



ALABAMA

"STARS FELL ON ALABAMA CHAPTER, ATOS ONE YEAR AGO. HAPPY BIRTHDAY" said the sign held by Danny Keil as he led us in the Happy Birthday Song at our February meeting. Norville Hall accompanied him at the Mighty Wurlitzer.

The Alabama Chapter was one year old in February, and we celebrated with a surprise birthday party. The surprise continued when Larry Donaldson doused the house lights, leaving us literally as well as actually in the dark. The curtain opened and the only light was the glow of one candle on the huge birthday cake center stage.

The program continued with open console, while cake and coffee was served. Norville Hall began the program by playing "Stars Fell on Alabama" while pictures were taken and the cake was cut. Others playing on the program were Joan Aured, Connie Ann Boyd, Sandra Cavnar, Travis Cavnar, Charles Durham, Alleen Cole, Beatrice Fee, George Ferguson, Bruce Rockett, Ray Straits and Riedel West.

The year 1973 would seem a hard year to follow. It began with all the



Cathy Hoffman at Ala Wurlitzer at January meeting. — (Photo by Thomas L. Hatter)

excitement of forming a new chapter, obtaining a charter, and tax exempt status, good programs and was climaxed with complete coverage in the December THEATRE ORGAN — topped off with our beautiful Wurlitzer in color on the cover. How could we possibly top a year like that?

Well, we've started out like we just might. In January, Miss Cathy Hoffman, a fifteen year old young lady from Largo, Florida played a beautiful program, winning our hearts with her performance and with her personality.



Norville Hall plays appropriate music as Danny Keil holds sign appropos to the occasion. — (Photo by Thomas L. Hatter)

Cathy began her program with "Alabama Bound" and ended with the "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2," with many of the old "goodies" in between, proving that the really good music will continue on from generation to generation. Cathy is a very talented young lady, having begun her organ study at the age of six. She has played several concerts at the Kirk of Dunedin in Florida. We predict a bright future for this lovely girl.

Further indication that 1974 is off to a good start is the way our work crew has grown. Both in January and February, we had approximately twenty workers with just about as many women as men turning up in work clothes. Larry always manages to find enough work for all of us.

In January, the work crew along with Cathy Hoffman and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hoffman and some other special guests were invited to the home of Lee and Joan Aured for refreshments and a jam session on the beautiful Schoeber organ which Joan and Lee built. One of our special guests was Judd Walton of California who was on his way home from Spain and stopped off in Birmingham to be with us. Judd started our jam session off on the Schoeber and wound up on the piano later.

Another very special and most welcome guest was President Erwin Young.

A current project is the repairs needed to make the piano in the Alabama Theatre organ playable. Thanks to the many fine donations by chapter members, we have collected enough money to take care of it. Hopefully, it will be operating soon.

The fuel shortage threatened to cancel our February meeting, but those brave enough to try it made it with no trouble. If the situation doesn't become really critical, we hope to continue monthly meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 A.M. at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, with a work session on the Saturday before. The Alabama Chapter extends a cordial invitation to any ATOS member to be our guest anytime, either at the work session or the meeting. Anyone wanting to visit may verify the meeting by calling our chairman, Miss Riedel West, at (205) 674-7644 or write her at P.O. Box 86, Graysville, Alabama 35073.

Y'all come!

ALLEEN COLE

BEEHIVE

The chapter election meeting was held on November 18, 1973, at the Arcade Theatre, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Newly elected officers are, Clarence Briggs, president; Darlene Walker, vice president; secretary-treasurer, Maxine V. Russell. Members discussed with great excitement, the installation of two pipe organs in the Salt Lake and Ogden area.

Mike Ohman and Calvin Christensen are installing a Wurlitzer pipe organ, in the "Pipes and Pizza", Salt Lake City. They will need a great deal of help from the area members. It is beginning to take shape and looks very inviting and intriguing as one peeks into the windows. It has aroused a great deal of interest and I'm sure residents of the area will be delighted when this beautiful instrument begins to emit it's wonderful sounds.

Walter Schofield and his family are working hard on the installation of their Wurlitzer. Their new home was built with the pipe organ in mind, the center of attraction, with their beautiful home around the organ.

Members also discussed the recent visit of Mr. Gaylord Carter. He played the accompaniment to silent movies at the Arcade. Mr. Christensen told the members that the movie and pipe organ music by Mr. Carter had been very successful and that he is hoping to schedule more entertainment of this type in the future. Mr. Christensen is a very ambitious man, running the Arcade Theatre and now installing another organ in the "Pipes and Pizza."

The Beehive Chapter would like to give special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J Mack King who, with their son Krehl, hosted an ATOS meeting on August 26, 1973, and was somehow omitted from recent newsletters. At this meeting members discussed the concern for the organ at the Capitol Theatre, whose owner had just died. He had been interested in the organ and very cooperative with the chapter members. So far, no decision has been reached by other members of the theatre group as to the future of the organ.

MAXINE V. RUSSELL

CENTRAL OHIO

Our January meeting was hosted by Betsy and Bob Richards. Betsy played the concert for the evening and the

good turnout proves members are interested in hearing an outstanding musician use her home instrument. The organ is a Gulbranson Rialto, Model K with additional speakers. Many members played during open console time. Some of us heard Marie Peer for the first time and when quiet descends during open console you know something special is happening. President Frank Babbitt conducted the business meeting, including a discussion of traveling to the convention in Detroit by bus as a group. A report on the progress of rebuilding the Chapter's Wurlitzer was presented by our man in charge, Willard Ebner. Dave Billmire reported the best balance to date in the treasury and all of the good news plus the great hospitality of the Richards' made for a very enjoyable evening.

Coshocton, Ohio is the new home of our ex-president and finest chapter organist, bar none, Mike Williams. Still in the music business (Conn Organs), we wish him well in his new venture. While not too far away for an occasional visit, distance prevents perfect attendance. It is our loss — we had "grown accustomed to his style" and miss it.

In February our meeting was held at the home of Ginny and Ed Lawrence. True to her word, Ginny's promise was fulfilled. If she hosted, count on poor weather! True to his word, Ed had promised to do his best as program chairman and arranged not only a Will Rogers silent movie furnished by Willard Ebner, but also Marie Peer as concert organist for the evening. Marie, who is a local church organist, offered selections especially adaptable to the special features of the

Thomas Celebrity organ. With a cathedral ceiling, the speakers mounted high giving beautiful tonal qualities, a roaring fire in the fireplace, Ginny's command of the kitchen and Marie at the organ, who could care if the weather outside was frightful?

On the Ohio Theatre circuit, we were recently treated to a concert by Ashley Miller and Jim Leafe. Hector Olivera will play in March and Gaylord Carter in early April.

IRENE BLEGEN

CHICAGO AREA

The 1973 CATOE concert season concluded with a performance by Tom Gnaster on Nov. 29 at the Montclare Theatre. While only 22 years of age, Gnaster is a mature, solid musician. Chapter members have observed his growth and have remarked about how orchestral his playing has become. This was obvious in Tom's use of the 3/10 Barton's reeds — especially for "The Desert Song." His accompaniment for *Two Tars* with Laurel and Hardy plus a sing-along rounded out the forty-first public concert which CATOE has held. The Montclare has a new organ crew headed by Bill Benedict. Gary Bergmark is in technical charge. Most people like the results of their work which makes this a fine sounding, quick responding Golden-Voiced Barton.

The chapter's Christmas social was held Dec. 14 at the Pickwick Theatre. Jack Olander presented a mixed program of popular and seasonal tunes.

The new year opened for CATOE on Jan. 5 when Arthur Hollub, owner, and Stan Zimmerman, staff organist, invited the group to hold its monthly



Tom Gnaster at the Montclare Theatre Barton during CATOE's forty-first public concert. — (Photo by Bill Lamb)

social at the famous Aragon Ballroom. The CATOE Board of Directors answered a hurried call to help the janitors there make order out of chaos, such as the mess 6000 people had left behind after a New Year's Eve party. Clouds floated overhead while Zimmerman played a fine program at the 3/11 Wurlitzer which he maintains. When not busy at the Aragon, Stan plays for the Chicago Cougars hockey team and directs institutional sales of Conn Organs for Hofmann Music. Twenty-five people later took advantage of open console. Chapter hostess Helen Near's hot coffee was welcome on that wintry afternoon.



Stan Zimmerman at the walnut console of the Wurlitzer in the world famous Aragon Ballroom.

Last June an event happened which went unnoticed in these pages. That was the retirement of Al Melgard as staff organist at the Chicago Stadium after 44 years of playing the largest unit organ *ever* installed *anywhere*. Before he started playing at the Stadium in 1929 he played in local theatres and was a demonstrator for Barton organs. Al entertained millions every year playing the 6/62 Barton for basketball and hockey games. He was heard by countless more people over radio and TV and on his eight record albums. Melgard is CATOE's only Honorary Life Member in recognition of his contribution to theatre organ in general and his financial support of CATOE when it began, allowing it to become one of the most active ATOS chapters. ATOS members recall Al's stints at the Stadium for the 1965 and 1969 national conventions. Al has retired to Las Vegas with his wife. Even in retirement his influence is still with us. Ron Bogda, new Stadium organist, was his student.



A well deserved retirement to the Nevada sunshine for Mr. and Mrs. Al Melgard after Al's 44 year stint at the Chicago Stadium. — (Photo by Bill Lamb)

A CATOE committee chaired by Joseph R. DuciBella has recently petitioned the selection committee of the ATOS Organists Hall of Fame to name Melgard a member. Doing so while he and his wife still have their health to enjoy such an honor would be fitting and long-overdue tribute to this grand gentleman who has done so much to keep theatre organ alive and heard in Chicago.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

DELAWARE VALLEY

As predicted, the annual membership business meeting for Delaware Valley in January was the best attended non-public affair in the history of TOSDV. Over 350 turned out on the frigid winter day to participate in this meeting and to hear the long silent Philadelphia Convention Hall Moller.

When Dr. C. A. J. Parmentier, the day's guest artist, mounted the console, the big chords that reverberated in the cavernous auditorium gave us an indication of what's to come by 1976. The restoration crew, headed by Jim Carter, has been doing an excellent job in refurbishing the giant Moller.

Dr. Parmentier's program, ranging from classics to popular standards, was well suited to the majestic and dignified sounds of the organ. And through his nostalgic style, the artist took us back in time to the "good 'ol days", as only someone who had been part of that great era in musical and theatrical history can do.

After a sumptuous catered dinner, open console reigned for those who had the nerve to climb onto the bench.

February's meeting presented an opportunity for members to get acquainted with the "new" Kimball at John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Delaware. After a facelift, the organ sounds better than ever. Now that all of the challenging projects that were undertaken are out of the way, everyone could sit back and admire the craftsmanship of JDHS's enthusiastic young crew. In the proper perspective, the Dickinson organ looks and sounds like it has a new promising future.

March's meeting gradually looks to be reaching "mini-regional" proportions as several Northeastern chapters gather together to bus their way to New York City's Radio City Music Hall for a two-day foray that will include a concert by RCMH's newest addition, James Paulin, as well as the Easter stage show and program.

At our annual meeting, program chairman Jim Carter announced the tentative schedule for the rest of the year, and it looks like we'll be as active as ever in the months to come, with new, as well as repeated, happy experiences.

SHIRLEY HANNUM

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

January and February meetings were held at homes of two theatre pipe organs, a 2/10 Wurlitzer and a 4/20 Robert Morton. There is a difference, and as one member put it, "Viva la difference!"

January hosts Sarah and Garrett Shanklin treated some 60 members and guests to a mini-concert by an "unleashed" silent movie organist, EMC's Al Winslow, playing a well groomed Wurlitzer. Gasoline shortages combined with long travel distances apparently kept a number of members from attending this one.

February hosts Rosalie and Patsey Fucci brought from neighboring Conn Valley Chapter, Allen Miller, to play a very orchestral Robert Morton to the delight of some 80 members and guests.

This chapter's activities continue to center around completion of the club organ at Babson College in time for its public debut May 18 with Larry Ferrari at the console. A crucial moment to hard working members will be the

moment after the concert when Larry responds to the question, "How'd you like it, Larry?"

ERLE RENWICK

GARDEN STATE

The newly formed Garden State Theatre Organ Society had its annual banquet January 18, 1974, at the Casa Italiana, Seton Hall University, Vailsburg, N. J., the former Stanley Theatre. A tasty buffet was served and the beautiful atmospheric Mediterranean village-square theatre-ballroom was aglow with stars, clouds and surrounding lighting. More than 100 members and guests were dining and listening to the Wurlitzer the whole evening, serenaded by Richard De Karski, Dave Schutt, Wendell Rotter, Patti Germain, and Larry Ferrari, who appears frequently on Channel 6 TV, Philadelphia. Judd Walton, visiting ATOS member, also played.

Captain Erwin Young, who was introduced by Chairman Bob Balfour, presented the official Chapter Charter, and complimented the members on their many accomplishments of the past two years.

A slide show, narrated by Bob Balfour, showed the GSTOS members removing the large 4/28 Wurlitzer from the Fabian Theatre in Paterson, N. J. It reflected a strong group feeling to get the big job done, under the direction of Vice Chairman Walter Froehlich, Casa general manager and organ expert. This organ is to be installed in the Casa, replacing the 3/11 Wurlitzer. It promises to be "the pride of N. J." The present Wurlitzer is used weekly and for special events.

Bill Gage, house organist, played a sing-along and then accompanied *The General*, with Buster Keaton. The film



Bill Gage at the 3/11 Wurlitzer in Casa Italiana. — (Photo by Walter Froehlich)

was loaned to us by Commander E. J. Quinby, who recently had the GSTOS at his home, which houses a fine Moller organ — theatre and classical stops combined. Our busy Secretary-treasurer Joe Vanore, Jinny Vanore, editor of the new *Pedals and Pipes* bulletin, and Addy Froehlich hosted.

Walter Froehlich, the Casa staff, and Bill Gage provided an interesting evening, assisted by Bob Balfour and the GSTOS committee. Dr. Paul Rizzuto, Casa president, was most gracious in allowing this meeting to take place. We are most fortunate that he is a Wurlitzer buff and likes the organ to be woven into the many affairs held at the Casa during the year. At the present time, it is the "largest working Wurlitzer in a theatre in N. J." and Walter Froehlich, with his crew members, keeps the organ in fine condition.

BILL GAGE

LOS ANGELES

Our monthly program of concerts at the 4/37 Wiltern Kimball featured Jay Himes on Jan. 13. He presented a variety of classical and popular selections, a virtual tour de force of the tremendous orchestral capabilities of the Kimball, ranging from a lush string treatment of "Barcarolle" from Tales of Hoffman to the Bach "Tocatta" and "Fugue in D Minor." As has been the recent custom, at intermission, young organist Donna Parker brought the console back up and demonstrated it to those who had not had the

opportunity to examine it at close range. An interesting innovation was the narration of the program by the artist's long time friend and manager, Richard Hoffman.

The February concert featured Don Lee Ellis, who plays regularly at the Captain's Inn on the Long Beach Marina. Selections included "Mood Indigo," "Carioca," and "One Fine Day" (Madam Butterfly). The concert was well received, and Don, who received the "Best Organist-Vocalist of the Year" award from *The Organist* magazine, sang several selections between his display of nimble fingerwork. He closed with a rousing encore of "Cumana."

In the afternoons after the Sunday concerts we continued our monthly jam sessions on the 4/61 Robert Morton at the Elks Club. Many chapter members and guests had the opportunity to play the massive instrument. We have the unique opportunity of offering our members practice time at the instrument at a nominal fee. Coordinating duties have been assumed by Gerald Nagano, a talented young organist who played a silent movie accompaniment last year as part of a showcase of *Stars of Tomorrow*.

We have a busy concert schedule in the coming months, including Bud Iverson at the Wiltern Kimball in March, and Ann Leaf in April. Other planned activities include an organ maintenance school conducted by Dick Stoney and a trip to Scotty's Castle in Death Valley to hear Rex Koury play the 3/11 Welte pipe organ installed there many years ago. The Saturday night jam sessions at Joe Koons' motorcycle shop in Long Beach continue as usual, and Joe would love to greet any visitors to Los Angeles and have them try out his big 3-manual Wurlitzer.

MALIN DOLLINGER

MOTOR CITY

On Sunday morning, January 20, our members met at the Royal Oak Theatre for a program by Detroit area nightclub organist, Danny Holly. An appearance by Danny on radio station WJR helped to publicize the event and resulted in a good-sized audience that morning.

Danny's program at the 3/12 Barton was very enjoyable and included a variety of today's popular songs and show tunes. His effervescent per-



Casa Italiana Marquee — October, 73. — Photo by Bill Gage)

sonality made his morning's program a pleasant remembrance. His last appearance at a theatre pipe organ was eight years ago, at the Detroit Theater Organ Club.

Several people took advantage of the open console session that followed the program, including, Lance Luce, visitor Dennis James, Gordon Perry, Amy Reimer, Gregory Smith, Jim Boutell and Harry Frohnapel.

Sunday morning, February 10, found some 46 members on a chartered bus headed for Lansing, and a program at the Michigan Theatre, as guests of the Wolverine Chapter. We were warmed by cups of hot coffee as the bus moved through a mid-winter snow storm.

Wolverine artists Lawrie Mallet, Mary Harrison and Scott Smith were heard in a fine triple-program at the Michigan Theatre's 3/12 Barton. An open console session followed.

Motor City members completely filled the front dining room at the nearby Holiday Inn in Lansing before making the return trip to Detroit.

In an effort to sell the last of a carton of THEATRE ORGAN magazine binders, members were canvassed, seat by seat. We not only managed to sell the few remaining binders, but took orders for a total of 34! Additional binders had to be ordered, and now we still have the same problem. But we're not worried, for because of the spirited response we had from our binder sale on the bus, word will get around and these will be sold in no time.

After the binder episode, someone



Danny Holly at the Royal Oak 3/12 Barton.
— (Photo by Marjorie Allen)



Guess which movie Dennis James accompanied at the Royal Oak Theatre?

decided it would be a good idea to hold auditions for bus captains for this summer's Note-able Nineteenth. Although done in jest, the nonsensical phrase, "Shut up and sit down!", was heard echoing throughout the bus. To our amazement, nine members enthusiastically agreed to be in charge of a convention bus this summer, to answer questions, point out interesting places enroute and generally make conventioners feel at home.

We presented Dennis James, accompanying the 1922 version of *Robin Hood*, at the Royal Oak Theatre's 3/12 Barton on Monday and Tuesday, February 25-26. Exceptional publicity, including many community bulletin board spot announcements over radio station WWJ, resulted in a turnout of some 2,300 people for the two-night run. Only favorable comments were heard, and many were submitted in writing in the weeks following the program, plauditing both Dennis James and the film.

Due to the two-hour running time for *Robin Hood*, the concert and sing-along portion of the program was held to a minimum, but did include a Dennis James rendition of "Maple Leaf Rag" for the public premiere of our "new" upright player piano, playable from the organ console. Credit for the rapid, but laborious, addition of the piano should go to Mert Harris, Jim Boutell and members of the work crew.

Committees concerned with making the Note-able Nineteenth in July a smooth and friendly convention are hard at work, and their efforts should

be evident when you visit the Motor City in July. Send in your reservations today, so you can be a part of the fun we will have July 13-16. The fun begins with a pre-convention party on the 12th and winds up with a Moonlight Cruise on the 17th.

DON LOCKWOOD

NEW YORK

The New York Chapter had a very active winter season.

Kay McAbee of Chicago gave a concert on Long Island University's 4/26 Wurlitzer November 18, 1973. Kay really pulled down that huge house finishing up with an old movie theme, "Land of the Pharaohs." He liked New York so much he spent a week of his vacation here.

The annual meeting and dinner at the Suburban Restaurant in Wanaque, N. J., December 12, 1973 was hosted by Jim Provissiero. Andy Kasparian of Philadelphia, house organist, members and guests played the 3/17 Wurlitzer (from the RKO Chester Theatre in the Bronx) which the Provissiero family has installed so attractively in their restaurant. Italian cuisine plus Wurlitzer music is a good combination! Retiring Chairman Bill Pennock and Vice Chairman Dr. Claude H. Miller each received gold-illuminated plaques expressing the gratitude of the chapter for their many services rendered to both the chapter and the cause of theatre organ. New officers for 1974 are Chairman William B. Warner of Garden City, N. Y., and Vice Chairman Harley G. "Jack" Horner of West Allenhurst, N. J. Board members re-elected are Arthur M. Cox, Jr., Lee Erwin, Virgil W. Hervey and Dr. Claude H. Miller. Allen W. Rossiter was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

An open console meeting held January 13, 1974 featured Plaza Sound's 3/13 Wurlitzer (Opus 2180), which has been recorded innumerable times. It is located on the top floor of Radio City Music Hall. The session was graced by the presence and playing of Jean Lautzenheiser, our National Secretary-Treasurer. After open console the group moved downstairs to the Music Hall Auditorium and heard James Paulin, Jr. at the 4/58 "Grand Organ". The Christmas stage and screen show topped off the day's program.

Eddie Layton returned to pipe organ on January 26 after an absence of



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHT — Newly-elected officers and directors of N.Y.T.O.S. move front and center for the membership during the annual meeting: Left to right — Allen W. Rossiter, re-elected secretary-treasurer, Arthur M. Cox, Jr., past president, elected director for another term, Dr. Claude and Kay Miller, retiring vice chairman and his wife received plaque expressing chapter's thanks for his services for the past years in that capacity; Marion and Bill Warner (he's the new chapter chairman) on "center stage" and Edith and Bill Pennock. Bill's retiring as chairman of the chapter. — (Photo by Herbert G. Frank, Jr.)



Eddie Layton acknowledges applause of an enthusiastic audience at the United Palace on upper Broadway, New York City, during his benefit concert for the Loew's Kings (Brooklyn) organ which is to be removed to New York University's Town Hall in Manhattan. The resplendent Robert "Wonder" Morton was in top shape for Eddie's memorable concert. — (Photo by Herbert G. Frank, Jr.)

some twelve years. He gave a noteworthy concert at the United Palace (formerly Loew's 175th Street) 4/23 Robert Morton. It was a benefit for the project of relocating the instrument's counterpart in Brooklyn in a new home in Manhattan. Eddie very graciously donated his time and talents to the furtherance of this project. Eddie is organist on the popular CBS soap opera *Love of Life*. He is also on the staff at Madison Square Garden. He has made 23 record albums, and was associated with the Hammond Organ Company. During his United Palace program, Eddie took many requests and demonstrated the "Wonder" Morton to its fullest. He played everything from soap opera radio and commercials themes to the blues. The United Palace instrument is the last "Wonder" Morton to be in working condition in its original location in New York. The audience verdict: "Terrific job, Eddie Layton."

On January 27 Lee Erwin gave a memorable Farewell Concert on the "Wonder" Morton of Loew's Kings Theatre in Brooklyn. This splendid instrument is destined for a new installation in New York University's Town Hall.

An open console held February 17 brought many budding organists to the Beacon Theatre's 4/19 Wurlitzer at 74th and Broadway in New York City. The Beacon is the last theatre on Broadway to possess a working theatre organ.

HERBERT G. FRANK, JR.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

Many fine things are happening in the Niagara Frontier. We had our annual election, and Randy Piazza has

been retained as chairman. Randy is the one we have to thank for the fifteen fine internationally known artists from Europe, Australia, Canada and all over the U.S.A. who played the Riviera in 1973. So far he has lined up ten top organists for 1974, no small task when you have to schedule your programs for the middle of the week as that is the only time the theatre is available to us and must be rented months in advance.

Many fine artists who would like to play the Riviera have had to be passed over because they could not meet the mid-week schedule or could not give us sufficient advance notice.

Nick Snow played the January concert, and Dennis James played on February 13.

Our "new" piano, a Steinway concert grand custom-built for King Alfonso of Spain in 1890, is really something. From Spain its first move was to England and eventually to Bradford, Pa. Through the efforts of George Edmonds of Bradford, the Niagara Chapter was able to purchase this fine instrument which now rests on the Riviera stage. We thank you Mr. Edmonds.

Speaking of Bradford we also would like to thank Mr. Gleason who owns the Bradford Theatre for his generous donation of much needed blocks and sheaves, several sets of stage curtains, spot lights and border lights and that wonderful old vaudeville backdrop of Main Street U.S.A. As Randy said, "If that curtain could only talk."

Another fine addition made to the Riviera Theatre, is a crystal chandelier now hanging from the dome. The fixture is 14 feet high and 8 feet in diameter and has four circuits of

lights. Weighing 3/4 ton, the exposed metal parts are gold plated. This fixture was made in France in 1926 at a cost of \$16,000 and hung in the Genesee Theatre in Buffalo from the time the theatre opened until a few months ago until it was purchased jointly by the chapter, the Hartwood Realty Corp. and Bill Hatzenbuehler.

It took many men and women two months to remove forty years of dirt and nicotine from this beautiful show piece. Also much credit must go to Curt Mangel and Jim Davis for the many nights they spent rewiring and hanging same.

STEVE CROWLEY

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The chapter finished out 1973 with more outstanding talent for our meetings.

Our trip to the National Convention over, we resumed activities with an invasion from the East Coast. It was Jean Lautzenheiser and her student Ron Pedley who stopped in San Francisco on their way to the Yamaha International Playing Competition finals in Japan. Chairman Warren Lubich was all ready for them, with the Avenue Theatre booked for a Sunday morning concert by Jean and a bonus appearance by Ron. Jean charmed the Bay Area folk with her winning personality and her versatile musicianship. She finalized her program with "I Left My Heart In (you know where)" — you would think that San Franciscan's might think this an over-worked tune — but, no, it still has that impact! We just hope Jean will do something about it — and return!

"Us On A Bus" was next, with a good turnout of chapter members meeting the chartered vehicle in San

Mateo and San Jose for a day with a brand new 2-manual 8-rank Wicks "Pizza Store Organ". Yes, it "Happened In Monterey" at the Red Vest. Our genial host was Steve Paul who, incidently, plays a mean Melodica. Before being a pizzeria manager, Steve worked with a number of swing bands. On hand to show us the new installation was staff organist Bud Taylor, who played for us briefly and then turned things over to the members. Bud has a great style — we wished we could have heard more. However, our members came through with a well rounded program. We are fortunate to have so many fine organists in the group, and many of them quite young. Bill Taylor, Florence Lydon (she says she's a "Little Old Lady", but don't you believe it), Warren White, Carol Segurson, Mike Prideaux Brune and Hazel Tierce gave us a wide variety of enjoyable music. Then the Judd Walton and his Barefoot Three provided a nice change of pace (that's Judd on piano, Warren Lubich on organ and Steve Paul on Melodica). Then to complete the afternoons fun the Wicks again soloed with Gordon Pratt, Warren Lubich, Bob Shoring, Judd Walton and a final set by Bud Taylor. Thanks to you all!

A side trip to the Bargetto Winery in Soquel for wine-tasting and a tour put everyone in the proper mood for the trip back to the Bay Area.

David Reese gave an excellent after hours concert at the Bella Roma in Martinez during the Christmas season.



Paul Quarino needs flashlight to read "Going Away" card — wife Roberta seems amused. Now, let's cut that cake, Paul! — (George Watson Photo)

The 3/15 Wurlitzer and David's great music and hilarious chatter made for a most enjoyable holiday interlude.

Then it was back to Avenue Theatre for our own Christmas program with Bob Vaughn and Warren Lubich and the 3/14 Wurlitzer to end up an interesting and musical 1973. Another fine program with Bob's excellent picture work and Warren's better-all-the-time solo work.

During the same period we heard Gaylord Carter at the Avenue in superb cuing of *The Winning Of Barbara Worth*, Tom Hazleton at the same theatre with a smashing back-up to *Ben Hur*. We welcomed to the West Coast two of Chicago's finest, John Seng and Tom Sheen. And we attended a "going away" bash at Melody Inn as Paul Quarino bid goodbye to

the 4/20 Wurlitzer and moved to Portland to share billing at The Organ Grinder with Jonas Nordwall. Tiny James played a "special" at the Orpheum's 4/22 Robert Morton and Chapter Chairman Warren Lubich acquired his first pipe organ (we say "first" because we know how it goes), a 3-rank Robert Morton.

NORTH TEXAS

The big news out of our chapter for 1974 is the election of a new slate of officers. A quorum (and then some) showed up at the Organ World studios in Garland, for the meeting on Feb. 18. Election results are Earl McDonald, chairman; Lorena McKee, 1st vice chairman; Fred Mitchell, 2nd vice chairman; and Doris Garrett is back in there doing the nitty-gritty, as secretary. Under our new by-laws, the 1st vice chairman also serves as program chairman and the 2nd vice chairman chairs the membership committee, so everybody will have plenty to do. Each member was unofficially elected to the job of supporting these officers in any manner they could. Participation is again the theme for 1974.

After the business meeting, we were entertained by the fine musicianship of Gene Powell of Organ World. Chapter members and guests really enjoyed Gene's playing in the auditorium where Gene and his crew are busy with a 4-manual super-duper theatre installation as part of the instruments at this location. When the work is all finished, this will truly be an "organ world" with everything from plug-in spinets up to a working 4-manual multiple rank theatre installation. The auditorium decor is currently "theatre organ", with toy counters, ranks of pipes, xylophones, marimbas and other theatre organ items used as wall decorations, eventually to become part of the final installation. The chapter is happy to have Gene and his wonderful wife, Denise, as members and we especially appreciate their hosting this meeting.

Your scribe has received many calls about more concerts at the Casa Manana Wurlitzer 235 and is happy to report that Casa is back in full swing developing Summer Musicals. Future concerts will be up to the new program chairman, of course, but Casa is willing and so are several artists. We're working on it within the chapter and also have several other possibilities for



A Taylor-Made smile for the photog.

future meetings and programs, both in Fort Worth and Dallas, not to slight other installations in Texas.

The chapter has felt the need for our own newsletter for some time as a means of keeping in closer contact between meetings. At the Feb. 18 meeting a major step in that direction was made when Jerry Bacon was appointed editor of a monthly bulletin. He's been getting copies of the various issues from other chapters and has asked everyone to forward information of local and chapter interest to him. We also want to hear about these things so we can include such material as might be of national interest in Chapter Notes in THE-ATRE ORGAN.

Another topic of discussion was "installations in process". It turned out that we had quite a few potential projects coming up, along with the fun technical sessions working on Jerry's Fine Arts Theatre installation. As has been previously reported, Jerry is expanding that installation and we hope to schedule some more of those Sunday morning (or other convenient time) work sessions where everyone that wants to get involved in various theatre organ installation and refurbishing projects, can do so.

The "swap sheet" that Mark Munnell, Sr. had been circulating is also proposed as an addition to the chapter newsletter. Its circulation to other chapters and with more coverage locally, should improve the swappin'. There are several new installations of theatre organs going in from Fort Worth and Dallas to Houston and points betwixt and between. Many of our area home installations are in the expansion-or-replacement-with-a-larger-instrument process and some of these should be having their "grand openings" in the next few months. Hopefully the chapter will be invited to participate in some of the activities and fun.

With the capable Earl McDonald at the helm, the 1974 season should be a great one for the chapter. Our membership has been growing, we are seeing new faces in the group and really enjoy chapter activities with everyone from the newest neophyte to the old greybeards like yours truly. The North Texas Chapter is still on the map, still moving ahead and "participating" to make our theatre organ activities more fun, more educational and an enjoyable hobby.

OREGON

The February 24 meeting of the chapter was in the home of Bob and Nadine Rickett.

Dennis Hedberg, chairman, opened the meeting and brought members up to date on current business.

Dennis then introduced our artist of the day, Mahon Tullis. Mahon began playing movies in the Tacoma, Washington area when he was a teenager — still in high school. He played a program of mostly familiar old tunes, in a most pleasant listening style.

The organ of the day was the 3/18 Wurlitzer of the Ricketts. Its original home was the Castle Theatre in Vancouver, Washington. Bob removed it from the theatre quite a few years ago. It was Portland's first major home theatre organ installation. The organ hasn't been heard publicly for some time, so it was good to get it "fired" up again.



Mahon Tullis at the Rickett 3/18 Wurlitzer. — (Photo by Claude V. Neuffer)

As of February 24 the roster of Oregon chapter members stands at 77. We may not be the biggest but we are busy . . .

DON INGRAM

POTOMAC VALLEY

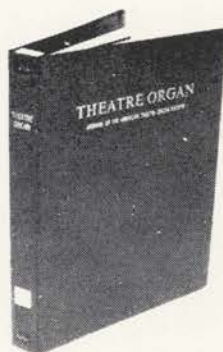
Potomac Valley Chapter is rolling right along in high gear. Our January meeting was just what we wanted to start the new year off, with a crowd of 240 members and guests in attendance and a combination of "just right" ingredients. There was a fine performance by an accomplished musician, Frank Lybolt; the sound of the Grande Barton 3/11 organ; the surroundings of the beautiful Virginia Theatre; and to top it all off, Frank accompanied a silent comedy.



Frank Lybolt — Starting the new year off right. — (Photo by L. Klein)

The business part of the meeting was filled with plans for the coming year; setting our club into motion to get things done, revising by-laws, planning for possible gasoline shortage, preparing an emergency telephone network, writing a history of the chapter and setting up instructional sessions so that all might learn what makes the "king of instruments" tick!

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Left — Jim Smiley, Right — Charlie Affelder Cameo Artists at the Feb. meeting. — (Photo by Mark Hurley)

We were then treated to a visit with two people from the West Coast to whom we are indebted, Woody Wise and no less than Judd Walton.

From Frank Lybolt's opening number to his rousing march at the end, there is only one way to describe it, top notch musicianship. Frank played for many of you during the 1972 convention at Lem Keller's residence organ, which brought about the requests for his return to the console.



Doug Bailey at his 2/11 Moller. — (Photo by Mark Hurley)

In the time remaining after the program, a few of our talented members took a turn at the console. Rick Maryman played his own composition, followed by Judd Walton, Marvin Fewell, Mark Hurley, Sharon Leiben, Doug Bailey (also of convention fame) and finally by past chapter chairman, Jean Lautzenheiser.

Continuing our schedule of activities, our February meeting was as much a social event as a concert event. Doug Bailey and his wonderful wife,

Joy, and his daughters Daryl and Devon, hosted one delightful get-together. Combine the genial atmosphere with Doug's sweet sounding 2/11 Moller organ, played not only by Doug, whom we all love to hear, but also by Jim Smiley, a long time professional of radio and TV, plus Charlie Affelder, who lends his professional touch to each of his stylings, and you have the making of a great meeting. To add to all of this, many of our members had a chance to play the Moller and to appear on the closed circuit television system.

ROY WAGNER

PUGET SOUND

The first meeting of 1974 was held on Sunday, February 10 at the newly-opened Pizza and Pipes Restaurant in North Seattle. During the pre-concert period, members dined on pizza, sandwiches and beer while listening to various Debussy piano classics via recorded music.

The afternoon's program began with a brief history of this instrument by the writer. The organ is a Balaban 3 Wurlitzer from the Salem, Massachusetts Paramount, Opus 2121 — 1930. Don Myers was then introduced and proceeded to put this great organ through its paces. The first portion of his concert consisted of explanations and demonstrations of various stops on the Wurlitzer, as used in several selections, including a medley of tunes from *South Pacific*. Don explained the proper use of Tibia mutation stops as well as a brief demonstration of the Pizzicato relays.

To top off his concert, he performed an abridged version of several movements from "Scheherazade" utilizing many of the organ's varied and unique stops.

Following Don's concert, Russ Evans told of the background of the installation of the Chapter's 3/8 Wurlitzer in the Haller Lake Improvement Club, including many of the terms of our contract with the club. Erskine MacPherson, one of our Canadian members, also told us of the impending sale of the Vancouver, Canada Orpheum Theatre and the possible disposition of the 3/13 Style 240 Wurlitzer pipe organ installed there.

Before the scheduled open-console session, Bill Breuer, owner of Pizza and Pipes, presented the installation crew with a plaque expressing appreciation for the restoration and re-installation of the organ. The plaque is now on display in the Solo Chamber of Pizza and Pipes.

Upcoming events for Puget Sound Chapter include a Clean-up, Fix-up and Learning Day at the Haller Lake



Pizza and Pipes owner Bill Breuer (far right) presents plaque to installation crew. (l. to r.) Terry Hochmuth, Margaret Sabo, Bill Carson, Genny Whitting and Don Myers. Console of the ex-Salem Paramount organ is on raised platform in the background.

Improvement Club where members will be able to take advantage of instruction in proper care and maintenance of pipe organs, including performing some needed work on the club's Wurlitzer. An outing to Bremerston, as well as a trip to Spokane, is also in the planning stages.

TERRY HOCHMUTH

RED RIVER

On a very cold and windy Saturday morning in January, the chapter held their first meeting at the Fargo Theatre. This was a history making event for the chapter; at last, the 2/7 Wurlitzer which had been off-limits for fifteen years was now in good hands. Members of the group have put in over three hundred hours, cleaning and repairing the organ so it could again be used publicly.

The organ was heard during the run of Walt Disney's *Robin Hood* in late December, and has been used every weekend since, including the American Film Theatre presentations. The people of Fargo-Moorhead have responded with generous applause and cheering!

For one Saturday morning chapter event, Ted Larson showed a rare print of a 1923 Our Gang comedy, *The Big Show*. This writer accompanied the film and finished with the Pathe News theme. Guests included film instructors from the Fargo-Moorhead area with the hope they will help promote future attractions by the chapter.

Following the film, the group toured the theatre and saw the dress-



Phil Felde and son recover pneumatics at Johnson Organ Co. plant for Fargo project.

ing rooms, the old asbestos curtain, the vaudeville back drop and equipment that has been out of use for over forty years. During the business meeting, a committee of four persons was formed to set up the machinery to hold silent film attractions to raise money for the chapter organ fund.

It was announced that the lift would be installed in late February at the Fargo Theatre and the console would be moved by the club to the center of the orchestra pit.

In early February, the chapter formed two cleaning parties, Friday and Saturday, and cleaned the entire organ, one chamber each night. It is astounding how much work a chapter can accomplish in five or six hours of hard work. New magnet coils were

purchased from Arndt Organ Supply and many pneumatics were recovered on a Saturday afternoon.

The February meeting took place at the Johnson Organ Company in Fargo, one Sunday afternoon, when this reporter demonstrated the new military band organ, model 164, which had just been completed for the G.W. MacKinnon showrooms at Santa Fe Springs, California. Because of the enormous power of this organ, members preferred to move their chairs back or just walk around it. The 164 organ is a copy of a Wurlitzer organ (only a few were built) designed originally for amusement parks and roller rinks. The mighty organ started out with "The Poet and Peasant Overture" and the ten-tune roll continued with waltzes and marches of the twenties.

The members then discussed having a film series to raise money. The four member committee met later and set up a campaign to promote the series. This will consist of a silent film with organ music, to which members of the news media will be invited.

Several TV stations and the local paper have pledged an all out promotion to help pack the theatre, and therefore pay for the organ repair. The local musicians union and stagehands union have pledged their 100% support for the project and have agreed to work free of charge to the club until the big event, when admission will be charged. The theatre chain has offered use of the theatre free of charge for chapter meetings and press showings, if no tickets are sold.

The film department of Moorhead State College has been given permission to hold classes at the theatre in



Gerald Schjelderup and chairman Dave Knutson repack Tibia stoppers, backstage at Fargo Theatre.



The last pipe in place, the entire organ is cleaned.



Art Buck and Lloyd Collins cleaning reed resonators at Fargo Theatre.

which silent films with organ will be part of the instruction. This school also trains young musicians in silent film accompaniment using both organ and piano. Hopefully the four-poster lift will be installed and all the repair work done in time for the press showing in early April.

LANCE E. JOHNSON

SIERRA

When you read this some of the news will be history and some of it will be current. Sierra Chapter invites members of other chapters to attend their meetings and functions. Regular monthly meetings are usually held at 2 P.M. on the third Sunday of each month. Most meetings are being held in 1974 at Arden Pizza and Pipes, 2911 Arden Way in Sacramento's Town and Country area which is north of the American River. A big year is planned, the loss of the Grant Union High School 4/22 Wurlitzer/Kilgen notwithstanding.

January 20 heard NorCal Chapter member Warren White presiding at the console. The March 17 meeting should be worthy of a separate article when the granddaddy of pizza parlor organists, Bill Langford, holds down the bench. It can be safely said that he will have the joint jumping. Due to his schedule at Carson Henningsen's Ye Old Pizza Joynt that night the program began one-half hour early. April 21 is scheduled to be Van Welch. This writer has heard Van on the Pizza and Pipes instrument — anyone who misses this concert needs to visit the nearest psychiatrist.

May brings another pizza parlor organist off his home bench. This one

is on May 19 and it's Dave Reese from Bella Roma in Martinez. June 16 is open but never fear, we'll have a goody for anyone who attends. July is National Convention month in Detroit. We don't know how many are going but we know a lot who want to.

August 18 is always picnic time in Pine Grove. Pine Grove is east of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra. It's gold country and the home of Janice, Jim and Jim, Jr. — the Welch family and their 2/22 Harris classic organ. September 15 means Everett Nourse time and a return to Pizza and Pipes after several months' absence. October is being held for Rex Koury time. It was planned for a silent picture — something deep and stirring like *Ben Hur*, but as with our April 21 date at Grant High School the plans are changed. The chapter is still waiting for the school authorities' decision on a benefit concert. November is an open date. December 15 is the annual party.

Sierra Chapter is trying something in 1974 that chapter board members hope will hypo club attendance and participation by all members. Bob and Cathy Breuer, owners of Arden Pizza and Pipes in Sacramento are behind the chapter in the venture, and it is being called the Mini-Concert.

There are any number of members in the group who play the pipe organ well but for one reason or another would feel ill at ease with a large audience. There are other members who would like to play for a short while but have been or are reluctant to follow a Rex Koury, Larry Vannucci, etc. There is also the problem of insufficient time after a big gathering for the pizza parlor crew to prepare for their regular evening trade. The Mini-Concert appears to be the answer.

Mini-Concerts are planned for the first Sunday of most months. They will not be advertised in the news media as are the regular chapter events. One, or two, members will open the afternoon with a half-hour concert, followed by open console. The open console sessions will be governed by random drawing of numbers for the order in which to play.

It's an experiment, and something Sierra Chapter wonders if others have used. We would like to hear your results and comments.

Death Valley California is Destination — Two years ago Sierra Chapter members and a group of theatre organ

music lovers from Los Angeles area attended a concert in Death Valley. Their friends and relatives thought them a bit demented at that time and couldn't believe there was such a beast in that valley of near nothingness. The fact is Death Valley Scotty's Castle contains a 3/15 Welte with a grand piano. The installation is beautiful and so are the sounds which come forth from the two chambers. Member Fred Beeks maintains the instrument for the National Park Service.

Two years ago Rex Koury, composer, conductor, and chapter member, played the concert as he will when the chapter hits the road on May 4. Things will be different this time. This concert is sponsored by Sierra Chapter. Attendance is limited to 75 persons which is the seating capacity of the room as determined by fire safety standards. There will be no seating on the floor as in the first concert. This will be virtually a package tour sponsored by our chapter.

Transportation is being arranged from Sacramento by chartered Greyhound bus. Overnight accommodations have been arranged at Stove Pipe Wells. Meals will be the individual's concern, and the only fee not payable in advance through the chapter. The price, exclusive of meals, approximately \$44, and what a way to have fun as well as become better acquainted with fellow ATOS members.

There just might be space for you. Interested? Write: Death Valley Tour; Sierra Chapter, ATOS; Post Office Box 491; Carmichael, CA. 95608. Payment in advance would be required. Telephone inquires should be made to Chairman Dale Mendenhall, (916) 967-5060.

SOUTHEASTERN

Linda Kent is easily one of the foremost young female organists in today's theatre organ scene. Her facility and dexterity at the console is derived from choosing few shortcuts towards a musical end as witnessed in the representative repertoire performed before the Southeastern Chapter ATOS at the Atlanta Fox, February 17.

A prime example was Leroy Anderson's "Fiddle Fiddle" — a composition well suited to the compass of the theatre organ, especially the Fox Moller and its companion piano. Miss

Kent literally *attacked* the piece at the composer's intended tempo, putting every note in its proper place. The Moller's "Phantom Grand Piano" was effectively used in conjunction with organ voices and then alone at the tune's bridge with its jazz-style rests. Here silence was as effective as the musical passages and Linda's on-the-line performance made it come off exactly (or possibly enhanced) as the orchestral rendition of this Anderson novelty. Miss Kent's adaptation of "un-written" George Wright arrangements, were impressive. But these recreations will not gain Linda the reputation that her own, highly sophisticated arrangements will. "When I Look Into Your Eyes," from the motion picture, *Dr. Doolittle*, is first-hand evidence. For it is in lyric pieces such as this that Miss Kent was able to direct her keyboard energies to giving height and breadth to the organ in the finest ballad tradition. Linda's finale was "The Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. This light classic was treated completely orchestrally — including some subtle *re-arranging* by Miss Kent that



Linda Kent and the Fox Moller before her "Rise To Glory". — (Photo by Robert Forgan, Jr.)

enhanced the piece. Linda's dynamics were excellent — with piano cadenzas of the caliber concert pianists render — and the work was carefully graduated to a thunderous end.

Linda Kent and the Fox 4/42 Moller have made indelible theatre organ history for the Southeastern Chapter. The appearance by this 17-year-old beauty, a member of both the Charlotte, N.C. area's Piedmont Chapter ATOS and the Southeastern Chapter

ATOS, was perhaps every bit as exciting as Christmas Day 1929 when Iris Vining Wilkins first brought the Moller to life for the Fox's inaugural audience. This "liberated" concert attests to the female ingenuity, but moreover, to the sheer thrill of flawless theatre organ sound, in its intended environment, by a talented and sincere preservationist of the musical art.

A reception to honor the young organist, twice a finalist in the National Yamaha Electone Organ Competition, was held at Atlanta's new Stouffer's Inn. The gathering gave ATOS members a chance to meet Linda and her gracious family.

In addition to the Sunday concert for ATOS, Linda was featured at the Fox's kiddie matinee on Saturday after limited practice time with the mammoth instrument. At six o'clock Sunday morning, ATOS members Joe Patten, James Thrower, Walter Winn, and Bob Foreman were doing janitorial duties in the Fox's cavernous balcony. Due to a hectic schedule of movies, a rock show, and the kiddie show, the Fox staff had to let the area go uncleaned. By 10:30 A.M., ATOS



(l. to r.) Chapter Chairman Bob Van Camp, Linda Kent and Vice Chairman Joe Patten.



Joe Patten's 3/8 Moller upon arrival at the East Point Theatre.

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members were setting up recording equipment and claiming seats in a litter-free area due to the work of these members.

Work on ATOS member Joe Patten's East Point Theatre and the installation of the 3/8 Moller from the Riviera Theatre, Scranton, Pa., continues at a steady pace. With the professional work by Patten, James Thrower, and a small crew of workers, this installation will easily be the "(Detroit) Fisher Theatre of the Southeast." What is more, ATOS member Charles Walker, who is supervising the architectural conversion of this late forties modern theatre to the style of the Spanish Renaissance set below an atmosphere of clouds and stars, is working closely with Patten to achieve not only exciting visual results but acoustic ones as well. With all major chests and pipework in place, the tedious work of wind line connection and wiring remains before this cousin of the Fox's great Moller speaks to the first East Point audience.

JOHN CLARK McCALL, JR.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

The first meeting of 1974 was held on February 3rd, with our new of-

ficers presiding. Through the courtesy of Lee and Ida Morriss, the clubroom at the Desert Pueblo Mobile Home Park in Tucson was made available for our program. Entertainment chairman, Ralph Cloos, directed a musical offering using the talents of six of our members. The organ used was furnished through the courtesy of the Mueller Organ Company of Tucson, since, as of this date, we do not have a pipe organ available - owned or controlled by our chapter.

The performing artists covered the musical field from tunes of the gay nineties to modern compositions, with those of the 20's and 30's interspersed.

In was unfortunate that the acoustics of the room and the electronic organ used were not compatible. Some of the performers felt they were playing under adverse conditions on an instrument that was strange to them, and under more ideal conditions could have presented a more satisfactory performance. However, as the program moved along, the performers became more familiar with the hall's acoustics and the instrument, so that an enjoyable evening of music resulted.

After the regular program, Art Crowell was asked to have two of his younger students perform, and the youth of the chapter really put

"Granada" across.

The business meeting followed, with our next announced meeting for the first Sunday in April, the 7th. This will be a repeat of last year's success, to be held at Northminster Church on the "McDowell" assembled pipe organ and the "Cloos Chimes" followed by luncheon and open console on the Seamand's Conn 650 at Lois and Harry's home.

After the February meeting, luncheon was served by a very busy kitchen crew, and open console followed. Our guests came from as far away as Bremerton, Washington, and our members from Yuma, Arizona - 250 miles to the west. Our newest member, Mrs. Mamie Jackson, piano and organ teacher, must like to travel, for her students are located in several towns of Cochise County, Arizona.

BOB HIGH

SOUTH FLORIDA

In January, John Steele and Bill Binder of Binder Baldwin teamed up to introduce the new Rodgers 340 Theatre Organ. With a sound that had several of us looking for pipework, John wove a spell for the members and guests, including Erwin Young ATOS president. Members were delighted

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with the response from the theatre organ during the open console session which followed. Thanks again, John and Bill.

Saturday evening, February 23, saw club members taking a nostalgic tour of mechanical music makers at the home of Charles and Mary Ann Sebastian. Their fantastic collection covers music boxes, including the Regina-phone which uses large metal discs, a Victor talking machine, several player pianos, including a Knabe grand piano with expression, plus many more. The highlight of the tour for us was the large beautiful, well preserved circus organ which was in continuous operation until Mr. Sebastian purchased it. He is in the enviable position of combining business and pleasure, and provided the club with a fun-filled evening.

March meeting plans are being solidified and promise to make the first quarter 1974 a memorable one.

BOBBIE LITZINGER

WESTERN RESERVE

While still noting the highlights of 1973 – but prematurely thinking about summer picnics, WRTOS just can't end 1973 without recapping our friendly August picnic meeting at the Gates Mills estate of Virgil Bartz where

we were privileged to hear a 1930 Hook and Hasting 4/24 with a floating echo division. This concert organ with original console calls for 75 ranks – but Virgil expects to attach 15 additional ranks this winter. Hook Bros., a Boston company, was founded in 1827 and remained in business until before the early thirties, when it became Hook and Hastings. The organ was rebuilt by Schantz (still in business) of Orrville, Ohio in 1950. The original pipes are housed in the First Church of Christ Scientist in Cleveland Heights, Ohio – Virgil's installation (since 1964) however, includes pipes manufactured by Holtkamp, Aeolian and Estey, and a few etceteras.

Guesting that Sunday was Hayel Kehres, a charming lady with disciplines strictly of the "improvisational" style of the traditional theatre organist... which calls for "on the spot" talent and no intermission from the first note until the last of the movie being accompanied. Hayel "Hipwell" Kehres graduated in 1925 from the Theatre Organ department of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. We were pleased she appeared for us. Our gracious host teaches, composes musical arrangements used widely by other teachers, has performed at the Akron Civic Theatre, at the Gray's Armory on the

3/13 Wurlitzer and used to play the "intermissions" in the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan, Illinois.

In November, we enjoyed, for the first time, a "listen in" of the E. M. Skinner 5/167 in the Cleveland Public Hall Auditorium. The first renovation of this fine organ was completed a year ago by Joseph Nagel, and the new console was built by Klan, Inc. of Wayneboro, Virginia. This all was made possible by the Kulas Music Foundation which gave Cleveland \$25,000 expressly for this purpose. The console is on a castor truck that is up on the stage. It was originally on an



Rod Elliott, 1974 Program Director at the Cleveland Public Hall's 5/167 E.M. Skinner.

LYN LARSEN

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elevator that came up in the old orchestra pit. The console is all solid state with a new 100 Amp rectifier on the console. It is on plugs and can be played anywhere on the stage and on the main floor as well. The main organ has a floating string division which plays on all five manuals. It runs from the third floor backstage, to the eighth floor as follows: Third Floor – String and Choir Organ; Fourth Floor – Swell Organ; Fifth Floor – Solo Organ; and the entire Great Organ from the third to the eighth floors are completely open. The Echo Organ is equivalent to about the 7th or 8th floor in the rear of the auditorium and speaks out over the full ceiling of the Public Hall which seats 15,000 persons. When the curtains are up backstage, you can hear the full organ throughout the whole auditorium.

The rededication program for this organ took place about a year ago at the Knights of Columbus track meets with Dr. Robert J. Bray playing the National Anthem accompanied by Rocco Scotti, the official "Voice" of the Cleveland Arena. Our November show was opened also by Dr. Bray who played overtures and light classics. Lew Hegybeli presented the theatre portion of the program with "Dancing Tambourines," "The Dream of Olwen," and "To a Wild Rose".

Sixteen-year-old David Dorsch, a student of theory, music composition and organ at the Cleveland Institute of Music, closed by playing two of his own compositions. Open console concluded the afternoon.

Our special appreciation goes to Joe Nagel who was on standby for any corrections or repairs. Necessarily, because of the massive size of this organ, Mr. Nagel is always present when the organ is played. Currently we're getting underway with the city of Cleveland for an open console program, to be operative when the building is completely empty; otherwise the sound would interfere with any convention-type activities. This organ was built 51 years ago, and at that time, it was said to be the fifth largest in the world!

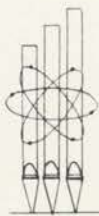
Our Christmas party at the Gray's Armory highlighted December. The special feature of this annual event was the largest tree in Cleveland! Music for our enjoyment was provided by Marge Lentz and Hazel Kehres – Lance Havens, formerly a theatre organist at the Five Points Theatre in Cleveland, was the surprise treat of the evening – You will hear more about this fine gentleman in the future.

Here it is – 1974 – and we have circumvented the gas shortage by changing our meetings to Saturdays



Pictured with the largest Christmas tree in Cleveland is member David Snell – 5' 6" tall. 76 boxes of tinsel and 200 large, handmade ornaments decorated the tree.

instead of Sundays. Tom Drake, pictured at the Lamplighter's Kimball 3/11 in Olmsted Falls, was our first guest performer of the year. Seventeen-year-old Tom is the organist at the Lamplighter Inn on Thursday evenings. He has been studying organ privately for five and one-half years. After graduation from Parma High School, he expects to study classical organ at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Tom entertained us with his



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Tom Drake at the Lamplighter Inn's 3/11 Kimball.

renditions of music from the 1920's to compositions of the 1970's. We publicly thank Gus DeAngelo and John DeRosa, proprietors of the Lamplighter for their hospitality and for providing us with refreshments.

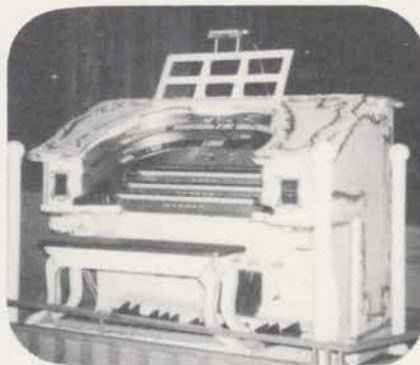
New in the Cleveland area - Lewis Hegybeli is recording music for the "Silents" a program feature sponsored by Channel 25 - WVIZ educational TV station, which will continue for at least eight weeks, having started February 10th. Lew is pre-recording on his home organ, a Moller cabinet 2/3

which is a self-contained unit, the Armory's Wurlitzer 3/13 and on a Wick's pipe organ 2/4. Having already tuned in, our family laughs on Saturday night!

BEA ROSSIN

WOLVERINE

Wolverine Chapter's February 10 tripleheader at the Michigan Theatre in Lansing was opened by chapter chairman Lawrie Mallett rising out of the pit at the console of the 3/12 Barton, playing his inimitable version of "The World is Waiting For the Sunrise." Lawrie's unique style of playing was further displayed throughout his pro-



The Michigan Theatre 3/12 Barton, in Lansing.

gram.

The next artist to come up on the Barton lift was Mary Harrison with a boisterous arrangement of "Come Fly With Me." Mary played a diversified program; a real audience pleaser.

The writer (chapter secretary Scott Smith) was the final artist of the morning, starting with "I Know That You Know." Each of the three artists presented a different style of playing which gave the program the charm of pleasant variety.

Following the set program, many tried their hand at the Barton during an open console session. The success of the program was due in large part to DTOC maintenance chairman David Voydanoff, who came down to the theatre in the early morning hours just prior to the program to join the work crew for some emergency last minute repair work on the main chest in the solo chamber.

Some of the plans for upcoming months include a March program by member Gary Montgomery at the 4/34 Wurlitzer in the Detroit Theater Organ Club, and an April program at the Meadowbrook Hall, with John Muri at the large Aeolian residence organ. 1974 promises to be a year full of activity for the Wolverine Chapter.

SCOTT S. SMITH

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