



THE Wexford Starlite Drive-In is no more. It has stood on Route 19 since 1951, but when its lease recently expired, it joined thousands of other razed or abandoned drive-ins. From a peak of approximately 5,500 in the early 1960s, the number of drive-ins has now dwindled to half that number. The remaining drive-ins are usually well-preserved remnants of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. However, their land is increasingly irresistible to real estate developers who want the land for shopping malls or fast food restaurants.

Starlite owner George Welsh is a rarity in that he's looking for land in the North Hills for three new screens. The father of four children and 34 foster children, Welsh realizes that entertainment spots are needed for both families and teenagers. He regularly sponsored antique car "cruise nights" at the Starlite and hopes to continue the tradition at his new screens. — *Photographs and text by Brian A. Butko*