

JOSEPH STOVES, Birmingham's Temple . . . 7/25 GEORGE ALBERT BOUCHARD, Shea's Hippodrome, Buffalo; JOHN HAMMOND, New York's Piccadilly; HAROLD RAMSBOTTOM and FRANK STEWART ADAMS, New York's Rivoli . . . 10/25 FRED C. VOSS, Newark's Branford . . . 12/25 FRANK RATH, Jr., Denver's Isis . . . 4/26 HENRY B. MURTAGH, Buffalo's Lafayette . . . 7/26 HENRY B. MURTAGH, New York's Rivoli; J. MILLER SMITH, Newark's Mosque Theatre . . . 8/26 FRANK E. WOODHOUSE Jr., Colonial in Gillespie, Ill.; LEO HEIR, Rialto's Barton Grande, Kankakee, Ill.; ROBERT WILSON ROSS, Liberty Theatre in Carnegie, Pa.; LEONARD LEIGH, Capitol in St. Paul, Minn.; FREDERICK SMITH and WALTER WILD, Brooklyn's Mark Strand . . . 9/26 FRED MC MULLEN, Grand Opera House, Pembroke, Ontario, Canada; MELVIN OGDEN, MISS WHITEHEAD and MRS. PERKINS, alternating at Atlanta's Howard; H. B. HARPER, Troy (N.Y.) Theatre; ELSIE THOMPSON, St. Paul's Capitol; ROBERT J. BERENTSEN, Rochester's Eastman; C. SHARPE MINOR, Newark's Mosque . . . 10/26 HARRY WILSON, Castle in Bloomington, Ill.; TOM GRIERSON, Shea's Buffalo . . . 11/26 L. V. TANGEMAN, Coldwater (Ohio) Theatre; QUENTIN KINGSBACK, Palace in Petersburg, Va. . . . 12/26 RICHARD TWEEDY, Troy (N.Y.) Theatre; MARGARET WATKINS, Washington's Colony . . . 1/27 CHARLES KUSSEROW, Racine, Wisc. State Theatre; ROBERT K. HALE, Varsity's 3-manual Reuter in Lawrence, Kansas; STUART BARRIE, St. Louis' Ambassador . . . 9/27 CEDIL TEAGUE, St. Louis Theatre . . . 10/27 MARTHA LEE, Strand in Cumberland, Md. . . . 12/27 URBAN DEGER, Cincinnati's State; JOHNNY BERTRAND, Montreal's Verdun Park Theatre; H. B. HARPER, Rochester's State.

That should do it for now. So long, sourdoughs!

*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Jason and The Old Prospector



The 3/7 Wurlitzer at the State Cinema in Springfield is alive and well.

WURLITZER GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

For many years, the Wurlitzer pipe organ at the State Cinema in Springfield, Ohio has been silent.

When Bob Cowley and his family moved to Dayton, Ohio, Bob remembered the Wurlitzer and decided to investigate to see if it was still in its original home.

Upon contacting Mr. Mike Chakers, owner of the theatre, Bob found out that the organ was still there, but due to the death of Mr. Nickals, organist and manager from 1923 to 1970, the organ had not been played very much. Time and neglect had taken its toll on the Wurlitzer and after Bob had played it for about a half-hour, he knew there was only one thing to do: Rebuild the organ. As Bob found out, the last time any major work had been done was around 1963, when the solo chamber had been worked on due to water damage from a leaky roof. No work had been performed on the main chamber or the console during this time. After the water damage occurred in the Solo Chamber, the plaster had turned to powder and continued to drop on the chests and relay.

Bob contacted the Cincinnati Chapter for help, but they were already involved with a rebuilding project and would not be completed with it until early '74". Bob, being a member of the Motor City Chapter in Michigan, knew that he could not gain help from them since a five hour drive was out of the question.

Not wanting to wait until a later date, Bob and his wife, Linda, started the major overhaul on the Wurlitzer organ.

As many know, Wurlitzer made a lot of modifications on their different styles as some theatres needed some

things that other theatres didn't. The organ, Opus 1754, is a Special Style "E", 3 manuals and 7 ranks. Instead of just being 2 manuals, they added another to make it a 3 manual.

The first portion of the project involved the console. After three layers of paint were removed and hours of sanding were done, the console was ready for a new finish, antique white with gold trim. Full credit must go to Bob's wife for without her help on this project, the console would not be nearly finished. She re-leathered the stop tab pneumatics and helped replace broken contact blocks with new ones. After the console was completed, she recovered the bench with a foam rubber padding and covered that with red velvet.

Next came the chambers and after burning a lot of "midnight oil", they were finally back in shape. All the dead notes came back to life after burned out magnets were replaced. After several tunings, the Wurlitzer sounds and performs just as good as when it was first installed 50 years ago.

The theatre organ is coming back to life in Springfield and several silent films and shows are being planned by the theatre. So that the public will realize that the organ is still there, every Friday night the organ is used before and after shows. During the holidays, it will be used three nights out of the week, just to provide that silent era, "live theatre organ music." Without the help of Mr. Chakers, Mr. Chuck McBee, manager, and the theatre staff, all of this would not have become possible and a real theatre organ might have been lost from the public and the music world forever. □