

THE KURPAN 2/6 PAGE

by Vince Kurpan

Joe and Lanette Kurpan's 2/6 Page theatre organ was built in 1928 in Lima, Ohio, and originally installed in the Pastime Theatre in Berea (Ohio) where it was played until the talkies took over. It sat idle until 1939, when it was sold to a church in North Olmsted. In 1963 it was again in storage (exact dates are not available). In 1964, Mr. George Rogers did a beautiful job of installing this organ in his home in Painesville, Ohio. In April of 1973, Bob Brown took Joe and Lanette and their sons, Russ and Vince, to Painesville to the Roger's home, with the purpose of just tape recording this wonderful sounding instrument. But the Kurpan family fell in love with the Page, and subsequently bought it, hoping it would fit into their basement-less ranch home in Macedonia, Ohio.

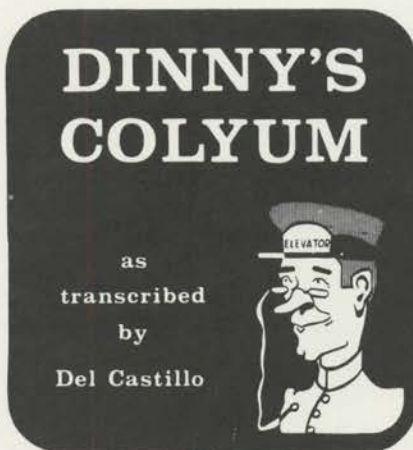
They brought it home in a rental truck on the Saturday before Easter, to the utter amazement of their family, neighbors and friends. Many bets were made by friends, unfamiliar with pipe organ "nuts," that the organ would never fit in the

house." The pipe chamber was to be in one of the bedrooms, with the swell shades opening into the adjacent living room. Joe and the boys took the ceiling out of the bedroom to accommodate the Bourdons. A portion of the attic floor was used for the Xylophone, Glockenspiel and toy counter. The space in this chamber was very limited, but utilized very well.

To help in tuning etc., Joe very cleverly put the entire shades and frame on hinges. The tremis are in the attic as are the wind lines coming from the blower and the relay racks

are in the utility room. The installation was completed in approximately seven months, with the great help of many good friends.

On October 13, 1974, WRTOS held a monthly meeting there to hear George Krejci play this wonderful instrument. George, who plays at the Lamplighter, in Olmsted Falls, and played at the Hawaii Theatre while stationed there in the service, gave us a beautiful concert. In one of his selections, he used a synthetic 32' Flute. Approximately 60 people enjoyed the installation and this "little honey of an instrument." □



take in a movie or two and wait for the Fall activities to start up again. So I wouldn't say the summer was a complete bust. I saw a dandy movie with the pianist Arthur Rubenstein tellin' all about himself and I want to tell you he is quite a pixie for a old boy and he uncorked some mighty good pianner playin. And then I see another movie with a woman conductor named Brico all about how hard it is for a woman to get to be a conductor, and all I can say is that if you can cut the mustard it aint so hard and the woman that can prove it is this Sarah Caldwell who runs the Boston Opery Company so good she jest got a honorary degree from Harvard University to say nuthin of the fact that we got a young pianner player here in L.A. name of Mona Golabek, and if they's anybody any better Id jest like to hear her.

And so far as organ playin goes they was a jim dandy here on electric organs with three organ players name of Pomping Vila and Don Lee Ellis and Skip O'Donnell and every one of them was a crackerjack and I aint talkin about boxes of candy neither. I even got to see Virgil Fox a-jumpin up and down on the organ pedals and that's jest about enough excitement to last through the summer all by itself. And then I got to readin a book by a riter whose name I forget and it was all about Ragtime so you might say my musical education was kind of spread out in all directions.

I dont think a feller ought to stick too close to one thing anyway. Its

I swear I dunno where in tunket the time goes. Maybe its because I aint been doin nuttin to speak of that the summer slid by me so fast. I didn't get to go to the S.F. Convention and I didnt get to go to the Organ Holiday for that there Nostalgick Week End at Dream-Inn-On-The-Beach which sounded like a real gasser, and I didnt get to go to the Home Organists Adventure Midwest in Chicago and I always like adventures. So it seems like I aint done nuthin and aint seen nuthin neither. Heck, I didn't even get to hear Gaylord Carter, who is one of my favorite organ players, cuttin loose on The Hunchback of Noter Dame.

Well, in a way its my own fault. I was a little short of jack this summer, so I sort of decided to jest take it easy and kind of laze thru the summer. So instead I decided I would jest kind of go to a concert if it was clost enough and maybe



Left to right: Russ Kurpan and Dad, Joe.

George Krejci at the Kurpan's 2/6 Page.

