

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN
DAYS



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

Jason and I have been exploring the rich lode in New York City, an excellent source of memorabilia. References were American Organist (AO), Diapason (D), Jacobs (J) and Metronome (Met.) magazines.

Feb. 15, 1926 (Met.) Selections from "Pagliacci" by the Rialto Orchestra started off the program this week. ARTHUR "HIGH C" GEIS at the organ played Five Foot Two in connection with a colored novelty film, followed by a burlesque on himself in connection with the piece. (Geis was about 6' 7" tall).

Feb. 15, 1926 (Met.) HAROLD RAMSBOTTOM (Ramsay) is featured at the Rivoli organ, playing *I Never Knew* in connection with colored stills. The Publix Theatre policy seems to be effectively featuring organ numbers.

June 1, 1926 (Met.) JOHN PRIEST, Colony Theatre organist and president of the Society of Theatre Organists, died May 10 at the age of 40. Born in England, he played the Rialto for 5 years, the Cameo for 3 years. Possessor of a remarkable memory, capable of memorizing four full-length programs, he was a great theatre and concert artist.

Dec. 1926 (Met.) One of the most unusual features of the new Paramount Theatre in Times Square is the "Peacock Promenade" walk around the dome, 10 stories above the orchestra level. This area will accommodate several hundred persons and is luxuriously furnished. The audience, far below, may be seen through huge plate glass windows.

Jan. 1927 (D) HENRY B. MUR-

TAGH is at the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer, succeeding Mr. and Mrs. JESSE CRAWFORD, who are to appear at the new Paramount Theatre on Broadway for the next six months.

Jan. 15, 1927 (Met.) The New York Paramount ushered in the new year with a gala midnight performance of Pola Negri's latest picture *Hotel Imperial*. The stage presentation was "Pompador's Fan" with period costumes of Louis XV. JESSE CRAWFORD at the Wurlitzer, played *How I Love You*, while the overture by the orchestra was Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody.

Mar. 1, 1927 (Met.) A musical library, estimated as the largest theatre collection, topping even Eastman's in Rochester, is now being installed in the Roxy Theatre. It contains 10,000 numbers and 50,000 orchestrations, the nucleus being the late Victor Herbert's collection, recently purchased from his daughter. Seventy-five asbestos-lined cabinets with automatic locks, line the walls. The staff of three librarians is supervised by Al Gaber.

Mar. 1, 1927 (Met.) CARL MC KINLEY, associate organist of the Capitol Theatre, has been honored by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for his composition *Masquerade*.

May 15, 1927 (Met.) The Capitol Theatre is now opening its doors at noon, and for a half hour, the patrons are entertained by a 6-year man at the Capitol, Dr. MELCHIORE MAURO-COTTONE at the Estey. A new console is being built and 15 ranks are to be added to the organ, along with a complete set of effects for musical accompaniment.

July 1, 1927 (Met.) Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in U.S.S. Syn-copation is playing to 20,000 a day at the Paramount Theatre. Also featured is the "JESSE CRAWFORD Organ Concert". Mrs. Crawford is at the stage console.

Aug. 1927 (AO) JESSE CRAWFORD continues to make new friends with his performances of popular hits on the 4/36 Wurlitzer at the New York Paramount.

Nov. 1, 1927 (Met.) GEORGE CROOKE and WALTER LITT play the new Kimball organ in the Brooklyn Mark Strand Theatre. The instrument is supposed to equal the finest in the big presentation houses on Broadway.

Nov. 1, 1927 (Met.) The Hall of Nations at the New York Paramount

Theatre is still attracting more attention than any other architectural feature of that huge movie monument. Over a million booklets, describing the famous stones, have been distributed to patrons since last November.

Apr. 1928 (J) So popular are the Roxy and Paramount theatres that means of entertainment have been devised for the crowds which throng the lobbies, awaiting admission all evening and most of the afternoon. At the former house, a Kimball residence organ with player attachment is installed, and at the latter house, Mr. HANS HANKE, noted pianist, may be heard in the music gallery at the end of the foyer. Mr. Hanke's exquisite playing and large repertoire have made him a welcome addition to the Paramount force.

Sep. 1928 (D) Dr. MELCHIORE MAURO-COTTONE has been added to the organ staff of New York's Roxy Theatre.

Oct. 1928 (AO) HENRY B. MURTAGH was borrowed by the Paramount Theatre for four weeks and played the solo numbers made popular there by JESSE CRAWFORD.

GOLD DUST: 1/27 MARSH MC CURDY, Loew's Lexington's 3-man. Moller . . . 2/27 WALTER WILD & FRED SMITH, Strand's Austin; JESSE CRAWFORD playing solos and SIGMUND KRUMGOLD accompanying pictures at the Paramount; FREDERICK KINSLEY, Hippodrome; E. A. HOUDSVEN, Moss' Jefferson . . . 3/27 ALBERT ROTH, Loew's Gates Avenue Theatre; VICTOR C. NEAIARAIED, National; WALTER ESHERT, Tuxedo Theatre; CHEERFUL WILLOUGHBY, Strand in Great Kills, Staten Island . . . 5/27 HENRIETTA KAMERN, Loew's Rio's Moller; RALPH COPELAND, Moller in Keeney's Livingston, Brooklyn . . . 6/27 J. M. COOPERSMITH, Capitol; WALTER H. LITT, Brooklyn's Strand; THOMAS S. BORSA, Rialto; E. A. HOUDSVEN, Colony . . . 7/27 WALTER H. LITT, Brooklyn's Strand . . . 9/27 J. VAN CLEFT COOPER, Bronxville Theatre.

That's it for this time. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & The Old Prospector

ATOS CONVENTION
July, 1975 - San Francisco