



NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

This time, Jason and I salute Los Angeles, host to the 13th annual ATOE Convention, with choice nuggets and dust from the Southern California lode. References were: *American Organist* (AO), *The Diapason* (D) and newspapers (N).

Mar. 1928 (D). *Classical organist Roland Diggle reports from L.A.:* "I recently heard some splendid organ-playing at the Million Dollar Theatre by a young organist, Gaylord Carter. The picture was 'The Last Command,' a great picture in itself, but made 100 per cent more effective by Mr. Carter's work. Keep your eye on this chap!"

Feb. 1922 (AO). HENRY B. MURTAGH of Grauman's Theatre, L.A., frequently uses a popular song with lantern slides for his solo. On one occasion, he used a violinist in one number and a tenor in another. An expert in comedy, his imitations of a cat-dog fight, rooster crows, etc., without use of traps, show what can be done with contrasting and unreasonable combinations.

Mar. 1922 (D). The Kimball Company was commissioned to build a 4-39 organ for the Forum Theatre, L.A., which is to be patterned after the Pantheon in Rome. Part of the organ, including the foundation and reed stops, will open to the roof through special swell shutters, so on special days the organ may be heard out-of-doors.

Feb. 1923 (AO). *The Society of Theatre Organists of Long Beach had several of their number perform at the December meeting in the Liberty Theatre. They included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Harry Monroe, Beryl Murry, A. O. T. Stenious, Mary Ruth Ingram, Mildred Smith, Howard Dunlap, L. L. Skeels and Frank Anderson.*

Mar. 1923 (AO). George Walsh, Claude Reimer, Roy L. Medcalfe, Frederick Burr Scholl, Herbert Burland and Henry B. Murtagh were all featured in L.A. newspaper advertising of their respective theatres.

March 1923 (D). CHARLIE CHAPLIN has installed a Robert Morton organ in the music room of his Beverly Hills home. He is not dependent on mechanical devices to play the instrument as he plays piano, organ and violin creditably for an amateur.

Sept. 1923 (D). *The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company will build a West Coast headquarters building at 814 S. Broadway, L.A., to be devoted to the musical trade. The 13-story structure will house an auditorium, and will be completed in a year.*

Mar. 1925 (N). Billed as the "World's Mightiest Pipe Organ," its components required 11 large box-cars to travel from Wurlitzer's No. Tonawanda, N. Y., factory to Roosevelt Memorial Park in L.A. Cost is \$150,000; largest pipe is 64' long and weighs over half a ton; smallest is 3/4 of an inch and weighs half an ounce; 300 miles of wiring are used.

Mar. 1925 (D). The Robert Morton Organ Co., a reorganization of the old Photoplayer Co., has been incorporated in California with factories at West Berkeley and Van Nuys. Capitalization is \$500,000. President is L. H. Brownstone.

Nov. 1925 (AO). According to new rules submitted to theatre managers for approval, L.A. organists will not be required to play vaudeville acts. This will be enthusiastically received by both organists and performers.

Apr. 1927 (D). ALBERT HAY MALLOTTE has resigned as organist at the Metropolitan Theatre in L.A. to open a school for theatre organists in the Wurlitzer Building. He has installed a 2-manual Wurlitzer.

Feb. 1928 (D). *Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood has purchased a 4-manual Casavant organ. One of the largest churches in California, many leading movie stars are members. Dolores Del Rio started the organ fund, and Jackie Coogan, Ben Turpin and Mrs. Harry Langdon, among others, have pledged gifts. A tower, 250 feet high, will be equipped with a carillon later, it is hoped.*

GOLD DUST. We engage in a little name-dropping of L.A. area organists: 1922 in L.A.: Virginia C. Cox at the

Robert Morton in the Superba; Herbert W. Burland, Rialto; Arthur Clinton, Symphony; Ralph Waldo Emerson and Pearl Halbritter, Palace; Irma Falve and Bartley Sims at the Robert Morton, Kinema; Albert Lewis, Mission; Claude Riemer, Loew's State; G. Lord and Leonard Clark, California. In Long Beach, Robert Christensen, Loew's State; while Newton Yates opened the California. . .

1924 in L.A.: Fred Scholl, Hollywood; Julius K. Johnson, Forum; and Herbert Kern, Criterion. At Long Beach, Frank Anderson, Liberty; and Chauncey Haines, Egyptian. At Pasadena, Roy L. Medcalfe, Raymond; and in Glendale, Frank Lanterman and Charles O'Haver at the T. D. & L. . .

1925 in L.A.: George Walsh, Hill Street Theatre; Helen Dufresne, Melrose; Price Dunlavy and John E. Hill, Hollywood; Arch B. Fritz, Carmel; May H. Kelly and Thomas Callies, De Luxe; Katherine Flynn, Florence; Arthur Shaw broadcasting three daily concerts from the Melody Lane Cafe; Robert Christensen, California; Chauncey Haines at the 4-manual Kimball in the Forum; Claude Riemer and Harry Mills broadcasting on the KNX studio Wurlitzer; Reine Becker, Ravenna; Herbert Kern, Boulevard; Harold Ramsbottom and Donald Baker, Rivoli. In Pasadena: Frank Lanterman opened the Washington, while Adrian Richardson is house organist; Ella Miller, Bards; James Means, Fair Oaks; Edwin Penny, Warner's; Marie Rambo, Rob Mor; Edward C. Hopkins, Rivoli. In Hollywood: Julius K. Johnson, Egyptian; Price Dunlavy, Hollywood; and Arch Fritz, Carmel. At Long Beach: Frank Anderson, Egyptian; and Mary Ruth Ingraham, Hoyt's. In Beverly Hills, Johnnie Hill, Beverly. In San Diego, Paul Maiss, Superba; and at Ocean Park, Duke Wilson at the Rosemary.

1926 in L.A.: Henri C. Le Bel at the Wurlitzer in the Figueroa; Herbert Kerns, West Coast Boulevard; Leonard Clark, Criterion; Bud Young, Mesath; Fred Scholl, Carthay Circle; Marie Rambo Green, Belmont; Helen Dufresne, Hill Street; Betty Silberman, Pantages; Ann Leaf at both Metropolitan and Million Dollar Theatres. Raymond Codder at the Cabrillo Wurlitzer in San Diego.

Just as it is today a center of the theatre organ hobby, Los Angeles was a true beehive of TO activity in the Golden Days—a fitting location for an ATOE convention!

Following our next trip to the gold fields, Jason and I will be back at the assay office in August. So long, pardners!

—Lloyd and Jason.