



Niagara - Frontier

Organist Lyn Larsen thrilled a capacity audience at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda on November 20 when he appeared in concert at the 3m/11r Wurlitzer for the Niagara Frontier Chapter. Although he prefers music of the '20s and '30s, he played several recent hits including *By the Time I Get to Phoenix* and *Goin' Out of My Head*, in an effort to break his past image. Why? "They turn me on," says Lyn. And from the audience reaction, his selections turned them on too.



Lyn Larsen at Riviera Wurlitzer.

The high point of the program was his accompaniment for the Charles Chaplin silent film, *The Champion*. According to Lyn, "This movie has to be the original 'sock-it-to-me!'"

Lyn proved that the hand is quicker than the eye as he adeptly negotiated countless registration changes during the course of the evening. The audience, which numbered close to 1,000, will long remember his exciting renditions of *Doin' the New Lowdown*, *Finiculi...cata from the Gothic Suite*.

A standing ovation followed his final selection on the program and he showed that he appreciated the enthusiastic response by playing *Goodnight Sweetheart* as his encore.

MORE "GOLDEN NUGGETS" . . .

. . . *Tessie Van Ness* at the Kimball in the Sayre (Pa.) Theatre . . . 4/23
May M. Mills, Karlton, Philadelphia . . . 12/23
Martha J. Kier, Penn, Uniontown, Pa. . . 1/24
Helen Searles Woodlawn, Chicago . . . 1/24
Ruth Wiltrane, Ohio, Indianapolis . . . 3/24
Minnie Wright at the 3-manual in the Alto Theatre, Columbia, Pa. . . 5/24
Grace May Lissenden plays the Skinner in the Ritz, Port Richmond, N.Y. . . 5/24
Mary Vogt broadcasts daily over WOO, Philadelphia on the Wanamaker organ . . . 5/24
Lucille Hale broadcasts Fridays from the Cameo Theatre over KDKA, Pittsburgh. . . 4/28
Peg Kimball at the Syracuse, N.Y. Empire 3-10 Marr & Colton . . . 4/31
Rose Diamond at N.Y. Loew's State Moller . . .

In the summer of 1925, these

ladies graced the consoles of Washington, D.C. organs: *Emily Thompson* and *Margaret Libby*, Central Theatre . . . *Maribel Lindsay*, York . . . *Mrs. Nell Paxton*, Metropolitan . . . *Mrs. Fritz Hauer*, Chevy Chase . . . *Ruth Farmer*, doubling at York Church . . . *Miss C. M. O'Day* at the Robert Morton at Crandall's Central . . . *Mae Woods*, Princess . . . *Amourette Miller*, assistant organist at the Takoma Park . . . 7/25
Effie Drexilius Gable at the Malarkey Special (!) in Pittsburgh's People's Theatre.

The gals really played up a storm in the Golden Days, as our probing the treasure lodes has proved.

See you folks in the rainy month of April!

— Lloyd and Jason

Lyn extolled our organ and recognized Bill Hatzenbuhler whose constant maintenance of the instrument helped to make the program an unqualified success.

Our annual Christmas concert was held on December 11, and featured local organist Carlo Annibale at the console of the Riviera Wurlitzer. The round of applause that followed his opening number, *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, assured Carlo, who is blind, that he had an appreciative audience. The program he planned for that evening included *Trish Trosh Polka*, *Dizzy Fingers*, *What Now My Love*, *Malaguena*, and Tommy Dorsey's *Boogie*, couldn't have been more carefully chosen as far as the audience was concerned. One of the highlights of the evening was his rendition of the *William Tell Overture*, which only a real music lover can listen to without thinking of either Spike Jones or the Lone Ranger, according to Carlo. An appropriate selection of favorite Christmas music helped set the proper mood for the holiday season. We thank Carlo for helping to make this Christmas one to be remembered.

The Annual Quentin Maclean Award was presented this year to William Hatzenbuler by Chairman Robert Flierl, in appreciation for the great contribution he has made toward the success of our chapter. Mr. Frank Guzzette, manager of the Riviera Theatre, was named Honorary Member of the Year.

* * * * *

Motor City News

The Motor City Chapter has once more appeased the growing appetite of Detroit area silent movie and theatre buffs. This time it was John Muri at the 3M/10r Barton in the Redford Theatre who brought out the fans on October 22 to hear his accompaniment to *The Lost World* (1925). Prior to the feature film John played a lively pops concert and helped that ever popular duo, Loral and Hardy, cavort across the screen.

(More Chapter News on Page 32)

Theatre organ intermissions are again in full swing with chapter members providing the musical talent every Friday night — this year at two theatres, the Redford and the Punch and Judy.

Work is progressing well on the severely water damaged 3m/10r Barton in the Royal Oak Theatre and plans are to have it playing before the year is out.

Could it be that the chapter will have *three* theatre organ intermissions to worry about next year.

— Don Lockwood

* * * * *

Chicago

The ever active Chicago Chapter produced sixteen Program Events during 1968, each one highly successful and only four were devoted to strictly business, a good record for an already high rated group.

Having been selected as the 1969 National Meeting Host, the Chapter lost no time setting wheels in motion. Bill Benedict, Chairman announced Roland Frase as Convention Coordinator, and Sam Holte as Program Chairman, with other appointments to be announced soon.

The Marriott Motor Hotel, near O'Hare Airport has been selected as Official Headquarters. This fine hotel has agreed to furnish ATOE special rooms for meeting and will give conventioners a reduced rate for accommodations with complete hotel facilities available.

On November 7 John Muri put the Mont Clare Barton through its paces giving his near capacity audience a fine program which included a Sing-a-long, special solo numbers, and cuing the famous *Phantom of the Opera*. John, as usual played at his precise well selected program to the complete delight of the attentive audience.

Another Barton organ was heard on December 3rd when Pearl White appeared at the Patio Theatre in a theatre sponsored program. (This in itself, is an innovation) The *Catoe* cooperated to insure success of the program. Nearly 800 enthusiasts turned out to hear Pearl strut her

stuff. Bill Benedict, Chapter Chairman, acted as Mc., in a satisfying well done program.

The loss from one chapter was the gain for another in the case of Ken and Karol Shirey. The Shirey's recently moved from Ohio to Chicago, Wurlitzer and all, before unpacking, Ken was appointed Editor of the *Vox* CATOES's official newsletter. Ken served in the same capacity for the Western Reserve (Ohio) Chapter.

* * * * *

Delaware Valley

The buffet dinner and organ concert held on the afternoon and evening of November 17th was one of the best attended events the chapter has enjoyed in the past two years.

Well over half of the total local membership was present as well as National Prexy Al Mason and wife Betty. Many of the members also brought guests which helped bring the attendance to an unexpected level and insured the success of a triple featured program.

Members and guests began arriving shortly after 1:00 P.M. and were greeted by Wayne Zimmerman warming up the Rogers Organ (Model 33-E). Wayne displayed the many authentic theatrical effects available on this modern instrument.

The formal program featured three artists, Patti Germaine, Don Kinnier, and Dick Smith. It would be impossible to review such a wonderful triple concert without remarking on the contrasting talents and styles of the artists which complemented each other so perfectly—the concert artistry of Patti Germaine; the theatre organ styling of Don Kinnier; the modern interpretations of Dick Smith. By shrewd choice of organists, the entire range of popular organ was covered.

A brief business meeting was held after the concert. Upon the conclusion of the business at hand, the Alden Inn served a buffet dinner, then everyone was invited to

try out the organ. From this invitation a jam session developed that took up a great part of the evening. All agreed the success of this event should give it priority as an annual event.

In December the Delaware Valley membership was invited to WFIL-TV to watch member Larry Ferrari do his regular Sunday TV show playing a Gulbransen Theatre model electronic organ.

Between the problems of the flu and the first snow of the season, attendance was light. However those who did venture forth received red carpet treatment and were included in the telecast much to the surprise and delight of everyone.

Larry performed a great service for the Chapter in showing a picture of the Sedgwick Moller and explaining the need for a permanent home for it. Several calls were received and each one offered a possible solution to the problem of getting the Moller installed.

At the conclusion of the broadcast a guided tour of the WFIL-TV and Radio facilities proved interesting and very educational.

* * * * *

Kaw Valley Chapter

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Reedy's home was the October meeting place for the members of Kaw Valley Chapter, Lawrence Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Reedy, who attended the ATOE Convention in Los Angeles in July, told of their experience and impressions of the sights and sounds connected with the convention. They were especially impressed with the friendliness of the conventioners, with the appreciative, inspired audiences who attended the concerts presented by talented artists, and with the well-planned program of the convention as a whole.

Following a brief business session several members played selections on the Reedy's Hammond organ, and the hostess served refreshments during the pleasant social hour.

Ida R. Jones, Secretary



John Ferguson of St. Louis plays for ATOE at Kirkwood, Missouri Center.

St. Louis Chapter News

The St. Louis group spent a busy 1968, working on the Kirkwood Community Center project, (See December 1967 TOB) and promoting interest in it.

The most recent effort was the cueing of a silent Charlie Chaplin movie by John Ferguson of St. Louis. The program was well received by the public and gave another boost to ATOE and the Chapter.

John Ferguson, a native of Shreveport, La., is an accomplished musician, who studied piano at the age of 9 and turned to pipe organ at 13. As an organ major at Centenary College he headed for a career of classical musician, upon hearing theatre organ recordings by George Wright, Ferguson changed direction.

For four years he toured the hotels and night clubs playing successful engagements. Mr. Ferguson turned to the theatre pipe organ, enjoyed a extended booking at the Orpheum in Springfield, Ill. In 1961 he came to St. Louis and as assistant organist was heard at the great Wurlitzer in the St. Louis Fox.

The St. Louis ATOE is moving slowly but surely toward its goal of installing a pipe organ in the Kirkwood Community Center. At present the console and relays are being completely re-leathered. Work has been proceeding for two years and is now in an advanced stage of completion.

The console lift is installed, awaiting the placement of the relays and console itself, which will probably be done sometime this winter.

ATOE members have devoted thousands of hours of work on the Kirkwood project.

* * * * *

Northern California

A most successful and busy year for Northern California Chapter of Everett Nourse at the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco in December. Our year opened with Don Baker at the *Pizza Joynt* in San Lorenzo. For our February presentation we heard Larry Vannucci at *Cinema-21* in San Francisco, plus a jam-session at the Avenue Theatre. In March it was Dave Quinlan at Rudy's Supper Club in Vallejo. Then in May to the Chapel Of The Chimes in Oakland to hear Gordon Whitehead, and late in the same month to hear a variety of artists in our own Variety Show at the old NBC Studio A in San Francisco with *Smith's California Orchestra*, Dr. Sergei Rose (James Roseveare) playing (?) the Theremin, Don Frank playing a genuine 1936 Hammond, spots with Larry Vannucci and James Roseveare at the Hammond augmented by the orchestra (Charles Smith—trombone, Julian Porritt—tuba, Jack Bethards—bass, and others.)

We started the second half of beautiful public program at the Avenue Theatre featuring England's Vic Hammett. Then to Los Angeles for the fabulous Convention. In September it was Scott Gillespie at the Avenue. Late in the same month Tom Hazleton entertained us at the *Capn's Galley* in Santa Clara. Then in November it was Vannucci again at the California Theatre in Santa Rosa and Nourse at the Avenue in December to wind it up. We started the new year with Tiny James at the Neighborhood Church in Oakland, playing a 3-manual Robert-Morton T.O.

Other pipe-oriented programs which many of our members enjoyed during 1968 included: George Wright at the Avenue Theatre, Eddie Dunstedter at the Carl Greer Inn in Sacramento, Lyn Larsen at both the Avenue Theatre and the *Pizza Joynt*.

Regular fare in Northern California area for pipe-fiends is found at the *Lost Weekend* (2-10 Wurlitzer in San Lorenzo, *Capn's Galley* (3-12 Wurlitzer) in Santa Clara, *Rudy's Supper Club* (2-6 Wurlitzer) in Vallejo, *Carl Greer Inn* (4-16 Robert Morton) in the Cinema-21 in San Francisco, the 4-21 Robert Morton in the Opheum Theatre, San Francisco, the 3-13 Wurlitzer in Wilson Theatre, Fresno, the 4-16 Robert Morton in Warner's, Fresno, and the 4-22 Wurlitzer in the Grant Union High School, Sacramento. Next year we will be hearing a 2-7 (plus) Wurlitzer now being installed in the Encore Theatre in Burlingame. We feel quite fortunate in having so many playing TOs in our area (which we share with the Sierra Chapter). Only one *dead TO* remains installed in a public place, the ancient (1914) Wurlitzer in the United Artists Theatre in Berkeley.

ATOE members in Northern California area who are not chapter-affiliated are invited to join either the Sierra or Northern California Chapters. It will enhance the enjoyment of our hobby. For information on Sierra Chapter write: Zeller, 5223 Glancy Drive, Carmichael, Calif. 95608, and for Northern California Chapter write: Ehat, 851 Larchmont Drive, Daly, Calif. 94015. Sierra Chapter meets mainly in Sacramento, Northern California Chapter mainly in the San Francisco Bay area. — Dewey Cagle

* * * * *

Valley of the Sun

On Wednesday, October 16th, at 8:00 P.M. the Valley of Sun Chapter presented Tom Hazleton of San Jose, California, in a concert at the William P. Brown 5/21 Wurlitzer.

This was the first public presentation of the former Vaughn organ in its new setting. With living room furniture removed, and chairs in place the seating capacity was 140, and it was a sell-out

Chairman Howard Rowe opened the evening with a short introduc-

(Continued on Page 34)

Chapter News (Cont'd.)

tion and welcome, then turned the meeting over to Bill Brown. Brown presented Tom Hazelton to the eager crowd, and the organ came to life with *I Get a Kick Out of You*. Tom's *Rhapsody in Blue* score was well-orchestrated and a great crowd pleaser. In the first half, Tom appealed to every taste, with selections ranging from Bach's *Fugue in E Minor* especially adapted to the theatre organ registration, to Crawford's *High-Hat*, and *So Beats My Heart for You*. His burlesque-style *Blue Prelude* followed Bach for the maximum contrast.

Before bringing back Tom for the second segment, Bill Brown recalled the history of the organ's installation in the Paradise Theatre in Chicago in 1928, and its reinstallation in the Vaughn residence in California, thus paving the way for the famed George Wright Hi-Fi recording on this instrument. Brown purchased the organ in 1963, and designed his new home to accommodate the installation. Although the original 21 ranks are now playing, the addition of 17 more sets is planned for future years.

Hazelton opened part two with *Up, Up and Away* and included such favorites as *Greensleeves*, a dynamic *Slaughter on Tenth Street* and Crawford's *Cuban Love Song*. After an impromptu *Doin' What Comes Naturally*, he closed with the haunting *Deep Night*, George Wright's old radio theme.

After a standing ovation, Hazelton returned for a brassy *Grenada*, and appropriate *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*. Tom's praise of the organ gave much credit to the meticulously perfect installation by Brown and organ technician Wendell Schultz.

The Valley Of The Sun Chapter wishes to extend its thanks to Bill and Barbara Brown for their hospitality. The total success of the concert will lead to a series of artists to be presented to Arizonians through the winter season.

DISC SOULS

When Eddie Dunstedter heard Ken Wright's recent recording played on a (Conn theatre organ) he shot a letter off to his old friend (they both played the KMOX, St. Louis, studio Kilgen at different times) congratulating him—on his choice of a model. Eddie wrote, "Well, ol' Buddy—I knew that if you listened to me long enough, some of it would rub off. That's a nice rendition of 'Mine'. In fact—it's MINE. You arrangement napper." To make matters more pointed, our record reviewer alluded to a similarity of the Ken Wright and Dunstedter sounds in his review of Ken's Kilgen organ record (Dec. 1968 *For the Records*). "I'll settle for a credit line in the jacket notes,"



Tom Hazelton at the 5-21 William P. Brown residence Wurlitzer, Phoenix, Arizona.



Crowd at Hazelton's concert. Bill Brown is standing in front of Wurlitzer console.

grinned Eddie, who is looking forward to Ken's third release (also played on a Conn) to see what mischievous banter he can concoct to bug Ken . . . Richard Dearborn writes that all those involved in producing Pearl White's initial entry in the modulated grooves derby are ATOers—with the exception of the photographer who shot the jacket photos . . . George Wright's announcement of a forthcoming Duke Ellington album release on the Dot label came as no surprise to those knowing of the Pasadena organist's admiration for the Duke and his men. It started while George was playing at the New York Paramount. The Ellington band was booked in every few months and George got to know the Duke's men, especially Billy Strayhorn, the band's arranger and a composer in his own right. That's one reason George will include Strayhorn's plaintive lament, *Lush Life*, among his Ellington tunes. Billy loved to hear Wright play it on the Paramount organ . . . Our idea of listening *tunes not to record* (because they have been grooved so frequently) seems to have caught on. Several letters received endorse a continuation of the plan to warn organists away from tunes which have been *done to death* on vinyl. One writer asked that *Laura's Theme* (or *Somewhere My Love*), *Sound of Music* tunes, and *Granada* be added to the *not-to-groove* list. Until now it has consisted of *Born Free*, *Alley Cat*, *Georgie Girl*, *Winchester Cathedral*, *Modern Millie* plus such ancients as *Diane*, *Charmaine*, *Tenderly* and *Laura*. Any more?

Fantasy label was preparing to release the fourth in its marathon *Farewell to the Fox* series even as it repressed No. 3 because of requests from dealers who feel it's a fast turnover item. Recorded a few days before the 4-36 Wurlitzer was dismantled and removed from the San Francisco Fox Theatre, the discs offer the nostalgia of memory-teasing tunes played by Everett Nourse and Tiny James (back to back) plus