



NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

Though the weather has been hot up in the draw, Jason and I have come up with a few items taken from American Organist (AO), Diapason (D), Jacobs (J) and Melody (M).

March 1912 (D) The Union Pacific and Burlington Railroads agreed, as part consideration for the right to lay tracks on Market Street in Denver, to give the city \$50,000 for a large organ for the Municipal Auditorium. (This organ was later built by Wurlitzer and voiced by ROBERT HOPE-JONES.)

Sept. 1912 (D) The theatre situation in the country is growing more favorable to organ builders and organists. In Chicago, orchestras have been eliminated in the theatres. At the McVickers Theatre, DR. LOUIS FALK has been engaged to play the fine old organ which had stood in the house unused for years.

Oct. 1914 (D) ROBERT HOPE-JONES, 55, ended his life in a Rochester, N.Y., rooming house on September 14. He was held by a coroner's jury to have been temporarily insane. He had come to the U.S. from England in 1903.

Dec. 1914 (D) The Beman Symphony Organ Co. of Binghamton, N.Y., will install a large organ in the Hippodrome Theatre, Youngstown, Ohio.

Feb. 1923 (J): MARY VOGT, organist at the Philadelphia Wanamaker Store, deserves the credit for giving Philadelphians great musical events, such as the organ concert in December, honoring the birth of composer Cesar Franck. An excellent organist herself, Miss Vogt has charge of all musical activities in both Wanamaker stores in Philadelphia and New York.

July 1923 (D) At the fifth annual convention of organ builders, DAVID MARR of the Marr & Colton Co. was elected vice-president. M. P. MOLLER, CHARLES C. KILGEN, ERNEST M. SKINNER and FARNEY R. WURLITZER were elected directors.

Aug. 1925 (M) Midmer-Losh, organ builders of Merrick, Long Island, have installed the first 7-octave organ in Christian Church, Miami. It was so successful, the firm is putting out a special 3-manual theatre organ with two 5-octave manuals, the lowest a 7-octave. Keith's Hippodrome in New York has a 3-manual M-L special and is interested in the new organ. FREDERICK KINSLEY is the organist.

Sept. 1925 (M) Pedal bourdon pipes of 32-foot length have been received at the new Keith-Albee Theatre in Boston from the Wurlitzer plant. Other features of the 3-manual organ are double-touch, thunder peal, Swiss bells and fog siren.

June 1930 (D) Six boys, ranging in age from 14 to 17 years, were arrested after having broken into the Garden Theatre, Richmond Hill, N.Y., where they wrecked the organ, carrying off the pipes, which they were plotting to sell for junk.

Sour Grapes Department

July 1933 (AO) "The innovations include a color organ with 900 controls, and a musical organ which can imitate anything from a squawk of a mouse to the roar of thunder," says one of the N.Y. newspapers of the Music Hall in Rockefeller Center. Musically, therefore, Radio City's boasted Music Hall offers no encouragement for true organ literature, organ composers, organ recitalists or the brand of organ building we all respect.

Dec. 1938 (D) DEZSO VON D'ANTALLFY has been engaged by the Philharmonic Symphony Society of N.Y. to succeed the late DR. MELCHIORRE MAURO-COTTONE as organist. Mr. D'Antallfy is at present an organist at Radio City Music Hall.

Jan. 1939 (D) HERBERT KOCH dedicated the new 4-manual Kilgen in the studios of WLAC, Nashville, on Dec. 5. Koch, who is regular organist at WHAS, Louisville, gave four recitals. At the evening broadcast, 1,000 persons came to the studio to see the instrument which they'd heard on the air.

GOLD DUST: Here are the Loews Theatre organists of the New York area, as listed in the July 1927 American Organist: EDNA GUTTRIDGE and BETTY COHEN, Aldine; MRS. F. S. ADAMS, American; ROSE GRUNBOCK and FLORENCE FITZGERALD, Astoria; HENRY HUMPHRIES, Avenue B; SASA BARBARIA, Bay Ridge; N. EPSTEIN, Bedford; MR. PARKER and MR. BEEBE, Bijou; VICTORIA POWNALL and PAUL ALDAG, Borough Park; LAURETTA G. FALLON, Boulevard; GRACE MADDEN and MRS. ELLIOTT, Brevoort; MARY HUNTER and BETTY JENKINS, Broadway; F. K. THIELE, and ESTELLE SCHODR, Burland; MR. WILLIAMSON and MISS M. A. MEDER, Burnside; JULIA WOHLSTADTER and MILDRED LANTZ, Circle; WILLARD BETTS and MILDRED LIEGE, Coney Island; JOHN LANG, Delancy; CHARLES CHAPLAIN and BEATRICE BERNSTEIN, Elsmere; E. L. GANNON and JOHN MULLER, 83rd St.; GEORGE STEVENSON and MRS. STEINER, 42nd St.; ADELE BLAIR, Gates; JOHN WARD, Grand; PEGGY GRIFFIN and NETTIE CHASIN, Greely Square; ZEB HAMILTON, Hillside; MERLE VEACH and MRS. W. SCHAEFFER, Inwood; MISS DE POYSTER and MISS O'NEILL, Kameo; MARSH MCCURDY and THEODORA BROOKS, Lexington; KAI BROVALL, Lincoln Square; GRANT COPELAND, Livingston; JOHN GART and VERA KITCHEN, Metropolitan; ALBERT WEIL and EDITH WIMMER, Mt. Vernon; LOUISE SORENSEN, National; MRS. FROSA and MR. HOLDEN, New Rochelle; MISS ALLEN and MRS. PATOFF, New York; HELEN MOYER, New York Roof; WILLIAM EDWARDS and MISS MARCHAL, 116th St.; GLADYS GOODING, Orpheum (the same Gladys Gooding who played the pipe organ for the Dodgers at Ebbetts Field years later); HARRY ROSEELE, Palace; HAROLD BECKETT, Premier; HENRIETTA KAMERN, and MRS. EVANS, Rio; MARIE LEWIS and MISS LIEBERMAN, 7th Ave.; JOHN PROSSER and MR. SCHULZE, Sheridan Square; KATHERINE KADERLY and EMMA HELLER, Spooner in Newark, New Jersey; HENRY V. ARANDS, State; CARL STEIZELL and ELEANOR HALEY, State; MARION BERGMAN, Victoria; EDYTHE BROOKS and VIOLET REISER, Victory; R. S. WILLEVER, Willard; MR. GIDDINGS and IDA BRANDT, Woodside. The organs in the New York Loews Theatres were built mostly by Moller, the largest being in the State on Broadway.

Jason and I now take to the trails for some "bonus" nuggets for our holiday column. See you sourdoughs in December!

Lloyd & Jason