

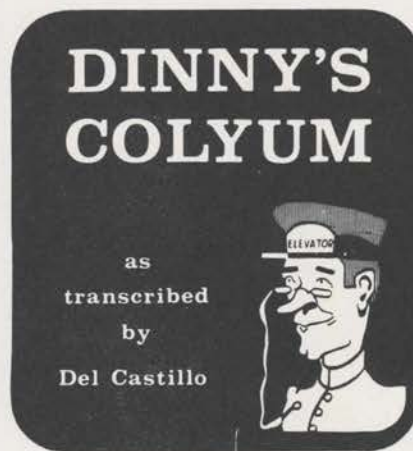
Lloyd del Castillo wrote regularly for the Jacobs music publications, influencing the work of thousands of organists. The same can be said for Henry Francis Parks. Other organists developed prestige because of the positions they occupied, but few of them influenced the trends of organ-playing as did Crawford. Emil Velaszco had the prestige of opening the New York Roxy Theatre organ, but his lasting contribution is a set of pieces intended for film-playing. The lives of most organists were relatively unromantic, because there wasn't much adventure one could pursue on a nine-hour-a-day seven-day-a-week schedule. There was some off-hours adventure, and some of it wouldn't make good reading. There were drunks, bad-check artists, and moral reprobates; you find them everywhere.

Almost invariably, organists had to furnish their own materials such as music and slides. In this they were helped immeasurably by popular-music publishers, who hired people like Murtagh to write special arrangements, which, when printed and made up into sets of slides, were offered to theatres and organists free of charge on loan.

Gradually the talking pictures knocked the bottom out of theatre organ business. Many theatres kept their organists to play for intermissions and spotlight solos between 1928 and 1932, but then the depression stopped all the motors. It is idle speculation to ask where the thousands of organists have gone. They became clerks, salesmen, and occasionally theatre managers. Their effect upon history is kept alive today only by the devotion of about six or seven thousand lovers of their instrument and their work.

History books of the twenty-first century will probably have to say that the people of the United States succeeded in destroying a culture, if not a civilization, in the forty year period 1930-1970. Cheap family entertainment went under. Cheap mass transportation that facilitated theatre-going was uprooted. Indecision about means to make streets safe for people to go to theatres at night emptied our theatres of even those who were willing to pay the high prices. Indecision about morals and civic duty produced vandalism and the most vicious delinquency yet encountered. In spite of all this and with the competition of

electronic music, theatre organ is drawing exceptional crowds in many theatres. In may be either nostalgia or novelty that is operating, but unquestionably a strong positive impression is made wherever it appears. □



Their's times a professional riter like me cant sometimes think what to rite about. You'd think a colyumist that had only have to think up somethin oncet every two months should ought to be able to think up one thought in two months. But then I get to thinkin about those noospaper fellers that has to rite up somethin new every day and I dont know how in tunket they do it. I would like to get together sometime with some of them colleegs I guess you call them that has to rite a colyum every doggone day and kind of pick there brains like. I spose one answer is they get so much money when there colyums are in a whole lot of papers every day that they can afford to get a passel of other riters to think up thanks for them.

Well, I aint never had no such luck. Mr. George Thompson who I rite for, he's a nice guy but to tell you the honest truth he just dont pay me enough for me to hire other riters to dig up ideas for me. Did you ever take a look at those list of names of riters they have on the big comedy TV shows. I seen as many as nine or ten guys who rite jokes for some of them big comedy stars like Bob Hope and Jackie Gleason. And even at that a lot of the jokes they fall flat and sometimes I think I could rite stuff as funny as that and I wouldnt have no other ten riters to help me do it neither.

I got to lookin over the last copy of Theayter Organ where I rote a peace

about all the different kinds of new music and I made a kind of a discovery like. I discovered that Mr. John Muri and me we are the only colyumists in the magazine that have to think up thoughts out of our own heads. Now you take for example Mr. Stu Green. I happen to think of him first because he has a colyum where he reviews new records, and on the same page with my puss which I admit aint very handsome they was a very cute doll name of O'lyn Callahan who according to her picshure he says is a New Breed Of Organist. Well, boy, I'm tellin you that if they is goin to breed organists who look like that they is goin to put the Atlantick City Beauty Padgent right out of business.

I guess I got kind of excited, because that wasnt what I started out to say. What I was a-gettin at was that Mr. Green he has two colyums, one of them is ritin up what is in the new organ records, and the other one is a lot of itmes that he gets sent in about what the organists is doin, which he calls Vox Pops. He even starts it out askin people to rite in what they are doin so he can put it in his colyum. And if that aint enough why then he just puts in a lot of picshures of them.

Then they is this Mr. Lloyd Klos, and all he does is to copy a lot of items from the old music magazines and he calls it Nuggets From The Golden Days. That Mr. Klos he has sure got it made. He don't even have to rite anything hisself except to say where the peaces come from. And then findly they is Mr. Lyle Nash who has a colyum he calls Hollywood Cavalcade, and I will say for him that he not only digs up items about movie stars but he also answers questions which I guess must take up quite a little work. But he gets the readers to do his work for him too because he ends up his colyum tellin people where they can send items for him, but he also says to ask him questions he will find the answers to.

Now I dont want you should think I am nocking any of these colleegs of mine, but I am just tryin to think how I can do like they do to make it easier to rite a colyum. So here goes. Anybody who has anything they want to rite about that I can put in this Colyum will they please rite it to Mr. Dinny Timmins, 223 North Kenter Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90049, and I will print it in this Colyum. Fair enuff? □