

John Linsley Cort

By Loita Hawkinson
Archives/Collections/Research
Kirkland Heritage Society



Kirkland Heritage Society

John Cort



Every community has snippets of information that have been passed down from old-timers. They cannot be considered fact because there is no proof but they are always in the back of our mind.

Three such pieces of information are:

- Houghton had a tent theatre
- The Lake House had actors stay with them.
- Kirkland had a movie lot

The tent theatre was in Houghton many years ago and was there for a short time. It was by “the school”.

This information was passed down from old-timer to new neighbor.

The Lake House's guest register showed the names of actors but no one has seen the register.

The movie lot is mentioned in *Our Foundering Fathers*.

A film plant is mentioned in the 1918 Kirkland newspaper with no history given. That tells us only that it was well known. Sort of like telling us a building was near the Kingdome. No explanation is needed today, but in 20 years, many people will not understand.

When Dorothy Brennan Daily and Eileen Brennan Warren were interviewed, they mentioned Cort Road. The Brennan's had lived on Cort Road. So now we have another mystery. From other interviews, we know that young Ernie McKibben delivered newspapers on Court Road.

Cort or Court Road now began to simmer in my mind.

King County records has road documents dating from when Washington was a Territory until today. Here I found:

Bids on the John Cort Rd

10/6/1904

So now we have a full name and correct spelling.

Now that we have a name and correct spelling the actual research can begin.

First our own database at
Kirklandheritage.org:

Headline	Subject	Date	Page
JOHN CORT FARM IS SOLD X	BUILDINGS, RESIDENTIAL	5/1/1919	1
CORT, KITTY WATKINSON	OBITUARIES	10/2/1919	1
OLD TIMER HERE IS WEEK'S VISITOR (CORT, JOHN) X	BIOGRAPHIES	8/12/1926	1
DOUGLASS TO GO TO ANACORTES	BUSINESS, RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL	9/27/1928	1
CORT, JOHN X	OBITUARIES	11/21/1929	1
CORT, HARRY X	OBITUARIES	5/13/1937	5

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

B

State Parkinson

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

Supervisor's District No. 212²⁰⁸ Sheet No. 9
 Enumeration District No. 17

Township or other division of county Houghton Precinct

Name of Institution

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division

Ward of city

Enumerated by me on the 15 day of June, 1900.

John H. Smith

Enumerator

2308

Then the census records from 1900:

John Cort's occupation is theatre. Harry Cort is going to school.

They live in Houghton.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	SPEED OF EYE
				Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Parents	Place of Birth of Mother				
No. of Person	Sex	Color	Age	Race	Marital Status	Years in U.S.	Years in Ill.	Years in Ill.	Years in Ill.	Years in Ill.
18294	Henrietta	Wife	22	White	Married	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18295	Charles	Husband	22	White	Married	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18296	John	Son	10	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18297	William	Son	8	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18298	Charles	Son	6	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18299	John	Son	4	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18300	William	Son	2	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18301	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18302	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18303	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18304	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18305	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18306	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18307	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18308	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18309	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18310	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18311	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18312	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18313	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18314	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18315	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18316	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18317	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18318	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18319	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18320	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18321	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18322	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18323	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18324	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18325	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18326	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18327	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18328	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18329	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18330	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18331	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18332	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18333	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18334	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18335	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18336	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18337	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18338	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18339	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18340	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18341	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18342	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18343	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18344	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18345	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18346	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18347	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18348	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18349	John	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.
18350	William	Son	1	White	Single	10	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.	Ill.

Now I searched HistoryLink and got my first indication that John Cort was a genuine mover and shaker. He came to Seattle in 1886 as a vaudeville actor but soon owned and managed his own box theater. He built the Standard Theatre which was the first theatre in Seattle to have electric lights. John Cort started the Cort Circuit which was a circuit of theatres on the Pacific Coast. The Standard Theatre burned during the 1889 Seattle Fire.

According to HistoryLink, after the 1889 fire, John Cort put up a tent theatre within days and continued performances until the new Standard Theatre could be built.

So now we know that John Cort had a tent theatre in Seattle and it makes perfect sense that he would have had a tent theatre in Houghton for rehearsals. In 1942, Collins Elementary School was built on the Cort Ranch property. This would put the tent theatre near the school....the Collins school.

And with Seattle in ruins, it makes sense that he would house the actors and stagehands at the Lake House.

HistoryLink focuses on Cort's business dealings in Seattle.

That Houghton and Kirkland were not mentioned made it more of an interesting puzzle.

So far, I have not had to leave my computer but now we must look at the microfilmed newspapers at the Bellevue Library.

JOHN CORT FARM IS SOLD

Announcement was made yesterday of the sale of the Whisker Farm or the Cort Place as it was most commonly called to William Klenert, a retired business man of California.

The consideration was \$10,000 in cash. Burke and Farrar represented both Mr. Cort and Mr. Stockton in the sale.

Mr. Stockton has announced that he will make improvements to the extent of approximately \$20,000 on the place thereby making one of the best homes on the East Side.

The new owner lived in Seattle a number of years ago. He has long been prominently identified in the business circles of the Pacific Coast. Upon his decision to retire from active business life, he determined to locate in this section and the recent purchase is in his opinion located in the most desirable resident section of the Northwest.

John Cort had moved to New York.

Burke & Farrar handled the sale.

The farm was called Whisker Farms when Cort owned it.

1908

NOTES. — Norris & Rowe's Circus shows here June 6-9. Manager Cort and family returned, 23, from the East, accompanied by Max Figman, who will spend the Summer on Whisker Farm, Mr. Cort's Summer home. James Townsend, stage manager of

JOHN CORT.

The King of Whisker Farm.

The "Grand," of which Mr. John Cort is manager, has just completed a successful season of big attractions and Mr. Cort has taken advantage of the lull in business to get out and hear the birds sing in the apple trees.

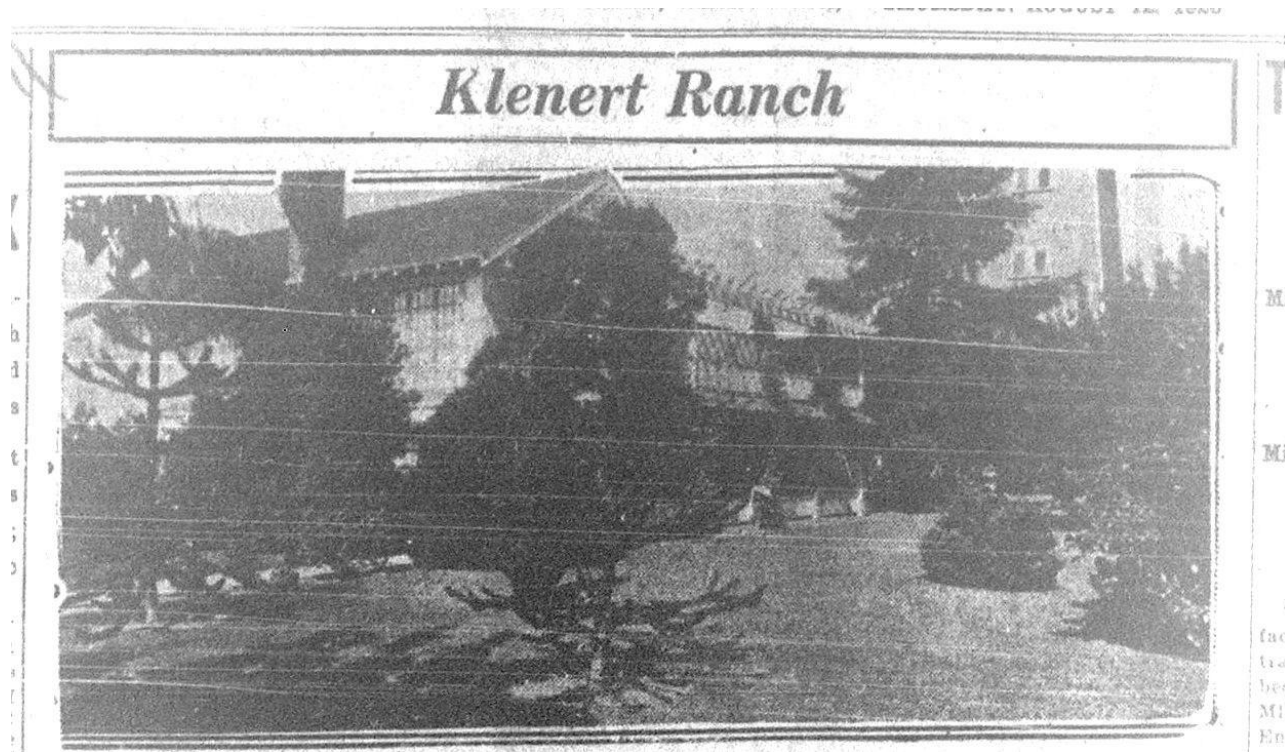
In fact Mr. Cort has developed into a full fledged farmer. Whisker farm is located at Houghton, across Lake Washington; and hay harvest, peaches, and the cherry crop are occupying all of its owner's attention just now. Besides the prospective apples, pears and grapes, Mr. Cort has supplied the city with several freight-train loads of strawberries and has sold 3,000 pounds of cherries off his cherry orchard.

The farm is beautifully situated with all modern conveniences and constitutes the family's present summer home.

Seattle Times

July 19, 1902

John Cort sold his Houghton ranch to the Klenerts. The Klenert's had cattle on the ranch and opened Klenert's Meat Market on Lake Street in 1922.



The home burned in 1930. It's foundation remained until the Collins School was built.

OLD TIMER HERE IS WEEK'S VISITOR

**John Cort, Now Wealthy Theatrical
Magnate Was Old Time Resident
Of East Side; Lived On Klenert
Ranch In Seattle This Week**

Oldtimers of Kirkland and vicinity will not have to scratch their heads very hard to remember when a team of rangy black and white horses used to meet the morning and evening ferries, and that their passenger was none other than John Cort, now nationally known theatrical magnate. He at that time lived on the old John Cort place now so familiarly known as the Klenert ranch.

At the present time Mr. Cort is in Seattle attending the national convention of the Eagles. Cort is considered as the daddy of the Eagle organization having been its founder. In the photograph he is shown holding the first eagle badge ever made. Above is shown the old Cort place as it looks today, since being remodeled by W. W. Klenert.

"BROWN FOR COMMISSIONER"

1926



John Cort

Above—Klenert Ranch Former Home of Famous Theatrical Man Now Here As "Daddy" Of Eagles.

OLD TIMER HERE

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 9.—By automobile, by ship and by train Eagles were arriving in Seattle today for the twenty-eighth convention of the order next week. Seattle is in gay array for the convention and numerous entertainments have been provided for the thousands of visitors. The Milwaukee delegation was the first to arrive. Seattle, the home of the order, has a membership today of 700,000 Eagles. The organization was launched by twelve men in a little room on Seattle's waterfront in 1898. One of the founders, John Cort, new theatrical magnate, will be present at this year's sessions.

—DIVES UNDER TRAIN.

John Cort was in Seattle in 1926 as a special guest of the National Convention of the Eagles. Mr. Cort was considered the daddy of the Eagle Organization, having been a founder.

The Fraternal of the Eagles was founded in 1898, and John Cort was its first president.

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"BROWN FOR COMMISSIONER"

Tells how old-timers would remember the black and white horses that met the morning and evening ferry which carried John Cort, the now nationally known theatrical magnate. He lived on the old John Cort place, now known as the Klenert Ranch.

Here John Cort is in Kirkland and holding the first Eagles medal from when he was the first president.



John Cort

Above—Klenert Ranch Former Home of Famous Theatrical Man Now Here As "Daddy" Of Eagles.

OLD TIMER HERE

Chris Cort, his great grandson, now has the medal.



FORMER EAST SIDER PASSES

John Cort, prominent figure in Seattle's earliest theatrical history, and owner at one time of the property now



John Cort

known as the W. W. Klenert home, where he and his family resided for several years, is dead in New York. He passed away at the home of his son, Harry Cort, at Larchmont Monday a. m. at 68 years of age.

During Mr. Cort's theatrical activities in Seattle he resided at Kirkland on what was then known as the Cort Ranch, the property now owned by W. W. Klenert. From an early day variety theatre Mr. Cort rose in the theatre world to one of its best known owners and producers. About twenty years ago he left Seattle and went to New York where he became one of the most important theatre owners and producers in the East.

He was one of the organizers of the Fraternal Order of Eagles which had its beginning in Seattle.

Mr. Cort retired about a year ago. Shortly before this he became ill of heart disease, which caused his death.

**BUSINESS WOMEN ENJOY
DINNER MONDAY**

1929

John Cort died and they reported that he had helped organize the Eagles.

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1937

DEATH OF HARRY CORT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF OLD-TIMERS

Shades of the early days on the Eastside were brought to mind this week with the death of Harry Cort, who passed away at his home in California as a result of an heart attack.

Cort was the original owner of the Klenert ranch and to many old timers this ranch is still known as the Cort Ranch. The road which leads to it is still called the Cort road.

Perhaps one of the most vivid memories that old timers have in connection with Harry Cort is that of the beautiful team of horses which made from one to three trips daily from the ranch to the ferry landing to pick up

guests or supplies. At that time the ferry facilities consisted of a scow towed by a small boat named the Gazelle.

Old-Time Kirkland Resident Passes Away

Mrs. Melle Willett Kyler passed away at her home early Thursday morning after an illness of six weeks.

She was born near Biggsville, Ill., and was married June 28, 1910, to T. L. Kyler, since which time she has made her home in Kirkland.

When Harry died in 1937, his family home site was still called the John Cort place by the old-timers and the road was still officially called Cort Road. (now 108th Avenue NE).

Tells again of the beautiful team of horses which made three trips daily to the Kirkland ferry dock to pick up guests or supplies.

The ferry was the Gazelle.



The Gazelle

Before we move on, I want to share more about the Eagles.

... THE JULY 20 ... the defendants.

EAGLES FLY NORTH.—About 35 members of the Portland lodge of Eagles left last night for Seattle to attend the meeting of the grand lodge of their order, which will be held in Seattle this week. Among those who went north were Dr. H. R. Littlefield, past president of Portland lodge, and John Considine, grand vice-president, candidates for grand president. The present grand president of the order is John Cort, of Seattle.

CATHOLIC MISSION.—A mission will be

1898-1899

John Cort is
president.

Eagles Aeries

1. Seattle
2. Spokane
3. Tacoma
4. Portland
5. San Francisco
6. Vancouver, BC
7. Kelso
8. San Jose
9. Sacramento
10. Rossland, BC
11. Butte
12. Victoria, BC
13. Everett
14. Great Falls
15. Nanaimo, BC

40. New York
42. Philadelphia
46. Buffalo

New York and East Coast Eagles are very proud of their low numbered aeries.

But look at Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma.

The Eagles progress can be traced by following the numbers.

The Eagles, was organized to help theatre people.....from stage hands to actors.

The Eagles provided healthcare and a proper burial.

The theatre groups were shunned when traveling and the Aeries gave the actors and staff a place to feel at home as they traveled.

A soup cup from
Seattle Aeries No. 1



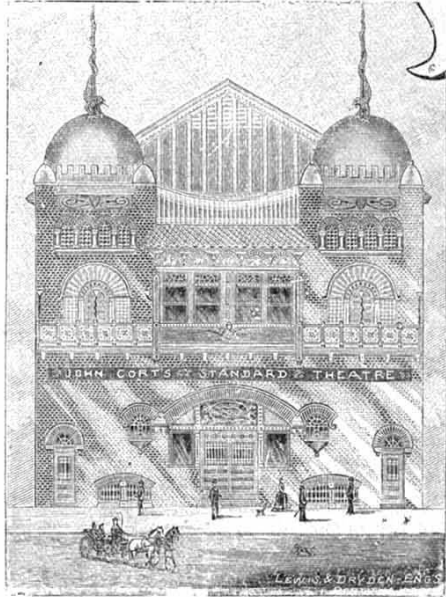
After the 1889 fire that burned his Standard Theatre, he built another Standard Theatre and the Grand Opera House. And he started the Cort Theatrical Circuit which was the first legitimate theatre circuit.

By legitimate theatre, they meant theatre that had assigned seating and no bar. Before the Cort Circuit, people had to visit New York or Paris to see quality productions.

At one time, he owned 117 theatres and leased many more. It was the largest theatre circuit of any kind and it was all on the west coast.

JOHN CORT'S Standard Theatre.

The Representative Vaudeville Theatre
of the Pacific Coast. Pop-
ular Prices.



Presenting each evening, First-Class Com-
edy, Burlesque and Variety. New
Star Artists Weekly.

LAKE WASHINGTON CASINO.

JOHN CORT, Sole Lessee and Manager.

The Most Popular Summer Resort on the Pacific Coast.

TAKE YESLER AVENUE CABLE CARS

Grand Promenade Concerts every Afternoon from 2 till 5 P. M.

SPECIAL GRAND GIALTY PERFORMANCE,
EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 2 P. M.

There are no known photos of the original Standard Theatre that burning in 1889. This poster shows its replacement.

Notice that Seattle is aware that the Standard was the first theatre to have the Edison lights. But they completely missed that the Standard was the first theatre in the world to use lights.

We also know that the Bijou Theatre in Boston also claims to be the very first to use lights. The Bijou opened in 1886 with Thomas Edison on hand to make sure the batteries worked and the wires were strung safely. The Bijou lighting was a novelty and the lights were not wired in, nor practical. The Bijou closed shortly after opening. The Standard was wired for lights when it was built in 1888 and considered the first.

From Indiana:

when it was.

John Cort Dies.

New York, Nov. 19.—John Cort, who first gained fame as a theater manager more than forty years ago by his enterprise in installing in his Seattle theater "the new Edison incandescent lights," died yesterday.

From Virginia:

Big Theatre Pioneer Dies In New York

John Cort First to Install Edison Lamp and First to Organize Vaudeville Circuit

NEW YORK Nov 19 —(AP)—John Cort who first gained fame as a theater manager more than 40 years ago by his enterprise in installing in his theatre "The new Edison incandescent lights" died yesterday. From the late 80's when his letter-heads attracted the attention of other managers all over the country by their announcement that his theater was heated by steam and lighted

From Ohio:

Cort, Theater Man, Dies; Was First To Install Edison Lights On Stage

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (AP)—
John Cort, who first gained
fame as a theater manager
more than 40 year ago by his
enterprise in installing in his
Seattle theater "the new Edi-
son incandescent lights," died
today.

From the late 50's when his let.

among the more recent theatrical
stars whom he has said to have
started on their careers were Joe
Brown, the comedian, Hal Skelly,
and Louise Groody.

Mr. Cort gave to Broadway his
last production, "China Rose" about
a year ago. Shortly thereafter, ill
with heart disease which finally
caused his death, he retired.

And there is more:

John Cort was among the first to use electric signs for his 117 theatres.

Portland in
1888

from Third street to West Park by dressing to grade with macadam; granted.

From John Cort, asking permission to erect an illuminated sign across the street in front of the Standard theater, to be lighted by electric lights; granted.

From S. Luccovich, asking permission to erect an illuminated sign in front of the Louisville restaurant; granted.

From Frank Miller asking permission to

Neighboring theatres followed suit and the colorful theatre district was born.



Times Square in 2005.

Look what Houghton's John Cort started!!!

The historic Cort Theatre is one block off Times Square
in New York City.

The Cort Theatre in New York City is Landmarked both inside and out.



Taken from the New York Landmarks Commission

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The **Cort** Theater Interior survives today as one of the historic theater interiors that symbolize American theater for both New York and the nation. Built in 1912-13, the **Cort** is among the oldest surviving theaters in New York. It was designed by architect Thomas Lamb to house the productions of John **Cort**, one of the country's major producers and theater owners.

The **Cort** Theater, as one of the Broadway theaters surviving today in the theater district, contributes to the totality of the district's history by virtue of its participation in that history.

So by now, I hope you are convinced that John Cort was a famous theatre man.

So what else did he do while in Seattle?



This is Cort's Pavilion at Leschi Park in Seattle.



The Moore Theatre
is John Cort's last
surviving theatre in
Seattle.



Cort's Opera House suffered a fire and was gutted. The building was still sound and now serves as a parking garage at 217 Cherry Street in Seattle.

There is more

1913

John Cort, who owns or controls more than two hundred playhouses west of Chicago, and who is gradually making his impress in the East, is another convert to the theater of science. Mr. Cort is the head of a corporation capitalized at \$2,000,000, which controls the exhibition rights for the Kitsee Talking and Singing Pictures, and this invention, like the Edison Kinetophone, is something more than a mere synchronization of the moving picture camera and the phonograph. And now not only the theatrical syndicate, but also Liebler & Co., until now the most prolific of play producers, have become affiliated on a large scale with the film industry.

In the Edison production the vocal

1914

BY]

TALKING PICTURES SHOW RE- NEWED LIFE.

Quite a revival of interest in the exhibition of "talking motion pictures" was noted in New York this week. The Palace showed the Cort-Kitsee pictures, with Harry Lauder as the star subject, while the "Webb" invention opened at the Fulton Theatre, New York City, Monday night, with a full-fledged minstrel show, featuring Carroll Johnson as the *pièce de résistance*.

Thos. A. Edison is said to be working night and day in order to effect the necessary improvements on his "talking" device.

1915

GRAND THEATRE

MONDAY and TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 27 and 28

The Cort Film Co. Presents

WALKER WHITESIDE

—In—

Israel Zangwill's American Symphony

THE MELTING POT

In Six Acts.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS

"The Melting Pot" breathes a spirit of the best Americanism in the traditions of our history."

W. STEPHEN BUSH,

In the Moving Picture World.

"The vision evoked by the Jewish Musicians' American Symphony is a masterpiece of artistic beauty."

N. Y. EVENING SUN.

"Realism is the note struck at the beginning, and its vibration does not cease until after the flying of Old Glory in the concluding scene."

MABEL CONDON in Motography.

SUNDAY

WILLIAM ELLIOTT

—IN—

Woman and Wine

From the play by
ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

In Five Acts.

Continuous—1:30—10:30.

Special Music—6:30—10:30

HOURS

1:45—5:00

6:30—10:30

ADMISSION

Matinees, 10 Cents.

Evenings, 15 Cents.

10c to Children.

GO
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1916

Cort Film Corp. and John Cort—Man-	
hattan Slide and Film Co.....	220.02

*Dancing Couple Is to Appear
in a Motion Picture Drama*

1916

New York, May 1.—Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle will be seen in a moving picture play. They have signed contracts with John Cort whereby they are soon to be seen in a thrilling film drama which is to be put on by the Cort Film Corporation, which has just finished the filming of Israel Zangwill's "The Melting Pot," with Walter Whiteside in the leading role.

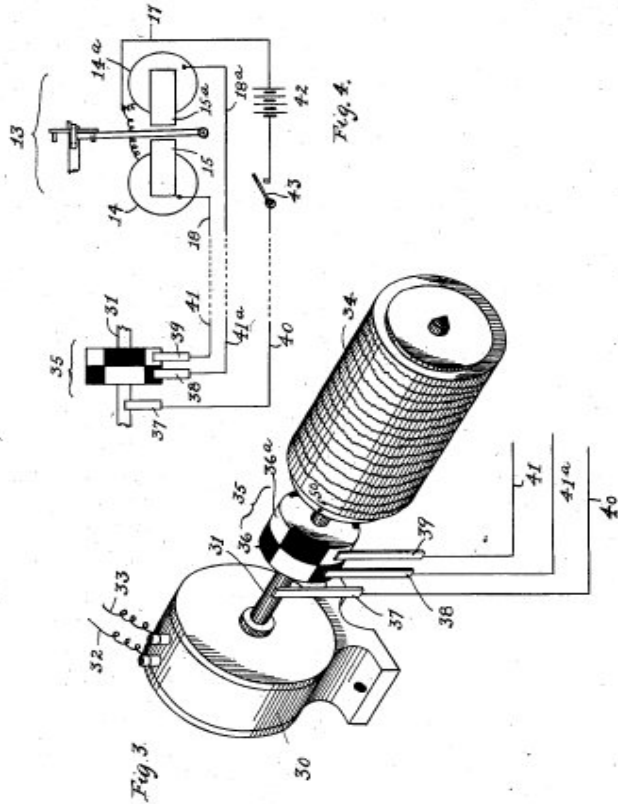
The story, which will be woven for the

I. KITSEE.
 SYNCHRONIZING PICTURE EXHIBITING AND SOUND RECORD MACHINE.
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 1, 1911.

1,083,498.

Patented Jan. 6, 1914.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



One of the many
 Cort/Kitsee devices
 patented by Isador
 Kitsee.

WITNESSES:

Edw. P. Stearns
Mary C. Smith

INVENTOR.

Isador Kitsee

John Cort was among the first to try synchronized sound movies. It was not a success because people were not ready for talkies.

Kirkland had a Film Plant in 1915 and made at least one film in Kirkland. We are still trying to learn if this was John Cort's Film plant.

Movie studios were called Film Plants in the beginning.



The blue is where the Film Plant was.
There are still two homes that were film
homes on 10th Avenue between 4th & 5th.

In 1918, seven homes will be built from material from the Film Company.



quite ill, but is some better at present.

John Van Aalst of Seattle has moved to his new bulb farm near the old film plant and is preparing for a big crop of bulbs.

In 1918, John Van Aalst has moved his tulip bulb farm near the old film plant.

Film Company

Completes Play

The first large production of the local moving picture plant, "The Ski-Man," will be presented at one of Seattle's theatres next week. The scenes were made at several places but most of them at the local plant. It is reported that there are several of our citizens shown on the films.

In the May 1915 Kirkland Paper

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5c Royal Theatre Co. 5c

LINGGEN—RAMM—LINGGEN

All Star Features Every Day—Look
Them Over.

TODAY—Famous Players Co., Daniel
Frohman presents James K. Hackett
in **"THE PRISONER OF ZENDA."**
5 reels.

WEDNESDAY—Big Mutual Special in
4 parts, **"THE GREAT LEAP"** or
"UNTIL DEATH DO US PART." A
stirring melodrama of a Kentucky
Feud.

THURSDAY—Apex Film Co., presents
Charles Darrell's world renowned
melodrama **"WHEN LONDON
SLEEPS,"** 5 reels.

FRIDAY—Washington Film Cor'p., of-
fers **"THE SKIMAN."** A scenic
drama of the north.

SATURDAY—**"CHARLIE'S FIRST VA-
CATION,"** 3 reel, featuring Chaplin.
Drama to be selected.

In 1916, the Ski Man is
still being shown
around the country.
By the Washington
Film Corp.

From 1910 New York City newspaper

WASHINGTON.

Seattle.—At the Moore (John Cort, manager) James J. Corbett, in "The Burglar and the Lady," March 22-24, had good attendance. 25-28 local. Week of 29, "Coming Thro' the Rye." Mary Mannering, April 6-8, in "Glorious Betsy." Mrs. Patrick Campbell 9-11.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE (John Cort, manager).—Week of March 22, "The Black Crook" drew well. The Donisetti Family of acrobats was the feature. Week of 29, the San Francisco Opera Co., in "The ToyMaker." Cranston Clarke, in "The Power That Governs," April 5-11.

THEATRE (Russell A. Dyer, manager) —

1931, Dr. Kitsee died. He gave us the refrigerated railroad car, railroad signals, phonograph record disc, underground telegraph, automatic fire alarm, sound movies, trolley car.....

DR. ISADORE KITSEE.

**Inventor and Chemist Dies at Age
of 87, in Philadelphia.**

**PHILADELPHIA, April 26 (AP).—
Dr. Isadore Kitsee, inventor and
chemist, died today after a month's
illness. He was 87.**

**Dr. Kitsee had been credited with
more than 2,000 inventions in the
last forty-five years. They included
a phonograph disk, a refrigerator
car, a new type of coal breaker,
underground system of telegraph,
railroad signals and many things
said to have been responsible for
the efficiency of the telephone.**

**He was born in Vienna and came
to this country sixty-five years ago.
He was unmarried.**

.....color photography, printing telegraph, mining safety alarms.

He invented a wireless set which he sold to Marconi.

His submarine detection patent was given to the US Navy.

Isador Kitsee applied for over 2000 inventions, some of which are still used today. He like Cort, is forgotten.

John Cort



John Cort had the first Legitimate Theatre Circuit owning 117 theater's on the Cort Circuit....all on the west coast.

John Cort owned one seedy box theatre in Seattle. After going legitimate, this box theatre was leased to the Women's Temperance Union...putting the society in the middle of Seattle's red light district.

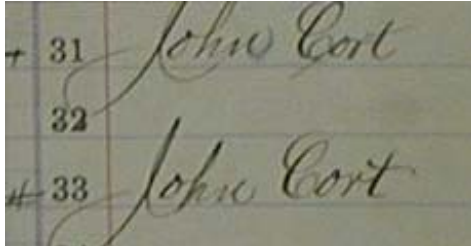
Mr. Cort loaned his many theaters to the Woman's Suffrage Movement.

John Cort's father was a minister and you can just feel his moral upbringing. Mr. Cort's father never approved of his son being involved in the theatre.

John Cort lived on Cort Road in Houghton. Cort Road was later named NE 108th Street. Some of our Houghton natives remember Cort Road.

His home was called Whisker Farm and he listed Houghton as his home. Being a famous man, Mr. Cort did not let the general public know where he lived. He is mentioned fondly in Kirkland papers. It does not appear that he took part in civic affairs, but he was considered one of the neighborhood.

John Cort's signature from a tax record over 100 years ago.



31 John Cort
32
33 John Cort

Combs, Rogers and Gatteson.

John Cort undertook to make a little run in his auto on Sunday. The machine had not been out since last year, and so after running a few miles it bucked so that Mr. Cort was forced to procure a pair of horses and pull the blamed thing home. The sight of an auto in tow proved a drawing attraction. But it is Mr. Cort's business to provide drawing attractions, so he didn't mind.

Kirkland Redmond Sun

May 7, 1907

DEATH CLAIMS WIDELY KNOWN THEATER MAN

Ambassador Dawes Pays MacDonald Visit

LONDON, Nov. 18 (A).—Ambassador Dawes, who returned to London from the United States last week, called at No. 10 Downing street this morning and spent a half hour with

John Cort, Former
of S. L. Show Ho
Dies in East.

DEATH STRIKES THEATRE OWNER

Big Theatre Pioneer Dies In New York

John Cort First to Install Edison Lamp and First to Organize Vaudeville Circuit

NEW YORK Nov 19 —(A)—John Cort who first gained fame as a theater manager more than 40 years ago by his enterprise in installing in his Seattle theater "The new Edison incandescent lights" died yesterday. From the late 80's when his letter-heads attracted the attention of other managers all over the country by their announcement that his theater was heated by steam and lighted

ed First Vaude-
circuit In
ca In 1888

Nov. 18.—(AP)—
ead here from heart

erly owned 117 the-
it, extending from St.
the Pacific coast. He
quarters in Seattle,
1888, he organized
ville circuit in Amer-
played first in Seat-
d other nearby cities.
ago he came to New
me one of the most
atrical producers in

red about a year ago.
in the west he dis-
eight years ago. He
attle many years ago,
d the Fraternal Or-
nd he was the order's
by president.
d by his widow; two
ghter.

John Cort came to the Northwest in 1886. He moved to New York in 1919. Mr. Cort died 10 years later. His history in New York is well preserved and he is still written about.

John Cort lived in our community for over 20 years. Hopefully he will now be remembered



AMERICAN CHICLE COMPANY



JOHN CORT, one of America's foremost theatrical managers, says: "Adams Pepsin Chewing Gum impresses me as being an effective nerve steadier and brain quieter. I chew it regularly and derive real benefit from it."

John Cort

**ADAMS
PEPSIN**

THE BIG BUSINESS-MANS GUM

Cooling Peppermint Flavor

From Chris Cort





From
Chris Cort

The End



Kirkland Heritage Society