

# W. "Stu." GREEN

Editor of Bombarde



## ORGAN BUFF PLANS PIPE-EQUIPPED RESTAURANT FOR HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood, Calif.—If the dreams of life-long organ buff Marshall Owen come to fruition, Movietown will have a deluxe organ-equipped restaurant right on Sunset Blvd. For the past six months the bearded, former racing driver has been engaged in formulating plans, making drawings (he's an artist, too) and casting about for financial backing (now in sight) to make the ambitious project come alive. He has an option on the old Frank Sennes' *Moulin Rouge* night club building and has completed plans for alteration of the auditorium to accommodate a visual theatre organ installation with all pipework under glass and illuminated by *black light*. At the moment he is casting about for a suitable organ, 24 ranks or more, and has been dickering with Leroy Lewis for the staff job. Lewis, it will be recalled, had great success with two visual pipe organ restaurant installations, the Surf City Hotel in New Jersey and the Panama Hilton Lounge in Pana-

ma City. He is hoping to get Don Baker to open the house, which will go far beyond the organ in the entertainment field. Although the organ will supply the theme, Owen plans stage attractions to fill the need for live variety in the Hollywood area. The place will be renamed *The Pipes and Pedals Restaurant* and is planned as something of a memorial to America's fast-vanishing movie palaces. Owen is collecting such mementos as the bronze and glass doors from a soon-to-be demolished theatre as well as drapes, theatre seats and curtains. He plans to use a simulated red plush curtain effect to embellish the outside of the building, including the gold braid and tassels. Owen is looking for a mid-'30s theatre marquee, complete with light bulb pattern flasher to set above the entrance. His plans even include a cost breakdown of the food he plans to serve and the pattern for his waiters' uniforms. Implementation of the plan hinges on financial backing which, at this writing, seems assured. The expertly detailed presentation made a good impression.

## JACK WARD INJURED IN FALL FROM ELEVATED CONSOLE

RITA BECKER

Rochester, New York, April 15—The spectre that has haunted theatre organists ever since they started putting consoles on elevators—falling from a raised con-



JACK WARD

Taking a dive wasn't in the plan

sole—caught up with organist Jack Ward tonight. It was a well-publicised, well-attended concert staged by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society, a group justly proud of its rescue of a fine theatre organ

and installing it in its new home, the Auditorium theatre. Disaster struck just before intermission when Jack swivelled around on the bench to acknowledge the applause he had earned.

At Jack's regular console, at the Radio City Music Hall, there's floor behind the bench. No so at the auditorium. Jack slid off the bench and fell nearly ten feet, just missing the elevator pit. A gasp of horror went up from the audience and those down front were at his side in a moment. Jack was understandably badly shaken up by the dive but his injuries were comparatively small. Jack, who is in his late 60's, must keep in excellent condition because his physical injuries amounted to a broken collar bone. He was rushed to a hospital for treatment while a volunteer finished his program. The broken collar bone would keep him from playing until he could shed the sling.

## SYRACUSE KEITH'S WURLITZER TO BE PERKING IN NEW HOME BY JULY 1ST

Syracuse, N. Y.—The fine 3-11 Wurlitzer rescued from the doomed Keith's theatre here, will be in shape to supply music for the September 1967, New York State Fair, according to the Fair's director, Bernard W. Potter. Readers will recall the very successful farewell show which was staged at Keith's last year to help raise funds for purchase and transportation of the organ, which is believed to have the finest sounding Tibia Clausa built by Wurlitzer. The Keith organ is the first historical object for the Empire State Theatre and Musical Instrument Museum's permanent exhibit at the Fair Grounds. The instrument was rescued through the efforts of the Syracuse Theatre Organ Society last year when it was learned that the Keith building would fall victim to so-called "urban renewal." One of the sparkers of the project is Paul Fleming who has invested thousands of hours in recent years restoring the Wurlitzer, first in the theatre and now several miles away at the Fair Grounds where little banks of the faithful gather nights and on weekends to restore and install the instrument. A target date—"end of June"—has been set to make the organ operational and Fleming means to meet it. The group is hampered by a shortage of immediate cash and contributions are very welcome. Such gifts are deductible from the federal income tax. They may be sent to the Museum, Harriet May Mills Building, New York State Fair Grounds, Syracuse, New York.

## BERKELEY PLUG-IN CONCERT BENEFITS SILENT PIPE ORGAN

Berkeley, Calif., April 2—A concert intended to benefit the long-silent Hope-Jones-Wurlitzer organ was held at the United Artists theatre here this afternoon. The featured organist was Larry Vannucci who played not the pipe organ (which isn't ready yet) but a Baldwin loaned for the occasion. But at starting time the spotlight sought out the H-J console and there sat Bob Chaney with a sign on his back proclaiming him "Staff Organist" and a pointer system book on the rack. Of course, the music (*No Business Like Show Business*) coming from the chambers was supplied by "the Vanootch," sitting at the dark Baldwin console. Then Vannucci took over and played his very individual arrangements of such favorites as *Wind-chester Cathedral* (with the unruly "posthorn" jibes), *I Dream Too Much*, *All the Things You Are*, and *On a Clear Day*. After intermission, Larry explained that the silent film hadn't arrived so instead he accompanied a "Roadrunner" cartoon with the soundtrack turned off. The light organ background was perfect for the hilarious escapades of bird and coyote with mayhem the object. Next, a surprise appearance by Don Kaufman who sang three tunes well, especially *April in Paris*.

Larry then rounded out the show with *Malaguena* (dedicated to a former teacher), *Shadow of Your Smile* and excerpts from *An American in Paris* for a closer.

Attendance was fair at the Sunday afternoon concert and those who came enjoyed the show. It was established that considerably more tickets had been sold than attendance indicated, which shows that there is a lively interest in getting the old Hope-Jones perking, even among those who could not make it today. Proceeds will help restore the pipe organ.