



James (KHIQ/KEWT(FM)Hodges emceed a Sierra Chapter silent motion picture presentation at Grant Union High School. Jim was responsible for the weekly half-hour broadcasts of live theatre pipe organ from the Carl Greer Inn's 4/16 Robert Morton. Following a change in ownership, use of the organ was resumed, and the live broadcasts began again July 28, 1972.

August 20 found chapter members on the move again. This time it was to Pine Grove, California and the Jim Welsh residence. The 2 manual, 22 rank Harris classical organ, installed in a former steel warehouse building, is what the sixty some members and guests came to hear after their annual picnic lunch. Hear they did, and who says one needs the Tibias, the Vox, toy counters and tremulants of a theatre organ to enjoy theatre organ music. Rex Koury played the classics beautifully and then turned to the 'pops'. In the words of the Chairman, Bob Longfield, "If you don't believe pops can be played on a classical organ, you sure missed the best of proof. Rex really had that poor Harris panting for breath." The living room Hammond also came in for its share of the Koury touch.

October 21 found the chapter members traveling to Reno, their annual trip to the home of members Eva and Fred Beeks. As has already been noted, Fred and Eva are the owners of a 3/11 Wurlitzer.

The Sierra Chapter not only travels far and wide for their own activities but some members will be found at almost any West Coast ATOS program. The Home Organ Festival, the annual electronic organ get-together held at Asilomar on the Monterey Peninsula, entails a drive of 180 miles in each direction for members.

If it's organ music, pipe or electronic, you can count on Sierra to be there! □

VOX POPS



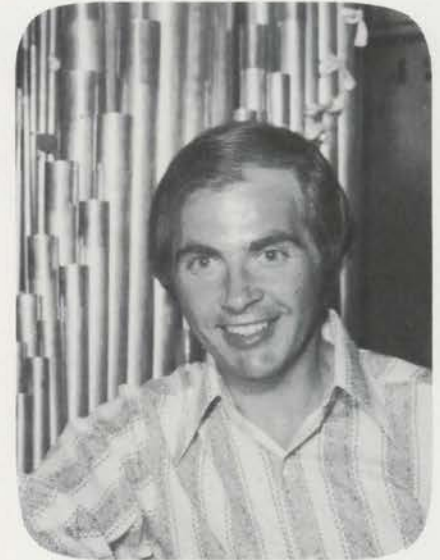
Conducted by Stu Green

Readers are encouraged to submit interesting sidelights on the organ hobby (exclusive of chapter news items) material they believe will be of general interest about local organ activities and installations and the people who work at the hobby. We know "there's VOX POPS in them there chapters" and it only requires a 6¢ postcard to get it to VOX POPS Editor, Box 3564, Granada Hills, California 91344. If the contributor can afford an 8¢ stamp, why not include a black and white photo which need not be returned.

In the October issue of THEATRE ORGAN the Niagara Frontier Chapter's column described how a young organist from Syracuse, N.Y., took over the Riviera Theatre's Wurlitzer to sub for ailing Leon Berry, and on 24 hours notice. That's a big order, and all who reported on Karl Cole's pinch-hitting concert job were most enthusiastic in their praise of the Syracusan's performance. A little investigation revealed some interesting sidelights about Cole. He's been playing in the Central New York area for about ten years, and we recall that he participated in the final vaudeville-organ show which closed Keith's Theatre in Syracuse circa ten years ago, along with Luella Edwards and Paul H. Forster. Karl is now expanding his concert activities to areas other than home ground. ATOS 1972 Conventioneers will recall hearing him play during the Washington Marriott hotel banquet. He did a benefit concert for leukemia research in Doylestown, Penn., on Sept. 25, then a cameo bit at the famous Atlantic City convention hall ballroom Kimball 4/55 during the Delaware Valley Chapter's meeting

there on October 8th. And Shirley Hannum invited Karl to play a cameo spot following her joint ATOS/AGO concert at the Lansdowne (Penna.) Theatre later in October. He obliged with a Gershwin medley. He was booked for a Dec. 10 concert on the 3/11 Wurlitzer maintained by ESTMIN on the N.Y. State fairgrounds.

The off-console Karl Cole is also fascinating. He's an authority on antique cut glass, which he collects. He has \$1500.00 cut glass lamp sitting next to the plug-in Wurlitzer in his home, and he's happy to report "my music hasn't shattered it yet." Last summer he reports visiting a nudist beach and refused admittance because he was clothed. Recalling an old adage "when in Rome" he shed his toga and reported later that he blushed only until he hit the water. "Everyone should try it — at least once", says Karl.



Karl Cole 'midst Syracuse pipes. He blushed only while running for the drink.



"Wolves" that have been howling in the direction of youthful organist Carol Jones (and many a distant howl has been passed to Carol through the good offices of this column) can forget it: lovely Carol has been claimed, and she has a 1¼ carat sparkler weighing down a playing finger to prove it. The fortunate swain is a former Covina, Calif., neighbor and childhood friend by the name of Ron Walls, who also happens to be a talented organist. Ron made his initial pitch to Carol several years ago, then left California to seek his fortune. Recently, Carol played a concert for the Detroit Theater Organ

Club and Ron rushed over from his present home in Niles, Illinois, to attend. To no one's surprise (who knew the story) old flames were re-kindled and Carol returned to Covina with a diamond and the plainly visible glow that says in silence, "this is it!" Warned of the professional jealousy which in the past has so often marred the marriages of "he and she" organ teams, Carol remains unafraid. "I could care less which one of us becomes the best organist. Home and children? Not so fast. Ron and I will continue our playing careers. Besides, isn't this planet already overpopulated?"

But Ron and Carol are already competing. To find out how, and to see what they look like, see this issue's FOR THE RECORDS.

The organ-playing proclivities of John Muri at the New York State Fair in Syracuse this year were well received. The 3/11 Wurlitzer was in tip-top condition following revoicing and regulating under the direction of Con-ValChap's Allen Miller. "It has made a real improvement in the sound of the organ," says Tom Anderson, the instrument's mentor. Mr. Muri accompanied "The Gold Rush" for each of the seven days and provided background music for fashion shows. John is anticipating a full concert season ahead, including his third appearance in Rochester for RTOS on January 19.



Niagara's Shirley Cole, Whistle-bait! (Stufoto)

Randy Piazza, ebullient Chairman of the Niagara Frontier ATOS Chapter, was surprised during the October Shirley Hannum concert at the No. Tonawanda Riviera Theatre to hear a police whistle, right on cue, during Shirley's accompaniment of the silent comedy *Teddy* at the Throttle. Randy probed mentally across the toe studs and he couldn't recall one with a police whistle. But he had heard the sound and he continued to wonder until after the concert. He learned

that Shirley had gotten help from Niagara's chapter News writer, Shirley Cole who had applied lung power to the shrill noisemaker. It couldn't happen to a nicer whistle.

Those who enjoyed the story about the LA Dodgers' organist Helen Dell in this issue are beholden to our "Old Prospector," Lloyd Klos. It was Lloyd who tipped off *SPORTING NEWS* magazine writer Bob Hunter that there might be a story in Helen. Hunter lost no time in contacting Helen and the result is a quite novel approach to a subject a bit distant from the sport scene. Thanks, Panamint!



Don Thompson, ' . . . relish and aplomb' (Dick Harold Photo)

Since Jack Doll, Jr. joined the Baldwin staff, life has picked up considerable speed. His first exposure to en masse pipe addicts was during the ATOS 1972 convention where he manned the bench in the Baldwin showroom and fluttered many a female heart with his engaging smile and "benchside" manner. The same phenomenon was noted during his stint at the California 1972 Home Organ Festival. But gals with designs had best give up; Jack got married between the two engagements. The real loser is the 3/13 in Jack's Cincinnati basement which he calls his "WurliWickCasiAustivant" because of its mixed pedigree; no time for maintenance. During an October demo-concert trip to Detroit, Al and Betty Mason took him to the Senate Theater for a workout on the DTOC 4/34 Wurlitzer. He says, "That instrument is a joy to play - even without Baldwin's "Fantom Fingers'."

George Wright attracted 2200 to the Auditorium Theatre for his fourth

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Rochester stanza on Nov. 4th, according to RTOS program chairman Gary Haines. George was made an honorary member of RTOS and expressed a desire to next time include a brass choir and chorus in his program. The trip to Rochester was the topic of conversation for several days on the Robert Q. Lewis radio show on KFI in Los Angeles, for which George plays a Conn organ and chats informally with Lewis.



Alice Blue. Headed for a south seas romance.

In our October issue's story about Hawaiian organist John DeMello, we mentioned also the parallel career of Alice Blue, who wrote the DeMello story. Alice has been one of the more colorful organists who sprang from the silent movie era, and her future looks even more adventuresome. Admittedly a member of the "Geritol set," Alice is off for residence in the south seas monarchy of Tonga, but not to vegetate in dotage. Far from it; Alice who has always been young in heart, is heading for romance and marriage. It happened during Alice's initial trip to Tonga to "case the place." She liked the island of Vava'u and she met a handsome man, Masao Pa'asi, a lawyer and 3rd term member of Tonga's legislature, part of a stable government headed by Tonga's queen. Alice was back in northern California for a couple of summer months to dispose of her property and as we went to press she was enroute to Tonga, via Hawaii, Pago Pago, Apia and all those romantic places with strange sounding names, to become the bride of statesman Masao Pa'asi. Tonga will be the richer.

The settling of the disagreement with the musicians' union which closed the Radio City Music Hall in October (on a night when there were only

300 in the 6200 seat house) may not end the Music Hall's difficulties. Although the house opened in a week (after a new AFM contract had been negotiated), there are mounting economic difficulties. Mark McDonald, writing in the Niagara Frontier chapter's *Silent Newsreel*, states that the Hall has been hit hard by changes in entertainment styles and deterioration of midtown New York. Large grossing films are scarce and the fear of "muggers" has cut severely into the theatre's evening revenue. There is also no training ground for the live acts which distinguish the Hall's stage, and quality presentations are hard to come by. Even the titles of recent films and stage shows booked by the Hall seemed discouraging: *Cancel my Reservation*, *In One Era and Out the Other* and *When the Legend Dies*.

Our northern California correspondent, Dewey Cagle, sometimes takes pleasure in exploding well-established myths. At the Home Organ Festival this year he pricked one kid's balloon when the lad exclaimed with some exuberance that it was nice that the Festival was held so near historic "old Monterey" where, according to the song, "it happened." Not so, corrected Dewey, that song reference is to "Monterrey" and it's still far south in "old Mexico." To further confuse matters, the sheet music spells it "Monterey." Partypooper!



Jack Doll, Jr. Married he could always get — and did. — (Stufoto)

Lloyd Klos reports that an audience of 1300 helped initiate RTOS seventh season at the Rochester Auditorium theatre on September 15 with Don Thompson at the Wurlitzer in a program which ranged from classical to popular music. The audience was receptive, although one newspaper reviewer took issue with Don on his renditions of classics, but admitted that Don performed "with such relish and aplomb, as well as a certain kind of skill, that his performances are almost invariably entertaining." Klos felt that the Thompson performance was immeasurably better than those which kicked off RTOS' seasons for the past two years. □

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