

## NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

This being the holiday season again, Jason and I greet our readers with some choice material from American Organist (AO), Diapason (D), Jacobs (J) and Metronome (Met.).

Jan. 1915 (J) *The Park Theatre in Boston, a duplicate of New York's Strand, has been completely remodeled. The management, which controls both houses, is responsible for the magnificent furnishings, beautiful decorations, artistic lighting, a new \$50,000 organ, and a splendid orchestra, which make the house the most beautiful moving picture in New England. WALTER E. YOUNG and ERNEST HARRISON are house organists.*

July 1915 (J) S. L. Rothapfel, managing director of the new Rialto Theatre at 42nd Street and Broadway in New York, announces he has placed under contract organist ALFRED G. ROBYN, who says the Rialto organ is the most wonderful orchestral organ ever built in this country. Both men have worked on the specifications.

Sept. 1915 (D) *Two organs in motion picture theatres at East Orange, N. J. were ruined in a heavy storm recently. The instruments were housed in pits and when the water rose, it covered them.*

Oct. 1915 (D) H. P. Moller will install a 2-manual, 47-stop organ in the new Strand Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island. (Note: Moller lists the number of stop keys, not the sets of pipes. Therefore, the "47" means that many controls (drawknobs or stop keys) on the console — Ed.)

April 1918 (D) *The enormous Wurlitzer in the Denver City Auditorium was dedicated before 12,000 in two recitals by CLARENCE REYNOLDS. His final military fantasy used bugle calls, fife and drums, marching soldiers, and thunder and lightning. The echo*

*division is utilized to fine advantage in picturing the soldiers at sea and their thoughts of home.*

July 1918 (D) The diaphone in the huge Wurlitzer in the St. Louis Exhibit Building, under proper atmospheric conditions, is said to carry 50 miles.

Dec. 1922 (Met.) ALBERT HAY MALOTTE, one of the masters of the theatre organ, has returned to New York from the Pacific Coast where he played 7 years in theatres of Jensen & Von Horberg of Seattle. He will play the world's largest Wurlitzer in Shea's Hippodrome in Buffalo. Two of Al's recent compositions have been accepted by publisher Jack Mills: "Some Day I'll Forget", a waltz; and "Jasmin Flower", an Oriental Fox Trot.

May 1923 (D) JESSE CRAWFORD of the Chicago Theatre has released two of his compositions for publication: "Birdie" and "In The Corner of the World." MILTON CHARLES of the Tivoli has finished a new "cry" song.

May 1925 (D) PAUL H. FORSTER has been engaged for a year as organist of the Empire Theatre in Syracuse. The organ is a new 3/10 Marr & Colton, and the console is on an elevator. Solos and specialties will be featured by Mr. Forster.

May 1926 (J) DICK LEIBERT, Palace Theatre organist in Washington, and director of the Sangamo Band, was recently operated on for acute appendicitis and is on the road to recovery. Many frat dances and proms are on his list for spring, and his band of lively young fellows is much in demand.

Oct. 1926 (J) JOHNNY DEVINE is playing a 2-manual Wurlitzer at the Biograph Theatre, a neighborhood house in Chicago. Formerly at the Shakespeare, the diminutive organist is no midget in intellectual attainments. Jazz is no mystery to him; in fact, when playing a red hot tune, it is so realistic, one almost expects to see the keys smoking under his nimble fingers. (It was outside the Biograph where Federal agents killed John Dillinger in July 1934 after he had seen "Manhattan Melodrama" inside).

Dec. 1926 (AO) HENRY B. MURTAGH has been transferred from New York to Chicago by Publix. His family had joined him in New York only a few months ago. Such is the life of a theatre organist.

April 1927 (D) *The Roxy Theatre in New York opened on March 11, with 6,214 paying from \$5.50 to \$11 for tickets. The 3-console Kimball organ was played by EMIL VELAZCO, C. A. J. PARMENTIER and DEZSO VON D'ANTALFFY; the 3-manual rotunda Kimball by FRANK WHITE. LEW*

*WHITE broadcasts from the theatre's studio on a 2-manual Kimball.*

Aug. 1928 (D) A recent Wurlitzer shipment to a Calcutta, India theatre is of interest. The 2-manual unit organ's wood pipes are of teak and mahogany to resist attacks of vermin. All metal parts had to be plated to prevent rusting, and the leather of the pneumatics and reservoirs had to be treated to resist insects. Spotted metal pipes are used throughout.

GOLD DUST: 4/18, Prof. FIRMEN SWINNEN, GEORGE CROOK and ARTHUR DEPEW at the Rialto in New York . . . 6/18, HUMPHREY J. STEWART gave 267 outdoor recitals last season at San Diego's Balboa Park . . . 7/18, Hilgreen Lane & Co. completed three large theatre organs recently . . . 11/18, EMILE IVRY at the Rivoli, New York . . . 5/19 RALPH H. BRIGHAM at the Strand, New York . . . 8/22, L. BEAUMONT CONKEY at the Liberty in San Jose, Cal., playing a new \$50,000 Robert Morton . . . 11/22, STEPHEN C. BOISCLAIR at the Morton in the Leland, Albany, N. Y. . . . 1/23, LOUIS R. FLINT at the Warfield, San Francisco . . . 4/23, HERBERT FOSTER SPRAGUE at the 3-manual 36-stop Hilgreen Lane with 15 traps and 20 couplers in the Place, San Antonio . . . 6/23, E. CHOUTEAU LEGGE at the 3-manual Kimball in Tulsa's Alhambra; FRANCIS CRONIN at the Boston Capitol's Skinner; WILLIAM H. MEEDER at the Elizabeth, N. J. Regent; ROLLO F. MAITLAND at Philadelphia's Aldine; GEORGE ALBERT BOUCHARD at Buffalo's Statler Hotel Wurlitzer; G. W. NEEDHAM at Ridgewood, N. J. Playhouse; HERMAN F. SIEWART at the Beacham in Orlando, Fla. . . . 11/23, L. CARLOS MEIER at Des Moines' Capitol . . . 1/32, MALCOLM THOMSON in Philadelphia's Fox; EMIL VELAZCO was soloist December 14 with the Manhattan Symphony, playing his jazz piano concerto . . . 4/36, WWJ, Detroit installing a 3-manual Aeolian-Skinner with two consoles in its broadcast studio . . . 2/41, EDDIE BAKER, WHOM Staff Organist in New York, played the Novachord at the annual banquet of the Overseas Press Club.

This will do it until Jason and I return in February with our annual column, dedicated to the ATOE ladies. So long, sourdoughs!

— Lloyd & Jason

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