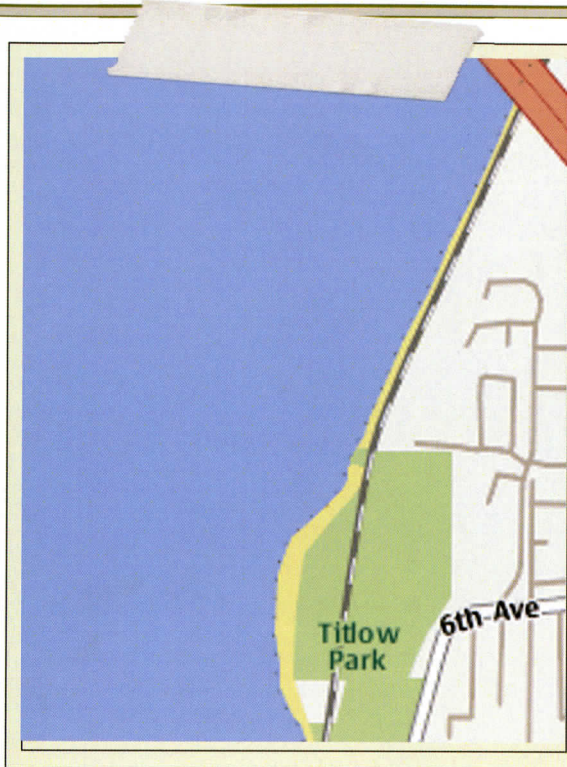




### TACOMA.

From 1925 to 1928 Tacoma was home to the very first film production company in the Pacific Northwest. In 1924 with Hollywood leading the world in silent film production, an entrepreneur named Harvey C. Weaver, (featured above right) had the idea of setting up a film studio in the Northwest to take advantage of it's unique landscapes and mountainous regions. Along with some local investors he began constructing what would become H. C. Weaver Studios. A fully functioning independent film studio in Tacoma Washington.



### TITLOW BEACH.

Construction of the studio began on a 5 acre parcel at 1600 Titlow Beach Rd. at the end of 6th. Ave. The construction firm of Albertson, Cornell Bros., and Walsh were hired and construction of the 105 x 180 ft. building began with a cost of \$50,000. The studio boasted a 52 ft. ceiling without pillars making it the third largest film studio in the U. S. The structure featured executive offices, a projection room, 15 star dressing rooms as well as dressing rooms for extras. It also housed two furnace rooms at each end to evenly heat the stage. A formal dedication, attended by the Governor and open to the public was held on December 14th. 1924.

# 1600 TITLOW BEACH ROAD.

## AN IDEA.





### ❁ First Production. ❁

On May 5th, 1925 the Tacoma Daily Ledger and the News Tribune started feverishly posting daily articles in anticipation of the arrival of Hollywood stars, John Bowers and Marguerite De La Motte. Tacoma residents were in a frenzy and stormed Union Depot as the cast and crew arrived and checked into the Winthrop Hotel. On May 11th, production began on "Hearts and Fists", directed by Lloyd Ingraham. The film had its' world premiere at the Rialto Theater on Jan. 2, 1926 with local resident Ester Steynor on the Wurlitzer. Two other productions, "The Eyes of the Totem," and "The Heart of the Yukon" followed in 1927. With the success of "Hearts and Fists", Vital exhibitors (a New York distributor) purchased the film for \$40,000, with a guarantee of another \$30,000 in six months with 65% of future net profits. They also optioned another 14-18 pictures for the studio in the next two years.



### "The Talkies."

In 1928 sound came to motion pictures with Walt Disney's "Steamboat Willie" and "The Jazz Singer." Literally overnight the film industry changed forever. Hollywood began its' real dominance of the industry as smaller production companies were forced to close their doors. Weaver's Studio was no exception and in 1928 Weaver left Tacoma for Hollywood. The studio was turned into a ballroom and in 1932 it burned down as The News Tribune reported that two men were seen suspiciously leaving the building at midnight. For more info, visit: [www.tacomapubliclibrary.org](http://www.tacomapubliclibrary.org) <http://www.IMDb.com>

# H.C. WEAVER

## PRODUCTIONS.



### The Pacific Northwest's first film studio.

