

ROCHESTER, N.Y., THEATERS AND THE

by Lloyd E. Klos



Seated at the Strand Theater Marr & Colton console is Howell Lewis. He also played the Rochester organ, and doubled as a church musician. —From Lloyd Klos Collection



With her daughter Connie looking on, popular Helen Ankner plays the Palace 4/21 Wurlitzer for a State Teachers Convention in 1941. Achieving much fame as a radio artist over WHAM, she played several theaters, and is still active as a musician. —From Lloyd Klos Collection



A rare picture of the 3-Manual Kohl console which was in the Monroe Theater. Organ was built in Rochester, one of 13 which were housed in the smaller neighborhood houses. All Rochester Schine Theaters junked their organs in the early 40's. —L. Klos Collection

During the past few years, the writer has been doing research in the field of the theater organ, and the lives of the people who played these instruments. As this research, coupled with countless interviews, unearthed the names of people who had played the theaters in Rochester, N. Y., he began compiling a master listing of these musicians and added to it as time progressed. Following is the result of this effort. A total of 92 people was obtained who played the 39 theater organs in Kodak City. Undoubtedly there were others who came, played a short time and left. However, in the opinion of the writer, this list is believed to be as close to complete as one could get, short of traveling about the country and interviewing former theater organists living elsewhere. Perhaps readers of THEATER ORGAN will come up with other names.

1. **ARNETT 2M Kohl**
Joseph L. Briggs
Frank A. Clement
Edward C. May
Louis Pericola
Jalsomine Spadafora
2. **CAMEO 2M Kohl**
Gladys Clark
Rose Harloff
Fred R. Myers
Louis Pericola
Elizabeth Scurry
3. **CLINTON 2M Kohl**
Louis Pericola
4. **CULVER 2M Marr & Colton**
Harold W. Geschwind
5. **DIXIE 2/5 Kilgen**
Richard D. Betts
Edward C. May
Louis Pericola
6. **EASTMAN 4M Austin**
Helen Ankner
Robert J. Berentsen
Margaret Culp
Dezso Von D' Antalfy
Harold W. Geschwind
Anna Walker Goss
John Hammond
Rose Harloff
Guy Fraser Harrison
Herbert H. Johnson
Harold Jolles
Chester E. Klee
Frank Lybolt
Louis Pericola
Beatrice Ryan
Mrs. Schyminger
Ira F. Shirk
Harold Osborn Smith
Art Taylor
Edwin J. Werp

ORGANISTS WHO PLAYED IN THEM

7. EMPRESS 2M Kohl

*Rose Harloff
Edward C. May
R. Franklin Maynard
Louis Pericola*

8. FAMILY 2M Marr & Colton

*Herbert Henderson
Zana Johnson
Carl Melich
Louis Pericola
Ira F. Shirk*

9. FAY'S 2M Kimball

*Harold W. Geschwind
Forrest W. Gregory
Edwin J. Werp*

10. GORDON 4M Moller

*Susanne Appel
Gladys Clark
L. Grace Drew
Forrest W. Gregory
Rose Harloff
Clint La Salle
Helen Heintz McManus
Norman Nairn
Harry G. Sullivan
Art Taylor*

11. GRAND 2/5 Wurlitzer

*Gladys Clark
Margaret Culp
George C. Garis
Harold W. Geschwind
Rosetta Golden
Herbert H. Johnson
Mildred Mansfield
Edward C. May
Fred Mueller
Louis Pericola
Grace Sherwood
Ira F. Shirk*

12. HIPPODROME 2M Wurlitzer

*L. Grace Drew
Anna Walker Goss
Stella Moscov*

13. HOME OF THE PIPE ORGAN

Norman Nairn

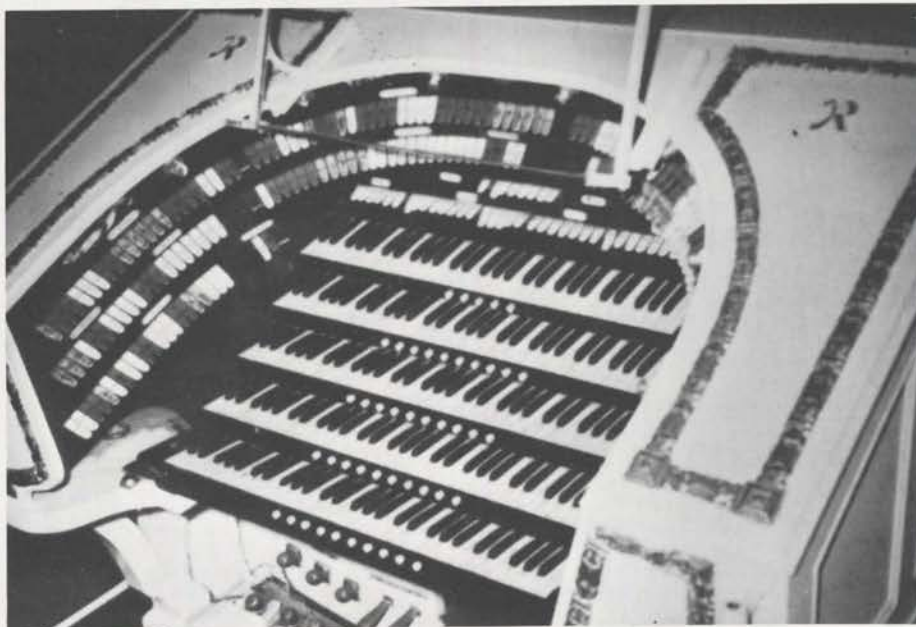
14. HUB 2M Marr & Colton

*F. P. Harper
Louis Pericola*

15. HUDSON 2M Marr & Colton

Clara A. Schafer

(Continued on Page 12)

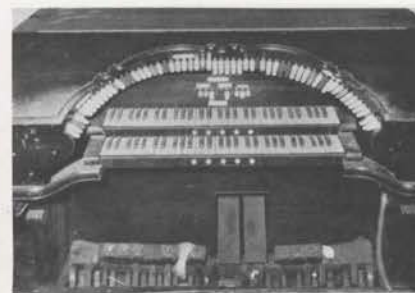


Loew's Rochester 5/24 Marr & Colton as it looked in the 30's. Console was the largest ever built by the M & C Company in Warsaw, New York. Now in Portland, Oregon. —Dick Hull Collection



Jerry Vogt, who played the Rochester 5/24 Marr & Colton, poses at the WHEC 3/11 Wurlitzer. An excellent musician and teacher, Mr. Vogt also was a top church organist.

—From Lloyd Klos Collection



The 2/7 Wurlitzer console in the Webster Theater. A typical neighborhood theater installation. Installed in 1927, the organ was used by six players. Organ was sold for parts in 1960, and theater was demolished as a hazard in 1965.

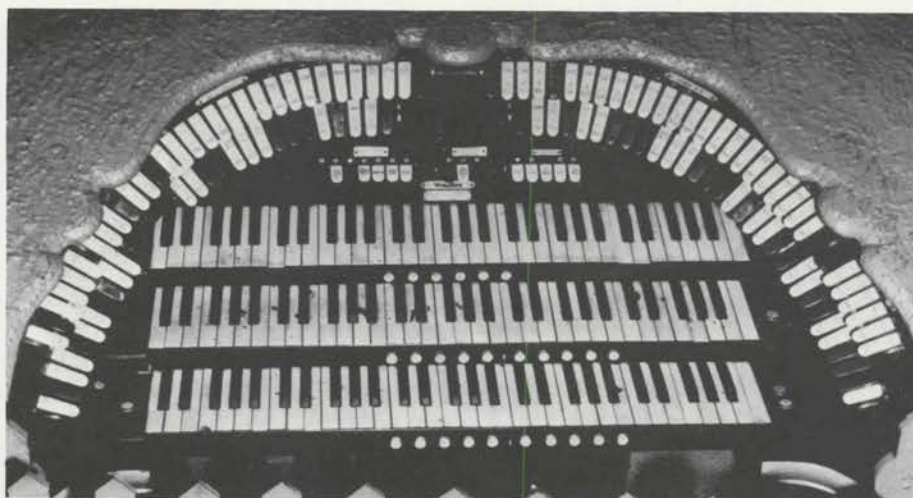
—L. Klos Collection



J. Gordon Baldwin at the console of the Rochester-built Kohl organ in the Monroe Theater. Baldwin, graduate of the Eastman School of Music, was a terrific improviser, and well spoken of by his contemporaries. He was one of the "Console Twins" at the Piccadilly with Hugh Dodge; played the 5/24 Rochester Marr & Colton. In the 1930's, he became musical director of WHEC, presiding over that station's 3/11 Wurlitzer.

—Lloyd Klos Collection

theatre organ / bombarde



One of twin 3/13 Wurlitzer consoles installed in Piccadilly (now Paramount) in 1928. Fate of other console is unknown. In 1948, theater was renovated, and painters slopped a sickly blue paint on the console which was protected by small picket fence at right side of auditorium. Organ now in private home.
—L. Klos Collection

(Continued from Page 11)

16. **JEFFERSON** 2M Kohl
Bob Mills
17. **LAKE** 2/5 Marr & Colton
*Margaret Culp
Herbert H. Johnson
Edward C. May
Louis Pericola
Ira Shirk*
18. **LIBERTY** 2/6 Wurlitzer
*Frank A. Clement
Halburton Clough
Edward H. Graef
Frank K. Hanson
Edward C. May
Ruth Meyer
Louis Pericola
Ira F. Shirk*
19. **LINCOLN** 2/3 Wurlitzer
*Rose Harloff
George J. Minges
Louis Pericola*
20. **LYNDHURST** 2M Kohl
*Mrs. F. E. Ballou
W. Ray Burroughs
Gladys Clark
Chauncey L. Gifford
Rose Harloff
Agnes Lain
Benjamin Loewenthal
Blanch McCuen
C. Sharp Minor
E. E. Paddock
Louis Pericola
Grace Sherwood
Samuel Thornton*
21. **LYRIC** 2M Marr & Colton
*Margaret Culp
Rosetta Golden
Rose Harloff
Louis Pericola
Clara A. Schafer*
22. **MADISON** 2/7 Wurlitzer
*Frank A. Clement
Margaret Culp
Hugh J. Dodge
George C. Garis
Harold W. Geschwind
Chester E. Klee
Alma Lissow
Helen Heintz McManus
Louis Pericola
Ira Shirk*
23. **MONROE** 3M Kohl
*George Bacon
J. Gordon Baldwin
Westfield S. Brown
Gladys Clark
Margaret Culp
Rose Harloff
Chester E. Klee
Louis Pericola*
24. **MURRAY** 2/3 Wurlitzer
*Margaret Culp
George C. Garis
Harold W. Geschwind
Rose Harloff
Edgar V. Lehn
Edith Mansion
R. Franklin Maynard
Helen Heintz McManus
Stella Moskov
Louis Pericola*
25. **PICCADILLY** 3/13 Wurlitzer
*Ted Alexander
Helen Ankner
J. Gordon Baldwin
Richard D. Betts
W. Ray Burroughs
Gladys Clark
Frank A. Clement
Jack Courtney
Margaret Culp
Hugh J. Dodge
Anna Walker Goss
Forrest W. Gregory
Chester E. Klee
Fannie Lampham
Frank Lybolt
Mildred Mansfield
Edward C. May
Helen Heintz McManus
Fred R. Myers
Norman Nairn
Louis Pericola
Eda Roman
Beatrice Ryan
Charles Sharp
Ira F. Shirk
Harry G. Sullivan
Art Taylor*
26. **PLAZA** 2M Kohl
Lou Pericola
27. **PRINCESS** 2M Kohl
*Joseph L. Briggs
Margaret Culp
Louis Pericola
Elizabeth Scurry
Ira F. Shirk
Edwin J. Werp*
28. **RKO PALACE** 4/21 Wurlitzer
*Helen Ankner
Helen Crawford
Jesse Crawford
Edward H. Graef
Tom Grierson
Ann Leaf
Walter B. Patterson
Edwin J. Werp*

29. REGENT 3/9 H-J Wurlitzer

Helen Ankner
Joseph L. Briggs
W. Ray Burroughs
Gladys Clark
Frank A. Clement
Margaret Culp
L. Grace Drew
Anna Walker Goss
Forrest W. Gregory
Tom Grierson
Nellie Hillhouse
Emily Karnes
Chester E. Klee
Edward C. May
Stella Moscov
Louis Pericola
Beatrice Ryan
Harold Osborn Smith

30. RIALTO 1M Marr & Colton
R. Franklin Maynard

31. RIVIERA 3/11 Marr & Colton

Frank A. Clement
Halburton Clough
Hugh J. Dodge
Harold W. Geschwind
Edward H. Graef
Tom Grierson
Rose Harloff
Edward C. May
Ruth Meyer
Louis Pericola

32. ROCHESTER 5/24 Marr & Colton

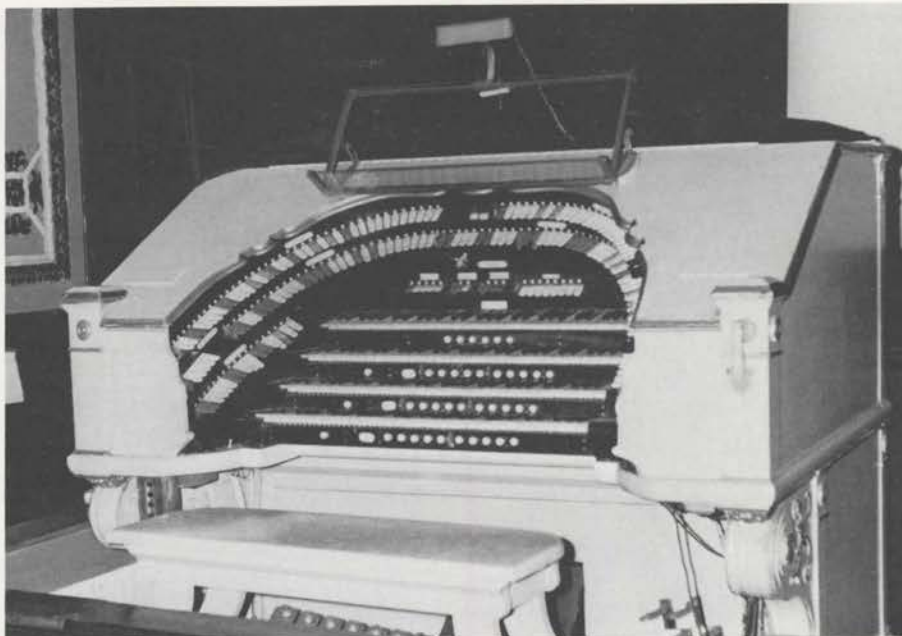
George Bacon
J. Gordon Baldwin
Robert J. Berentsen
Maurice Cook
Helen Crawford
Jesse Crawford
Forrest W. Gregory
Carl Halbert
Dick Hull
Howell Lewis
Frank Lybolt
Con Maffie
C. Sharp Minor
Louis Pericola
Harry G. Sullivan
Earl Tobias
Jerry Vogt

33. STALEY 2M Kohl

Harold Geschwind
Edward C. May
Helen Heintz McManus

34. STATE 2/6 Wurlitzer

Frank A. Clement
Edward H. Graef
F. R. Harper
Edward C. May
R. Franklin Maynard
Helen Heintz McManus
Louis Pericola
Ira F. Shirk



RKO Palace 4/21 Wurlitzer as it looked when regularly used. Organ was installed in 1928.
—L. Klos Collection

35. STRAND 4M Marr & Colton

Gladys Clark
Frank A. Clement
Margaret Culp
Hugh J. Dodge
L. Grace Drew
Harold W. Geschwind
Rosetta Golden
Forrest W. Gregory
Tom Grierson
Rose Harloff
Nellie Hillhouse
Howell Lewis
Alma Lissow
R. Franklin Maynard
Louis Pericola
Mrs. Schyminger
Grace Sherwood
Ira F. Shirk
Harry G. Sullivan

36. SUN 2M Kohl

Louis Pericola

37. THURSTON 2M Wurlitzer

George C. Garis
Anna Walker Goss
Alma Lissow
Helen Heintz McManus
Louis Pericola

38. VICTORIA 4M Moller
(from Gordon Theater)

Grace Spies
May Spies

39. WEBSTER 2/7 Wurlitzer

Frank A. Clement
Margaret Culp
Herbert H. Johnson
Fred Myers
Louis Pericola
Elizabeth Scurry



George C. Garis at the console of the Strand Theater Marr & Colton. He also played the Madison, Murray and Thurston organs, playing up to the final days of the theater organ in Rochester.
—From Lloyd Klos Collection