



NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected by LLOYD E. KLOS

Jason and I have just returned from another search through the Jacobs Magazine district, with items from the summer of 1927.

When "A Kiss in a Taxi," starring Bebe Daniels and Chester Conklin, appeared at Boston's Metropolitan Theatre, the critics were loud in their praise of organist LLOYD DEL CASTILLO'S musicianship at the 4-manual Wurlitzer. "In a cut version of the Second Hungarian Rhapsody, Del Castillo demonstrated that he is possessed of an extremely agile pair of 'dogs' by tripping through a specially written cadenza for the pedals, with a motion picture of these same 'canines' in action, thrown onto the screen and synchronized with his playing to show folks that locomotor ataxia would be of no great help to a movie organist like himself."

IRENE JUNO claims she is Washington DC's worst organist. "I played at the Metropolitan and business fell off; so they had to install Vitaphone in order to draw the people back and thereby make enough to feed the kitty and pay the third assistant back-scratcher for Manager Fallis Broche. Then, I went to the Tivoli, and young Howard, the best-looking doorman in captivity, immediately took to running around nights. He said business was so dull that he fell asleep on the job and so couldn't sleep at night."

HAROLD PEASE has an original stunt at Washington's Colony Theatre. The organist plays the theme for the opening of the 'synchronized' feature, timing it exactly and using colored lights; two curtains, slowly opening, bring the fadeout of titles and the end of the theme with the opening of the last curtain. Pease uses a specially built three-manual organ.

The Chamber of Commerce of Scranton, Pa. is the proud owner of a fine auditorium in which a beautiful four-manual Kimball organ has been installed. A series of organ recitals has been held, featuring CHARLES COURBOIN, ELLEN FULTON, LEON VERRIES, ERNEST DAWSON LEACH and LLEWELLYN JONES. The programs were broadcast through WSAM, the Scranton Times station.

The importance of photoplay music as an item of musical merchandise is emphasized by the recent announcement of Irving Berlin, Inc., that they have initiated a department which will be exclusively devoted to this type of music publication. LEO A. KEMPINSKI is Editor and MAURICE BARON is Director of Publications, both men well known for the high quality of the photoplay music they have produced.

Advertisement: Capable organist at liberty. Experienced with Wurlitzer, Kimball and Morton units. Address ORGANIST, 424 W. Front St., Plainfield, N.J.

EUGENE LUCAS, formerly of Milwaukee, a pupil of CARL MUELLER, is snugly and permanently settled on a dandy little Kilgen at the Mermac Theatre, West Bend, Wisconsin. He recently married and built a beautiful little bungalow in West Bend.

The Chicago Musical College has just opened its new 4-manual Moller Unit organ. CHARLES DEMOREST has had the console placed in a small auditorium which contains complete projection equipment, comprising two picture machines and a stereopticon for slides.

Organist AVELYN M. KERR of Milwaukee announces a special six-week summer course in theatre organ instruction. All lesson and practice periods on the 3-manual Marr & Colton under her personal direction, in the Wisconsin News Building of WSOE.

The Washington D.C. chapter of the American Guild of Organists is now sending membership application blanks to theatre organists. Previously, only concert and church organists were considered.

OTTO F. BECK is playing at Washington's Tivoli Theatre. He is the city's most popular organist, and when he did an hour's program recently from the Homer L. Kitt studio, three girls were kept busy at the switchboard taking care of 170 requests he received during that one hour.

ADVERTISEMENT: Organ position in New England or Middle Atlantic States, any part of summer vacation or permanent, wanted by southern union man.—Morton, Kimball, Skinner.

GOLD DUST:

Here are a few names we shook out of our dust pan, who played organs in the summer of 1927: FRANCIS CRONIN at the Capitol, Allston, Mass.; ARTHUR THATCHER at the Tivoli's Wurlitzer, Frederick, Maryland; GRACE FISHER is manager and organist of the Cumberland Theatre in Maryland; In Washington, DC, RUTH FARMER is at the Takoma, MADELYN HALL subbing for MARTHA LEE at the Savoy; PEARL HAUER at the York, DICK LEIBERT and HARRY CAMPBELL alternating at the Palace, and DAN BRESKIN at the Apollo . . . Many Washington organists featuring Orthophonic phonograph and organ, usually song records, but some report using JESSE CRAWFORD records to good advantage . . . HAROLD RAMSAY was guest organist in one Washington theatre recently, attempting to coax an unwilling audience to sing, with disastrous results . . . WILLIAM J. COWDREY playing in Chillicothe, Ohio; PERRY DICKENS at the Grand, Port Washington, Wisconsin; EARL ROLAND LARSON at the Duluth Lyceum's Wurlitzer; AVELYN M. KERR at the Mirth in Milwaukee; EVAH L. MARTIN at the Irvin, Bloomington, Ill., GENE BYERS shuttling between Rainbow and Climax Theatres in Milwaukee; ARSENE F. SIEGEL in the windy city's Chicago; R. WILSON ROSS at the Victoria's Moller in Rochester, NY; OMAR SMITH and daughter BERNICE at the Venetian in Milwaukee; ARNOLD KRUEGER at 3-manual Barton in the Colonial in Milwaukee; C. SHARPE MINOR opens the Loews' Rochester 5-24 Marr & Colton in November, complete with movie short on the organ's building; STEVE BOISCLAIRE at the Albany, NY, Ritz Wurlitzer 2-13, also broadcasts over WGY, Schenectady; LOUELLA EDWARDS at the Rivoli, Syracuse, NY, having favorable audience reaction to song slide novelties. Her instrument is a 2-manual, 6-stop Marr & Colton.

That should do it until we return from our next safari. Happy Easter!

—Lloyd & "Jason"

NOTICE: Claim-jumpers will be shot on sight! But many rich, untapped veins are waiting to be staked out in your own area. Dig 'em; pan 'em; send nuggets to BOMBARDE.