



CHAPTER NOTES

ALABAMA

During our May meeting, members of the Alabama Chapter had a complete tour of the Mighty Wurlitzer — from the blower and relay in the basement to the lofty heights of the pipe chambers. And we did it all without leaving our seats.

Larry Donaldson ran color slides he had taken of each of the 20 ranks, the toy counter and all the traps. Jay Mitchell was at the console explaining each slide and demonstrating the sounds of each rank. It was a well put together program and even those of us who work in the chambers now have a better understanding of the workings of the organ. There have been requests for a repeat of this one. Following this, we had open console. But unfortunately time ran out before everyone got a chance at the organ. Jay Mitchell ended the program with "Mother" as a tribute to Mother's Day.

June brought a pleasant surprise to all of us. Two of our members combined their talent for a very enjoyable program. The program began with a rousing rendition of "Georgy Girl" with Billy Henley at the console. Billy, the 16 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Henley of Huntsville, Alabama has studied organ since he was 12 years old; the last two years with Jay Mitchell. While he has performed at various functions in Huntsville, this was his first concert type program on the Alabama Wurlitzer. He did a terrific job and certainly shows promise as an up and coming artist.

His program was followed with Riedel West at the console. Riedel is our Chapter Chairman and one of the founders of this chapter. She has only had about 4 years training on the organ, having studied about 3 years with Jay. This was also her debut in concert at the Alabama organ. She did an outstanding job.



Riedel West and Billy Henley at the Alabama Wurlitzer.
(Thomas L. Hatter Photo)

We had heard both of these people play a piece or two at open console, and knew they were capable. But just *how* capable came as a very pleasant surprise. We now look forward to each of them doing a solo program in the very near future.

Programs for the rest of the year were announced and it sounds like an exciting year ahead for Alabama Chapter members.

ALLEEN COLE

BEEHIVE

Members of the chapter in the Salt Lake City area worked very hard and with a great deal of excitement readying the Wurlitzer at the Capitol Theatre in anticipation of Gaylord Carter's presentation on March 5. The pipe organ, installed in July of 1927, never sounded better to members and fans. Wayne V. Russell, L. C. Bray, and Larry Bray, nephew of the owner of The Organ Loft tuned the organ while Clarence Briggs and Eugene Breinholt spent many hours in preparation of the event. Mr. Carter accompanied the silent movie, *Mark of Zorro*.

Chapter members took advantage of the organ in its "tip-top" condition and held a chapter meeting at the Capitol Theatre on March 17, where the club expressed it's thanks to Mr. Richard Theriot, manager, who has extended his utmost cooperation to the club. After a brief discussion of the organ, which has it's original paint still intact, members talked about the opening of the "Pipes and Pizza." Cal Christensen has 7 ranks playing now and is working on more. The public seems to enjoy listening to this beautiful organ and eating pizza. It is certainly a thrill to youngsters in the area who are not familiar with the sounds of pipe organs.

On April 5, the chapter and The Organ Club sponsored a dinner-dance at The Organ Loft with Scott Gillespie at the organ. Evelyn Breinholt, president of The Organ Club, and Clarence Briggs, president of the chapter, were the co-hosts. Members expressed a desire for more entertainment of this nature.

On May 21, chapter members and residents of the area were again thrilled to the music of Gaylord Carter at the Capitol Theatre. Wayne V. Russell and L. C. Bray, with a few minor adjustments to the tremulants, etc., again had this wonderful instrument in good working condition.



Gaylord at the Wiltern.
(Strutoto)

Gaylord accompanied *The General*, an old Buster Keaton silent movie and *Lizzies of The Field*. The audience of young and old were simply delighted, proving once again that silent movies and pipe organs are a part of American culture.

On May 22, David Reese, former chapter member, flew in from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he plays the organ at "The Bella Roma" in Martinez, to play a dinner concert at The Organ Loft. David's fans and chapter members are always delighted to listen to David play on this magnificent Wurlitzer and welcome him back to Salt Lake with open arms.

MAXINE RUSSELL

CEDAR RAPIDS

CRATOS began 1974 with members Jean Safely and Loren Frink playing songs we like the way we like to hear them on the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer. On February 24 Bob Arndt, just back from Hawaii, gave another of his fine performances, using great tunes like "Hawaiian Wedding Song" and "War Chant." Our March meeting and program was held at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. Member artist Pat Maynard, who was the organist at the Capitol when it was used for the last time before Bob Beck brought it back to life, played all of the favorites, ending with "Dill Pickle Rag" and his own theme song, "Etching On Ivory."

On April 21 new member Jim Dooling played the Paramount organ for our meeting. Jim is a high school student and studied with Ron Rhode. This young man displayed remarkable talent. We are so fortunate to have young musicians joining our club and giving us the benefit of their ability to entertain.

The ninth Silent Movie Night was held on April 25 at the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Paramount Theatre. Bill Thomson put on a great show. From the first note as the organ came out of the pit, until after 11 o'clock, Bill gave the audience a varied program from modern Carpenter tunes, Latin numbers and waltzes, to the icing on the cake when he played a medley of numbers from *Sound of Music*. His music for the Laurel and Hardy comedy *Big Business* again proved how skilled is this young man with his mastery of the organ. Bill told his audience that he just couldn't quit playing for that wonderful Cedar Rapids full house. He wanted to give us the most and he did just that.

Meanwhile, over at Davenport, Iowa, members of CRATOS there got ready for and brought back their first winner, Lee Erwin, for another sellout Silent Movie Nite at the Capitol on May 16.

The 1600 plus people in the theatre were so totally carried away by Lee's performance that they were completely oblivious of the violent storms and warning of tornadoes in the area. While a lot of people in Davenport were scurrying to basements to get out of the tornadoes' path the crowd in the Capitol was singing "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree" and "Keep Your Sunny Side Up" during a sing-along.

The movie was the film classic, *The Eagle* starring Rudolph Valentino and Vilma Banky. Lee Erwin wrote the overture and complete score for this film. The audience loved it as much as Lee enjoyed playing it. Thanks, Lee, for a great night of good nostalgic organ entertainment.

The following Sunday, May 19, we held a meeting at the Iowa Theatre in Cedar Rapids. Here CRATOS has the good fortune to use a 3/10 Barton. Our artist was the talented Paul Adams, a young organist from Aledo, Ill., who incidentally MC's our shows at the Capitol. Paul gave us a surprise by accompanying a silent film after treating us to some beautiful music on the Barton.

BYRON F. OLSEN

CENTRAL INDIANA

Bruce Thompson and the Anderson Music Company at Anderson, Indiana hosted the April meeting of CIC-ATOS. Bruce owns the 2 manual

Wurlitzer organ that is installed in the upstairs auditorium of the Anderson Music Company. Sixty members and a number of guests were present. After the business meeting a most unusual program followed. David Wolford, age 11, a student of Jimmy Boyer, presented several numbers. He shows real promise for a young organist. We are endeavoring to encourage the participation of these young people in our programs. It is a wonderful thing for them to be able to perform and a joy to us to know we have another generation interested in this fabulous field of theatre organ.

Highlighting the program was a magnificent brother-sister team. Jimmy Boyer, theatre organist at the Circle and Lyric theatres in Indianapolis during the silent film era, and Ann Hoppes, colorful lyric soprano, presented a program of show tunes, old and new, and musical comedy and operatic numbers, with Jimmy adding a few solos on the organ. Also contributing to this special program was Vivian Arbaugh, the first organist to play this Wurlitzer when it was located in the theatre at LaPorte, Indiana. John Landon and Tom Hawkins each played a couple of selections to complete the formal program. Open console followed.

May is always a busy month with the 500-Mile race activities in Indianapolis, but it in no way hampers attendance or activities of the CIC-ATOS. We journeyed to the campus of Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana to the Hall of Music. This magnificent hall is as large as Radio City Music Hall in New York City and has a seating capacity of 6,000. A tour of the facilities, including projection rooms, and radio station, convinced us that it has to be one of the finest anywhere.

There is quite a history behind the organ installation in the Music Hall. It is a 3-manual Baldwin and boasts the honor of being the largest Baldwin electronic installation in existence. It was completed in 1964 after two years of constant work. Being a pilot instrument, it had all the "tender, loving care" Baldwin's designers and builders could give it. Uniquely, it is both a theatre and classical organ — a fete accomplished by merely flipping a switch. Mr. William Luhman, Director of all Purdue University's musical organizations, and CIC-ATOS members Ken Double and Tim Needler, each

presented a couple of numbers to "show off" the organ. Everyone enjoyed open console time to the fullest.

Our thanks to Dr. John Ditamore, Music Hall Director for the historical background of the Hall itself and to Mr. Luhman for the very interesting presentation about the organ and description of the fantastic sound system through which the organ speaks to every corner of this great Music Hall. We are also extremely grateful to member Fred Stone, for arranging this unique and most interesting meeting.

May boasted another first. As a result of many hours of time and much effort on the part of a number of our members and several high school students, the Louisville theatre pipe organ at Manual High School in Indianapolis was played for the first time at Manual's Annual Alumni meeting. For two years this has been a combined project of the high school and the CIC-ATOS. The organ was secured by Carl Wright, Auditorium Manager of Manual High School and made a reality through the generosity of Mr. C. S. Ober, honorary member of CIC-ATOS and an alumnus of Manual. The 3 manual Louisville now has 6 ranks playing and a total of 10 windeds. Much more work needs to be done, but to have it playing at last is rewarding and encouraging. Manual is still looking for a 3 manual, double stop rail, horseshoe console.

What better way to start the summer than an "organ safari!" And that's exactly what CIC-ATOS did. On June 1 thirty-nine members departed Manual High School in Indianapolis at exactly 8 a.m. via chartered bus for St. Louis. The trip was so well planned

that coffee and doughnuts were served on the bus shortly after departure from Indianapolis. After a stop at the Holiday Inn at Vandalia, Illinois for a delicious buffet lunch, we proceeded on to Highland, Illinois for a tour through the Wicks Organ Company plant. This company is a vibrant, alive and dedicated monument to the musical world. A builder of fine classical pipe organs since 1906, they are now also creating theatre organs equally as thrilling and versatile. The 59 rank, 3 manual organ in the Wicks show room, played by a number from our group, speaks to all classical and theatrical performers and enthusiasts alike. Our thanks to Tom Doepfers, Indiana Sales and Service Representative for Wicks, for arranging the tour and to all Wicks personnel for their gracious hospitality. Tom is a member of CIC-ATOS. A group from the St. Louis Chapter joined us in Highland for the Wicks tour.

After arriving in St. Louis, exactly on schedule, and with plenty of time for relaxing around the pool, we dressed for dinner at the delightful restaurant of Stan Musial, where we were entertained throughout the evening by Dick Palsano at the Hammond organ and piano.

It was up bright and early on Sunday morning and on to the Fox Theatre as guests of the St. Louis Chapter. Stan Kann, organist at the Fox for the past 22 years, presented a very interesting program and gave us a detailed historical background on the Crawford Special 4/36 Wurlitzer which has been in the theatre since 1929, used for silent movies in the pre-sound era and put back to work in 1952, and

has been used daily since that time. Jerry Marian, young organist from the St. Louis Chapter, also played three selections before open console time. This chance to play such a magnificent instrument was a delight to those of us who seldom have the opportunity to play an organ of this size.

So that we may experience the joy of both the theatre and classical organs, after lunch we traveled to the Third Baptist Church in St. Louis to see, hear and play the 4/67 Kilgen organ (rebuilt by Moeller) that sounds "just like the Atlanta Fox" with 2 ranks of Tibias. Dr. Richard E. Phipps, Minister of Music at Third Baptist, explained in great detail the chamber locations, stops, couplers, echo organ, etc. In this instrument it was particularly interesting to compare the voicing and identify the difference between the tonality of the Kilgen stops and those later installed by Moeller. Dr. Phipps then played several short numbers and concluded with Franck's "Chorale in A Minor" to demonstrate the full extent of this great classical organ. Open organ time followed with a variety of selections — sacred, secular and a few others in a category all their own being adapted to this classical organ! Since a number of our members, as I am sure is the case with most Theatre Organ Society groups, have a classical background, it is always appropriate to include instruments from these two vastly different fields of musical endeavor.

We want to especially thank Joseph Barnes, chairman of the St. Louis Chapter for making program arrangements in St. Louis, and also the ladies who furnished coffee and doughnuts Sunday morning at the Fox. Thanks also go to our president, Tim Needler, and Ross Kirkpatrick for many hours of planning, arranging, and tying together all phases of this great weekend.

RUTH D. WARD

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CENTRAL OHIO

Our members are deeply saddened by the sudden death on June 3 of a highly respected member, Paul Noblitt. Paul has played the Ohio Theatre Morton each year for the summer dollar movie series, served as secretary for our chapter in 1970-1972 and continued as a member of our Board of Trustees. Especially talented as a public relations man our records contain a wealth of material he pre-

pared for chapter use to promote interest in the theatre pipe organ. Always on hand for open console, it was a pleasure not only to hear Paul play, but to watch him. His tremendous enjoyment of theatre organ was evidenced by a smile that spread widely as he played. We are grateful to have had Paul as a member.

It was our pleasure to welcome Bill Tipper of England during his recent vacation in the States. His uppermost wish was to play the Ohio Morton and Carlos Parker arranged a time slot for him. Unfortunately work was in progress removing the aisle standards and Bill's playing was accompanied by pneumatic drills. Working against a deadline of a booking for a noon rehearsal, work could not be halted but the men did put the drills down long enough to applaud. Bill was also able to play two home installations — Ralph and Leona Charles of Somerset and Rosemary and Bob Hamilton of Zanesville welcomed him to play their Robert Morton organs. Bill was quite taken with the little Robert Morton with the big French Trumpet at St. Joseph's Academy and commented that this little organ was a very old one and from the arrangement of the stop tabs was designed specifically for accompanying the silents.

We usually have one meeting a year — a Fall potluck dinner at the home of Ralph and Leona Charles, but in May we were treated to an extra day with their Robert Morton plus piano and calliope. Kenny Winland played the opening concert, followed by Lois Hays. Lois had played for us last Fall when she had barely been introduced to the theatre pipe organ. Since then she has been in Somerset frequently to practice and learn theatre organ and to keep it low key; practice makes perfect. Open console followed with Paul Noblitt and two guests, Mark Crittenden and Dwight Sweet. These last two were so taken with the Robert Morton, they promptly became chapter members. Once again we thank Leona and Ralph for sharing so generously their wonderful instrument.

On Saturday, June 15, our chapter chartered a bus for our long hoped-for trip to Springfield and Dayton. We were met at the State Theatre in Springfield by Linda and Bob Cowley and theatre manager Lothar Bergeest. Bob gave us the history of the organ and reported on the rebuilding and future plans (see THEATRE ORGAN,

Dec. 1973 for details). Bob Cowley played the opening concert putting the 3/7 Wurlitzer through its paces. He accompanied Lothar Bergeest for two vocal numbers, "A Certain Smile" and "Tender is the Night." Lothar's electrifying tenor voice with the beauty of the Wurlitzer left us wanting more. Following his concert Bob introduced the next artist who had played this Wurlitzer only half a dozen times, Chris Phillips — age 12. At the very start he commanded and held our attention with selections such as "Flight of the Bumblebee," "Brazilian Sleighbells" and "Burning of Rome." Here is one of those rare talents to be watched. Much credit for Chris' outstanding performance goes to his teacher, Martha Hoyle, who was present and played for us later. Martha had been a student of Mr. Nikals who was organist at the State Theatre in 1923 and her practice instrument was this same Wurlitzer.

Enroute to Dayton we were treated to a delicious lunch aboard the bus arranged for us by Thelma Babbitt, Joanne Ebner and Polly Thornton. We

arrived at the home of Cindy and Don Reighard ready to appreciate an exceptional home installation. The organ, played from an Artisan console, contains eight Kimball ranks, two Wurlitzer and two Wicks plus an Austin Oboe. The mellowness and soft speaking voices make this ideal for a home. Don feels much of this quality is achieved by having a heavy cloth over the swell shades. His concert was excellent and he really knows his little gem. Others who returned to the console as often as they could were Charles Prior, Jr. and Stanley Jay.

IRENE BLEGEN

CHICAGO AREA

One night nine years ago while working in the New York Post Office to support himself at Julliard, Hector Olivera was given an organ record by a friend. The friend apparently didn't know that Hector was studying classical organ, for his gift was a theatre organ record, the first such album Hector had heard. That record was of Al Melgard at the Chicago Stadium.

On May 16 Hector finally had the



Hector Olivera concentrates on making music for 2700 friends at the Oriental Theatre.
(Bill Lamb Photo)

chance to hear Al Melgard in person. The occasion was Hector's triumphant return to Chicago for a second CATOE concert and the return from retirement of Al Melgard, staff organist at the Chicago Stadium's 6/62 Barton for 44 years. The event took place at the Oriental Theatre.

Few ATOS chapters ever venture to do a public concert during evening hours in a downtown locale in a theatre the size of the Oriental. More than 2700 were present to confirm the ability of the Chicago group to make such a venture a success.

Hector put the prototype of the 4/20 Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer through its paces from his "Cheek to Cheek" opener to his now famous "Flight of the Bumblebee" encore played on the pedals. He also did a fine job playing a Harold Lloyd film, the first he had ever accompanied in public.

CATOE Honorary Member Al Melgard opened his cameo with "Happy Days Are Here Again", the song he suggested for the 1932 Democratic convention. "One in a Million" was dedicated to his old boss, Arthur Wirtz, millionaire realtor and sportsman owner of the Blackhawks. Al's own "My Vision" closed the segment.

Walt Strojny, Al's prize pupil, presented him with a plaque marking the occasion. Strojny is continuing his musical studies in Chicago and has reopened the Al Melgard Studio in Oak Park. A bouquet of red roses was presented to Ruth Melgard, Al's wife of 57 years who helps make his Las Vegas retirement a pleasant one.

A social was also held in May. Paul Renard was the artist. He grew up in the east and played theatre organs in New York and New Jersey in younger

days. This was Paul's first chance to play pipes since moving to Chicago to supervise music education for Lyon-Healy.

New officers were also elected during the May social at Downers Grove. Under new by-laws the following will take office July 1: Russ Joseph, chairman; Doug Christensen, vice-chairman; Bill Rieger, secretary; Bill Benedict, treasurer; Art Todesco, membership chairman; Richard Sklenar, VOX CATOE editor; Paul Swiderski, George Smith, Val Escobar, directors.

The June social was at the Pickwick Theatre, Park Ridge on June 22. Local artist Tom Gnaster introduced guest artist Jim Benzmilller who had journeyed from Stevens Point, Wisc. Jim's album, "Big, Bold, and Brassy" was recorded by CATOEer Jim Stemke on the organ at St. Stanislaus Church there, which Benzmilller has revamped. Following Jim's program, crew leader Andy Haban introduced Debbie Ayotte, a 14 year old local girl who has taken to the Wurlitzer. She, along with Ken Double, Walt Strojny and others, has been afforded console time there as the emphasis has been on youth.

July should find the chapter sending a busload of members to the Detroit convention on a chartered Greyhound which is to be outfitted with an organ.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

The June 8th program was another dandy one provided by our very capable Program Committee.

Beginning at 2:30 P.M. in New Haven, the afternoon portion of our

schedule was given to open console, inspection of chambers, and hearing a short concert at two fine classical organ installations - Trinity Church and Woolsey Hall, 3/81 and 4/196 instruments, respectively, the Trinity instrument being a 1925 Aeolian-Skinner and the Woolsey a 1902/1915/1928 Hutchings-Votey/Steer/Skinner.

The short concerts were performed by Stephen Loher, organist and choir-master at Trinity Church. Joseph Dzeda, one of the maintainers of both organs, was most helpful with arrangements and chamber inspection. We are very grateful to both gentlemen for their efforts.

After dinner, it was on to Bethwood, the home of Harold and Eleanor Weaver, and of a fine Marr & Colton as well, in Bethany. Here, the usual, as well as one or two unusual, business items were duly processed, after which we were treated to some lovely sounds from the Marr & Colton. Concert time featured a rare program, indeed.

Getting the program off to a really grand start was Sheryl Larrivee, whose console artistry certainly belied her two years' musical training and nine years' age! Sheryl played for us "Musette" and "Tico Tico" both of which sounded just great even though 9 year old legs can't reach the pedal board.

Next artist was Kathy Porter, one of our scholarship winners this year. Kathy played "I Enjoy Being a Girl," "Czardas," and her own arrangement of "Talk to the Animals." Listening to her, we readily perceived why she was a scholarship winner.

Our third artist was Sandy Barnes, another scholarship winner this year, who played "Step to the Rear," her own arrangement of "Tenderly", and Lee Erwin's "Eagle Overture" which last she offered in the scholarship competition. All three numbers were played with a winner's competence.

Margaret Lewis was the first of our two adult performers. Her selections were "I Hear a Rhapsody," "Some Day My Prince Will Come," and "In a Chinese Temple Garden" - pleasant listening, indeed.

Our professional artist of the evening was Carmen Charette who graciously favored us with numbers from the musical stage along with other popular tunes. For an encore, by demand, Carmen gave us some of S.



Teacher and Student: Al Melgard and Walt Strojny, one of Al's many students successfully making music in Chicago
(Bill Lamb Photo)



Tony Tahlman at the console of the Avalon Wurlitzer.
(Roger Wetterau Photo)



Gary McWithey at the Wetterau X-66.
(Roger Wetterau Photo)

Joplin's music from the musical score of *The Sting*, nicely arranged for the organ. We are most grateful for the professional touch that Carmen added to the program.

Eleanor Weaver is to be especially commended for scheduling such a fine program.

W. F. POWERS, JR.

DAIRYLAND

A warm, sunny afternoon greeted Dairylanders on May 19th for a social held at the Gourmet House in South Milwaukee. The instrument we heard was the new Hammond "Regent" organ where drawbars have given way to stop keys on a curved horseshoe console.

An unseen organist opened the program with "Anything Goes" as the organ started playing with no one at the console. We later learned that the organ has a built-in cassette recorder that can play the organ as well as record, and Gary Sette, our organist for the social, taped his opening number. Gary then approached the console and told us a few things about the instrument.

The program was an excursion through the past 75 years of music. "Maple Leaf Rag" by Scott Joplin was the first number to take us back to the days of ragtime. The program then progressed through the next seven decades of music and ended with "The Entertainer," another Joplin number. A look into the future was accomplished with a superb arrangement of

"2001 Space Odyssey." The console was then opened to anyone wishing to try it.

Tony Tahlman presented a concert at the Avalon theatre on June 18 that was a huge success. His selection of songs was outstanding, with a little sampling of music for everyone's taste. The 'nostalgia' theme was aptly carried out by Tony's selections from the movie *The Sting* as well as other Joplin numbers and climaxed with the big band era favorite, "In the Mood." "In Heaven There is No Beer" brought the house down during the song-slide portion of the program. Tony slipped into the "Beer Barrel Polka" next, and without a slide to sing by, the audience joined Tony and the Wurlitzer in bringing the first half of his program to a close. After intermission Tony mounted the bench again for a few solo numbers and then screened the Laurel & Hardy film, *That's My Wife*. The film, along with Tony's superb accompaniment, had the audience chortling in spasms.

The program closed with a special lyric to "America the Beautiful" followed by the actual words and then "God Bless America." The audience was really uplifted at the end of the program and begged Tony for one more fast number. He gladly complied.

More than 30 club members of the chapter gathered at the Roger Wetterau home in Menomonee Falls for the final social of the 1973-74 season. It was a good turnout considering many have gone on vacation.

Chairman John Hill introduced the

star of the afternoon, Gary McWithey. He then turned the program over to Gary who opened on the Hammond X-66 with "Mame," displaying his ability to take command of a sophisticated electronic organ.

He then followed his opening with Broadway tunes and music of today. The program closed with a request from Fred Hermes, "The Lords Prayer."

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Moods of our members were intense in diverse ways on the night of May 18, as this was to be the evening of proof and demonstration to both those of little faith and those of great faith that we as a chapter of ATOS had done things mostly wrong or mostly right. With Larry Ferrari at the console playing the EMC chapter organ at Knight Auditorium on the Babson College campus for the very first time in public performance the concert was a resounding success. The house was packed, the crowd was pleased. Those of little faith were converted on the spot. All were set to wondering, "How come?" Was it Fred Newcomb's extraordinary publicity campaign? Was it the fact of a new concert location with a newly refurbished organ? Was it a combination of factors not the least of which was the artist himself, a man of great faith to attempt such a performance on an organ yet unfinished and assembled by amateurs. Larry commented after the concert that the organ seemed to reach

out embracing the organist. "It has great potential." Larry was great.

Our May and June meetings were combined into a single Sunday afternoon and evening meeting on June 9. Al Winslow arranged a full program including featured artists, movies, eats and open console. Since this was a Sunday meeting, several of our professional organist members were able to attend and to be heard, which was a welcome feature in itself.

Work will continue on the chapter organ over the summer months at a reduced fever, but perhaps with increased perspiration. ATOS summer visitors to this area are invited to contact us.

ERLE RENWICK

GARDEN STATE

It all started back in the late 60's when the RKO and Stanley-Warner chains were merged into the Glen Alden Co., and a massive remodeling program of theatres began, signaling a "must go" for scores of dormant theatre organs. While many found homes in schools, civic centers, and other public places, the last one to be "transplanted" seemed to sense something better would fall its lot if it were just stubborn and held out!

Over six years of negotiation were needed to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Only this year did persistence pay off for ATOS-RKO agent Walt Froehlich and ATOS members Bob Schroder, Charlie Balogh and Bill Hartig who headed the local push in the Trenton, N. J. area. GSTOS chairman Bob Balfour and vice chairman Froehlich arranged all the meetings to draw up the necessary donation and chapter agreements, and Charlie and

Bill started getting a crew assembled.

At first, it looked like all other such projects, blood, sweat and tears, and little money or support. Then suddenly, Charlie Balogh was hired by Bill Brown to play at his Pizza Joint in Phoenix. All seemed doomed until project crew chief Bill McKissock came onto the scene. Bill had seen a few organs before, it seems. He moved his home installation all by himself this past summer from South Jersey to his new home in Morrisville, Pa., just across the river from Trenton. He did it in 6 months (which is a feat not to be scoffed at when you consider it is a 4/34!) while simultaneously installing a large church organ in his old home town in South Jersey, *all in his spare time!* Bill's real profession is personnel director for scientists and engineers at Mobil Oil's research division in Princeton. Organs are a hobby!

A final meeting was arranged with the new owners-to-be concerning the Lincoln's "Princess" Moller (3/17) in Trenton, the slightly younger sister organ of Delaware Valley Chapter's 3/19 Sedgwick Moller. It took the commissioners of the Trenton War Memorial Auditorium Association about 20 minutes to give a green light in spades, once Bill made our presentation. As a result, we have one of the most unique rebuild-and-move contracts yet seen.

With all of the paperwork done, a scruffy looking group of 10 GSTOS members arrived at the Lincoln at the start of the Memorial Day weekend. Shutters came down, and hour by hour, the auditorium and stage began to fill with organ innards. (The theatre had been closed for several years). No final concert was possible, as the relays

had been badly damaged by water, and most of the reservoirs were blown.

By the end of the third day, the entire organ was disassembled and lay stacked in "staging areas" about the theatre. John Curry, president of the War Memorial Association, surveyed the scene in amazement: "No wonder you guys asked for two years to do this job!" Target date is May 1976 so it can be used for the bi-centennial ceremonies.

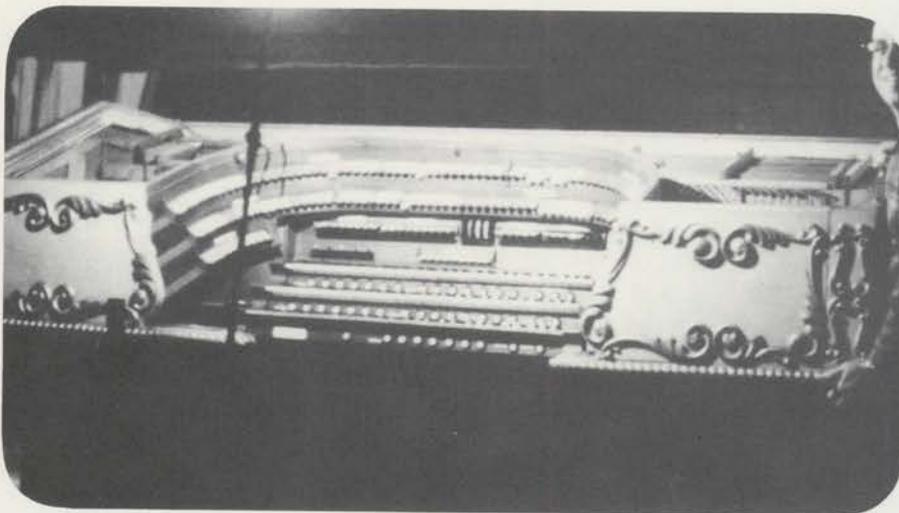
All this sounds pretty standard so far, right? Now we depart from the norm. On Tuesday morning, 20 city and county workmen and foremen with eight trucks arrived at 9 A.M. and completely moved the organ to the War Memorial in one day! A mover and a rigger were also engaged to move the console and blower.

The War Memorial has commissioned us to restore the "Princess" as follows: First, install an all new solid-state relay system to replace the completely ruined mechanical relays. Second, order replacement pipes from Moller for the Post Horn and French Trumpet which were stolen several years ago. Third, obtain and install a new electronic capture combination action for the console to replace the nightmarish mechanical setter unit which was original. Finally, to order all the necessary leather, pre-formed perflex pouches, windlines and whatever else needed.

Now for the topping! The organ is now stored in a huge basement area under the auditorium, which contains a complete machine shop. Mr. Curry has assigned two men and a foreman to work with us until this project is completed.

Within two weeks of the removal, the blower had been sent out, cleaned, re-insulated, new bearings and pillow blocks installed, re-assembled, balanced and hooked up in its new home. A carpenter has mounted the frames for the swell shades in the chambers, and some \$2,000 worth of leather, perflex, windlines and other materials were ordered. One of our members, Noel MacKissock, an electronics design engineer, is designing a new solid-state relay, using slip-in, card-type printed circuit boards, and we hope to use this design on several other transplants now underway.

By now, readers are probably asking: "What is a War Memorial?" In 1928, the City of Trenton and Mercer County (of which Trenton is the



The "Princess" Moller is ready for the final move.

county seat as well as the State Capital) formed a commission to build a civic auditorium to be dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of World War I. This was done with splendid elegance. While the outside of the building is done in unassuming white stone, much like most government structures of the era, the inside is done in marble and terrazzo with hand carved wood and paneled walls. A 1500-seat auditorium contains a fully operational stage, complete projection facilities, orchestra and organ elevators. In short, the works: a full presentation house like the palaces of the late twenties, but in a mood of dignity.

Organ elevator? Was there something there before? Well not really. We did remove an electronic from the lift, but back in 1930, the building was complete except for one thing. Chambers were built, windlines and conduit installed and then . . . depression! The organ was never bought. But, how sweet it is, some 45 years later, when just two blocks away, the Lincoln is doomed and its "Princess" needs a new home!

At a work session recently, one of the War Memorial men asked crew chief McKissock when he thought this "jungle of junk" would ever make music. Bill told him we had a May '76 target date. One of our ATOS crew members, Jay Taylor, overheard this and quipped, "May '76? Why, that's ridiculous! We want this thing playing by this Christmas!"

You know, if the funding holds out, they just might make it. Start practicing your carols out there!

LAND OF LINCOLN

The chapter brought its first year to a thrilling climax with two community minded programs in May.

Our public concert on Thursday May 23, at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, not only featured our 4 manual 17 rank Golden-Voiced Barton with John Grune at the console, but the combined East and West High School Orchestras of 150 musicians on the stage.

The programs were arranged by the chapter as a money raising project for the East and West High Orchestras, who will fly to Copenhagen, Denmark in July to attend and perform at the World Youth Music Festival and then spend some time in homes of Danish families.

Organist John Grune of Chicago did an excellent job of arranging the music that was played by the combined orchestras and organ. The program also included musical numbers by both orchestras, plus an organ program by John Grune that included a Charlie Chaplin short and a sing-along.

Not only did we help the orchestras raise nearly \$2,000.00 toward their trip, but the standing ovation given the orchestras and organist at the conclusion of the program left no doubt as to how well the program was received by the audience.

On May 9, in cooperation with the silent movie class of the alternative middle school of the Rockford Public



Twelve-year-old Chad Weirich demonstrates the workings of the Barton for Rockford Public School students.



Land of Lincoln Chairman Orrill Dunn with Chad Weirich at the 4/17 Barton in the Coronado Theatre.



Combined high school orchestras with John Grune at the Coronado Barton.

School System and the full cooperation of the Coronado Theatre, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students of Rockford were invited to the Coronado on Thursday morning to not only tour the entire theatre, back stage, dressing rooms, etc., but to see a typical silent movie presentation with organ accompaniment. This tour was arranged by Robert Weirick, our public relations chairman, and was conducted by students of the silent movie class who had been coached as to the highlights and history of the theatre.

Our own 12 year old member Chad Weirich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weirick, demonstrated the organ by use of slides showing the lifts and playing the various ranks including the toy counter.

After an organ concert by Chad, the house lights were dimmed, and the stars and clouds appeared to the awe of the students, many of whom were totally unaware that these things existed. They then viewed an Our Gang comedy with Chad playing the accompaniment.

Because of the interest shown in the organ and the theatre which was built in 1927 and was then *the* vaudeville and movie house of the area, this is undoubtedly the first of more programs of this type.

ORRILL DUNN

LOS ANGELES

The longest organ crawl in the LA Chapter's history, "Desert Pipes," was a smashing success. Two busloads of members rode from the Southland to



Rex Koury at the Welte console way out in the desert. (Zimmerman Photo)

northern California and Scotty's Castle in Death Valley to hear Rex Koury present an outstanding concert on the 3/11 Welte organ there. After the concert we gathered around the lounge organ in the motel where Northern and Southern California ATOSers renewed old friendships and made new ones. Your reporter spent much of the trip perched on a seat next to the bus driver playing his accordion. By an amazing two-way radio hookup, both buses were able to synchronize the sing-along. It was quite amusing to play requests from the other bus 300 yards ahead of us. Scotty's organ installation must be one of the best examples anywhere of what people



ATOSers listening to Rex Koury in the Castle's music room. The shoe covers are rug savers. (Zimmerman Photo)

will go through to have a theatre organ.

The May concert at the Wiltern theatre featured the popular organ-piano duo, Dennis and Heidi James. They gave an impressive display not only of individual artistry, but also an effective blend of organ and piano. Selections ranged from such dramatic music as "Warsaw Concerto", selections by Rossini and Chopin to popular standards such as "I Cover the Waterfront", "Japanese Sandman", and "I Got Rhythm". Their versatility was amply demonstrated by a rousing rendition of Scott Joplin's "Entertainer" theme from *The Sting*. After the concert they spent a long time in the theatre lobby signing autographs and acknowledging the greetings of well-wishers.



Maria Kumagai pleased a large audience of ATOSers with her music, also with her announcements in English — a language quite new to her. (Zimmerman Photo)

In June, Maria Kumagai played a return engagement, following her outstanding Wiltern concert last year. The audience was near capacity. She brought the console up with "It's a Most Unusual Day" and followed with "Deep Purple" and a medley from *Gigi*. She demonstrated her command of the light classical repertoire with selections from Grieg's "Song of Norway". Maria's mother had come all the way from Japan to hear her play, probably establishing a long distance attendance record for our concerts. Maria has been a student of Bill Thomson and Richard Purvis, and several of her San Francisco fans planed in to hear her concert. During the second half she demonstrated the beautiful orchestral



Program Chairman Lloyd del Castillo presents a bouquet to Maria following her concert. Del's Pinnochio-like "nose" is actually a microphone. (Zimmerman Photo)

voicing of the 4/37 Kimball with "Holiday for Strings" and closed with an orchestral transcription of music from Bizet's opera, *Carmen*. For her encore, Maria selected some Italian music with a Japanese accent — "One Fine Day" from Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Each of us wished he had a secret tape recorder.

Our July concert starred Gaylord Carter at the Wiltern. "Ol' Flicker-fingers" showed us how to cue a silent movie, and also how not to. More on Gaylord's concert next issue.

Coming events include an August organ crawl southward to San Diego where we'll have the dual attractions of Bill Thomson at the San Diego Fox 4/32 Robert Morton and the world-famous San Diego Zoo — or "Pipes, pythons and pandas." We also plan a grand tour of Los Angeles area theatre organ-equipped pizza parlors which number at least five at this time. The latest one was conceived and built by



Gaylord Carter accompanied The Mark of Zorro at the Capital Theatre Wurlitzer in Salt Lake City.

several members of the LA Chapter; John Hoffman, John Pawson, Jack Rauton and Dick Carlson installed a 3/12 Robert Morton organ in a Long Beach pizzeria. Featured are Greg Rister and Dennis Watts.

MALIN DOLLINGER

MOTOR CITY

Chapter members and their friends attended a production of *Show Boat* at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, presented over two successive weekends in mid-May. Delayed in Detroit by bad weather following a December chapter program here, Rex Koury recorded the 100 page score for the musical for use by the two year college at the 3/10 Wurlitzer in the home of Al and Betty Mason. When it was later discovered that an entire page had inadvertently been omitted and one number played at the wrong tempo, Dennis James happened to be in town and re-recorded those portions. Chapter member Dave Lau made additional electronic refinements to the tape to enhance the sound for use in the school auditorium.



Luella Wickham at the DTOC Wurlitzer. (Marjorie Allen Photo)

Luella Wickham, "New York's Sweetheart of the Console," appeared May 20 at the 4/34 Wurlitzer at the Detroit Theater Organ Club in a program of good old-fashioned theatre organ music. In addition to chapter members were members of DTOC and the Wolverine Chapter. It was a rare treat to hear this 81-year-old grand lady of the theatre organ in a program of familiar favorites, played with a musical awareness undiminished by time.

On Sunday morning, June 23, more than 100 chapter members met at the Redford Theatre in an overwhelming response to a call for volunteers to work on the varied phases of convention activity. With chapter membership steadily climbing to an all-time high of nearly 400, enthusiasm abounds and "smile" is the watchword of the day.

DON LOCKWOOD

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On Saturday morning June 1, Eddie Osborne called Laura Thomas and told her he was in Buffalo and had a couple hours to spare. So Eddie put on an unscheduled concert at the Riviera Theatre and entertained all the members that could be mustered on such short notice. This is what you call a pleasant surprise.

I can't resist a few comments about Karl Cole's last concert. He made his first appearance at the Riviera two years ago when on 24 hours notice he subbed for Leon Berry who had become suddenly ill. Karl put on a fine concert and was an instant hit. He made his third appearance this year on May 15.

This year's concert was great, and his variety had something for everyone. Fine registrations, his announcements interesting and he sang three or four selections. Not only a first class organist, he is also a master entertainer and the crowd loved it.

Of course in July, first the convention, and then on July 24 Rex Koury will be back at the Riviera, to please the crowd and to play for the two ladies painted on either side of the console. (This console was recently restored to its original condition.)

Greg Gertner will play his first concert for the Niagara Chapter in August. Greg is well known throughout the Buffalo area and has played at many chapter functions. On the same program will be Alex René and his big band. Alex is well known to the Riviera crowd, having appeared with his band on several programs with Dennis James.

This concert will be our annual benefit concert. This year we have selected the Historic Society of the Tonawanda's and the receipts from this concert will go to help improve their museum.

Charley Kester, our chapter treasurer, is donating a Wurlitzer Console. The chapter is also donating some

pipes, accessories and a large portrait of Farney Wurlitzer for the museum. After all, Wurlitzer did help to make North Tonawanda heard around the world.

September will find another old friend and crowd pleaser back. As summer ends and fall comes upon us to start the new season off, who else but Don Thompson.

In to each life some rain must fall. The entire membership of our chapter was saddened with the sudden and unexpected death of Art Melger on May 12. Some of you may remember Art from the 1964 convention at which he was one of the featured artists. (See Closing Chord this issue.)

Some of Art's sound effects required more than two hands, so during the rebuilding of the Riviera Console Bill Hatzenbuehler wired in a special stop tab so that Art could get these effects and still have both hands free to play. This tab was engraved "Art Melger Wings". He was very proud of this tab and often spoke about it.

This tab turned out to be quite a memorial for quite a guy. "Art Melger - Wings."

STEVE CROWLEY

NORTH TEXAS

We just have to rave about the North Texas Chapter outing to Mexia on May 26. Fred and Joye Mitchell's beautiful home provided the setting. It started with a poolside picnic. Chairman MacDonald then called a brief business meeting under blue Texas skies, ran through a quick agenda, and we all adjourned to the family room, where Charlie Evans (he of the *Moon River* organ fame) opened the activities on the Rodgers installation recently completed in the Mitchell's home. The three-manual ivory and gold theatre console controls a set of electronic "pipes" that speak out through a system of 38 loudspeakers. Speaker baffling and housings are cleverly concealed in bookcases around the room. They speak out the rear, against the wall, resulting in sounds similar to pipes speaking out of chambers.

Charlie Evans' opening cameo demonstrated the organ's theatre style capabilities. He was followed by Lew Williams who also made the instrument really perform. The afternoon was finished off with an open console session by various chapter members. Everyone had a good word for the

instrument and for Fred and Joye, their wonderful home and hospitality.

Bill and Mary Jo Tunstall, our Houston members, drove from their home to make the Mexia meeting too. They're 300 miles from our center of



Charles Evans at the Mitchells' Rodgers console. That's hostess Joye Mitchell in front of the windows. (Koski Photo)



Fred Garrett sets the stops before a serenade on Dale Flannery's organ at the April meeting. (Koski Photo)



Dale Flannery and 1974 Chapter Chairman Earl McDonald in front of the percussions and shutters of Dale's home installation. (Koski Photo)

activities. When the St. George (Staten Island) organ has been installed in the Pizza Parlor in Houston, the chapter hopes to make a charter trip there to hear it and join in the festivities.

Member George Stucker came through in fine style with a new directory and copy of the chapter by-laws. Last year's issue of the Directory listed only 27 members. The new edition has an even 40 members listed. We have since added some more; the chapter continues to grow.

Jim Peterson reports that progress is somewhat slow on the Dallas Pizza Parlor installation mentioned in previous reports. It's not the fault of the organ crew. Construction problems seem to be slowing completion of the building.

Meanwhile, member Lew Williams, a real organ talent, who goes into his senior year as an organ major at Texas Christian University come Fall semester, is touring the organ installations of Europe. Lew's hoping to see some of the theatre installations as well as the church and cathedral installations.

Gordon Wright, another of the Dallas group, who acquired the Capri Theatre organ from downtown Dallas, is planning a whole new facility to house the installation. His present console was installed in the amateur radio room of his home, with the pipes in the attached garage. It sounded great, and was quite accessible for service. Gordon has been experimenting with silicon controlled rectifiers to replace mechanical relays in his relay system. This is a useful application of electronic circuitry to pipe organs. Incidentally, it's surprising how many radio "hams" and electronics people are also organ buffs. There are five, including your scribe, in our North Texas Chapter.

Jerry Bacon is working up the chapter newsletter between sessions of work on his Fine Arts Theatre installation. Those projects, in addition to his regular job, keeps Jerry busy.

J. KOSKI

OHIO VALLEY

The annual election/dinner meeting June 23 saw the following named for the coming 12 months: Hubert Shearin, chairman; Carl Pratt, vice-chairman; John Scott, treasurer; Mike Detroy, secretary.

Biggest current news: Jack and Joan Strader, founding "fathers" of the chapter, have underwritten cost of chambers for the former Albee The-



DENNIS
(Neuffer Photo)



HEIDI
(Neuffer Photo)

atre Wurlitzer, now being restored by chapter members in downtown Emery Auditorium. Member Robert Klensch's construction firm did the work at cost. The organ restoration committee, with "guarded optimism," says the organ will be playable in the spring of 1975. Gaylord Carter, with seven Cincinnati appearances to his credit, has promised to play the dedicatory concert. (Virtually all chapter meetings the past year have been "pipes" meetings).

The Cincinnati Post (*Scripps-Howard*) did us proud with a full page feature on the Gaylord Carter concert (March 31), plus a companion feature on the theatre organ and the silents. The concert, incidentally, drew a near capacity audience to the RKO Albee.

The chapter is mighty pleased to have member Dr. M. Searle Wright scheduled for two appearances at the Detroit Convention. In May, Searle entertained members and guests at Stan Todd's Shadynook Restaurant on the 4/31 Wurlitzer.

Also in May, Carl Pratt, in New York on a business trip, was invited by Radio City Music Hall's staff organist Jimmy Paulin to play the "exit" music one evening at closing time. Carl hasn't been quite the same since.

OREGON

The chapter's main event of the season took place on May 12 at Portland's Benson High School, when Dennis and Heidi James were presented in concert.

What an absolutely fantastic pair of musicians these young people are. Benson's 3/24 Kimball was in top condi-

tion and the piano used was a good one. The numbers played were designed to show off both the organ and the piano.

Dennis and Heidi James arrived in Portland a week before the concert, because Dennis was to substitute for Jonas Nordwall at the Organ Grinder restaurant. Jonas was on a concert tour in Australia, so Dennis played for ten days at the "Grinder."

While Dennis was assisting Paul Quarino at the Organ Grinder, Heidi was busy practicing for the concert on Roberta Quarino's grand piano. In the meantime Dennis had to find time to practice on Benson's Kimball for the concert.

In spite of his heavy schedule, Dennis James did try out a few Portland installations other than the Organ Grinder and Benson High. He played the Howard Vollums' 4/49, the Bob Burkes' 3/12 and the Don Ingrams' 2/8, all Wurlitzers.

Although over 100 attended the James' concert, we were disappointed that more people did not avail themselves of the opportunity to hear these fine artists. One problem was the fact that it was Mother's Day, and the other was that most members in the Portland area had already heard James at the "Grinder" and seemed to feel that was it. But the lucky persons were in attendance.

DON INGRAM

PIEDMONT

The Spring meeting of the chapter was held in the Carolina Theatre, Greensboro, on April 27. Members and

guests were treated to a well varied organ program by Mr. Larry Keesler.

Larry, a resident of Kernersville, North Carolina is organist of the First Baptist Church there, and in addition to teaching, is well known for his work in night clubs in the Greensboro area. He became interested in theatre organ after hearing George Wright play, and first performed on the theatre organ in Chicago, Illinois.

His program ranged from theatre-styled ballads to gospel tunes. Eschewing fast and loud playing, Larry utilized the individual ranks of the 2/6 Robert Morton to their full advantage, and the arrangements were enhanced by his keen ear for registration; the theme from *Airport* was particularly effective. It was gratifying to hear the number of pleasing sounds brought forth from a rather small instrument. Mac Abernathy and his crew are to be commended for bringing the Robert Morton to such a fine functioning condition.

Chairman Dr. D. E. Macdonald presided over the meeting, in the course of which the members voted to change the name of the chapter to Piedmont American Theatre Organ Society, or PATOS.

Secretary Barry Simmons reported that work is progressing on the relay of the Wurlitzer installation in Elon College.

Following the program open console was held, and a number of members availed themselves of the opportunity of playing North Carolina's only remaining in-theatre installation.

LINDA KENT

POTOMAC VALLEY

In May we had a most delightful meeting and concert at the home of Regina and Lem Keller. Fresh back from a concert for the Rochester T. O. Society, Ray Brubacher showed off Lem's 4 manual 17 ranks in grand style. Ray's program was an abbreviated one due to his commitment as assistant organist at the cathedral in Washington, D.C. We all enjoyed every moment and intend to have Ray back later this year. The Keller special, (Lem handcrafted much of the instrument and has incorporated some unique design ideas), performed and sounded beautifully.

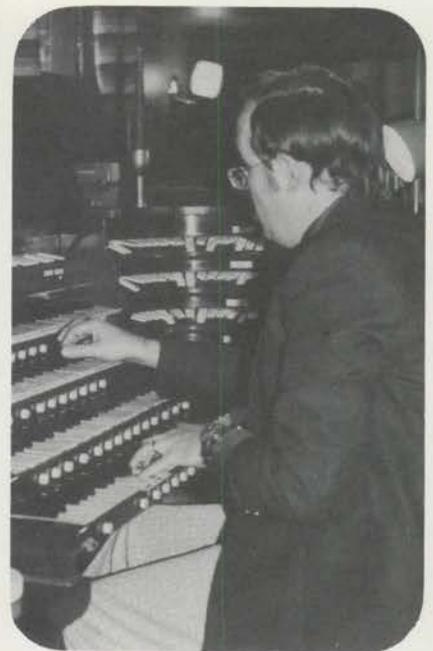
While not the kind we like to have, our June 1 meeting was a sendoff for the Grande Barton at the Virginia Theatre. A record crowd of between 400 and 500 enthusiastic members and friends were on hand for the farewell program. A group of recollections of past performances by Jean Lautzenheiser were presented by her with an assist from Tom Gauger in poetry reading.

After Intermission Jimmy Boyce took over and gave a wonderful display of his talent and capability showing that Jimmy "had done his homework!" His concert was followed by the hilarious Charlie Chaplin movie, *The Rink*. After open console the organ was put away by the man who has been tenderly caring for it all these years, George Johnson. Our thanks to Harman Martin, Sr. and Jr., the owners of the Virginia for all their cooperation and to George's crew including, Dow Evelyn, Howard Murphy and Norm Thiebault.

We ended our June activities with a new artist for our chapter, Mr. Bob Stratton, a man knowledgeable about pipe organs from any viewpoint. He can repair one, build one and certainly can play one!



The "Sweetheart of the Virginia Theatre"
— Jean Lautzenheiser.
(R. Wagner Photo)



Ray Brubacher at the Keller Special.
(R. Wagner Photo)



Jimmy Boyce says "Good-Bye" to the
Virginia Barton.
(R. Wagner Photo)



Bob Stratton at the Tivoli Wurlitzer in Fred-
erick.
(R. Wagner Photo)

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R. WAGNER

PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound's second meeting of the year was held at the Haller Lake Improvement Clubhouse in North Seattle, home of the Chapter's 3 manual, 8 rank Wurlitzer. This meeting was designed to be a Clean-Up and Fix-Up Day — a chance for members to help with the maintenance of their own pipe organ as well as to learn more about the workings of a Wurlitzer.

All pipes were removed from the main chamber and were cleaned and polished. The chamber interior was cleaned and one chest relocated to make more room for maintenance. Some members worked on installing a filtering system for the blower intake while others helped on organizing the chapter's scrapbook. After the pipes were replaced, the organ was tuned and several members tried their hand at the Wurlitzer. Another such day is planned to complete work on the

Start Planning . . .

SAN FRANCISCO IS NEXT!

organ and to refurbish the solo chamber. A Clarinet rank, given the chapter by member Bill Bunch, is scheduled for installation soon.

Mahon Tullis, Puget Sound's representative to the Cameo Appearances at the 1973 Portland Convention, presented a fine concert on April 28 at the Masonic Temple Wurlitzer in Bremerton. Members arrived in Bremerton via ferry and first convened at a local restaurant for dinner. A short business meeting followed where Chairman Genny Whitting told us about our upcoming events. Erma Gain gave a short summary of progress on the status of the Seattle Paramount Theatre.

Mahon's concert featured a good number of vintage theatre organ tunes which took full advantage of the excellent 2/8 Wurlitzer installed in the Masonic Temple. This organ was originally installed in the Bremerton Rialto Theatre. We were pleased to have in attendance many members of the Kitsap Organ Guild as well as members of other local organ clubs. In addition to being Puget Sound's Cameo representative, Mahon presented two fine concerts in January on the 4/32 Wurlitzer in Seattle's Granada Theatre.

On May 19, the chapter collaborated with the Seattle Film Society to present an afternoon of silent movies with pipe organ accompaniment. We made use of our own Wurlitzer installed in the Haller Lake Improvement Clubhouse.

Chapter member Don Myers did the honors at the console, accompanying three Buster Keaton films — *Seven Chances*, *The Haunted House* and *The Scarecrow*. We certainly proved to members of the Film Society that indeed the pipe organ is a suitable instrument for the accompaniment of silent films — a point which they weren't too sure of in the beginning! We hope to present many more such events in the coming year. Phil Arrow-smith, of ATOS, coordinated this event.

The chapter's "second home", the Seattle Paramount Theatre, has been officially placed on the Washington State Register of Historic Sites. Thanks to the hard work of countless people in the area, especially our own Erma Gain, the Historic Commission has been made aware of what significance the Paramount holds. In recognition of its status, the Puget Sound Chapter hosted a Complimentary Concert on June 23 featuring Jonas Nordwall at the Wurlitzer Publix No. 1 installed in the Paramount.

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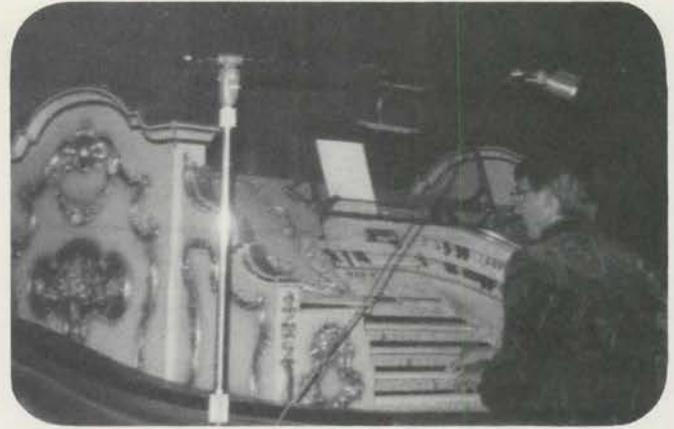
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Event Emcee Terry Hochmuth, Jonas Nordwall, Chairman Genny Whitting and Paramount house manager in the lobby of the Paramount.



Portland organist Jonas Nordwall rides skyward on the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer console for the second half of his June 23 concert commemorating the Paramount's new status on the Washington State Register of Historic Sites.

Jonas presented an outstanding concert of both old and new numbers, and made use of a good many of the outstanding features of the Wurlitzer to show our guests what one of these large theatre organs is capable of doing. This concert was a way to introduce ATOS and the chapter to the various groups that share a common interest in the preservation and restoration of the Paramount. Many of them had not even realized that there was a pipe organ in the theatre! We hope to have use of the Wurlitzer again in the near future and be able to present more public performances on

this great instrument. Chapter members Bill Carson, Don Myers, Genny Whitting, Russ Evans, Dick Schrum and Terry Hochmuth worked on the organ prior to Jonas' concert. A commemorative program was prepared, much in the style of the original opening program of the Paramount, which told about the organ as well as ATOS.

Seattle organist Dick Schrum has been active in using the Paramount Wurlitzer for public programs. On the Sunday before Memorial Day, the Seattle-based Link Organization used the Paramount to present an afternoon

of poetry readings and songs by local radio personality Don Dudley. Dick entertained the group with several selections played on the Publix No. 1. On the following Saturday, Dick was again featured on the Wurlitzer at a sell-out rock concert with England's "Strawberry" rock group. The young audiences are very receptive to the sounds of a Mighty Wurlitzer and it is hoped to be able to present the organ as much as possible in the future. The Paramount is currently being used as a rock-concert house.

Due to vacation scheduling, we plan to have no regular meetings during the



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summer months. We are looking forward to having a home tour afternoon sometime in the fall.

TERRY HOCHMUTH

SOUTHEASTERN

Linda Kent's encore at the Atlanta Fox Theatre, Sunday, June 16, played to an audience of nearly 150 ATOS Southeastern Chapter members and guests. Linda's program was earmarked by her tasteful and sensitive repertoire, making the Fox's 4/42 Moller and this 17-year-old artist an exciting and musically rewarding combination.

Miss Kent's mastery of the giant Moller was evident throughout the program. For example, Lyn Larsen's arrangement of "Wake Up and Live" was adapted by Linda with full organ treatment. In "Toot, Toot, Tootsie, Goodbye", Linda used a George Wright arrangement for foundation, with some interesting changes and rewriting of her own.

Linda's talent in the serious vein was exhibited in organist/composer Robert Elmore's "Pavanne". A few stops on the Moller can do as much as a full ensemble under Linda's direction, and listeners were treated to "modern" harmonies in the bridge, then a return to the very lyric and haunting melody. A section of the composition showcased the "cool",



Linda Kent at "Big Mo" at the Atlanta Fox.
(Robert H. Clark, Jr. Photo)

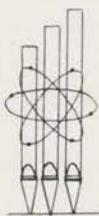
smooth sounds of the Moller's excellent string ranks.

The program was highlighted with a concise but fully representative version of George Gershwin's 1924 composition, "Rhapsody In Blue". After so many organists' taking a stab at the piece, or simply playing the easier parts and calling it done, Linda's completely orchestral arrangement was most welcome. Linda did not flinch at a stray Tibia pipe's ciphering in the left chamber during the Rhapsody

segment. This was the Moller's second cipher since it was made playable in late 1963.

The finale was a repeat request from Linda's first Fox appearance, "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. This particular performance stands as one of the all-time classics on the Fox Moller by any artist.

The Southeastern Chapter does not miss the chance to claim Linda Kent as one of its members and certainly one



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Chuck and Betty Heffer at their 3/6 Robert Morton. (L.G. Mallett Photo)



Burt Castle and Barry Rindhage at the console of the 3/11 Barton in the Temple Theatre in Saginaw, Michigan. (George Gephart Photo)

of the most likely candidates for America's new generation of professional theatre organ artists. The times have brought artists with ever increasing musical perception to allow the instrument's vast and timeless tonal resources to be further explored.

The concert was the first to be held in the Fox since its entry on May 17 to the official National Register of Historical Places of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The entry comes at an urgent time, as this theatre currently faces a precarious and unstable future.

JOHN CLARK McCALL, JR.

WOLVERINE

About 30 members and guests were on hand for the May 26 meeting of the Wolverine Chapter which was held at the East Detroit home of Chuck and Betty Heffer.

A short business meeting was presided over by Chairman Lawrie Mallett. Vice-Chairman/Treasurer Ed Corey gave the current financial status of the chapter, which is very good at this time.

The guest who traveled the longest distance to be with us was Bob Goldstine, a Fort Wayne, Indiana the-

atre organist, who is currently engaged in a project to save the Embassy Theatre there and its 4/15 Page organ. We wish our best to Bob, and all others involved in this "rescue mission."

Sunday, June the 9 found us in Saginaw, Michigan at the Temple Theatre to hear members Barry Rindhage and Burt Castle at the console of the 3/11 Golden-Voiced Barton. Both presented us with fine programs, starting with Barry rising out of the pit with "Consider Yourself", and continued with a medley including his signature tune, "I'll Buy That Dream." Next up

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was Burt, who gave us a widely varied program, also including a medley of popular tunes of the last decade. The program continued with several selections done in a piano-organ duet. Next came the real surprise of the morning, which came in the shape of 74-year-old Ida Sermon, who played the Temple's Barton in its heyday. Ida, who is known around as the "Sweetheart of the Console" is just that, as she has been entertaining people for 68 years, with 45 of those years at the

pipe organ. She presented us with a most enjoyable program that morning, and proved to all of us that she can still play fingerbusters like "Canadian Capers."

Next, we were all ushered out of the theatre, and to the Bay City Scottish Rite Consistory, where a 3/28 Moller organ is installed. The organ is unusual in the respect that it is basically a classical organ designed along Romantic lines, yet it has such theatre organ items as a Xylophone, Celeste

Harp, Snare Drum, Bass Drum and Cymbal. Several members took part in an all-afternoon open console session.

Father's Day, June 16, the Wolverine officers engaged in a meeting, in an attempt to make temporary plans for next year's programs, in which there are many surprises in store for the members. It was felt that early planning was needed, due to the overwhelming success of this year's programs.

SCOTT S. SMITH

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