

**NUGGETS**  
from the  
**GOLDEN**  
**DAYS**



Nuggets prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

Saluting the gals during Valentine's month, we change the format a bit and present three items which appeared some time ago. The first appeared in the March 1931 *Motion Picture Herald*:

ANN LEAF, though 4 feet, 11 inches tall, is master of the mammoth console in the New York Paramount studio from which she broadcasts over the Columbia chain every night at 12:30 EST. She hails from Omaha, Nebraska, and has made good, not only in the city (apologies to Odd O. McIntyre), but throughout the nation through her chain broadcasts.

The second item is from the December 26, 1931 issue of *Motion Picture Herald*:

HENRIETTA KAMERN, organist at Loew's 175th Street Theatre in New York, presented a timely solo entitled "Football Fancies" this week. It was composed of the usual collegiate songs, interspersed with rare comedy and set to popular songs for the audience to sing. Though the house was but half full, those in it did their best to sing, and applauded Miss Kamern's efforts at the finish. Besides being a very good musician, Miss Kamern is the fashion plate of the neighborhood. Her dark beauty was set off by a black and white evening gown, and the console was beautifully decorated.

The following oversize nugget appeared in the March 1936 issue of the *Diapason*:

Among the many talented women organists, Chicago numbers HELEN SEARLES WESTBROOK, whose compositions have made an impression wherever they have been played, and

who has spent all her musical career in this city, engaging in activities which have included theatre work, in which she won distinction; church-playing and directing of choirs, composition, and last, but by no means least, home-making. Mrs. Westbrook, at present organist and director at the Edison Park Methodist Church, finds time in this position to direct both a large children's choir and one of adults.

Helen Searles was born in Southbridge, Mass., and came of a family of musicians and artists. When a child, she was brought to Chicago, and when 6 years old, began study of the piano. At the age of 14, she entered upon organ study and in her high school years, was organist of a city church. Later, she entered the American Conservatory of Music and studied composition with the late Adolf Weidig and Dr. Wilhelm Middelschulte, and organ with Frank Van Dusen and Dr. Middelschulte.

Mrs. Westbrook has played a number of recitals and has been a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, playing Bossi's Concerto in A Minor for organ and orchestra.

A number of Mrs. Westbrook's compositions have been published. Among them are a "Minuet in Olden Style", "Andante Religioso", "Chanson Triste", and "Melody". Her compositions are a pleasing combination of sprightly melody and clean rhythm and simple harmony; they are happy bits of music with real appeal and originality. In manuscript is a Toccata and "Poeme", which are dedicated to Dr. Middelschulte, and which he has used in his recital programs in Europe and America.

Mrs. Westbrook is a member of the American Guild of Organists and of the Sigma Alpha Iota national musical sorority; is serving on the executive board of the Chicago Club of Woman Organists, and is a member of the Lake View Musical Society, which she represented last year at the National Federation of Music Clubs' convention, appearing in a program of her own organ compositions. January 26, she gave a recital at Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, Ill. on the large Aeolian-Skinner, and February 16, she played a varied program at the Stevens Hotel on the new Hammond electronic organ.

Miss Searles was married in 1923 to James Doddridge Westbrook, a young

man from the south who was studying voice in Chicago and whom she met when she was playing in the Balaban & Katz theatres. Mr. Westbrook is a businessman, but keeps up his music as tenor soloist in the choir of the Edison Park M. E. Church.

GOLD DUST: The gals were important to the cause in the old days as the following indicates: 9/25 MAUD FAUVER serving as secretary to the Los Angeles Theatre Organists' Club, while MARIE LINDANGER is playing theatres in LA... 9/26 IRENE MADONNA, Capitol Theatre in Braddock, Pa.; DESSA BYRD, Circle in Indianapolis... 11/26 EDITH ROYALTY, Star in Elgin, Ill.; MARGARET EDMONDS and RUTH REESER, Palace in Sandusky, Ohio; ANNA MOLINE in the new theatre in Marshfield, Wis.; Mrs. B.W. WHITE, Strand in Ashville, N. Carolina... 1/27 MABEL HARN, Majestic in Austin, Texas... 2/27 VIOLA MAYER, Loew's Theatre in Paris, France; FRANCES WEBB, Schade in Sandusky, Ohio; LUCILE HOOVER, Englert in Iowa City, Ia.; ROSE ROSSA, Douglas in Racine, Wis.; GLADYS LYLE, Columbia in New Orleans; BEATRICE RYAN, Rochester's Eastman... 3/27 EMILY GEIGER HELLER, Loew's Spooner's 3-manual Moller in New York City; DOROTHY HULTGREEN in LaPort, Ind.; HELEN HOYT in Arlington Heights, Ill.; LUCILE HOOVER in Sandusky, Ohio; BEATRICE ROYT, ANNA KARISH, FLORENCE CAMPBELL and ROSE POTRZILKA playing in Chicago theatres... 7/27 GRACE MADDEN at the 3-manual Moller in Loew's Brevoort in N.Y. City; IRMA GLEN, Portage Park Theatre in Evanston, Ill.; GERTRUDE STANDRING, Peerless in Chicago... 8/27 GERTRUDE DOWD at the Albee Theatre's Wurlitzer, Brooklyn... 9/27 LORNA LINCOLN at Loew's Lincoln, New York; IRMA FALVEY, San Jose's California Theatre; ESTHER MOTIE playing in Los Angeles; HELEN COX, Strand in Cumberland, Md.; VERA KITCHENER, Brooklyn's Metropolitan... 10/27 GRACE MC GUIRE and MAE MOSLEY, Rochester's Victoria; JETTA MILHOLLAND, Carolina Theatre; Elizabeth City, N. Car. . .

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

Jason and the Old Prospector