

the Tibia trem will create a gasping laugh effect." (And we thought those laughs were coming from the audience! Ed.) . . . The Patzold's December DIAPHONE reprints a N.Y. Times article announcing the restoration of the famous Philippine Bamboo organ by the Klais Organ Co., Bonn, Germany. The organ, built for the Las Pifias church between 1816 and 1821 by Fr. Diego Cerra, was moved by boat and air to special rooms at the Bonn shop which were heated to the organ's home temperature in order to prevent cracking of the bamboo pipes. The article reveals that the organ has 22 stops (not ranks) and 836 pipes built from joined bamboo trees. The German restorers have much praise for the craftsmanship of Fr. Cerra, who had only local materials to work with. One detail remains unexplained: How did Fr. Cerra manage to fabricate pipes for the reed voice, Trompeta Real, from bamboo? Could he have had a knowledge of labial reeds at that early date? . . . The Southeastern Chapter's Fall RELAY provides an absorbing history of Atlanta's Howard theatre, with its two organs, first a Robert Morton (circa 3/18) in 1921, then, when Paramount-Publix took over in 1925, a Wurlitzer style 260 Special for film accompaniments. Edwin Sawtelle was the first organist, and his contributions were in connection with opera presentations, both as soloist on the Morton and supporting the orchestra. All gone now. "The theatre itself disappeared in 1960," sighs RELAY editor John Clark McCall . . . Piedmont Chapter's December REEDS & STRINGS carries a well written story about Duke University's 1930's school for theatre managers which centered around the institution's Quadrangle theatre. Former student J. Marion Martin reveals that the school's manager wanted a Moller organ for the Quadrangle but finally had to settle for a 3/10 Wurlitzer. However, the RELAY offers the original 3/10 Moller specification, not the Wurlitzer's (the latter was sold for \$100.00 in 1946!). The article lists many stage and radio shows which appeared at the Quadrangle during the '30s and their stars. Author Martin has a revealing comment on one star who soloed on the organ for one week: (Jesse) "Crawford was the most demanding and difficult person to work with that I experienced during my four years as production manager." □



## ALABAMA

In November, the Alabama Chapter put the spotlight on the members. It all started with a work session on Saturday, when a larger than usual group met to work on the organ. On Saturday evening, Riedel and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice West, entertained the work crew at their home. We had delicious hamburgers with all the trimmings. The evening was topped off with a jam session at Riedel's Wurlitzer 4500.

On Sunday morning, following our regular business meeting, the console was open to members with Larry Donaldson, Connie Ann Boyd, Virginia Pace, Billy Henley, Alleen Cole, Lillian Truss, Norville Hall, Sandra Cavnar, Riedel West, Charles Durham and Jay Mitchell taking turns at the organ. If compared with open-console programs of the past, it would be easy to tell that in spite of a few knocking knees, we are all getting better acquainted with each other as well as the Wurlitzer.

December brought a special treat when our own "Wizard of the Wurlitzer", Jay Mitchell, brought us the Christmas program. Only Jay could get away with going from the light, airy "Jingle Bells" complete with sleigh bells, to the resounding Cathedral setting of "O Come All Ye Faithful" without losing a thing in the transition. During his intermission, we were surprised with a silent movie of Laurel and Hardy selling Christmas trees — with Jay making the movie come to life with his delightful organ score. Several of us had seen the movie before, and it is amazing what a difference the musical background made.

After the movie, Jay completed his program with a "Christmas Fantasy", bringing to a close a very memorable



Riedel West, Chapter Chairman, at open console. — (Photo by Thomas L. Hatter)

year for the Alabama Chapter and whetting our appetites for more of the same in 1974.

After the program, the regular monthly meeting was held with election of 1974 officers being the main item of business. Short work was made of this election when the existing officers were voted right back in with one blanket vote. It is easy to see why Miss West had no opponents. She has devoted the year to making the Alabama Chapter what it is today. She has brought the membership from 10 families to 47 in only 10 short months.

As Vice Chairman, Jay Mitchell has kept the programs interesting and varied. As Secretary-Treasurer — well, I just let the rest do the work and I

collect the money and report it.

The year 1974 promises to be a good one for the Alabama Chapter.

ALLEEN COLE

### CEDAR RAPIDS

Another sell-out crowd of sixteen hundred crowded into the Capitol Theatre at Davenport, Iowa as CRATOS staged its second Silent Movie Nite on October 11. This time it was to view the silent movie, *The Cat and the Canary* and enjoy the rollicking old tunes that talented Dennis James produced on the 3/10 Wicks organ.

Capitalizing on nostalgia, James confined himself to tunes of the late twenties, thirties and forties — *Japanese Sandman*, Glen Miller arrangements and songs that Judy Garland sang.

There were many young people in the audience and they obviously enjoyed the performance as much as their elders, joining in lustily to sing along with old time songs whose words were projected on the screen.

Dennis said that he was impressed by the recently refurbished Capitol Theatre and the condition of the organ. Members Robert Beck, Howard Adams and his son, Jim, had spent many hours before the show re-finishing the console and repairing parts of its complex inner works as well as rebuilding the reed pipes. Another Adams, namely son Paul, introduced Dennis and acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Our thanks to Dennis for his crowd pleasing performance. It is a joy to present such a talented and personable artist. Meanwhile, over at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, ninety miles from Davenport, CRATOS engaged Rex Koury to do their eighth organ pro-

## PIPES GALORE IN '74

ATOS CONVENTION  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

gram at the Paramount Theatre on Nov. 8, 1973.

To quote from Pat Marshall's newsletter: "It becomes difficult to write about our shows as every one seems to top the previous one. Rex Koury, a most genial, personable, crowd pleasing performer, brought the capacity crowd at the Paramount to its feet in standing ovations. For two and a half hours, Rex brought sounds that never were heard before from the 3/11 Wurlitzer. From his opening number until his final encore *Theme from Gunsmoke* the audience sat on the edge of their seats with their eyes glued on the console. The hilarious Larry Semon comedy, the sing-along with an additional polka, "Rhapsody in Blue" and every number on his fine program was the greatest pleasure. The variety of his numbers gave something for everyone.

"Rex proved himself to be the "pro" that he is. Casually whipping off his glasses, swinging his leg over the organ bench and propping it on the grill work warmed patrons into an acceptance that was felt over the entire theatre.

In addition to the Silent Movie Nites at Davenport and Cedar Rapids our chapter has maintained a regular schedule of monthly meetings. Members with excellent musical ability have entertained us. Last January Jean Safley, Loren Frink and Paul Adams provided the program followed by Bob Arndt in February. Howard Burton,

who has completed installation of a 2/7 Wurlitzer at his home played a beautiful concert for us in March.

Last April another sell out show was staged at the Paramount in Cedar Rapids by the spectacular Lyn Larsen. So much has been written about Lyn's showmanship and artistry that all we can add to that would be that it is all true and then some.

Carma Lou produced new sounds from the Paramount's Wurlitzer in April just a few days before the Larsen show. Our May meeting was held at the Iowa Theatre in Cedar Rapids. Here we heard Ron Rhode play on the restored Barton. Ron has now joined Lyn Larsen at Phoenix, Arizona's Organ Stop Pizza.

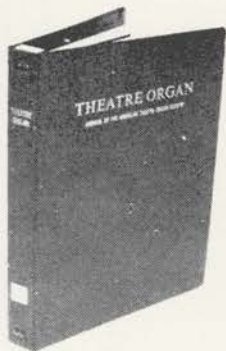
In June, 39 of us piled into a bus to visit Rockford, Ill. and hear the great Barton in the Coronado Theatre. From there we drove to Platteville, Wis. to hear Bob Velzy play his 3-manual Conn installed in his restaurant named the Timbers. Our thanks to Orill Dunn, our host at Rockford, and Bob at The Timbers for their wonderful hospitality.

Rain sort of dampened our Sept. picnic but not Pat Maynard's music. George Baldwin came on strong at the Paramount for the Oct. get together and new member Carol Albee showed us how to enjoy the Wicks over at the Capitol in Davenport for the November meeting.

Our club concluded the year with a Christmas party and annual meeting at Cedar Rapids, Iowa in December. What a fantastic, wonderful year this has been.

BYRON F. OLSEN

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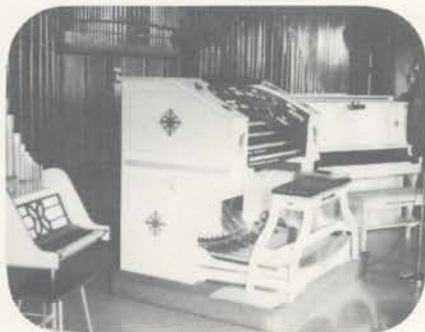
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(L to R) Calliope, Robert-Morton console and piano in the home of Ralph and Leona Charles.

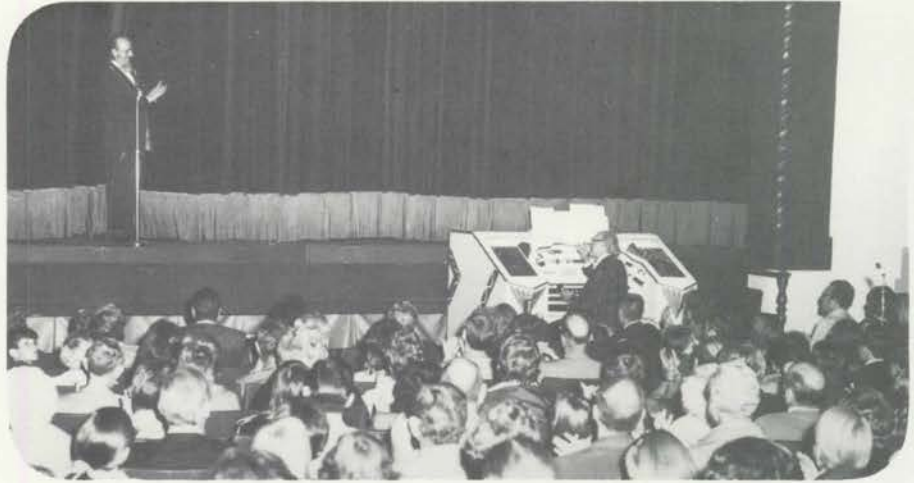
up to date with the newest additions to their Robert Morton. We were really surprised. What a picture! The console was resplendent in white with red trim flanked on one side by a piano (played through the organ console) and on the other side by a beautiful calliope, both finished to match the console.

Kenny Winland of Hopwell, Ohio played the formal concert. Kenny became acquainted with theatre pipe organ when he heard Tony Fenelon play the Ohio Theatre Robert Morton about three years ago. It was love at first sound and now at the age of 24 Kenny is devoted to playing pipes. While he enjoys playing fast — “Spaghetti Rag” to “Trish Trash Polka,” his concerts offer something for everyone.

An added treat was a concert by Lois Hays who plays an electronic in a Columbus restaurant and one more heart lost to the pipes! Open console began with Kenny at the organ, Ralph Schluttenhofer at the piano, Bill Bendler at the calliope and laughter from the audience.

In addition to using the Robert Morton for benefit concerts for the Retarded Children's Association, the Charles' invite groups of school children to their home to introduce them to the wonders of the pipe organ. Organizations such as the Farmers Union are invited to hold their meetings there. Because of their dedication to theatre pipe organ, and serving so well the purpose and aims of ATOS, our Board of Directors voted Ralph and Leona honorary members of COTOS for 1974.

Our annual Christmas meeting at the Ohio Theatre with the use of the Robert Morton is the highlight of the year. Local organist Bill Vlasik was invited to play the formal opening concert and did a tremendous job of using the organ plus planning a program to please all. It was then open-console led off by Betsy Richards and with so many taking a turn that naming names becomes impractical. Everyone gets a chance to play. COTOS is blessed with a membership who understand that most members have little experience at a pipe organ and are tolerant indeed while many have a good time at the beautiful console. This results in many smiling happy faces. To be especially commended is our president, Frank Babbitt, who stood by the entire evening



Magician and show MC Jay Marshall leads applause for John Muri during Arcada shows. (Photo by Bill Lamb)

to assist each player with registration and use of the organ. Once more we thank the owners of the organ, Tom Hamilton and Carlos Parker for sharing it with us.

IRENE BLEGEN

### CHICAGO AREA

Wally Brown opened CATOE's fall concert season at the Pickwick Theatre, Park Ridge, on Sept. 13. This was an all-organ show with no film. Wally's easy going manner at the console was another departure from the CATOE concert format. A native of Oklahoma who has recently been demonstrating for Conn, Wally was very casual in his approach to pipes and his audience. No complaints were heard about Wally's playing ability though some patrons would have liked a more structured format, including a film. Highlights were Brown's stories and his gospel sing-along which included touching arrangements of “How Great Thou Art” and “In the Garden.” Andy

Haban, Fred Kruse and crew have kept the broad, mellow, sweet sound of this 3/11 Wurlitzer intact.

St. Charles, Ill. was the site on Oct. 19 and 20 for two nights of theatre organ and vaudeville sponsored by CATOE. In addition to the usual film and sing-along, John Muri had the chance to show another talent, accompanying live stage acts. Oriental magician De Yip Loo brought along some elaborate stage sets and grand illusions. Bob Neller brought along his wooden friend Reggie and spent some time putting words in Reggie's mouth. Tom Tibia listened closely to audience reaction and concluded that people thought this was the best show CATOE has done in its 40 concerts to date. Doug Christensen and Bill Barry and others repaired the 3/16 Geneva. The echo organ was working as were the “swinging bells”, decorative bells in niches along the side wall which swing when a tab on the console is pressed.



Tay Felten (left) and Glenn Felten (right) get the Schurz Moller ready for CATOE playing workshop. — (Photo by Jim Felten)



CATOE's 1973 Board of Directors: Seated: Orrill Dunn, director; Bill Rieger, chairman; Russ Joseph, vice chairman. Standing: Doug Christensen, secretary; Bill Benedict, director; Art Todesco, Treasurer; Richard Sklenar, VOX CATOE editor. Not pictured: Jo Ann Neri and Tony Tahlman. — (Photo by Carl Anderson)



Lyn Larsen

John Muri accompanied *Wings* at the Pickwick Theatre from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 under the sponsorship of the theatre.

A return social for members was held at Carl Schurz High School on Oct. 25. Jim and Glenn Felten, father and son team of organ repairers, explained the work they have done on the 4/45 Moller, one of the few pipe organs ever installed in Chicago schools. Jack Olander organized the workshop course he is teaching at Schurz for CATOE members. CATOE'rs will have the chance to learn about registration and technique on the large and versatile concert organ. This is part of CATOE's continuing educational program which includes use of the Wurlitzer it installed at Downers Grove High School by music students there. Jack Olander teaches music at a third high school and has been playing intermissions at the Pickwick Theatre on Saturdays and Sundays.

November was busy as usual. A bus trip to Milwaukee on Nov. 3 found members visiting the Avalon Theatre, stopping at Meyer's Pipe Shop to see how metal organ pipes are made, then on to a catered lunch and jamming at the famous 5/31 Wurlitzer installed at Fred Hermes.

A business meeting at Downers Grove on Nov. 18 with organ interludes included election of the 1974 Board of Directors.

On Nov. 29 youthful Tom Gnaster played an "Autumn Serenade" for CATOE's large public following at the Montclare Theatre's 3/10 Barton. This

organ has been receiving care recently under the leadership of Bill Benedict and Gary Bergmark.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Although missing from the pages of this magazine for over a year it will be apparent the Conn Valley Chapter has had a busy, productive year.

Correspondent Bill Chaloner has broken the silence and informs us of the following: First chapter meeting of the year was held at Glenholme School in Washington, Conn. featuring Everett Bassett and Allen Miller at the 4/58 residence organ. The first concert of the year presented Ed Welsh, location not stated.

The April concert featured Lyn

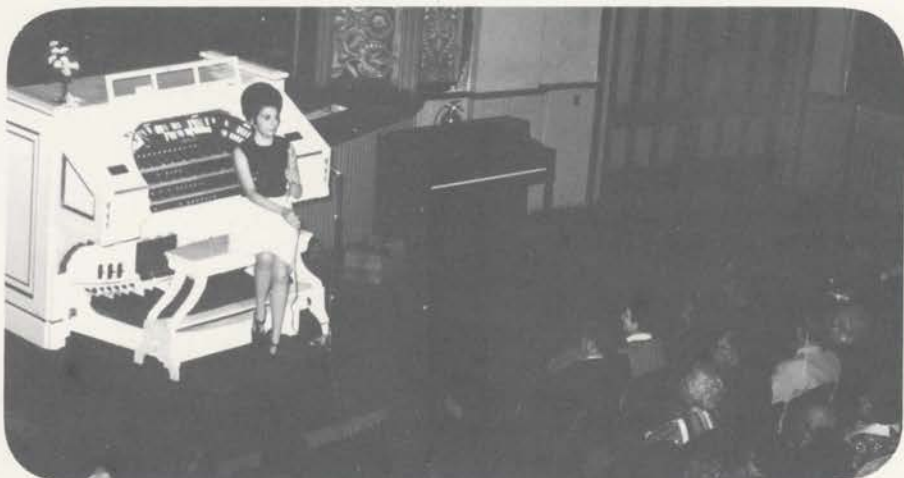
Larsen at the 3/10 Marr and Colton, Thomaston Opera House. A chapter meeting was also held in April at the home of Preston, Bea, and Allen Miller in Glastonbury.

A June meeting was held in the home of Harold and Eleanor Weaver featuring Bob Fazzino and Bob Carangelo at the nine rank Marr and Colton.

August was a big month for the chapter with a three-event meeting featuring open-console at the homes of John Stokes and Everett Bassett, then a program at the Thomaston Opera House featuring Russell Hubbard.

In September, Lyn Larsen drew a standing room only crowd for his return engagement.

In October the chapter listened to Joy Corrado Zublena in a concert at the Thomaston Opera House, a fund raising event for the Opera House.



Joy Zublena



Dennis James

During October the chapter also heard Joe Nickerson at the 3/11 Wurlitzer, Julia Sanderson Theatre, Springfield, Mass.

During November Dennis James presented *The Phantom Of The Opera* unfortunately our correspondent didn't say where. The November chapter meeting was held at Joe Starr's Crystal Palace in West Goshen.

The December meeting was held at the Opera House and featured a concert by Allen Miller.

Connecticut Valley is one of the more active chapters in the ATOS and it is presumed that because of this, time has not permitted a more current report on the many interesting activities being conducted by the chapter. It is hoped that during 1974 time will allow for more correspondence between the chapter and THEATRE ORGAN.

## DELAWARE VALLEY

'Twas the season to be jolly. And jolly we were, from the end of October right through December.

On Halloween weekend, Wanamaker "resident" organist, Keith Chapman, played a concert of both classical and theatrical music in a club benefit. Further showing his versatility, Keith also included *Nosferatu*, a Dracula silent film, in which he tapped all of the Conn 651's resources. After Keith's program, Vi Egger, former

theatre organist in Philadelphia, was asked to play a few numbers. Her impromptu afterglow concert provided a final nostalgic touch to the evening's performance.

In mid-November, Rosa Rio made her debut performance at the John Dickinson High School (Wilmington, Del.) Kimball. Rosa was in top form that evening. Choosing a well-rounded program, she successfully proved to her audience that she had complete control over the "beast." This, combined with her console presence, and silver, sparkling pantsuit, convinced us that here was a lady who undeniably knew how to keep her audience enthralled throughout her program. Although she'd only had about an hour's practice on the organ (and no combination action) due to main cable problems, she still came out on top. Her true professionalism was constantly in evidence as she struggled with the instrument's somewhat limited capabilities at the time.

On December 16, the littlest angel decided to have a pillow fight. The first measurable snow since April of 1972 in these parts decided December 16 was D Day. This columnist presented a program of seasonal music to a limited audience anyway, and we *all* had fun. Included in the program were the children's handbell choir and Cheryl Boynton, soprano, from Drexel Hill Baptist Church in suburban Philadelphia; and the Lansdowne Theatre's Kimball pipes never sounded better, thanks to Bill Greenwood. The Christmas joy was infectious, and all faced the white stuff in "Sleigh Ride" spirit.

The first meeting in 1974 should prove interesting. Although our membership business meeting is on the agenda, the docket also includes a concert by Dr. C. A. J. Parmentier, a buffet dinner, and an open console session. Where? At Philadelphia's Convention Hall! Housing a giant Moller as well as a huge concert instrument, the Hall will be a featured attraction in Delaware Valley's convention in 1976. The January program there will be the official kick-off of the "Spirit of '76."

The Delaware Valley chapter would

Coming...

**"THE NOTE-ABLE NINETEENTH"**

1974

NATIONAL CONVENTION

like to wish all its national friends a healthy, peaceful 1974 through the joy and fun of a mutual interest.

SHIRLEY HANNUM

## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The First Baptist Church, Somerville, home of the John Phipps 3/10 Wurlitzer, was host on two occasions in December to the delight of theatre organ buffs. Larry Ferrari played to a packed house on Dec. 1 in a concert sponsored by the church, and EMCATOS held its annual Christmas meeting Sunday afternoon and evening, Dec. 23. As theatre organ enthusiasts, we are grateful to those who make such happenings possible - to Rev. Adelard Everton, church pastor, to the host committee who so aptly managed the kitchen duties, Kay Garber, her daughters Jean (Mrs. John Phipps) and Joan, and Charlotte Campbell, and to "Forever-Mighty-Wurlitzer" John Phipps.

Our Christmas meeting featured the keyboard virtuosity of members John Phipps, Mark Renwick and Tom O'Brien followed by a two-part Lenny and Theresa Winter special - views of last summer's national convention by way of colored slides followed by a sing-along to words flashed on screen by Theresa and to music played by Lenny on a very upbeat organ. Then came open console and refreshments supplied by members at the coaxing of Rita Hinchliffe and Marge Renwick.

As a reporter I should not let pass without mention the recent departure of three Wurlitzer organs from Boston area theatres to points west where they will undergo rejuvenation and installation in restaurants for the public to hear regularly once again. These losses have aroused deep concern of many EMCATOS members over future plans for promoting theatre organ in this area while at the same time eliciting some degree of pleasure and excitement at the prospects of these organs playing once again to the public in the very near future instead of in the very far future as might have been the case had they remained in the Boston area.

ERLE RENWICK

## GARDEN STATE

LET THERE BE DANCING IN THE STREETS WE HAVE A CHAPTER!!! was the telegram sent by Chairman Bob Balfour in July '73



Patti Germain

from National Convention in Oregon to the new Garden State Theatre Organ Society.

After a successful year of meetings, open consoles, organ crawls, a dinner dance, a financially successful concert and a silent movie show with Don Kinnier, and a steadily increasing membership, the Garden State Theatre Organ Society was accepted as a new chapter of ATOS.

Impetus for a new chapter started several years ago when it became apparent that New Jersey members were reluctant to travel out-of-state for meetings. Concurrent with the whole state of New Jersey's campaign for its' own identity, members felt the need for a local chapter which would develop a closer bond between all Jerseyites interested in theatre organ. A special meeting was called in Octo-

ber, 1971 and approximately 60 people attended. After several years of struggle to gain recognition we finally made it. "How sweet it is."

The September meeting of Garden State ATOS was held at the Mahns' Bicycle Shop in Eatontown. The newly enlarged spacious show room filled with members and the large 2 manual Robert Morton console was rolled out taking the limelight from all the shiny new bicycles, relegated to the side walls. The original four rank organ, now growing to 14 ranks, performed beautifully for house organist Robert Mahns. Bob and his dad Walter have spent many hours building and repairing this organ. Pattie Germain, one of GSTOS' pro's, opened the meeting with a big fanfare and a full happy sounding chorus of "Happy Days Are Here Again" as Chairman Bob Balfour announced the good news of being accepted as a chapter of ATOS. A pleasant afternoon passed with members playing open-console.

The October meeting was held at Old Rahway Theatre. Early birds opened the console, each enjoying the "big sounds" which this famous "Biggest Little Wurlitzer" can produce. After a coffee break members settled down to listen to a special concert by Patti Germain, a former student of LEONARD MAC CLAIN. Patti, whose professional career includes engagements in supper clubs and theatre restaurants around the midwest and eastern states. Her program of "new and oldies" delighted the listeners.

Sundays in November were devoted to workshops at the Old Rahway

Theatre where members gained proficiency in the art of releathering a recently acquired marimba and at E.J. Quinby's in Summit, N.J. where the xylophone and Glockenspiel on his 3/15 Moller were releathered. The 2/4 Kimball in the New Hampshire House Restaurant was also revamped for our December meeting.



Comdr. E. J. Quinby

In December a special meeting was held at the beautiful, unique coach-house home of Cmdr. and Mrs. E.J. Quinby. E.J., a legend in his own time, is an electronic engineer, prolific inventor, writer and pioneer in the field of computers, sonar and railroading, especially electric rapid transit. E.J. Quinby is a charter member of ATOE. Through his and Dick Simonton's efforts, the Delta Queen was restored and which to this day still plays the Mississippi, repleat with a "genuine steam calliope."

Despite the rainy weather, over 75 members arrived and delighted in browsing through the unusual room filled with a large 3/15 Moller console, concert grand Chickering, antique Steinway square grand piano, golden harp and numerous mementoes of the Delta Queen. For three hours talented members took turns at the console, many just socialized and others delighted in viewing and running a large model electric trolley hand-made by E.J. A brightly-lit birthday cake to celebrate E.J.'s 80th birthday was presented to him and a lusty Happy Birthday resounded through the large live room.

Following the meeting GSTOS members with huge appetites adjourned to near-by New Hampshire House — an interesting old opera house, now a warm, Tiffany-lamped res-



(l to r) Walter Froehlich, Vice Chairman; Joe Vanore, Sec-Treas.; Jinny Vanore, Editor — Pedals & Pipes; Bob Mahns and Walter Mahns, owners of Bike Shop.

taurant. After delicious food and table hopping during which proprietor-member Hugh Ryder operated several of the antique music boxes and hand organs he has on display, the members ascended the stairs to the large third floor auditorium. The 2/4 Kimball located there received quite a workout during the two hour open-console session.

While our members have been busy concertizing and attending meetings, we have also begun restoration on a 2/8 Wurlitzer in Westwood, N.J., the organ that RCMH organist Ray Bohr cut his teeth on, as well as a 3/13 Robert Morton in a theatre converted into a Catholic Chapel on the Jersey Palisades. Most rewarding though, has



Dirty Dozen? Fabian console coming out.

been the exciting arrangements made by GSTOS Vice Chairman Walt Froehlich; who is enlarging the Center Of Italian Culture in South Orange, N.J., (former Stanley Theatre) to receive the one-of-a-kind 4/28 Wurlitzer from the Fabian Theatre in Paterson, N.J. During the summer and fall months a sturdy band of dirty volunteers have been transporting the organ from Paterson to South Orange. When it is completely reinstalled, we will have a chapter home and organ that will be unique beyond description.

JINNY VANORE

## LOS ANGELES

On November 11 the chapter sponsored a session at the Wiltern Theatre Kimball for the Young Organists Association. This group of young people (under age 21) was organized by *ORGANIST* magazine publisher Bill Worrall in July 1973 to encourage young organists and to stimulate their interest in organ playing by affording them the opportunity to play the



Del Castillo, Rex Koury and Joe Koons unload Joe's calliope for its Wiltern appearance.— (Bob Hill Photo)

many kinds of electronic and pipe organs. The Southern California group now has more than 30 members and the idea has spread to other cities around the country. Program Director Deke Warner arranged for the group, headed by 14 year old Paul Allec, to spend Sunday morning trying out the big Kimball pipe organ and more than 20 members took advantage of the opportunity. The console elevator got a workout as the young musicians experienced the thrill of coming up into view of the audience while playing a rousing tune. Following the morning session Deke and Dottie Warner invited everyone to their Westwood home for an afternoon swim, refreshments, and a chance to try the Allen Carousel in the Warner living room. Activities such as this are important in furthering the educational aspects of ATOS.

The concert artist for the November concert at the Wiltern Theatre was Rex Koury, one of our favorite organists. His superb orchestral stylings included a Rudolph Friml medley, the Theme from "Nicholas and Alexandra," and "All The Things You Are." A highlight of his program was the "Capitol Theatre March" by Erno Rapee, written for use with newsreels in the silent picture days. A special feature of the show was the "Circus Days" medley which introduced the new (old) "Calliope stop" on the Kimball. When the curtain was raised it turned out to be a genuine calliope on the stage played by Del Castillo. The former steam (but now air) whistles were provided by Joe Koons who loaned the instrument for one performance. The newest home for this venerable set of pipes is the Long Beach organ studio/motorcycle shop

where Joe Koons holds open house every Saturday night.

The Sunday afternoon jam session at the Elks building was a lot of fun with more than 45 members and friends in attendance. Organists who performed on the big Robert Morton included Paul Allec, Bernadine Biondi, Lorin Henry, Dixie Miles, Ken Phillips, Bob Hanselman and Ed Sprowl. Gerald Nagano has taken over from Bob Hill as "Pay and Play" Coordinator at the Elks building.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers was held on December 2 at the West Culver City Baptist Church with more than 200 members and guests in attendance. Bob Carson conducted the installation of Officers for 1974. The new Officers are: Chairman; Ray Bonner, Vice Chairman; Malin Dollinger, Secretary; Bob Meeker, Treasurer; Bernice Neal, Program Director; Lloyd del Castillo, Liaison Chairman; Sam Dickerson. Artists who performed at the 3/12 Wurlitzer following the business meeting included Walter Freed, Dwight Beacham, Debbie Lynn, Jerry Waite, Helen Dell, and Bob Mitchell. Refreshments were served in the church parlor to round out another good year of ATOS activities.

SAM DICKERSON

## MOTOR CITY

Our annual membership meeting was held on Sunday morning, November 4, at the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms. A slate of nominees for the Board of Directors election was chosen and Vice Chairman John Fischer detailed changes needed to update our chapter by-laws. Sigmund Ross then entertained chap-

ter members and friends at the 2/5 Wurlitzer (dubbed "Little Sister" by the late Ben Hall) with a varied program of semi-classical and popular selections, and included an accompaniment to the Our Gang silent comedy *Fast Freight*.

We were invited again, as last year, by the Michigan Railroad Club to another program by John Muri at the 4/34 Wurlitzer at the Detroit Theater Organ Club on Tuesday evening, December 4. In addition to his accompaniment for the railroad-oriented films *In The Switch Tower* (a real period silent melodrama) and *Pacific 231*, John highlighted several of the hundreds of melodies written in Detroit by composer Richard Whiting, which included, "Ain't We Got Fun", "Sleepy Time Gal", "Beyond the Blue Horizon", "Louise", "Japanese Sandman", "Hooray for Hollywood" and "Till We Meet Again."

We welcomed Rex Koury to Detroit in his first public program for our chapter at the Royal Oak Theatre on December 10-11. The featured film was the silent western *Nevada* starring Gary Cooper. Several chapter members, dressed in Western attire, passed out printed programs, in an effort to lend a western flavor to the evening, and were so elated with the response they are eager to be costumed again for another public show. The Royal Oak Barton was in top shape, and Rex, in his own western garb, more than pleased his audience with his program.



Pearl White received red roses for her concert at the Redford. John Fischer, chairman, joins in the applause.

The news of a Detroit appearance by Pearl White as guest artist at our Christmas program brought a larger-than-usual audience of members and friends to the Redford Theatre on Sunday morning, December 16. To say there is no one else quite like her is an understatement, especially to those



Karl Cole at Loew's 175th Street Robert-Morton.

who have had the pleasure of hearing her. Pearl's unique style makes even the old standards come alive with a new freshness and bounce.

Pearl made liberal use of piano, now fully playable from the Barton console. There were a few seasonal selections, but for the most part, Pearl's program consisted of favorites of the last forty years. It was fitting too, that she should close her program with "White Christmas."

We hope you are making plans now to attend Note-able Nineteenth Convention in Detroit in July. Registration forms will be in the April issue of THEATRE ORGAN and we urge you send them in as early as possible so that the convention will be enjoyable for all of us.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NEW YORK

It was quite an assortment of drenched organ enthusiasts that journeyed to the United Palace (former Loew's 175th Street) on October 29 to hear Karl Cole of Syracuse play the mighty Robert Morton. They were well repayed for their trouble and those who stayed away because of inclement weather have been kicking themselves since.

Karl, who nearly was late himself due to the weather, regaled us with a total of 21 selections, plus requests after the formal program. A dedication number "Young at Heart" was played for newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Stillman Rice, who, with other members of

Conn. Valley Chapter, journeyed all the way from New Haven to join us. A stirring "In Old New York" showed off the Morton's Post Horn at its best, "Stumbling", (which was far from that!) showed Karl's ability to provide several key changes in one number, and "Sleepy Time Gal" utilized the Second Touch facility of the instrument.

All this writer can sum up with is, if your chapter has not booked Karl Cole yet, you're missing something!

HERBERT G. FRANK, JR.

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

To our friends who have been wondering what happened to Niagara Frontier... we are still around. Our capable and pretty press secretary, Shirley Cole, resigned as she no longer has the time necessary to write this column.

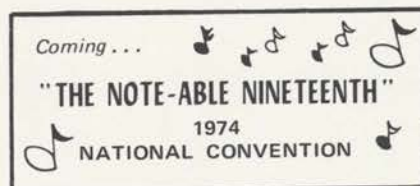
At our last regular monthly meeting my wife volunteered my services to try and fill the spot left vacant by Shirley.

We have had several concerts since we last appeared in THEATRE ORGAN. We always have standing room only, but for Dick Smith's concert in May we hung them from the rafters. In June, Jack Gustafson performed for us.

After the Jimmy Boyce concert in July we started a complete rebuilding and expansion program of the Riviera Organ. With hay-wire connections, mixed up tabs and no pre-sets, Art Melgier put on a concert in August that showed what a pro he really is.

Our September concert found the console all apart, but Eddie Osborne along with Jack Doll and Don Kinnier brought in a Baldwin Cinema II and the crowd was not disappointed.

In October, with only 10 ranks





playing, we had a chance to hear Tony Fenelon from Australia. Jeff Barker had been scheduled months in advance and also played in October. The crowd wouldn't leave so Jeff played to a full house until 11:30.

On Saturday, October, 20, about 20 ATOS members from Pittsburgh made the 5-1/2 hour drive to Buffalo, spent the morning at the Riviera Theatre open-console until show time, when they moved to Laura and Joe Thomas' for the afternoon and evening. Ask them if they had a swell time.

The piano is now connected to the console and Larry Ferrari played the November concert.

For December we had our own chapter member Frank Olson, a recording artist from Glasgow, Scotland, who has made such a hit wherever he has played throughout the Northeast. Frank lives in nearby Port Colborne, Ont., Canada.

STEVE CROWLEY

## NORTH TEXAS

Our 1973 theme of "participation" seems to have been well carried out by the North Texas Chapter. Our activities, sometimes on a spur-of-the-moment basis included several sessions with the Casa Manana Wurlitzer, as well as some special events and side trips. An outstanding session was the bus trip to Mexia at the invitation of Fred and Joye Mitchall, to see and hear their two installations and to enjoy the beautiful ranch and its surroundings including swimming pool and real Western style feasting. Much of this has been reported in previous pages of THEATRE ORGAN, but we can't help but continue to rave about the great time had by all.

With the "participation" theme, our membership has increased better than 30%. We also revised our Constitution and By-Laws to conform more closely with the National, as revised and approved at Portland. We've said before that "you've got to pay the fiddler when you dance", and our business sessions were the payment for the several fine concert sessions we had. As boring as they might be to some, the business sessions are an essential part of chapter activity. They are the planning sessions that develop the real "fun" sessions that are remembered. In 1973 we had five

business sessions, including a couple with no "fun" afterwards. Strictly business, to find out what the membership wanted, and to put the membership and not only the officers to work in developing the fun and pleasure of participating in theatre organ activities.

While on the subject of "work", I want to thank our able secretary, Doris Garrett, for her fine efforts (despite a serious eye operation in mid-year) for the chapter, and Pat Kohl, also working under physical handicaps like sprained ankles and traveling on crutches, for his program committee chairmanship. The refreshments committee under Margie Scott, with Nola Kenning serving at the Dallas end and with able assistance from Doris Garrett, Edie Reatz, Jo Koski and others for the fine refreshments that kept showing up at all the



Chambers views of the E. M. Johnson home installation. — (Photo by Mark Muntzel, Jr.)



sessions. Stan Guy, our capable harpist-organist did a great job in arranging transportation and other detail, especially for the Mexia trip. Of course, none of the work would have been necessary if it weren't for the membership showing up at the meetings to reap the benefits of the work, so thanks to all who so ably supported us.

I'm sure too that Jerry Bacon wants to add his thanks for the efforts on his Fine Arts theatre "Bacon Special" installation, and the help various club members supplied on that instrument. Jerry has a lot more plans for that installation, including a new console, more ranks of pipes and other improvements. Our work parties on that were a lot of fun, and we all, including Jerry, look forward to a continuation of the work.

Our October meeting, held in November at Casa Manana, was a good business session followed by cameo sessions by Mark Munzell, Jr., (age 15) and a real treat combining harp and organ, Stan Guy as the harpist and Charles Evans at the Wurlitzer 235. The Harp was a completely refurbished instrument recently acquired by Stan, and proved its' capabilities under Stan's talented fingers. Of course the organ provided quite a few more decibels of volume, so a microphone pickup and the house sound system provided a fine harp and organ combination.

An open-console session afterwards added to the afternoon of real theatre organ enjoyment. Lew Williams and Bob Massingham enlivened this session with their playing. The Casa Wurlitzer got a real workout that Sunday, and performed beautifully, but why shouldn't it? Jim Peterson, our chief organ technician is responsible for its maintenance.

The December meeting was our traditional Christmas Party, held again at the E. M. Johnson home, which is designed around a Wurlitzer obtained from a church in Corpus Christi. The planning and workmanship are great, combining contemporary architecture and vintage organ installation very effectively. E. M. Johnson and his son planned and completed the installation, with guidance and help from qualified chapter members. Brian Johnson, instead of taking a summer job, did the major physical work between college semesters. Beautiful craftsmanship, too. You can recognize



Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Johnson, the Christmas Meeting hosts. — (Photo by Mark Muntzel, Jr.)



Wally McDevitt performs at E. M. Johnson's Wurlitzer. — (Photo by Mark Muntzel, Jr.)



Chapter member Mark Muntzel, Jr., up and coming young theatre organist at the Johnson's Wurlitzer, Dallas. — (Photo by J. Koski with Mark Muntzel's camera)



Daughter Diane Johnson, at the console. — (Photo by Mark Muntzel, Jr.)

Brian's electronics background in the electrical wiring and the general craftsmanship of the whole project.

Chapter members left the Johnson's home as scheduled at 5 P.M., but a few of us got to stay until 7 P.M., listening to Wally McDevitt put the Wurlitzer through its' paces for a while. Then our efficient dishwasher and Secretary's husband, Fred Garrett, proved beyond doubt that he was an accomplished theatre organist. He hadn't touched a theatre organ in 30 years, but he sure made that one sound "purty." Lew Williams, who had ridden over from Fort Worth with us, took over and really demonstrated the organ's capabilities.

The future also looks promising for the theatre organ in North Texas. Your reporter's sister sent us a clipping from the hometown newspaper in Staten Island, N. Y. about the removal of the theatre organ at the St. George Theatre there. Yours truly spent many hours (sometimes when I was supposed to be in high school, down the block) listening to Don Baker and other perform on this particular instrument. Where is it being shipped? To Houston, Texas for installation in a pizza parlor, sponsored by the same friends of theatre organ who own the San Rafael, Cal. installation, which we've heard several times. But you say Houston is in South Texas? So what? It's only 300 miles, plus, and besides we have members there. This could make it possible for them to expand their membership and start a South Texas Chapter. At the December meeting Jim Peterson also announced a similar installation in Dallas, sponsored by the same people, and installed also by Jim. This could provide us with a good "home base" for our meetings, and would minimize the need for a refreshments committee.

Combine that with some other local possibilities like refurbishing a local theatre into a symphony hall, complete with theatre pipe organ and the impending completion of several of our local home installations which have been in the process of expansion, overhaul or reinstallation, and the possibilities for theatre organ activities look marvelous for 1974. We might get into position to bid for the National Convention yet!

By the time this appears in the THEATRE ORGAN, we will have held our annual election, scheduled under the new By-laws for January. The

nominating Committee has already come up with an excellent slate of nominees.

It has been a great experience serving as North Texas Chapter Chairman for 1973. We feel it has been a fruitful year, and the future, under the guidance of the new officers has much greater potential. We enjoyed all the local activities and especially meeting many more theatre organ enthusiasts at the National in Portland. Let's hope the fuel crisis won't inhibit any of the charter travel, inter-chapter meetings and such. The North Texas Chapter wishes y'all a real happy and active 1974. Participate!

JOE KOSKI

## OREGON

November 26 found chapter members gathered at Portland's Paramount Theatre, for a concert by Helen Dell on the 4/20 Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer. The affair opened with a short business meeting after which Dennis Hedberg, chairman, introduced the artist of the day. This concert was a "bonus" to the chapter members for their fine effort on the 1973 National Convention. Helen played an excellent program, and what a lovely gracious lady she is! She won the hearts of the members with her playing, and her friendly approach, both on and off the bench.

The chapter's annual Christmas potluck dinner, business meeting, election of officers and organ concert was held in the Benson High School auditorium on December 16. Tables were set up on the large stage of the auditorium for dinner.



Helen Dell at the Portland Paramount.



(l to r) Claude Neuffer, Bob and Laura Burke and Don Ingram.

Dennis opened the meeting during which the following awards were presented. Honorary member of the year went to the team of Bob and Laura Burke. The Burkes have served as voluntary host and hostess for many of the chapters console artists, providing lodging, transportation to practice locations, the airport, etc. This has saved the chapter hundreds of dollars. We are sure our artists have been happy to be guests in the Burkes' home. They are tremendous hosts. Claude Neuffer was named official photographer and Don Ingram official reporter for the chapter.

Following other business, the annual election of officers was held with the following results: Dennis Hedberg, chairman; Bill Peterson, vice chairman; Arlene Ingram, secretary-treasurer and Bob Burke, Gerald Duffy, Dr. Gordon Potter and Gerry Gregorius as members-at-large.

Last but not least came the organ concert of the day. Gerry Gregorius



Gerry Gregorius at Benson High.

was at the console of Benson's 3/24 Kimball. This organ, restored by the chapter, is in excellent condition and does a fine job. Gerry played in his usual fine style, and his program included many favorites as well as Purvis' "Carol Rhapsody" and "Greensleeves" for the Christmas season. Gerry also included Jim Roseveare's great arrangement of "You Hit the Spot."

The chapter is most happy to welcome as new members, Paul and Roberta Quarino. Paul is a great organist and has moved to Portland from San Jose, California to take over as associate organist with Jonas Nordwall, at Portland's Organ Grinder restaurant. Paul now has to move his 4/32 pipe organ again! Warren Lubich, chairman of the Nor-Cal Chapter, has already sent his congratulations to the Oregon Chapter and Nor-Cal's regret at losing the Quarinos. Sorry about that Warren!

The chapter has made great strides in 1973. There have been many activities, including hosting the 1973 National Convention and our membership has grown wonderfully. It has been a good year and the members are justly proud of a fine chapter of fine people.

DON INGRAM

### POTOMAC VALLEY

The Tivoli Theatre in Frederick, Maryland was the scene of the November Potomac Valley Chapter meeting. The 125 in attendance included more young people than I remember seeing at any previous meeting. It would appear that Saturday morning pro-


grams have a big plus if they bring out the young set as this one did.

Our featured artist, Ray Brubacher, literally knows this organ inside and out. He is our liaison with the theatre and heads the organ maintenance crew. A long-standing ATOS member, Ray is an associate editor of THE-ATRE ORGAN magazine and has served three terms as chapter chairman. Last year he was selected to be the organist for the American Film Institute Theatre of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where he accompanies silent movies on the Rodgers organ. Being organist for SS. Paul and Augustine Church, staff organist and teacher at Keyboard Centers in Wheaton, Maryland fills the balance of his time.

Ray's "Another Op'ning, Another Show" was the beginning of an hour of melodic organ music. Mr. Brubacher put the beautiful 2/8 Tivoli Wurlitzer through its paces, playing a varied program with the high calibre of artistry and musicianship we have come to expect of him. Certain artists are remembered for their exceptional renditions of some of our favorite numbers. These selections seem to always be requested if they are not played on the planned program. Keeping this in mind, Ray pleased us all by including "More", "Yesterday" and "Michelle", in addition to "If", a medley from *Showboat* and many other favorites both old and new. His audience's request for an encore was graciously answered by his playing of "Brasilia",



National President Erwin Young extends congratulations to newly elected Potomac Valley Chapter Chairman Roy Wagner while the '74 Secretary-Treasurer Marge Lane and '74 Vice Chairman Frank Vitale look on. — (Photo by Mark Hurley)



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one of the most popular songs on his recording made on the Tivoli organ.

The Tivoli holds the last in-theatre organ in the state of Maryland. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Dan Weinberg, the owner of the theatre and organ for his generosity.

Sunday, December 2, found 220 of us gathered at the Alexandria Roller Arena for our final chapter meeting of the year. It was a time for reminiscing because Potomac Valley Chapter's very first meeting was held in the lobby of the Arena in 1959. We've come a long way from the original fifteen members to our present 257. Three charter members were in attendance: ATOS President Erwin Young, Bob Wyant, and Jimmy Boyce, our host and featured artist.

Mr. Boyce had a strong influence on our chapter during its formative years. His first Wurlitzer in the rink, a 2/7, was the only theatre organ in the chapter in 1959. He shared not only his instrument and his talents, but also his knowledge and love of theatre organ music. Jimmy Boyce has taught many chapter members to play and recruited dozens of members. In 1961 he sold his 2/7 to a student who moved it to its present home in an Oakton (Virginia) residence. He replaced it with the 4/34 Wurlitzer originally from the Rockefeller Center Theatre in New York City.

The organ is unenclosed and sounds forth majestically from its balcony location. There seems to be some

magic in being able to see the pipes as they weave their spell around us. All eyes were glued to the balcony, torn between watching the organist and searching the pipework. Both artist and instrument were well in tune to their listeners desires. Jimmy's program included two original Boyce numbers, "On Broadway" and "Alexandria March" as well as Spanish numbers, a Bach Fugue, roaring 20's medley, and music from *Godspell*. The climax to Jim's excellent concert was his thrilling medley of Christmas songs. He, too, honored our demand for an encore, even though he should have had writer's cramps from autographing the large number of "The Organ Blows Its Mind" records sold during intermission.

It was a full day for Jimmy Boyce beginning at 9:30 A.M. with two church services in Springfield where he is organist and choirmaster, followed by a three-hour skating session 2 to 5 P.M. prior to presenting a concert for us from 5:15 to 7:00. During the week he teaches organ by day and plays at the rink by night. As if that were not enough, he also finds time to handle the maintenance of his giant Wurlitzer.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Tom Brown, manager of the Alexandria Roller Arena for the graciousness he extends to us. Any ATOS member is admitted to the rink free of charge to hear the pipe organ during skating sessions. You need only show your membership card at the door. Jimmy plays the pipe organ from 7:30 to 9:00 nightly except Thursday and visitors are welcome.

A Personal Note From the Chairman: It has been my pleasure to serve as Potomac Valley Chapter Chairman for the past two years. It has given me the opportunity to make many wonderful friends all across the country. Our new Chairman is Roy Wagner, and his address is 4308 Meadow Cliff Drive, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057.

JEAN LAUTZENHEISER

### PUGET SOUND

The November meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter was held on Sunday, November 9. The club met at the Haller Lake Improvement Club to hear four young chapter artists on the Club's 2/8 Wurlitzer. Performing were Diane Bloomquist, Terry Hochmuth, Mike Koons and Don Wallin.

Diane was this years local winner of the Yamaha contest, and was a contes-

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

PRE-CONVENTION COCKTAIL PARTY (Days 5-6)  
 CONVENTION (Days 12-13)  
 POST CONVENTION HOME TOURS AND MOONLIGHT CRUISE (Days 14-17)



Diane Bloomquist

tant at the Organ Festival at Asilomar, California. This was her first concert performance for the chapter and had complete control of the Wurlitzer for her renditions of a good many contemporary numbers as well as standard tunes. Among her selections were "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" and "España Cani."

Terry opened the next portion with "I Love To Hear You Singing" and then displayed the mellow side of the organ with several contemporary ballad tunes. He was the house organist for Steve's Gay 90's Restaurant in Tacoma for two years at the 3/10 Wurlitzer which he installed there. He also owns a 2/8 Wurlitzer.

Mike, currently a staff organist at Big Bob's in Federal Way opened his portion with "Sing", a popular Carpenter's number from Sesame Street. Mike has a very modern style, much like popular Seattle organist Dick Kimball.

Don, another organist for Big Bob's, closed the program with several tunes which are popular with pizza patrons at the Federal Way restaurant.



Mike Koons

One number, "Chattanooga Choo Choo", put many of the organ's traps and percussions into motion.

The program was followed by a chapter business meeting and the swearing-in of the officers for 1974. An open console session followed this with many members participating.

December 9 was the Club's annual Christmas Party, again at the Haller Lake Improvement Clubhouse. Co-chairmen Marge Klein and Elsie Johnson organized this into a very enjoyable afternoon, with chapter members furnishing the potluck supper. Artists heard at the Wurlitzer were Earline Hunt, Terry Hochmuth, Ed Zollman, Don Myers, Dan Adamson and many others.



Terry Hochmuth

The console of the Wurlitzer had been decorated with multi-colored lights and Christmas tinsel for this party by retiring Chairman Margaret Sabo. Margaret served the chapter and members faithfully for over two years. Many thanks!

This will be a year of decision for the Chapter as far as our club organ is concerned and hopefully will be a year of great progress in involving all the chapter members in the operation of the club. New Chairman Genny Whitting has already made plans for involving more chapter members in work projects, organ maintenance, etc.

By the time this magazine is in print, Seattle will have added another theatre organ for the public to hear. The Seattle Pizza & Pipes (Capn's Galley) has a better-than-mint condition 3/17 Wurlitzer, formerly from the Salem, Mass. Paramount. The organ was originally a 3/15 Balaban and enlarged with a 16' String and Moller Post Horn. Among the rebuild-



Don Wallin

ing projects was constructing new Diaphone beaters and chests to replace those which had been water damaged in the theatre. Every screw, spring, washer, pipe, and piece of lumber has been refinished and polished to present a brand new appearance. The console was professionally refinished and looks new. It's truly a show organ as well as a great sound. Margaret Sabo, Genny Whitting, Terry Hochmuth and Don Myers did the rebuilding and installation, under the auspices of Balcom & Vaughan.

TERRY HOCHMUTH

## RED RIVER

The October meeting of the Red River group gathered at the home of David and Melitta Nelson in Fargo. Two silent comedy films were featured; Charlie Chaplin in *A Night at the Show* and Buster Keaton in the shortened version of *The General*. Lance Johnson played the accompaniment for these films at the Lowery theatre organ. A short business meeting followed in which the discussion continued on whether or not the Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre could be purchased by the chapter.

Hildegard Kraus who was organist at the Fargo for twenty years reported that the theatre chain did not seem too interested in the sale of the organ. Repeated contacts with the ABC North-central theatres in Minneapolis proved fruitless. Mrs. Kraus was asked to again bring her memorabilia of the Fargo Theatre to a future meeting so the newer members could enjoy it.

Dave Knudtson, the chapter's newest member mentioned that he was a union projectionist and worked formerly with the ABC chain until be-

coming associated with KTHI Television. He volunteered to re-open negotiations with the chain to find out what they plan to do with the organ. To close a most pleasant afternoon, Hildegard Kraus and Art Buck played piano and organ duets with Art at the organ and Hildegard at the piano.

The late Fall meeting on Dec. 9th was convened at the large mobile home of Dave Knudtson in South Fargo. With a large number in attendance, the business meeting again began with discussions regarding the Wurlitzer organ at the Fargo Theatre. Dave Knudtson reported that he had made contact with Mr. Bill Haver of ABC Theatres and was told the organ is definitely not for sale. After several negotiating sessions with ABC Theatres, the Red River Chapter in a landmark occurrence was given permission to adopt the Fargo Theatre organ as the official Red River Chapter organ. This news was what the members had been waiting to hear for fifteen years!

The theatre chain has not only granted the chapter's request to play the organ but to restore it at chapter expense and to feature it for movie intermissions and special concerts. The membership then voted with little hesitation to clean the organ and remove the dead notes. (At this writ-

ing, the organ is 80% restored to playing condition) The decision of the members then was to bring in a nationally known artist for a midnight concert in late spring after the organ has been restored. A new lift will be installed by the chapter as the organ has never had a console lift.

Several members of the group who are organists will be featured at the organ beginning December 21 with the opening of the Disney picture *Robin Hood*. The cleaning and maintenance sessions have been already started with work commencing at 11:15 P.M. after the last show and running to five in the morning.

The January meeting is to take place at the Fargo Theatre with a special program of nostalgia with a tour of the theatre, a demonstration of the various curtains used in the Twenties, pictures of how the theatre looked when it opened and of course a concert on the mighty Wurlitzer.

Future projects for the chapter will center around this organ and several new ideas have been suggested. It is planned to redecorate the largest dressing room with donated furnishings to serve future concert artists and the local members who will play intermissions. An octave coupler for the Solo manual is being constructed as the style E did not have couplers. It is

planned to have at least one concert artist per year appear at the Fargo with silent films. The films department at Moorhead State college has shown much interest in the theatre and organ as several film courses are taught at Moorhead State. The local television stations have pledged advertising time for the theatre organ restoration project to alert the Fargo-Moorhead area that soon again they will hear the MIGHTY WURLITZER.

The Red River Chapter has at last realized a dream come true. These members have been working very hard since their first meeting in 1965 to have their own organ to use. Membership is already increasing rapidly as everyone wants to get in on the act. The theatre has had phone calls from people asking when the organ will be ready. As the last two people filed out of the theatre one night, the maintenance crew started the blower and one member began to play. The remaining two people turned around at the front exit and went back into the theatre and stayed one hour longer!

A large billboard is now being made at the KTHI television studio which will be placed in the lobby of the theatre telling of the new coming attraction. The chapter is now in the final stages of signing a purchase option to buy the organ if it is ever put

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up for sale. It was announced that the whole wonderful story will be submitted to THEATRE ORGAN as soon as the first big concert has taken place.

Following this most exciting meeting in the history of the chapter, Mr. Russ Block, who is the Conn dealer in Grand Forks gave a short demonstration and concert on the larger two manual Conn theatre organ. The group has been trying to get Russ Block to travel to Fargo for a concert for several years but without success as he is tied up most Sundays. The waiting was worth while as Mr. Block played a most memorable program of professional quality. Rarely has this chapter had the chance to hear a musician of such fine caliber. After playing five encores, Russ was finally allowed to have his lunch and tell the members about his experiences playing theatre organs. By popular acclaim the group asked Mr. Block to come again and play another concert. This meeting, which proved one of the longest on record, will live in the hearts of the Red River Chapter members for years to come.

LANCE E. JOHNSON

#### SIERRA

Sierra Chapter's Christmas party was held at the former Carl Greer Inn,

now known as the Sheraton Inn in Sacramento. Chapter member and local Rodgers dealer Terry Brennan provided the before dinner music. After dinner music was provided by various club members. The Inn's 4/16 Robert-Morton was used.

Results of the election for three board members were announced at the short business meeting. Newly elected to Sierra Chapter's Board are: Carroll F. Harris, Charles B. Shumate and



Sierra member Terry Brennan provides Christmas party dinner music for members and guests at the 4/16 Robert-Morton in the dining Room of Sacramento's Sheraton Inn. — (A Carroll F. Harris/Harold Baxter Photo)



Don Zeller maintenance man for the Sheraton Inn's Robert-Morton, assists Mrs. Zella Matthews, senior member, of Sacramento's Sierra Chapter during the open-console portion of the Christmas dinner party. The organ is from the Music Hall, Seattle, Washington. — (A Carroll F. Harris/Harold Baxter Photo)

Harvey Whitney. Chapter chairman for another year is W. D. Mendenhall; Larry Weid continues as vice chairman/treasurer, as does Helen Siegel, secretary, and board members, Ray Anderson, Arthur Bobb, Bob Longfield and Ver Joyce Nelson. Hal Wil-munder chose not to run again. He owns a railroad which operates during the summer (CAMINO-CABLE AND NORTHERN, a narrow gauge tourist line), is an expert neon sign maker, a

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Feb. 10 - First Presbyterian Church, Honeoye Falls, N.Y.  
Feb. 12 - Casa Loma Castle, Toronto, Canada  
Feb. 13 - Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda, N.Y.  
Feb. 16 - Senate Theatre, Detroit, Michigan (DTCO)  
Feb. 18 - Senate Theatre, Detroit, Michigan (AGO)  
Feb. 25, 26 - Royal Oak Theatre, Detroit, Michigan  
Apr. 27 - John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Del.  
Apr. 28 - St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City  
May 4 - Akron Civic Center, Akron, Ohio  
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commercial electrician, operates a crane service and is the owner-maintainer of the former lobby 3/12 Moller from the late San Francisco Fox Theatre as well as being an excellent projectionist and staunch supporter of ATOS. He also restored the long silent 16 note Deagan carillon atop the Sacramento Municipal Auditorium, and headed the Sierra Chapter group working on the Auditorium's 46 rank Estey.

Monthly meetings of Sierra Chapter will continue to be held on the third Sunday of each month, except July. Unless there is some special reason meetings will commence at 2 P.M. Mini-meetings and social events are planned for other days and times. Tentative monthly events are: JANUARY, Warren White, NOR-CAL Chapter member at Arden Pizza and Pipes; FEBRUARY, Stu Boyer, Sierra Chapter member at Arden Pizza and Pipes; MARCH, Bill Langford, the San Lorenzo, Ye Olde Pizza Joynt flash at Arden Pizza and Pipes; this meeting starts at 1:30.

#### SOUTHEASTERN

The chapter held its traditional Christmas concert-meeting at Atlanta's Fox Theatre, December 2, 1973.

Bob Van Camp presided at the

console of the mighty Moller in a presentation of Christmas and holiday musical fare. During the short business meeting, officers for 1974 were elected. Bob Van Camp, chairman; and Joe Patten, vice chairman; were both re-elected following their successful leadership in the past year. The office of secretary/treasurer will be filled by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Winn. Van Camp expressed the chapter's thanks to Gordon and Linda Johnson, outgoing secretary/treasurer, for their superb work for Southeastern in 1973.

Sunday, December 30, the chapter met at the Atlanta recording studio of Walter Winn for an afternoon of theatre organ recorded repertoire. Winn boasts an excellent sound system — a boon to theatre organ aficionado and audio enthusiasts alike.

February's meeting will feature the talented 17-year-old artist, Miss Linda Kent of Charlotte, N. C. Miss Kent's impressive facility at the organ has caused quite a stir in musical circles in the Southeast. She has studied with organist Ed Welsh, who featured Linda during his pre-convention concert when the National ATOS convened in Alexandria, Va., in 1972. Miss Kent has placed as a finalist twice in the Yamaha Electone Organ Competition.

This stint at the Fox Moller will earmark one of the few times a mem-

ber of the "fairer sex" has played the instrument since Iris Vining Wilkins opened it Christmas Day, 1929!

JOHN CLARK McCALL, JR.

#### SOUTHERN ARIZONA

December was an active month for us. Our special election year business meeting was held and two other events occurred. Dr. William Harrison Barnes, our first nominee for chapter honorary membership was given his certificate of membership and his special gold-organ membership badge. Later Dr. Barnes treated us all to some of his musicianship which included some fast and fancy pedaling using both feet which earned him a standing ovation.

Our new officers are: Estelle Weiss, chairman; Ken Fields, vice chairman; Bea Kotasek, secretary and Helen Bowers became our new "Money Gal", the treasurer. A standing ovation was given to our past chairman, Lois Seamands, and husband Larry for a job well done.

We had a good rousing sing-along of Christmas carols featuring Ralph Cloos at the organ. Art Crowell played lovely Christmas music followed by open-console time.

December 9 found 39 members on the way to Bill Brown's "Organ Stop Pizza" in Phoenix for Lyn Larsen's

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special concert. A very excellent selection of music was presented and during the intermission, Bill Brown read Lyn's certificate of membership after which Lyn's friend Art Crowell presented the special gold-organ badge and pictures were taken. After the concert our members stopped to dine on the way back to Tucson.

BOB HIGH

## SOUTH FLORIDA

South Florida chapter members have closed out a year of nine varied programs and events which indicate that next year will be better than ever.

In October, members and friends gathered at Andre Hall for a "preview" of Bob Andre's magnificent project. George Fleming, our gift from the Rochester group, delighted everyone with his technique and arrangements on Bob's plug-in. We were then brought up to date on the hours that Bob and Vivian have devoted to restoring the Wurlitzer from the Florida Theatre in Jacksonville and were given the grand tour of the chambers. The good word is that the dedication and initiation of this sister organ of the Gusman Hall (formerly Olympia) Wurlitzer is just around the corner. Bob

then brought out a silent film and Betty Lee Taylor graciously provided the background accompaniment.

At the November dinner meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, the slate of candidates for 1974 offices was presented by the nominating committee.

Continuing a lovely tradition, the December business/Christmas meeting was held at the Gables Estates home of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Jureit. Art Venecia kicked-off the Christmas celebration with an hour of traditional and popular music of the season. After refreshments, many of the members joined in for the "open console" session. An unusual note was provided by guest, Mary Grayce (now a member) who sang "White Christmas" and "O Holy Night" to Betty Lee Taylor's accompaniment.

At the business meeting preceding the concert, 1974 officers were elected and the treasurer's report was given. Everyone is looking forward to 1974 which promises to be a year filled with activity.

BOBBIE LITZINGER

## WEST PENN

The chapter presented the first of its 1973 Fall-Winter Season of silent

film classics — *The Phantom of the Opera* on Saturday, November 17, 1973. The chapter was hosted by the Joseph Horne Music Center of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. George Christ, a faithful member of West Penn and service manager of the organ department of the center entertained the group with a delightful program of Greek folk tunes and dances. The "silent" film was accompanied by Bob "Kingfish" Mitchell. Mr. Ted Teske, Director of Organ Sales at the Music Center, furnished the organ for this film — a Rodgers 330 Classic instrument.

The annual meeting for nomination of officers for the coming year was conducted.

The chapter officially welcomed sixteen new members at this event and sincerely hopes they will find pleasure in their association with us during the year 1974. West Penn has consistently forged ahead with its ambitious programs and "Caravans to Theatre Organ Sound". As the official ATOS Chapter in the West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania area, it will continue to offer its members and their friends a group participation in the knowledge, experience, talent, and friendship of professionals and friends alike.

The annual December dinner meeting of the chapter was held on Sunday,



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Bob Mitchell accompanied "The Phantom" on a Rodgers.

December 16, 1973. West Penn's Social Affairs Coordinator, Mrs. Ann Schwartz with the able assistance of Mrs. Charlotte McKnight furnished all those "little goodies" which most appropriately create a warm and friendly "holiday spirit".

The results of the election were announced and the following Board of Directors were installed.

President, Mr. Robert Jordan; Vice President, Mr. Fran Verri; Secretary, Mr. John Schwartz; Treasurer, Mrs.

Elva Houston; Program Director, Mr. Bob Mitchell.

West Penn wishes to take this opportunity to welcome its new members of recent months to the American Theatre Organ Society and to West Penn.

#### WOLVERINE

The Detroit home of David Voydanoff was the scene for the annual Christmas get-together and election of

new officers for the Wolverine Chapter on December 14. Approximately 30 members and guests were on hand to try out the lovely 3/6 Wurlitzer installed in the Voydanoff residence. The organ is installed in an upstairs bedroom, and speaks down to the main floor through an open staircase, at the bottom of which is the console.

The annual election of new officers was concluded by David Voydanoff, resigning his post of chairman to Lawrie Mallett of Lansing. The post of vice chairman/treasurer was filled by Edward Corey, and that of secretary by Scott Smith, also residents of Lansing.

Plans for the coming year include a tentatively scheduled February program at the 3/12 Barton installed in the Michigan Theatre in Lansing. Also, plans are being made for possible programs at the Royal Oak, Redford, Michigan (Ann Arbor), and State (Kalamazoo) theatres, as well as Cranbrook School. Because of the nature of Wolverine Chapter, being basically a social group, the chapter also hopes to gain entrance to some of Detroit's home installations during 1974.

Although Wolverine may have appeared inactive to many, it has been, and will continue to be a thriving organization.

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