

NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

For this month, Jason and I have found nuggets in the Mother Lode pertaining to organists who broadcast in the halcyon days of the theatre organ. References are American Organist (AO), Diapason (D), Jacobs (J) and Melody (M).

Jan. 1923 (D) Through the courtesy of the Estey Organ Co. and the Radio Corp., Westinghouse Station WJZ in Newark, N. J. will broadcast twice-weekly recitals, using the organ in the company's office at Eleven W. 49th street, New York.

Jan. 1925 (M) LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO, at Boston's Fenway Theatre, and composer of the barcarolle "Slumber Boat", has a weekly program on WEEI. EDITH LANG, another Boston theatre organist, recently played the organ in the Boston City Club auditorium over WNAC.

Mar. 1925 (M) ALBERT F. BROWN, demonstrator for the Geneva Organ Co., presides at the organ in the Fargo Theatre in Geneva, Ill., and broadcasts nightly, using the 3-manual Geneva in the WJJD studio, Mooseheart, Ill.

Apr. 1925 (M) OTTO F. BECK uses the Wurlitzer in Crandall's Tivoli in Washington on a weekly program over WRC.

Sep. 1925 (M) WENDELL C. GLOVER, teacher at the Wurlitzer school in New York, performs over WJZ and also demonstrates organs.

Feb. 1926 (D) A unique broadcast occurred in Chicago recently. RALPH WALDO EMERSON, at the organ in the Barton Studio, and GLENN ROWELL at the WLS console, played a duet, although the organs were blocks apart. A mixing board was a factor in this venture.

Mar. 1926 (AO) REGINALD E. WEBB is broadcasting on a 3-manual Marr & Colton in the Martha Washington Theatre over WJR, Hamtramck, Mich.

Apr. 1926 (D) Station WBPI in Warsaw, N. Y. has begun a weekly program from the Warner Theatre. This is one of several stations in the country featuring Marr & Colton organ shows — Detroit; Long Beach, Cal.; Harrisburg and Allentown, Pa.

Oct. 192 (J) AMBROSE LARSEN is heard nightly over WGN, Chicago, on the Wurlitzer Company's 4th floor studio organ. Larsen should be given the credit for developing the famous train effect, for after he had used it in demonstrations, others were quick to adopt it. His bagpipe effect is startling — so original, so different! Ambrose is fat and thirty.

Aug. 1927 (J) AVELYN M. KERR plays the huge Marr & Colton daily from the studios of WSOE in Milwaukee.

Sep. 1927 (J) The West Coast once boasted such theatre organists as CRAWFORD, DAMSKI, LEAF, KEATES, MURTAGH, HAUPTMANN, SANTAELLA and GUTERSON. All except the last two are now radio stars.

Apr. 1928 (J) HAROLD PEASE, who is such a success at Washington's Colony Theatre, has started his Music Memory Contest again this year. He is on the air one hour at noon from the WRC Homer K'itt Studio.

June 1928 (D) WESLEY B. TOURTELLOTTE opened the 2-manual 16-stop Estey in the Don Lee second-floor studios of KHJ in Los Angeles. Lee, distributor of Cadillac and La Salle automobiles on the first floor, has an organ which is rare in stations on the West Coast, and is used to augment small orchestras or for solo work. (Later, GAYLORD CARTER played this beast, and upon its removal to Forest Lawn Cemetery, commented that it "found its proper home!").

July 1928 (D) LEW WHITE is the first organist to broadcast for NBC, doing this and making Brunswick records from his studio in New York. A member of "Roxy's Gang," he is heard Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings on WJZ.

July 1928 (D) LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO and Mr. DUNHAM are doing unique duets over WNAC, Boston. Mr. Del Castillo plays the 3-manual Estey in his studio in the State Theatre Building and Mr. Dunham uses the 3-manual Wurlitzer in the Elks' Hotel, two miles away. Each artist is equipped with earphones, enabling him to talk to and hear the other while the radio audiences listen in.

July 1934 (D) JESSE CRAWFORD, who has taken charge of the Kilgen in the open-air theatre at the Chicago World's Fair, has been broadcasting over the NBC Network.

GOLD DUST: May 1924; A 4/28 Marr & Colton has been installed in New York's Piccadilly Theatre and will be used for broadcasting; KARL BONAWITZ is heard Tuesdays from the Germantown Theatre, Philadelphia, over WIP; W. REMINGTON WELCH on the McVicker's Theatre Wurlitzer on Wednesdays over KYW, Chicago . . . June 1924, HOWARD R. WEBB on the Ritz Theatre 2/30 Kimball, Mondays over KDKA, Pittsburgh, while PAUL FLEEGER on the Cameo Theatre Wurlitzer broadcasts over the same station on Fridays; LAURENCE H. MONTAGUE on the Hotel Statler Ballroom Wurlitzer Sundays over WGR, Buffalo . . . Dec. 1924, ROBERT J. BERENTSEN and HAROLD OSBORN SMITH broadcast daily over Rochester's WHAM, using the 4-manual Eastman Theatre Austin; On Tuesdays, they play the 2/7 Wurlitzer in the theatre's fifth floor studio; ALEX F. TAYLOR on the Grand Theatre's 2-manual Wurlitzer Tuesdays over KDKA, Pittsburgh, while RALPH WALDO EMERSON is heard over WLS on Wednesdays on the 2/6 Barton in the Mallers Bldg., Chicago . . . Feb. 1925, Los Angeles organists are playing daily noon concerts from the Wurlitzer studio over KNX, Hollywood . . . July 1925, HUGO GRIMM broadcasts from the WLW Studio, Cincinnati while JOHN HAMMOND uses the Piccadilly 4/28 Marr & Colton on Tuesdays over WGBS, New York . . . Dec. 1925, WAHG, New York announces a series of 36 programs using its Skinner . . . May 1926, RENE DAGENAIS on the Capitol's 2-manual Estey over WBZ, Springfield, Mass. . . Apr. 1927, the Milwaukee Journal has purchased a Wurlitzer for its station, WHAD . . . May 1927, Milwaukee News Station WSOE is installing a 3-manual Marr & Colton. Said to be the largest for broadcasting in the U. S., it features a complete trap section . . . Oct. 1927, W. D. WEIST heard over WLW, Cincinnati.

We're off to find nuggets on organ manufacturers for the October issue. See you then, sourdoughs!

—Lloyd & Jason

THE EDITOR GOOFED DEPT.

In the Last issue of Theatre Organ Bombarde your editor credited the Northern California Chapter News to Bob Schmalz. Actually the material submitted was written by Dave Sauer. We're sorry about that.