

with, and also Dr. Jay Smith's "Little Magic Box," an independent coupling device, which he handled with equal mastery.

His repertoire proved to be one of the most varied programs ever heard in this town, ranging from a typically British classic "A Sailors Life," with its spine tingling wind and thunder effects, to a lovely Scottish medley, to the finest classical and light classic works by Lehar, Mozart, Chopin and others.

It would be impossible to review all the selections Frank Olsen played, but some of them, I feel, deserve special mention, such as the delightful Jesse Crawford tune "What Are You Waiting For Mary," as transcribed for Mr. Olsen by Mr. Harvey Elsaesser, and the George Wright classic "Dancing Tambourine," which has become somewhat of a local favorite.

But a real kick in the memory bank was Frank's good old fashioned rendition of George M. Cohan's "I'm A Yankee Doodle Dandy," which is a real sentimental favorite in Pittsburgh as it was the theme song of one of our own theatre organists, the late Johnny Mitchell.

I would be remiss to end this review without giving credit to another artist, our stage manager Bob Vuckich. His tasteful stage lighting effects made this show as enjoyable to the eyes as Frank made it for the ears.

Frank Olsen proved to be a master of the medley as he inspired one and all to sing along to the great standards, and it was quite a thrill to hear a theatre full of people singing again, for as Frank put it "When you sing you're happy," and happy they were.

After the finale the audience wanted more and Frank Olsen obliged with another great medley which began with "Nola," and ended with the appropriate "Auld Lang Syne," which was followed by a well-earned standing ovation.

PATOS now extends a real heartfelt thank you to a truly great artist, Frank Olsen, and anxiously awaits his return in the future.

*\*Irma Guthoerl Kilroy, Pittsburgh's theatre organ star of the Enright and Loew's Penn theatres, is still very active in the area as a church organist and a playing member of PATOS.* □



## ALABAMA

The chapter featured Lillian Truss as our guest artist in May. Mrs. Truss was the first picture organist for the Alabama Theatre, and in the years that have passed, obviously hasn't forgotten a note, or a stop, on our 4/20 Wurlitzer. To have heard her concert was a lesson in being young at heart, for her program spanned the music of more than sixty years, all the way from the gay nineties up to the seventies, including the music of Cowan, Romberg, Berlin and Gershwin.

In June we were treated to a program by John Anthony Scott, a West



John Anthony Scott played in June, providing a virtual storehouse of theatre and classical talent.



Lillian Truss, first organist of Alabama Theatre, played in May.



Bernard Franklin, Alabama house organist rides the Wurlitzer up for a beautiful program in August.



Richard Sandefur plays his musical envelope, accompanied by the organ.

Coast organist who showed us a versatility of theatre organ playing like we have never heard before. He did a musical set in the Virgil Fox tradition, complete with black cape. Of particular interest was Mr. Scott's authentic selection of stops for the difficult "Spinning Song," by Marcel Dupree, one of two contemporary French organ works on the program.

Open console was our treat in July, augmented with some special music from Alleen Cole on our newly operational piano. Bernard Franklin, Alabama Theatre house organist, gave our chapter a long anticipated concert in August. He accompanied Richard Sandefur, who did a great vaudeville stand up comic routine. To our surprise we learned that Richard had played vaudeville houses at one time, which explains his habitual good-natured wise cracks. Bernard's concert was a great treat, as so many of our concerts have been. Our hats are off to Program Chairman Alleen Cole.

JAY MITCHELL

## CENTRAL INDIANA

Theme song for our July meeting — "Rain." Whenever an ATOS meeting is scheduled at the home of the Rochs, you can count on rain. This year was no exception. Just slightly damp this year as compared with a "cloud burst" last year, and considerably cooler than is usual for July, but nevertheless, 50 members and guests gathered for another delightful meeting hosted by Dave and Betty Roch. One exception — there was no interest in the swimming pool this year — it was a bit too cool.

Some 22 members from CIC-ATOS attended the National Convention in San Francisco. This is quite a record, for us.

Several interesting announcements were made of coming events. A joint meeting with the American Guild of Organists is being planned for November. More details will come later from Lewis Lyon, Indianapolis Chapter AGO, who is planning this program. It will feature John Landon who will present his Jesse Crawford program of slides and biography.

Dennis James, a former member of CIC-ATOS and now Staff Organist at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, accompanied a silent film at the Indiana University Auditorium, Bloomington, on July 30. Also, recently WIAN-FM, Indianapolis, carried an hour-long program of organ music featuring Dennis.

After the business meeting, Tom Ferree talked about the Roch's 2/5 Geneva which was removed from the Ritz Theatre in Indianapolis. It is somewhat unusual in that there are two 16' ranks, not common on a 5 ranker. Some additions of ranks from the Rivoli Theatre organ have been added — an English Post Horn and Tibia — in order to maintain overtones as a theatre organ should have and to add brilliance. Tom played a short and colorful program displaying the Geneva at its best.

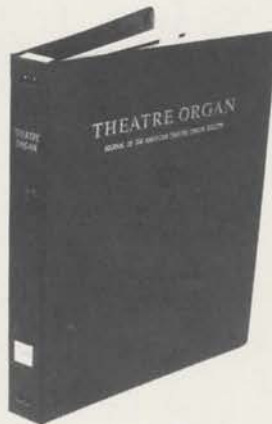
Open console time and refreshments prepared and served by our

social co-chairmen, Mary Drake and Peg Roberts, rounded out a most interesting and entertaining afternoon. Our thanks as always to the Rochs for sharing their pipe organ and their lovely home with us.

Honor and recognition have come to another of our members. We always like to share our good fortune with others. Recently at the 43rd annual Matrix Table, sponsored by the Indianapolis Professional Chapter of Women in Communications, Mrs. Stephen Rechteris (Virginia Byrd) was the honor winner for "sharing her talents on a voluntary basis with a variety of cultural and civic organizations for more than a quarter of a century. Much of the cultural development within Indianapolis is a result of the many different projects she has assisted over the years."

Virginia has had a successful musical career in radio, television and has accompanied such notables as Marian Anderson and Joan Fontaine. Through her service on the Board of Directors of the Civic Theatre, North Symphony Group, Festival of Arts, Festival Music Society, Matinee Musicale and Harmonie Club, as well as through active participation in United Fund, Red Cross, Goodwill and Footlighters. We are proud of Virginia's willingness to share her talent for the many causes in which she believes. Congratulations.

Virginia is organist, pianist and



## LARGER BINDERS

### The Handy Way to Protect Your Issues of THEATRE ORGAN

This durable casebound cover will bind one full year's issues of THEATRE ORGAN. Imprinted in gold on black, the binder becomes a permanent reference volume that protects issues from damage and keeps them in perfect order. Magazines are held securely in place and can be inserted in only a few seconds.

A special pocket will enable you to easily label and identify the year of any volume.

**\$4.50 each (including postage)**

Make check or money order payable to: ATOS Binder.

Mail to . . . ATOS Binder  
P.O. Box 1002  
Middleburg, Virginia 22117

or . . . ATOS Binder  
P.O. Box 1314  
Salinas, California 93901

composer and at our June meeting presented a magnificent program on Frank May's 4/19 Barton at Kokomo. She is also musical director of WISH-TV in Indianapolis and has a sign-off program, *Meditation*, following the late movie.

The lovely home of Mike and Lil Trinkle, high on a hill overlooking a lake nestled in the beautiful hills of southern Indiana, was the scene of an all-day meeting of CIC-ATOS, August 10.

Approximately 70 members and guests from all over central and north central Indiana, and as far away as Joliet, Illinois, attended the meeting.

The Trinkles have a very nice pipe organ installation, a 2/7 Wurlitzer, a Gulbransen electronic and two pianos (a player and a conventional upright), so there was a variety of instruments for fun, song and music for everyone to enjoy.

Our sincere thanks to Mike and Lil Trinkle for having us in their beautiful home and to their co-hosts, Dottie and Clint Dempster; Noble, Elsie and Smitty Smith; and Jim Dome, his mother, Margaret, and his sister Pat Elliott, who all prepared the food for this scrumptious meeting.

Good organ music and good food! What a combination — and one you can't set on pistons!

We are always delighted when we learn of another pipe organ being played in a theatre, where the general public may be exposed to this instrument of instruments. We were especially pleased when Carlton Smith announced that the 3-manual Page in the Paramount Theatre in Anderson (Indiana) is being played for intermissions on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays each week. Another is being preserved and used in the Central Indiana area.

RUTH D. WARD

## CENTRAL OHIO

Our meeting in June, at the home of Betty and Charles Prior featured the Harold Lloyd silent movie *Haunted Spooks*. Tom Hamilton was outstanding as accompanist.

Dennis and Heidi James put in a quick appearance, between shows at the Ohio Theatre, to show us the slides of their trip to England, with commentary on organs seen and played. Their trip enhances ones

hopes of joining the Organ Safari to England and France in 1976.

*Editor's Note: See pages 11 and 29 for more about England.*

The concert of the evening was presented by Charles Prior, Jr. at his Conn 651. Charles, with assistance from his organ instructor, Lowell Enoch, prepared a score for organ using some piano music of Mendelssohn and Mary Rodgers (daughter of Richard Rodgers) for *Midsummer Night's Dream* and accompanied the presentation at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Quite an undertaking for a 14-year old. Charles was hired as a staff organist for the State Fair, playing for style shows, awards and similar Fair activities.

Our members were invited to join the Miami River Valley Chapter for a meeting in the Dayton area with a return visit to Fred Riegers. The writer was leaving her heart in in San Francisco on July 20, but members attending report having enjoyed the day and thank Miami River Valley Chapter for the invitation.

Dennis James reports the tape program he recently made with Ohio State University radio station, featuring the Ohio Theatre and Robert Morton organ, is going into second level distribution with in the public radio stations around the country, giving our cause additional exposure. Hope some of you catch the program.

For those who were unable to attend the '75 Convention in San Francisco we are happy to report the

sound/film strip showing and describing the events planned for our 1975 Regional Convention, November 28, 29 and 30, in Columbus, was received with great interest. Numerous comments were heard about the beauty of the Ohio Theatre and the star-studded events planned. Plan to spend Thanksgiving weekend at the Ohio Theatre — you will be forever thankful you did!

IRENE BLEGEN

## CHICAGO AREA

July was an exciting month for the many CATOE members who attended the "Roaring Twentieth" Convention in San Francisco. The CATOE charter flight, arranged by our new chapter treasurer, Ione Tedei, was an unqualified success. Every one of the United DC-8's 149 seats was filled on the trip to San Francisco with several chapters represented. We apparently left more than a heart in San Francisco, though, because there was one empty seat on the return flight! A special treat for those aboard both flights was theatre pipe organ music played over the plane's music system and heard through stereo headphones at each seat. CATOE member and THEATRE ORGAN Advertising Manager Len Clarke spent many hours putting the program together from his vast collection.

After returning from the convention it was time for CATOE's Board of Directors to get right into the planning of the Fall's activities.



Convention charter flight cleared for takeoff! CATOE's lone Tedei gets a flying lesson.

(Carl Anderson Photo)

Of course the biggest event of the year is to be the reopening of the Chicago Theatre's magnificent 4/29 Wurlitzer. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will be history, and will be fresh in the memory of some 4000 people we are hoping will fill the theatre. Lyn Larsen has been selected as the featured artist, with well known Chicago organist Hal Pearl doing a sing-along. This all takes place on October 2, and we'll have a complete report in the December issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

We are hoping to get started soon on the necessary work on CATOE's own 3/10 Wurlitzer, which will be installed in the auditorium of the brand new Maine Township North High School in Des Plaines. Our goal is to have it fully installed and playing for the 1977 Convention. Although the convention is nearly two years away, planning has begun. Those of us who were in San Francisco can truly appreciate the tremendous amount of coordination, planning and courage it takes to host a National Convention.

CATOE's organists have been busy this summer. Walt Strony has been in Okinawa since early July, with the Tommy Bartlett Water Show at EXPO 75. He's playing Yamaha's new GX-1 synthesizer. Dennis Minear did a very successful concert on the Detroit Theater Organ Club 4/34 Wurlitzer, playing all those old "trashy" songs we enthusiasts love to hear. Tom Gnaster reports he's playing at the Cedar Rapids Paramount, and spent two weeks at Cicero's Pizza Parlors in Minneapolis and St. Paul. He'll also present a concert during the Columbus Regional Convention in November, and at the Los Angeles Wiltern after that.

JIM TAGGART

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our August meeting this year was held in Goshen, Ct., at member John Starr's Crystal Palace, described in this space previously. Complete with 3-manual Wurlitzer, seating for about 100, and kitchenette facilities, the Palace is an excellent meeting place.

In accordance with our usual format, open console time was 3 to 5 p.m., mealtime 5 to 7:30, business 7:30 to 8:30 and music from the

close of business until the close of the evening.

The evening's organ music was presented by students from the chapter's 1975 scholarship competition. A nice program of mostly popular tunes maintained a festive spirit.

The program for our Fall Mini-Convention, October 11-13 is now slated to include outstanding performing artists Ashley Miller, Lowell Ayars, and Lyn Larsen — impressive!

### DELAWARE VALLEY

Another theatre organ goes back where it belongs — in a theatre! Where? In the King Theatre, Gloucester City, New Jersey. On Sunday, June 15, 1975, the King Wurlitzer (2/7) was officially heard for the first time in a program for the members of the Delaware Valley Theatre Organ Society. There were several surprise cameo artists with a silent flick and then open console for anyone who wished to play.

Woody Flowers and José Fernandez played as cameo artists and Paul Loomis accompanied a silent flick *Day Dreams*. This film was pure "corn ball." Of the early movies, what else can be said but that it was an early movie, with none other than Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester. There was a story line of sorts: from rags to riches; and the moral, if it could be called a moral, was, "if you want to get ahead in this world, get a job carrying boxes."

The organ, originally from the Bryn Mawr Theatre in Chicago, Illinois, was purchased two years ago by four members of the Delaware Valley Theatre Organ Society: Bob Dilworth, Mary Bowles, Betty Kouba, and King Theatre owner, John Panchuk. Bob Dilworth and friends moved the organ from the previous owner's home near Ithaca, New York, to the King Theatre. Then the Emola Organ Company of Binghamton, New York (Al Emola, Paul Loomis, and help from Andy Jarosik) spent three weeks at the theatre doing the ground work in the main chamber — installing chests, reservoirs, wiring, etc. When they left, Jim Carter headed up the installation with help from Woody Flowers, Marshall Ladd, Martin Young, Wally

Smith, and Joseph James. After Jim Carter's untimely death, Woody Flowers took charge with the able assistance of Tim Timanus and John Zander. Bob Lent was appointed restoration consultant, trouble shooter, voicer and tuner. John Panchuk continues work on the organ as various problems arise. Mary Bowles releathered numerous primaries and secondaries (not again!) and rode herd on everyone involved.

This organ gives pure, sweet sounds that only a Wurlitzer can produce. It was an enjoyable afternoon and thanks again to those responsible for presenting this organ and program.

It was one of those beautiful August afternoons, the kind of sunny, pleasant day when it's such a relief to get away and out into the hinder part of civilization with lots of friendly people included in the atmosphere.

About 80 people attended the annual picnic of TOSDV, August 3. Again the home of Skip and Mary Bowles on the shores of beautiful Lost Lake, Marlton, New Jersey, provided a setting for this gala event.

Organists, too numerous to mention, took the opportunity to play the Bowles Allen theatre organ and grand piano, together and separately, while others enjoyed the bathing, beverages, food and conversation.

Many thanks to Skip and Mary Bowles for their wonderful hospitality again this year, and for making this annual event such a success.

The Convention Committee, under Chuck Schrader as chairman, is busy planning for the ATOS National Convention to be hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter. The place: Cherry Hill Inn, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The dates: July 16-22, 1976. A number of organists have already been engaged and organs in the greater Philadelphia area, including the states of Delaware and New Jersey, have been contracted for. We will keep you posted on how plans are shaping up.

FRANK A. MADER

### EASTERN MASS.

The summer months brought inactivity in theatre organ circles except for a field trip Aug. 10 to the



Bill and Marianne McKissock with 4/32 pipe organ.



The Trenton War Memorial crew consisted of Bill and Marianne McKissock, Harry and Tiera Ray, Rowe Beal, Jay Taylor, Bob Harris and Fred LeCompt.

Bjarebys' home. Some 60 members and friends descended upon this small Ipswich home that hot Sunday afternoon to play and to hear Tim's 2/8 Robert Morton. It never sounded better. At break time a popular topic of conversation was the recent national convention.

The Somerville Baptist Church Wurlitzer is no more. In late July a devastating fire destroyed the church including its 3/10 Wurlitzer theatre organ, which was on loan to the church from John Phipps. John, in keeping with oft repeated credo, "Forever Mighty Wurlitzer," has already set about the task of resurrecting from the ashes a new Wurlitzer to be installed in another public place not yet determined.

ERLE RENWICK

## GARDEN STATE

Super Sociability was the theme of the chapter's June "Open House" meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKissock.

Luckily the sun shone graciously on the "Casa de musica bella" and more than 80 members filled the home of Marianne and Bill McKissock.

It was a well planned Sunday afternoon and the various events went as smooth as clockwork.

Chairman Irving Light held a short business meeting followed by a brief history and explanation of the organ by Marianne, our charming hostess, who concluded with several selections demonstrating the versatility of this large 32 rank organ.

All afternoon small groups of members were ferried by cars to the famous Trenton War Memorial, where they were guided by Crew Chief Bill McKissock thru the impressive auditorium and the recently filled pipe chamber.

They were able to see at first hand, the enormous workshop where the intricate nervous system of this large organ was being assembled. All were awed by the massive size of the Morton console awaiting paint and manuals.

As the last groups returned from the tour, they found the picnic supper ready and waiting to be enjoyed. All the goodies were shared and good friendships were renewed or begun. As the evening wore on, the members were treated to three short silent films accompanied by Patti Germaine, Jinny Vanore and the final treat of the evening, Ashley Miller.

Sunday, July 27, 1975 was selected for a family picnic. All the members who enjoy picnicking arrived at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Drake, who supplied a delightful cool, shaded picnic area hidden among flowering shrubs and surrounded by a rainbow array of beautiful flowers and plants. Sports equipment was available as well as an H-model Hammond.

Hating to leave such a pleasant spot but lured by theatre pipe organ, the members travelled a short distance to the unusual bicycle shop of the Mahns family at Eatontown. This 7 rank Morton, which is growing to 14 ranks, was on her best behavior and its good, mellow sounds

pleased all. The playing members provided very listenable music while coffee and delicious desserts were served. The meeting ended with a trip through the upstairs, antique bicycle museum with tour-guide Bob Mahns providing many interesting anecdotes.

## LAND OF LINCOLN

Bob and Marcia Tuttle hosted the chapter's annual picnic at their home near Poplar Grove on Sunday August 3rd. The group had not one but two pipe organs for open console time which lasted from about 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Located in an addition to their home is a two manual tracker pipe organ complete with exposed pipes that gives the room a cathedral like effect. Bob purchased this organ, a John Brown, from the Belvidere Baptist



Bob Tuttle in mini-theatre.



Organist Dean McNichols (left) and Chapter Chairman Dollinger Haggle during the summer Swap Meet. That sly grin on McNichols face indicates who is getting the best of the deal. (Bob Hill Photo)



George Blackmore waves his straw skimmer after a toe-stompin' series of Dixieland Jazz Favor - oops! - Favourites at the LA Elks Club 4/61 Robert Morton. (Chuck Zimmerman Photo)

Church and assembled it in his home piece by piece over a period of four years.

His latest addition in a granary, converted into a mini-theatre, is a two manual Page theatre organ complete with player action and rolls. This project was completed in record time by Bob with a little help from his friends — fellow LOLTOS members.

With beautiful weather about 50 persons enjoyed an interesting afternoon where a potluck picnic supper was held on their lawn. A business meeting was conducted in the theatre and officers for the coming year were elected with their terms to start immediately to coincide with their season of organ presentations for the general public. The officers elected are: President, Orrill Dunn; Vice-President, Robert Weirick; Secretary, Robert Schmoock; Treasurer, Roger Buck; and Board Members, Robert Tuttle, Duane Austin, Gene Wolfe, Ed Borowicz and John Van Leeuwen. In addition Bob Coe was appointed to serve as technical advisor.

## LOS ANGELES

Following the ATOS National Convention in San Francisco, famed British Organist George Blackmore performed in concert for the Los Angeles Chapter at the 4/61 Robert Morton at the Elks Building on the evening of July 23rd. With a repertoire ranging from J.S. Bach to "straw skimmer" Dixieland, George thoroughly demonstrated the artistry which has gained him fame from Australia to England.

Although not an official ATOS function, anything happening at Joe Koons Motorcycle Shop becomes quasi-official. And especially when the Dean of Local Theatre Organists, Gaylord Carter is involved. It was Gaylord's first 70th birthday, and, aided and abetted by local buff Harold Bradley and by Gaylord's performance on the 3/34 mostly Wurlitzer, it is certain to be remembered.

Not to be upstaged by pure performers, the mechanics and tinkers of the clan gathered about for the first Annual ATOS-LA Swap Meet in the parking lot of the Colton Piano and Organ Company on Sunday afternoon, August 10th. Like Oriental Rug Peddlers, they set up

their booths and proceeded to beg and barter swell shades, consoles, blowers, sheet music, albums and even plug-in parts for the rest of the afternoon. Among the most active in this endeavor was Malin Dollinger, MD., local chairman, who has succumbed to the temptation and is installing a mostly Wurlitzer in his hill-top home overlooking the Pacific in Palos Verdes Estates.

Next concert, Dwight Beacham on the 3/15 Wurlitzer at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium on Sunday evening, September 21st.

BOB HILL

## MOTOR CITY

Our Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on July 13 featured member Jim Ford at the 3/13 Barton in a program of Leroy Anderson music. Muskegon member Amy Reimer travelled to Ann Arbor to be guest artist for the August 10 Second Sunday. Now a high school senior, Amy is already one of our favorite chapter artists.

Grace Joslin, a piano and organ teacher, and chapter member, made her debut at the Royal Oak Theatre at our Fourth Sunday program there on July 27. Her program of semi-classics and old-standards was delightful. Our Fourth Sunday event at the Royal Oak on August 24 brought member Ken Saliba to the console of the 3/13 Barton. A comparative new-comer to theatre pipe organ, Ken is an accomplished supper club organist and is associated with Musical Heritage in Royal Oak. Open console follows



Gaylord Carter (left) and Harold Bradley with Gaylord's birthday cake. It was Gaylord's first 70th birthday. (Bob Hill Photo)



Between showers at the picnic.

these monthly events at both theatres.

This summer's Roaring Twentieth ATOS Convention in San Francisco seemed to provide a good excuse for an incredible number of members to vacation on the West Coast. There were so many red Motor City badges at the S.F. Hilton, and the various events, that we finally quit counting.

On Wednesday evening, August 6, we enjoyed our second annual moonlight cruise on the chartered excursion steamer *Columbia* on the Detroit River. (Last year's cruise was the much-talked-about Afterglow of the 1974 Noteable Nineteenth ATOS Convention.) Some 435 chapter members and their friends were on board the 73-year-old *Columbia* (capacity: 2500, enough to pay for the ship (and realize a slight profit) and just the right number for everyone to enjoy themselves. In spite of a sudden drop in temperature from an August heat-wave, there was no precipitation, only cool breezes, as members and friends explored the four decks watching the shorelines of Canada and the U.S. glide by on either side.

Open console at the Gulbransen organ (courtesy of Hammell Music in Livonia) on the bar deck was a popular feature of this year's moonlight, as was dancing to music provided by chapter members at the Rodgers organ (courtesy of Musical Heritage in Royal Oak) on the dance deck. Dance organists were: Bob Birnstihl, Gus Borman, Harry Bunnell, John Fischer, Mary Harrison and Gladys Nancarrow. The three-hour cruise came to a regretful close as a happy Conga-line circled around

the dance deck. We'd like to make this an annual affair and you are invited to join us next year.

At the conclusion of our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak on August 24, nearly 100 members headed a few miles north to the home of Mert and Rita Harris, in Troy, for our annual potluck picnic. Despite an early-afternoon down-pour, picnickers enjoyed the large buffet table spread in the shelter of the garage. Mert's 3/11 Wurlitzer was going all afternoon long, and it was fun for those lounging in the spacious backyard to guess which member was playing.

Our Hollywood Film Musical Series at the Redford Theatre this summer brought increasing numbers of people and featured a different 1930 Busby Berkeley musical every other weekend. Chapter organists who played the 3/10 Barton during the July and August programs were: Larry Gleason, Herb Head, Jim Boutell, Lance Luce and John Fischer. Audience reaction to both the film series and our management of the Redford is enthusiastic and we plan to extend the series into the fall.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

George Blackmore, England's famous radio and recording artist, stopped off in Buffalo for a few days on his way to the ATOS Convention, and we had the privilege and pleasure of hearing him at the Riviera console. This was after the late show into the wee small hours of July 10.

Ashley Miller made his first appearance at the Riviera on July 23.

Another sold-out concert, and guest reviewer Charles G. Koester writes the following:

*A master of the keyboard graced the Riviera console July 23. Even though it was a typical western New York sultry and hot summer evening, augmented by a somewhat over-worked air conditioning system, the attention never strayed from the artist. Contrasting manual voices and a perfectionist at registration, blended with a style of his own, brought rounds of applause. Not a devotee of 16' stops and shutters wide open, his interpretation of some almost forgotten oldies was a delight to the ear. His arranging is 'top drawer' all the way.*

*It was certainly an evening with music-worth-listening-to. Ashley Miller, we all love you, so please return to us and the Riviera organ again, and soon.*

August 9 the crowd was off to Toronto to the home of Winifree Armistead who graciously offered her residence for our chapter's annual picnic. Our members thank the Armistead's for making their home available for this event.

On August 19 we attended a reception at the Thomas Studio. The occasion: to get acquainted with David Sheppard, a fine young organist from England.

On August 20 David appeared in an interview on TV, where it was brought out that he was in this country on a working vacation, and he teaches religion at home. When he plays theatre organ he does not play religious music. The interview also mentioned that his concert, to be held that evening, would not be classical.

The concert with David at the Riviera console was some program, with seldom-heard numbers from the twenties and thirties, English ragtime and pub tunes cleverly sandwiched in between many numbers that we know as standards. He is a master at the tabs; always changing. At no time was it so loud that it was necessary to turn off your hearing aid.

The silent movie was accompanied by Roy Simon. It was another great night at the Riviera, especially for those that were lucky enough to get seats.

At this time it is in order to thank Laura and Joe Thomas for the use

of their studio for the receptions held for our guest artist each month, the night before the concert. Several of our local organists and many of our non-playing members attend these get-acquainted parties, which usually end up as jam sessions. Thanks again, Laura and Joe.

The Riviera organ is now officially the property of the Niagara Frontier Chapter and a fine working agreement has been finalized with the theatre management to our mutual benefit. If we could do the impossible and increase the seating capacity of the theatre we could do away with standing-room-only and sold-out signs.

When the theatre opened in 1926 the local newspaper stated that this fine small theatre of 1400 capacity would open with Norma Shearer in *Upstage*; *The Mona Lisa*, in technicolor; *Movieland*, an unusual comedy; several acts of vaudeville and Pathe News. The paper also stated that loge seats could be reserved by phone for those who disliked waiting in line.

Those who dislike waiting in line for *our* concerts may always purchase tickets at the box office during intermission for the next concert.

Elwyn Guest, our chapter secretary, having outgrown his spinet, and not having room for a pipe, decided on an Allen theatre organ. Elwyn felt he could make some changes in this Allen, and so he did. When you enter his living room now, the only visual changes is the addition of a stop rail and many more tabs. However, in the adjacent room, you find a floor to ceiling cabinet full of power supplies, rank after rank of generators, voice changers, relays, tape reverbs, and amplifiers, all wired to appropriate speakers. Many in our chapter have had a chance to play and hear this one-of-a-kind electronic.

STEVE CROWLEY

## NORTH TEXAS

Those hot Texas summers kinda slow things down — mostly around 98 to 99 degrees, so we can't say it was real hot. Fortunately the organ installations are in air-conditioned spots. Everything usually goes "real cool" like it did at the August meeting at Dino's Pipes and Pizza. Dale Flannery was hard at it, making the ol' Barton speak beautifully, play-

ing some welcoming music, the early program and the overture to the business meeting.

Chairperson Lorena McKee called the business session to order and several items of interest were covered. Jim Peterson had added some final touches to the Barton and discussed them in detail.

Immediate Past Chairman Earl McDonald followed Jim at the business session with an account of his adventures in getting a local radio station to include a session on Theatre Organ music in its' programming. The station dedicates each Saturday to some specific nostalgia in the music world, and Mac helped them put on a day of theatre organ music which went over so well that the feeling now is "let's do it again." Only problem seems to be in getting the word to everybody when to listen for the organ sessions. Several chapter members loaned discs and tapes of music and artists of the theatre organ era for presentation. Judging from mail and comments, the program went over very well, and we're working on more for the future.

Joe Koski then gave a summary of the National at San Francisco, telling everybody what they missed by not being there. Highlights of the affair were discussed, followed by a question and answer session about the San Francisco affair and what Philadelphia might hold in store. Since chapter member Fred Mitchell had visited Stan Whittington and his wife in England, we gave them some detail on Stan's stint at the Orpheum console.

Following a few more items of business, Lorena turned the meeting over to Program Chairman Jerry Bacon, who introduced our organist for the day, Mr. C.D. Sutherland. He presented a true theatre-organ program, mostly of the theatre organ period, with some of the later pops thrown in. It was a truly enjoyable program.

The "open console" sessions, besides revealing a lot of the capabilities of the local talent, gave us the opportunity to hear Dr. Lawrence Birdsong, a chapter member from Longview. He's a professor of Speech and Drama at East Texas State University, and a real theatre organ buff. He provided Mac with a lot of the true theatre organ music played on the Saturday radio program, and

also demonstrated his own ability quite effectively on the Barton.

Following the meeting, we had some of Dino's good Pizza, followed by the great refreshments the ladies had provided. Thus we had a good meeting, good fellowship, good food with a lot of good theatre organ music thrown in.

Several items of interest for future programs and activities came up during the meeting, indicating that the North Texas Chapter is going ahead with another real active season. See y'all at the October session.

JOE KOSKI

## PUGET SOUND

Chapter events for the past quarter included a June 1 concert at Pizza and Pipes, Seattle, by Dick Schrum, who plays there regularly as relief organist two nights a week. The organ is a late model Wurlitzer Balaban 3, originally installed in the Paramount Theatre, Salem, Mass. Its original 15 ranks have been expanded to include a Moller Post Horn, a pedal string, and grand piano. Dick and the organ are well acquainted, and together produced an enjoyable program. Pizza and beverages and open console rounded out the activities.

Early summer rewarded us with a visit by Hall of Fame member Fred Feibel. This perfectly delightful gentleman visited the Balcom and Vaughan Pipe Organ Shop, met his first pizza parlor pipe organ (same cast as above) and visited and played superbly our chapter organ at Haller Lake.

Highlight of the summer was attendance at the Roaring Twentieth Convention of almost fifty chapter members.

August third, a potluck dinner and program by Dick Dickerson, who plays regularly at the Grove, took place at Haller Lake, with open console following.

Other news of the summer included both losses and gains. We lost our dear friend and chapter member Dan Adamson, who succumbed to a brain tumor. We also lost the Granada Organ Loft, in which Dan had been much involved as both crew chief and alternate weekend organist for the movies. The early Wurlitzer, originally from the Liberty Theatre in Portland, was re-



turned to its hometown by Dennis Hedburg. The club remains intact while concluding its business affairs, and the theatre is to come down and be replaced by — no, not a parking lot — a post office! Also totally lost, the Yakima Capitol Theatre, through fire. This beautiful gem-like building had been purchased and renovated by the city for a performing arts center, with organ installation contemplated.

Our gains are quite exciting: two new restaurants featuring pipe organ. The first, opening Aug. 22 in Tacoma (19th and Mildred) is related to Bill and Colleen Breuer's Pizza and Pipes, and bears that name. Its owners are Margaret and Dick Daubert (Bill's sister). The Wurlitzer, another Balaban 3, was originally installed in the (Fort Wayne) Indiana Paramount, and is just one month younger than its sister at Pizza and Pipes, Seattle. It has been augmented with a Shoppe Post Horn, and Hope-Jones Austin Pedal Diaphonic Bombarde, and upright piano. Decor is discreetly showy and rather elegant. The chambers are one huge cage of glass, visible from street and interior. Pizza, salad, sandwiches and beverages are offered.

The second, with an opening date in September, is the Pipe Dream of Bob Koons, owner of Big Bob's Pizza in Federal Way. The Burien Theatre has been modified to several terraced levels for seating, the stage area being reserved for two huge glass-fronted chambers which will hold 38 ranks. These will come from the Seattle Coliseum Wurlitzer and Tacoma Rialto Wurlitzer. Both organs have experienced multiple changes in their journeys from theatre to restaurant. The Coliseum console, rebuilt, will be used. There will be an echo organ of four ranks in the rear. Decor promises to be magnificent and showy; food will include pizza and a selection of Italian style dishes. Every effort has been made to capitalize on the visual effect of the theatre organ, and this, together with the sound, has served to acquaint countless thousands of people, especially young children, with the theatre organ as it is presented in the typical pizza restaurant.

The Paramount Theatre, which houses Seattle's last remaining pipe organ in its original theatre setting, has been placed on both State and National Historic Register. So we dare hope.

GENNY WHITTING

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The annual picnic this summer was held high in the Colorado Rockies on August 17 at the mountain home of Kenneth and Evelyn Tillotson in Cripple Creek, Colorado. This town, while not a ghost town, has dwindled to a population of about 400 from its mining-day peak, in the early 1900's, of over 30,000, when it was known as the World's Greatest Gold Camp. Its elevation is 9500 feet above sea level near the southwest slopes of Pikes Peak. We believe that this year's event might set an all-time high altitude record for an ATOS picnic held at this near 10,000 ft. elevation.

Some members and their families drove the 100 miles from Denver during the morning in order to visit the numerous antique shops, the mining museum, ride the narrow-gauge steam railroad, take the trip down into the 1000-foot deep gold mine, and visit other attractions.

The picnic was held on the landscaped rear lawn of the Tillotson vacation home. Open console was held in the living room of their 80-year-old home on the antique reed organ which was made in England and dates back at least 115 years.



**JOHN MURI**

PARAMOUNT THEATRE  
Page Theatre Organ  
Anderson, Indiana

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1975 - 8:00 P.M.

All Seats \$3.50

For advance tickets write: P.O. Box 733, Anderson, Indiana 46015



INSTALLATION  
REBUILDING  
and SERVICE

Thomas H. Ferree

HEASTON PIPE ORGAN COMPANY


RR 2 • BOX 85A • BROWNSBURG, INDIANA 46112  
1 (317) 635-7300

**Jimmy Boyce**

ALEXANDRIA ARENA — 4/34 WURLITZER  
VIRGINIA THEATRE — 3/11 BARTON

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERTS  
SILENT FILM ACCOMPANIMENT

4921 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311  
Telephone (703) 931-4840



ORGAN STOP PIZZA  
presents ...

**THE MAESTROS**

**LYN LARSEN**                      **RON RHODE**

5330 NORTH SEVENTH STREET      2250 WEST SOUTHERN AVE.  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85014          MESA, ARIZONA  
(602) 263-0716                          834-5325

**CHARLIE BALOGH**  
ASSOCIATE ORGANIST

FEATURING THE MIGHTY WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN





The Tillotson vacation home; ideal for a picnic.



Open console at Cripple Creek.



A high (elevation 9500 feet) time for a picnic.

## SAN DIEGO

Imagine a music store with a real theatre in which to display theatre organs and pianos! Well, its name is Southland Music Center and owners Tommy Stark and Jim Hansen hosted the August meeting of the San Diego Chapter for a sing-along and silent movie. Hard working Jim was out delivering a new Rodgers

*Coast-to-Coast Concert Tour  
September - October 1976.*



# Karl Cole

2525 Middle River Drive  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33305

Direct contact: (305) 561-0059

## Cap's Galley—PIZZA & PIPES

WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN

3581 Homestead Road  
at (Lawrence Expressway)  
SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA  
PHONE 248-5680

821 Winslow Street  
(Downtown - Off Broadway)  
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA  
PHONE 365-6543

Staff Organists

1690 S. Bascom at Hamilton  
(Hamilton Plaza Shopping Center)  
CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA  
PHONE 371-5000

TOM HAZLETON  
JACK GUSTAFSON  
JOHN SENG  
MIKE CALLA  
JOHN STEELE

# LEE ERWIN



ANGEL RECORDS  
CADENCE PUBLICATIONS  
E. B. MARKS MUSIC

306 East 15th St.  
New York City, 10003  
(212) 777-5643

# ashley miller

a.a.g.o.

— THEATRE ORGAN CONCERTS —

TORRENCE / PERROTTA MANAGEMENT  
1860 Broadway • New York, N.Y. 10023 • (212) 541-4620

organ to someone who wanted it in time for Labor Day, (I thought you did that for birthdays!). Tommy began the evening with a flourish and a bow to the front row that was all he could see with the spotlight shining in his eyes. Even though the group kept assembling as he played he kept referring to his five-member fan club in the front row. When we got to the songs and a mighty chorus of voices broke forth he apologized and said, "I guess there must be more of you out there."

Tommy's numbers included many favorites such as the "Twelfth Street Rag," "I'm Confessin'," "Besa Me, Mucho," etc. Swinging into the song slides, a grand collection of old time announcement slides like "Ladies will please remove their hats," "No Dogs Allowed," "Don't spit on the floor: Remember the Johnstown Flood." were interspersed with the community sing.

Business of the evening was the report of the nominating committee chaired by Lois Segur. She announced the successful filling of the official slate of officers for the coming year: chair, Vern Bickel; vice-chairman, Ray Krebs; secretary, Marjorie Greer; and treasurer, Jan White. Elections will be held at the next meeting when we will also ac-

**HEAR YE!  
HEAR YE!**

**Now is the Time  
to pay your  
1976 National Dues**



**\$10**

1976 Dues . . . . .

Chapter members please submit your National Dues to your chapter treasurer.

Other members please send National Dues direct to . . .

**ATOS**  
P.O. Box 1314  
Salinas, California 93901

---

First Class mailing of THEATRE ORGAN is \$6.50 extra. Total - \$16.50.

cept nominations from the floor. Down to the highlight of the evening for the movie fans . . . A Laurel and Hardy comedy made in 1928, the last year of the silent screen. The title was *Should Married Men Go Home*, and began with the riddle, How do you keep a married

man at home? . . . Break both his legs!! From that beginning things could only get better. Who dreamed up the comic situations, Hal Roach or Stan Laurel, may not be known, but we never seem to tire of watching their inventions. Oops . . . I almost forgot to give Tommy credit for the music that accompanied the show. It is true that you forget all about the organist when he does a grand job. No wonder the talkies were so fatal to the breed . . . no one could remember how necessary they were to the fun.

At the end of the movie several members of the group, notably Lois and Vern, mentioned what a grand time they had at the convention in San Francisco and had high praise for the sponsoring chapter and all of the hard working members who were responsible for the meeting. What more can you say when the convention has been so wonderful?

Not to be totally unmindful of the local members who played for us at the end of the meeting during open console time: Chris Gorsuch started the ball rolling on the Rodgers Marquee followed by Bob Brooks, Charlie Porter, and Ray Krebs.

Not being sated with music and getting thirstier by the minute, the

**LAND OF LINCOLN — 1975 - 1976 SEASON**

CORONADO THEATRE — ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Nov. 20 — 8:00 P.M. . . . . Hector Olivera

Feb. 12 — 4:00 P.M. . . . . Lee Erwin — Concert  
8:30 P.M. . . . . Lee Erwin — "Thief of Bagdad"

April 22 — 8:00 P.M. . . . . Dennis and Heidi James

**SEASON OR SINGLE ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE**

WRITE LOLTOS — 1905 N. Rockton Avenue  
Rockford, Illinois  
or Phone — (815) 963-6621

RON RHODE

KARL WARNER MANAGEMENT  
6842 EAST VIRGINIA AVENUE  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85257


AREA CODE 602 - 946 - 6892

CONCERTS  
theatre pipe organ

JOHN MURI

(313) 868-3322

1735 Boston Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48206



DONN CLAYTON • DICK SCHRUM

RESIDENT ORGANISTS

---

PIZZA AND PIPES

100 NORTH 85TH STREET • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98103 • TELEPHONE (206) 782-0360

group adjourned to Organ Power Pizza #1 and continued the evening with featured organist Cheryl Creel at the 3/13 Wurlitzer. Cheryl had not only the local ATOS'ers but also her music students acting as an active fan club. As the concert went on, Tommy Stark played a duet at the piano with Cheryl at the organ. After that, Cheryl switched to the piano and was joined by Wayne Seppela at the console for a very nice arrangement of the "Moonlight Sonata." What a grand evening!

Remember to save Monday, October 27, for the next meeting at the soon to be opened Organ Power #2 and the grand Travelling Moller organ. If the music is half as impressive as looking at the *five* manuals on the console it should be a memorable evening. Crew chief Gene Ginder is leading his crew of elves to greater glories. A sneak tour with crew member Wendell Shoberg showed me why it had to be elves, no one bigger could fit between the miles of wind trunks, supports and wires that make up this fantastic installation. All of the local organists are reading their music for a go at the organ as soon as it is finished. Should soon be worth a trip to San Diego to see it and hear it!

## SIERRA

The 20th National Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society has come and gone. We, in the chapter, enjoyed having you as our guests on July 18, and sincerely hope you had a good time, as well as enjoying our organs and artists. Some conventioners "wondered" about the nurses in attendance, and there was good reason for them, with normally high, dry Valley temperatures. July 18 we were fortunate and had a high of only 85 degrees, but oh, what happened the following week — 117 degrees and we don't think many of you could have taken the constant changes of temperature from cool buses to hot walks into cool buildings. Well, it is behind us and comes another year.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article about a record that many of you who attended the convention wished was available at that time — one by Emil Martin. It is done on the Arden Pizza and Pipes Wurlitzer and it is all Emil Martin.

The chapter is planning many events for the coming year. In September we are back at Grant High School with silent pictures. Emil Martin is playing the moods for Barrymore's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* along with a comedy, a sing-

along as well as pre-show concert. October 19 we get back to Arden Pizza and Pipes with a concert by one of the chapter founders, Clyde Derby; following him in November, the 16th to be exact, will be Bill Langford at the Big Top. December is party time and we return to the Robert Morton at the club's original home in the Sheraton Inn. A change in management has improved the attitude concerning the organ. Ray Anderson has the contract for maintenance and pre-convention work sessions included Dale Mendenhall (in addition to his leadership for the chapter participation in the convention, as well as his Arden Pizza and Pipes maintenance duties). George Cline was also in their company putting the 4/16 back into shape. Work continues apace after the convention.

Come 1976, plans are being made for getting together with NorCal Chapter and the Sacramento Chapter of the AGO for some joint sessions. The chapter organ — The George A. Seaver Memorial — figures prominently in these plans. This instrument was played so ably by Everett Nourse during the convention and he made it sound four times its real size. The instrument is to be featured during the California

## THE SUBURBIAN

RESTAURANT and COCKTAIL LOUNGE

3/17 WURLITZER  
Theatre Pipe Organ

Belvedere Ave.  
Wanaque, New Jersey 07465  
(201) 835-3903

**FRANK CIMMINO**  
Organist

## "Master of the Silent Film"



### Dennis James

Resident Organist  
for the Ohio Theatre

DENNIS JAMES PRODUCTIONS  
29 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 464-0889

Winter/Spring Concert Dates Available

## WALTER STRONG

"... a show stealer" THEATRE ORGAN

615 1/2 W. Washington Blvd., Oak Park, Ill. (312) 327-0315

Hear Him  
at the  
Suburbian

Wanaque  
New Jersey

## Frank Cimmino

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERTS

80 Lions Head Dr. W.  
Wayne, New Jersey 07470  
(201) 696-3421

Belvedere Ave.  
Wanaque, New Jersey 07465  
(201) 835-3903

State Fair for solo concerts and as part of the Fair's Golden Bear Playhouse presentation. There are even plans for a few trips this coming year. Death Valley maybe?

Visitors from other chapters are always welcome to Sierra Chapter meetings. Meetings are usually held the third Sunday of each month, at 2 p.m.

You know it might help strangers to know that: The Golden Bear Playhouse is on the grounds of the California State Fair and Exposition, north of the American River; Arden Pizza and Pipes is at 2911 Arden Way in the same general area; and The Big Top Pizza is at Winding Way and Manzanita in Carmichael, also north of the American River.

CARROLL F. HARRIS



Bill Hays and his residence Wurlitzer.

(L. G. Mallett Photo)

## WOLVERINE

Bill and Annette Hays opened up their lovely Rochester home to the 30 or so members and guests on Sunday, August 17. Bill has done an excellent job of installing and maintaining a 3/11 Wurlitzer-composite organ in their home.

The basic organ started out as a 4-rank Marr & Colton and eventually grew to its present size, including parts from Barton, Austin,

Moller and Wurlitzer organs.

From the attendance it appears our chapter socials are getting to be quite a drawing card for some of Detroit's better organists.

Sympathy Dept: In Lansing, Mi., George Gephart's residence 2/7 Kilgen/Bennett has been hit twice in the last four months by some of the worst flooding in that city's history. Fortunately, the damage

was not extensive, and the organ is still going strong. Also, that city is losing some of its best residents and organs — Chairman Lawrie Mallett and family are moving to Detroit, along with their 2/8 Wicks/Hybrid.

Many thanks to the Hays family for their fine hospitality for an enjoyable summer Sunday afternoon.

SCOTT SMITH

NOW BOOKING CONCERTS

- ☆ DON BAKER
- ☆ DEL CASTILLO  
(West Coast Only)
- ☆ SHIRLEY HANNUM
- ☆ REX KOURY

through ...

*Starways Talent*

Box 3804  
Granada Hills, California 91344  
Phone: (213) EM 3-5625

WALT MOLT  
MANAGEMENT

364 AVENUE F  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15221  
(412) 823-3163



**ARNDT**  
ORGAN SUPPLY COMPANY  
1018 LORENZ DRIVE • ANKENY, IOWA 50021

Organ Parts and Accessories

Chests • Consoles • Solid State Tremolos  
Silent Blowers • Engraving • Howard Seats  
Peterson Chromatic Tuners • Wurlitzer Parts  
Leather Perfex-E Felt PVC-E Glue  
Custom Built Parts

Send \$1.00 for Catalog

"Quality Through Pride In Workmanship"

"Hear Him at the Big Top Pizza"

Carmichael, California

**Andy Kasparian**

ORGAN CONCERTS

Marquis Apartments #28  
5738 Straight Way  
Carmichael, Calif. 95608  
(916) 488-7434

The Big Top Pizza  
5800 Winding Way  
Carmichael, Calif. 95608  
(916) 488-6004