

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN
DAYS



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

This time, Jason and I have found some nuggets from the New England area. References were Diapason (D), Jacobs (J), Melody (M), and Metronome (Met.) magazines.

May 1925 (M) LEWIS E. BRAY is organist at Boston's Shawmut Theatre, playing a 3-manual Estey.

Nov. 1925 (D) ALEXANDER D. RICHARDSON is playing the 3/15 Wurlitzer in the Keith-Albee Theatre in Boston.

Nov. 1925 (Met.) The new eight-million-dollar Metropolitan Theatre in Boston was recently opened and presented a spectacle of magnificence seldom equalled in a theatre. It seats 5,000, its Grand Lounge accommodates 2,000, and it was packed to the doors for the premiere, turning away more thousands. The Wurlitzer organ, built and installed at a cost of \$100,000, has 3,100 pipes and is said to be the first organ ever constructed in which the voices of the French horn and tuba appear.

Sep. 1926 (Met.) C. SHARPE MINOR, playing the novelty, "The Musical Bombshell", is the outstanding headliner at the Roger Sherman Theatre's Wurlitzer in New Haven, Conn. He has a well-earned reputation as "King of the Entertainers", fully living up to everything said to him in advance notices. EDGAR FORD is house organist.

Oct. 1926 (D) DONALD MURRAY, 17, organist in a Taunton, Mass. theatre, is supposed to be the youngest motion picture organist in New England. From all accounts, he is very gifted.

Nov. 1926 (J) LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO is organist at Boston's Metropolitan Theatre, playing in a

Blue spotlight of ghastly and unbecoming hue.

Apr. 1927 (D) The Forest Theatre Organ School, conducted by AURELE J. FOREST in Providence, R.I., has ordered a new organ from the Frazee Organ Co. of Everett, Mass.

May 1927 (Met.) HAROLD RAMSAY has been guest organist recently at Boston's Metropolitan Theatre, featuring his arrangement of Gershwin's "Rhapsody In Blue."

June 1927 (Met.) At Boston's Metropolitan Theatre, the screen feature was "Running Wild" with W.C. Fields and Mary Brian. An entirely different organ novelty was offered in "Orchestra vs Organ" in which ARTHUR MARTEL at the console, vied with Joseph Klein, director of the Metropolitan Grand Orchestra.

Dec. 1928 (D) Fifteen Boston Theatres no longer employ organists. Since the "talking movie" arrived, people are wondering whether the noble pipe instrument will be supplanted by a mechanical contrivance. Who knows?

Aug. 1929 (D) LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO has severed his connections with WNAC in Boston, to become staff organist of WEEI. He will do daily broadcasts with a combination of orchestra and soloists, using a 2-manual Frazee unit orchestra in the Houghton & Dutton Studio. His school will continue, in spite of the dampening effect of sound movies. In a year or two, he feels, theatre competition will bring back the theatre organist to a more secure position.

Nov. 1929 (D) The new million-dollar Egyptian Theatre in Brighton, Mass. opened with LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO opening the 2/9 Wurlitzer.

GOLD DUST: Theatre organists were very numerous throughout New England, especially in small cities and towns, as the following indicates: 7/25 EARL WEIDENOR, Boston's Strand . . . 12/25 JAMES F. THOMAS at Providence, R.I. Albee's 2/10 Wurlitzer special . . . 1/26 LEWIS E. BRAY, Boston's Shawmut . . . 2/26 ARTHUR MARTEL & EVA LANGLEY at Boston's Metropolitan . . . 3/26 CONVERSE E. NICKERSON at the Wurlitzer in the Olympic, Portsmouth, N.H. . . . 4/26 MYRON C. BALLOU at the 3-manual Moller in Providence's Strand; ALLEN SCHOFIELD at the 2-manual Robert Morton in Norwalk, Conn. Regent; ROLAND C. WHEELER at the 2/4 Wurlitzer in Bangor (Me.)

Opera House . . . 7/26 AURELE FOREST, Providence Strand . . . 8/26 LLOYD G. DEL CASTILLO, Boston's Metropolitan . . . 12/26 HARRY J. JENKINS at 4-manual Estey in Holyoke, Mass. Victory Theatre . . . 1/27 EVA LANGLEY, assoc. organist at Boston's Metropolitan . . . 2/27 JOHN PROSSEE, Loew's New London (Conn.) Theatre . . . 5/28 URQUHART CHINN, State in Nashua, N.H.; J.E. NAYLOR, Bijou in Woonsocket, R.I.; J.S. SHERWIN, Upton in Providence; Massachusetts organists playing in May 1928 included A.E. ELLIS, Franklin Park in Dorchester; ERNEST H. JOHNSON at the Capitol's 3-manual Special Wurlitzer in Worcester; A.T. KING in the Quincy; GLADSTONE KINGKADE at Quincy's Strand; CHRISTOPHER LAWLER, Marblehead's Warwick; E.J. LORD, Milford's State; C.L. MARTIN at the 2/5 Wurlitzer in Belmont's Strand; ROLAND POMERAT in Holyoke's Strand; ARTHUR RICHARDS, Springfield's Bijou; H.E. RUSHTON at the 2/6 Wurlitzer in Attleboro's Bates; FRED SHAW at the 2/5 Wurlitzer in Greenfield's Lawler; CARL L. SMITH Taunton's Casino; JOHN SPINELLI, Revere's Crescent Gardens; CHARLES H. TRIPP, New Bedford's new theatre, playing a 2/4 Wurlitzer, and HARRY A. VAN STEENBURG, Lynn's Olympia . . . 12/28 EARL WEIDENOR at the 3/15 Wurlitzer in the new \$5 million Keith Memorial, Boston . . . 1/29 FRANCIS J. CRONIN at the 4-manual Skinner in the Alliston, Mass. Capitol; ROY L. FRAZEE, Granada in Malvern, Mass.; Boston's SALLIE FRISE, Lancaster; CHESTER BRIGHAM, Metropolitan and MAC B. SEAVER, Beacon.

When returning from New England, we stopped in New York City and found a little Gold Dust there: 2/25 JOHN PRIEST, Colony; JOHN HAMMOND, Piccadilly . . . 3/25 C. SHARPE MINOR at the Rivoli and a month later at the Rialto . . . 6/25 HAROLD RAMSBOTTOM & FRANK STEWART ADAMS, Rivoli . . . 2/26 ARTHUR "HIGH C" GEIS, ALEXANDER D. RICHARDSON, OLIVER STRUNK & C. HERBERT MACAHAN, Rialto . . . 4/26 GEORGE CROOK & WALTER LITT at Brooklyn's Mark Strand

This should do it until our Christmas special. So long, sourdoughs!

LLOYD & JASON