

Nuggets prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

Before Jason and I head for the prime lode, here are a few nuggets we picked up throughout the country. References were Diapason (D), Metronome (Met.), Motion Picture Herald (MPH) and Local press (LP).

Nov. 23, 1914 (LP) FREDERICK WEBER opened Baltimore's 3000-seat Hippodrome. He is to give a 15-minute organ recital at 8 each evening of opening week.

Fall 1918 (LP) The deluxe Strand Theatre opened in Portland, Maine. Organist is LEO LE SIEUR from Montreal. (Head usher was Rudy Vallee.)

May 1, 1922 (LP) P. HANS FLATH opens the Wurlitzer in the Miller Theatre, Wichita, Kansas. (Gaylord "Flicker Fingers" Carter has fond memories of this classical organist who became a theatre musician).

Oct. 18, 1922 (LP) FRED BURR SCHOOL opens Grauman's Egyptian Theatre Wurlitzer in Los Angeles.

Jan. 15, 1926 (Met.) The program at Shea's Hippodrome in Buffalo, starting December 27, included the overture to "Student Prince", played by the Hippodrome Symphony Orchestra; an "Our Gang" comedy, "Good Cheer"; the feature, "A Kiss For Cinderella", starring Betty Bronson; and MAURICE B. NICHOLSON and CHARLES ALLISON alternating at the Wurlitzer.

June 16, 1926 (Met.) Advertisement: Have you seen the greatest slide presentation? Feist's "Songbirds" is IT. Now showing at the New York Rialto Theatre. HENRY B. MURTAGH, HI C GEIS, ARTHUR MARTEL, WARREN YATES, TOM TERRY, HENRI J. KEATS, DEL CASTILLO, ERNEST HUNT, TOM GANNON and others too numerous to mention are a few who have raved over the "Songbirds" slides. Standard Slide Corp. 209 W. 48th St. N.Y.

Nov. 23, 1926 (LP) W. RAY BURROUGHS opened Rochester's Madison Theatre 2/7 Wurlitzer tonite. Movies, vaudeville and road shows will be featured in the 1,000-seat house.

Dec. 1926 (Met.) The inaugural program last month of the new Paramount Theatre was the outstanding event of motion picture history in New York recently, 4,000 seeing the brilliant opening. The program included Tschaikowsky's 1812 Overture by the Paramount Orchestra; songs by Helen Yorke, coloratura; JESSE CRAWFORD in "Organs I Have Played", a very attractive number. Feature film was "God Gave Me Twenty Cents."

Feb. 13, 1932 (MPH) BOB WEST, who is back at his old stand as organist at the Brooklyn Fox after an absence of four months, is just as popular with his audiences as the day he left. What amounts to an ovation is being given him at each of his appearances. He's still giving them the old personality and cheering them along to sing louder each time. The program consisted of the following numbers: "Try Something Else", "Blue of the Night", "Concentration on You", "Who's Your Little Whozis?", "Why Did It Have to be Me?" and a fine chorus of "River, Stay 'Way From My Door."

Feb. 13, 1932 (MPH) JULIA DAWN, the Singing Organist, is at the San Antonio Aztec Theatre. This golden-voiced songbird is going over in a big way, both in her daily offering from the Publix Theatre and over KABC, located in the Texas Theatre Bldg. Her requests are broadcast from the studio by remote control. She recently presented the following songs on a morning show: "Sweet and Lovely", "I Don't Know Why", "Just Friends", "Lazy River", "Call Me Darling", "Let Me Call You Sweet-heart", "Down by the Sycamore heart", "Down by the Sycamore Tree", "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day", "Blue Danube Waltz", "Lies", "Love Letters in the Sand", "All of Me", "In a Monastery Garden", "When You and I Were Young, Maggie", and "River, Stay 'Way From My Door.''

Apr. 1936 (D) The Wurlitzer Co. has installed a 3/13 organ in the NBC studios of Chicago's Merchandise Mart. Included in the specs are English horn, marimba, xylophone, glockenspiel and cathedral chimes.

Apr. 1936 (D) The organ programs over WWAC, Indiana Harbor, have met with great success since the Indiana Theatre overhauled its organ, which stood idle for years. The theatre has more business, and the station has given up other instrumentalists and recordings. A one-hour program recently brought in 167 letters. JOHN MURI is organist.

GOLD DUST: 7/21 JOHN PRIEST & FRANK STEWART ADAMS at New York's Rialto ... 9/24 EDWIN LYLES TAYLOR, Chattanooga's Tivoli ... 5/25 W.D. WEIST, JR., State in Huntington, W. Va. . . . 6/25 ERNEST J. HARES (Dave Powell), Grand in Massillon, Ohio; RALPH H. BRIGHAM, Orpheum in Rockford, Ill.; A.W. WALTER named organist for new theatre in Highland Pk., Ill. ... GRANT E. LINN at Capitol's 3-manual Robert Morton, Salisbury, N. Car. . . 4/26 HARRY BROWN, Iris in Caton, Ohio; RALPH SCOTT, Iris in Milwaukee; GLENN GOFF, California Theatre, San Francisco ... 5/26 BERT HOPPS, West Coast's Capitol and CYRIL GRAVES, Goddard's Theatre, Sacremento; R.H. MOORE, Gem in Salt Lake City; GEORGE HOCKENBERGER, Colorado Theatre, Denver; ARTHUR FLAGEL, Gaumont in Paris, France; HENRY E. LINGLEY, California Theatre in Salinas; ROSCOE KERNAN playing a 3-manual Wurlitzer in Great Falls, Mont.; FRANK GALLAGHER, "The Little Irish Organist", Loew's Doan in Cleveland; CARL HINTON on a 3-manual Robert Morton in Winston Salem, N. Car.; D. HARRY MC POYLE, Aldine in Wilmington, Del.; ROSCOE KERNAN, Liberty in Gt. Falls, Mont....8/26 HENRY FRANCIS PARKS opened Hollywood Theatre in Chicago, May 1; IRENE JUNO & EMILY THOMPSON at Washington's Central; CLYDE R. SULLIVAN, Capitol in Cumberland, Md.... 3/27 SAM LUCAS in Tulsa, Okla.; HAROLD L. LYON, Ottumwa, Iowa; CLYDE YOUNG, Columbus, Ohio . . . 4/27 LOUIS WEBB, Omaha's Rialto; CHARLES STIRN, Liberty's Moller in Richmond, N.Y.

That should do it until next time. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason and the Old Prospector