



The console is to the right as one passes through the new glass doors on the former community hall.



Grand piano is flanked by two sets of vertical shutters on the far wall. Console (not shown) is to the right, the player piano to the left.

The Wurlitzer of John Kuczinski

The Wurlitzer style B Special, Opus 1479, was originally installed in the Grandview Theatre, Grandview, Ohio. Mr. Durthaler of the Durthaler Organ Company moved the organ from the theatre to the Columbus, Ohio, home of Frew Mohr, a university professor who used the organ for broadcasting over WOSU. The 2/4 Wurlitzer's next sanctuary was the Washington Avenue United Brethren Church, also in Columbus. John Kuczinski, Potomac Valley Chapter member, bought the instrument in 1966 when the church purchased an electronic organ. The percussions were separated from the organ before 1966. Dick Kline supplied the xylophone, drums, and swell shades from the Greensburg (Pa.) Manos Theatre organ. The rest of the Greensburg organ is incorporated in the Kline installation.

Once he acquired the organ, John Kuczinski set about locating a suitable building. He found one in the Long Beach Community House at Chase, Maryland, near Baltimore and bought it expressly for the organ. He and his nephew, John McCoy, who lives with him, began rebuilding and renovating the hall. They built a four-room addition for living space, used the com-

munity hall's kitchen, deducted chamber space, and the remaining 26' x 26' x 10' area became a music room. VOILA! A house-around-a-Wurlitzer, and another dream come true!

The decor of the music room is early Wurlitzer and the organ is surrounded by the paraphernalia of a musician. The pipe organ sits proudly on a low platform just inside the front door, to the right. On the left is an old player piano and over the front door rests a single mitred Tuba pipe, mounted rifle-style. Looking straight into the room, a grand piano is flanked by two sets of vertical shutters. In the exact center of these swell shades is another feature of the room, a spectacular display of authentic organ pipes which forms an archway to the hall and chambers. Other decorative antique items include a wind-up Columbia phonograph, an early 1900's concertina, and a pre-1889 Chicago-Cottage reed pump organ, all in working condition. John has a ukelin and a zither yet to be displayed.

John would like to hear from any readers who can provide further information about his theatre organ or the people who played it. (Route 15, Box 322A, Balto, Md. 21220) □

Long Beach Community House as it appeared at time of purchase in February 1966.



Former Long Beach Hall as it appears today, the residence of John Kuczinski and the Mighty Wurlitzer.

