



SPOTLIGHTS in many colors pick up the glitter on the overhead shutters as organist Dave Quinlan performs at the console.

It was a familiar scene for those who remembered the long-gone "615 Club" in Benecia (in the Bay Area), California. There was Dave Quinlan playing the same style 165 (extended style D) which had entertained so many fans during the years of the 615 Club, right up to the time the city condemned the 100-year-old building and the club closed.

That same instrument and organist were doing fine in a new location—Rudy's Supper Club in Vallejo, Calif.—after a too-long hiatus. It all came about while Dave was playing a plug-in at Rudy's which is operated by Bernice and Tony Arietta. The talk got around to pipes and Bernice asked Dave what had become of the organ he used to play at the 615 Club. It was in storage, and possibly available. Dave would check. Bernice had heard the Morton organ in the Carl Greer Inn over in Sacramento, and after that, no plug-in would do.

The result was a rental deal and the long-silent instrument, one of three original style 165's in the Bay Area, was secured from owner Urban Braito. It was installed by Dick Willson and Curt Wood in chambers built where the band shell used to be. The dining room is a large hall, with plenty of room for the

Dave Quinlan and Former '615 Club' 2-6 Wurlitzer Ride Again in Bay Area Club

2-6 Wurlti to sound out in. The swell shutters were placed high, so that room would be left below for windows, in compliance with the growing "audio-visual" trend. Organ enthusiasts are becoming ever more curious about the

innards of theatre organs and a number of installations have been equipped with windows which open into well-lighted chambers, thus giving the listeners an opportunity to see what they are listening to. The console is located on a platform between the chambers and illuminated by spotlights controlled by the organist. Fanciful lighting effects playing on the pipework and percussors complete the picture.

The NorCal Chapter scheduled its March meeting at Rudy's, with Dave Quinlan doing the honors. The Arietta's have provided good promotion, billing Dave and "the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ—for your Dining and Dancing Pleasure" in local organ publications, papers and entertainment guides.

The only change in the pipe line-up since 615 Club days is that the instrument's original style D Trumpet has been replaced with the Brass Trumpet which belongs to the Oakland Paramount 4-20 Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer, which is under the same ownership as the smaller Wurlitzer. This provides a brightness useful for both melody leads and ensemble work. The instrument is equipped with a full set of pitched percussions and a "toy counter." The organ was installed originally in the El Campinal Theatre, Antioch, Calif.

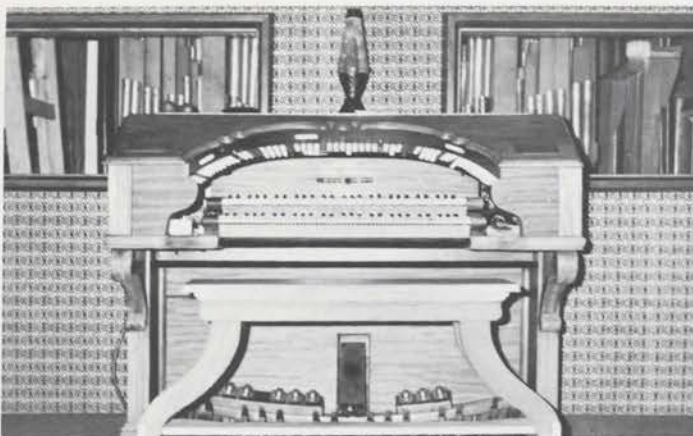
The new installation is played solo on Sundays and Tuesdays through Thursdays, and with a combo on Fridays and Saturdays.

—Dewey Cagle



GOURMET DISH—No one had the heart to cut into fan Ethel Bellinger's opening-night lucky cake . . . for a whole week!

PHOTOS: Bob Churchill
and Dewey Cagle



CUTE CONSOLE—The little 2-6 Wurlitzer console, topped by eye-level windows which encourage the curious to peek at the music-makers within.



COMBO NIGHT—Dave (center) approves Harold Tally's sax improvisation, while Al Nifitaly beats the skins.