

## NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

For this month, Jason and I have found a vein of nuggets pertaining to organ manufacturers and their instruments. References were Diapason (D) and Melody (M) Magazines.

June 1915 (D) A KIMBALL has been installed in the new Arcadia Theatre in Philadelphia. There are, in addition to 11 string ranks from violin to contra bass, a clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon, 6 flutes, piccolo, trumpet, tuba, diapasons, tibias and the famous Kimball vox humana. Percussions which blend, but do not disturb, include cathedral chimes, glockenspiel, concert harp and xylophone.

June 1915 (D) HILGREEN LANE & CO. has installed organs in the Maxine Theater in Detroit and Harry's Theater in Port Huron, Michigan. A contract was recently signed with the Dixie Theatre in Galveston.

Oct. 1915 (D) The Board of Awards of the Panama-Pacific Exposition awarded the WURLITZER CO. two Grand Prizes and two Gold Medals for its piano, player piano, harp and unit orchestra, the last receiving special attention. The factories at N. Tonawanda, N. Y. occupy 60 acres, and much of their output consists of theatre unit orchestras.

June 1918 (D) The A. B. FELGEMAKER ORGAN CO. has dissolved its business, selling its factory to a maker of coffins.

Dec. 1921 (M) Charles C. Kilgen, president of G. KILGEN & SON, says that organ building has increased 300% since the World War, due to use of organs in theatres, high schools and churches. Residence organs are being used more than ever.

Apr. 1923 (D) SCHAEFER ORGAN CO. of Slinger, Wisconsin, has installed a 2-manual, 20-stop instrument in the Rainbow Theatre in Milwaukee. Completely unified, it contains chimes and xylophone.

Oct. 1923 (D) MIDMER-LOSH is rebuilding and enlarging the 2-manual organ in the New York cavernous Hippodrome with organist FREDERICK KINSLEY directing its reconstruction. Built about 10 years ago, it is being converted to a 3-manual, and pipes relocated in the proscenium buttresses. The theatre is being rebuilt with increased seating for showing of motion pictures.

Dec. 1923 (D) HOOK & HASTINGS are completing a large organ with complete sets of percussions and traps for the Rialto Theatre in Dorchester, Mass. The firm recently installed an organ in Gordon's Olympia Theatre in Brockton, Mass. which has created much enthusiasm.

Dec. 1923 (D) The RUDOLPH WURLITZER CO. has obtained a loan of \$1,300,000 to purchase the 15-story building at 116 W. 42nd Street in New York which houses its eastern offices.

Feb. 1924 (D) The SMITH UNIT ORGAN CO. has moved from Chicago to Geneva, Ill. Since its organization several years ago, it has made a reputation for quality. Organs are built under supervision of a former associate of Robert Hope-Jones.

Feb. 1924 (D) The WURLITZER CO. will erect a 3-story steel and brick addition to its No. Tonawanda plant to accommodate 200 more employees. An up-to-date medical office, a hospital, and a guest room will occupy the 70,000 feet of new floor space. A five-story tower will also be built.

Apr. 1924 (D) DAVID J. MARR & JOHN COLTON report excellent business at their Warsaw, N. Y. plant which is working at capacity. Contracts were closed recently in New York; Philadelphia; Detroit; Allentown, Pa.; Portland, Ore.; and Pittsburgh. A 4/28 organ, the firm's largest, will be installed in New York's Piccadilly Theatre, and will be used in broadcasting daily. (It is now deteriorating, its console beneath a 10-inch concrete floor (over the pit) in the Warner's Cinerama theatre in Hollywood. Ed.).

Aug. 1924 (D) The GENEVA ORGAN CO. reports contracts signed with the Fargo Theatre in Geneva, Ill.; Isis Theatre in Webster City, Iowa; and the Weiss Theatre in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Oct. 1924 (D) REUTER ORGAN CO. has received an order for a 3-manual organ with echo division for the Palace Theatre, El Paso, Texas.

Oct. 1924 (D) The SKINNER ORGAN CO. is building a 4-manual organ with full set of traps for the Broadway Theatre in New York.

May 1925 (D) DAVID J. MARR and JOHN H. COLTON have returned to their factory in Warsaw, N. Y. from the West Coast where they inspected several installations of their organs. They attended the opening of the Alician Court Theatre in Fullerton, California to hear their organ, which was installed in February. JULIUS JOHNSON is house organist.

GOLD DUST: Mar. 1915; AUSTIN ORGAN CO announced its 1914 theatre installations with manuals and stops: Park, Boston, 2/13; Beacon, Brooklyn, 2/14; Victoria, Buffalo, 2/19; Palace, Buffalo, 2/15; Regent, Buffalo, 2/17; Strand, Hartford, 3/21; Willis Wood, Kansas City, 3/28; Strand, New York, 3/42; Isis, Pensacola, 2/9; Nickel, Portland, Me., 2/13; Regent and Strand, Syracuse, 2/15 ea. . . . July 1915; HUTCHINGS ORGAN CO is building two large 4-manual orchestral organs; one for Lynn, Mass., the other for New Bedford, Mass. M. P. MOLLER has built a 4-manual, 49-stop organ for the Regent Theatre in Harrisburg, Pa. . . . Sept. 1915; A new WURLITZER unit orchestra is being installed in the Standard Theatre in Cleveland; A BENNETT organ with echo, chimes and harp, is being built for the Orpheum Theatre in St. Joseph, Mo. . . . Nov. 1915; J. W. STEERE & SON have completed a 4-manual organ for the Gordon Theatre in New Haven, Conn. . . . Dec. 1919; A large 4-manual KIMBALL has been installed in the Palace Theatre, Philadelphia . . . Dec. 1920; The KIMBALL CO received an order for a 3-manual organ with echo section for the famous Empire Theatre in Leicester Square, London . . . Feb. 1921; A contract for a \$75,000 organ for the Eastman Theatre in Rochester, N. Y., was awarded to the AUSTIN CO . . . Nov. 1921; WURLITZER is installing a large 4-manual organ in the new Chicago Theatre . . . Aug. 1922; The University of So. California has a new ROBERT MORTON which was dedicated by Edwin H. Lemare, former Municipal Organist of San Francisco . . . Jan. 1923; The SKINNER ORGAN CO is building "The Ideal Theatre Organ" for Gordon's Capitol Theatre, Boston.

Until we see you during the holiday season with choice nuggets from the Mother Lode, so long, sourdoughs!

—Lloyd & Jason

### PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FOR THE PITTSBURGH AREA?

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