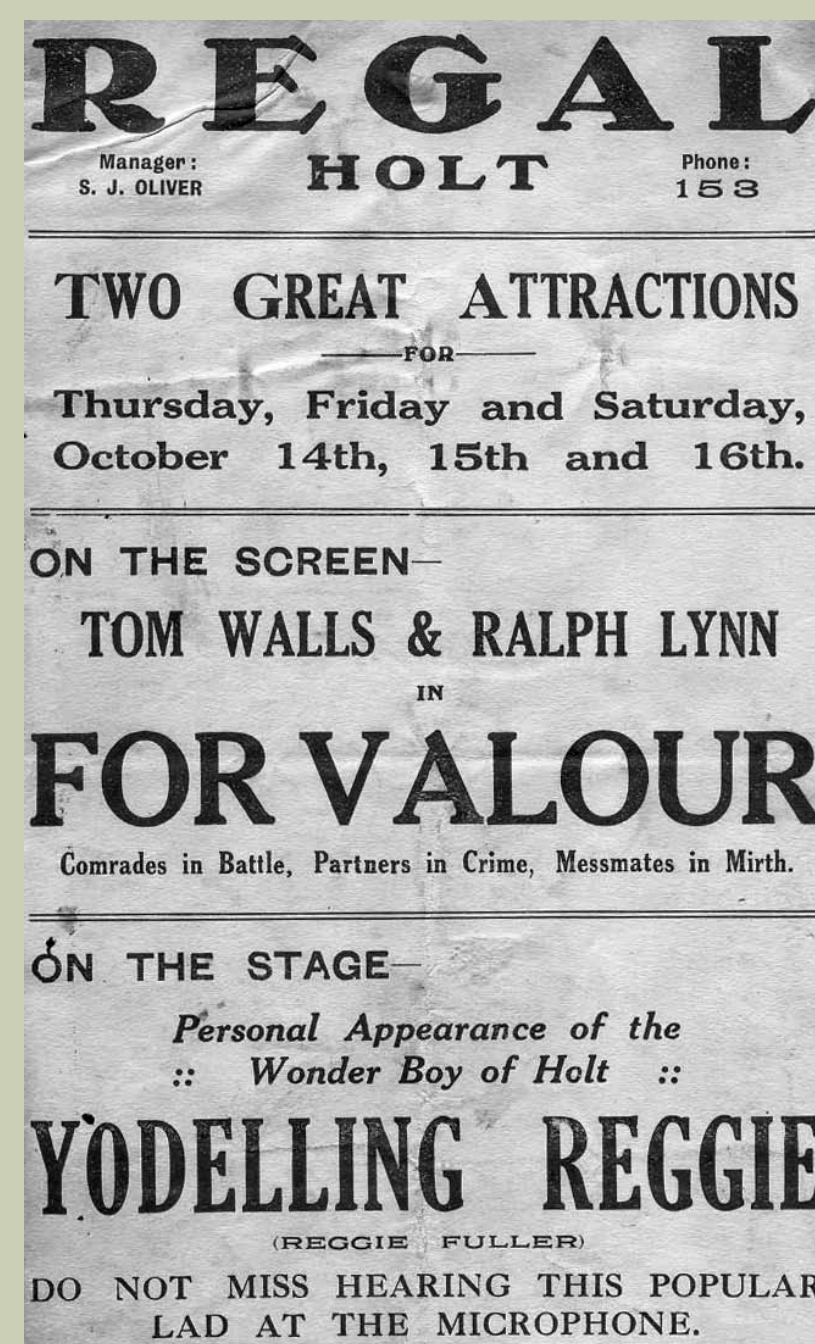
Staff at the Co-op Cinema on Whit Monday 1936.



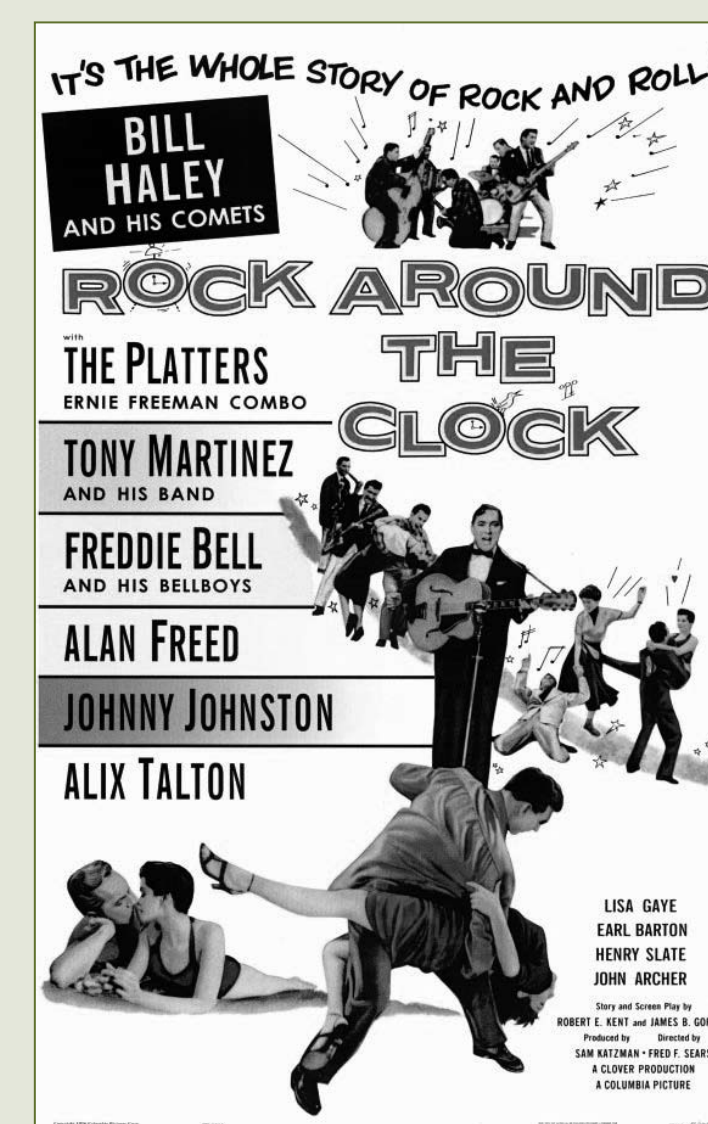
When John Jarvis's father was away in the army, he and his mother lived at his grandparents' house in Peacock Lane. John formed an early fascination with the cinema, spending all his pocket money on the shows and later became an assistant projectionist. Subsequently he has collected a vast amount of information about The Regal and has even built a small cinema in his own garden!

Yodelling Reggie Fuller

Local talent emerged in the form of Yodelling Reggie Fuller. Born in Weston Square, Reggie was 'discovered' by band-leader Carrol Levis and performed regularly on Levis' radio show. When Reggie returned to The Regal to perform in the interval, many people had to be turned away.



In 1957, *Rock Around the Clock* was shown six times in three days but disappointed youngsters were still turned away. The local Teddy Boys attended, with their girls in hoop skirts. The town policeman was present in the audience but the excited teenagers caused no damage.



The manager, Mr. Pert, with family and friends, 1952.

Close-down

The Regal closed in 1967, after which the buildings were used as a snooker club and bingo hall. In 2004, the building was demolished.



Flats were built on the site and named Regal Court. John Jarvis is convinced that the flats are haunted by Mr. Pert, the cinema manager, still keeping an eye on things!

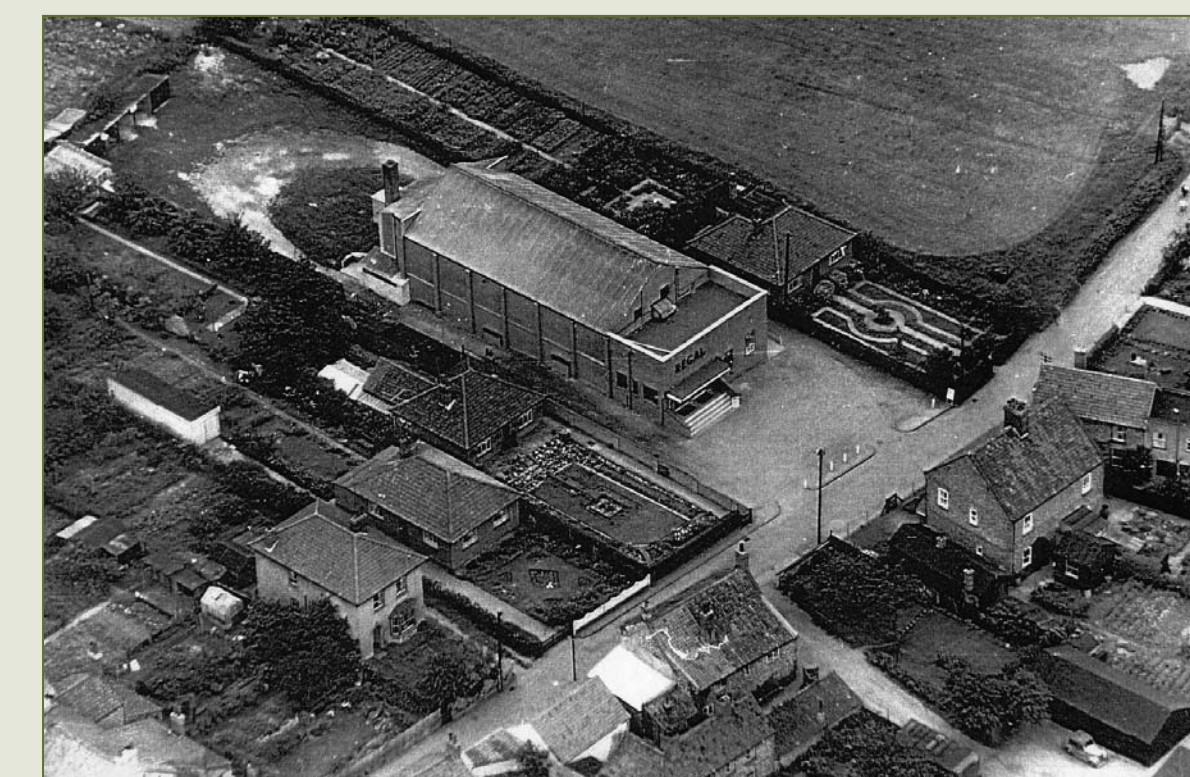
THE REGAL CINEMA

The Regal Cinema opened in Peacock Lane in 1937 with the following features highlighted in the *Norfolk Chronicle*:

- o The interior is a marvel of futuristic design.
- o Five hundred and fifty seats which will be the last word in scientifically designed comfort.
- o The projection apparatus is of the very latest pattern, giving a high intensity to the pictures
- o The sound equipment is as nearly 100 per cent natural tone as has yet been invented.
- o This roof is practically unique, for although it gives the impression of being corrugated iron it is actually asbestos.



Millie Read, the first usherette at The Regal.



The Regal from the air, in 1956.