

**NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN
DAYS**



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

With Christmas upon us, let's turn back the clock and see what was happening in December during those glorious years of the theatre organ. Sources were Diapason (D), Jacobs (J), Metronome (Met.), Motion Picture Hearld (MPH) and local press (LP).

1924 (LP) *At the Liberty Theatre in Seattle*, OLIVER WALLACE, the World's premier organist, was in concert, introducing his latest ballad success "Roll Along." The film feature is "Hot Water" with Harold Lloyd.

1926 (J) FRANK ANDERSON has been organist at the Iris Theatre in Los Angeles since 1924.

1927 (J) *One of the most deservedly popular of New York's many photoplay organists is FREDERICK KINSLEY of Keith's Hippodrome. Mr. Kinsley, a pupil of Jepson, is a Yale graduate. He first came to the Hippodrome some six years ago when the big shows which delighted New York kiddies and their parents were in full sway. He played with the orchestra and also gave short recitals during the intermissions.*

The instrument at that time was an antiquated Midmer and, in common with many of the older theatre organs, completely buried behind the stage. When Keith took over the house for vaudeville, Mr. Kinsley was retained because of the excellent impression his work had created. It is the impression that he was the first organist to introduce feature solos on a vaudeville program. He then engaged in a brief period of playing at other theatres, meeting

with excellent success at the Cameo, the Strand, the Rialto and Warner's, where he followed John Hammond at the really beautiful Marr & Colton. This excellent organ is now going to waste, as the policy of features with Vitaphone accompaniment seems to have come to stay at this house.

Kinsley is also a pioneer in the field of recorded organ music, making the First Edison organ records. He has made over 60 of these, and each month sees two or three new releases. He is again back at the Hippodrome, playing a splendid four-manual Wurlitzer, assisted by JOHN C. PFEIFFER, and has also been doing some successful radio work in the Welte Mignon recitals, using their beautiful organ.

A large part of Mr. Kinsley's success is due to the attractive and genial personality reflected in his solo work; a personality which is exceptionally alive, original and charming.

1927 (J) EDWARD EIGEN-SCHENCK and MARION SETARO gave a joint recital at Kimball Hall in Chicago recently.

1927 (J) FRANK KLOTZ had to leave his position at the Liberty Theatre in Enumclaw, Wash. because of illness. (Any relation to Stu Green's friend, Effie?)

1927 (J) HERBERT H. JOHNSON, formerly with the Jayhawk Theatre in Topeka, Kansas, is the organist in Rochester's new Webster Theatre, playing the 2/7 Wurlitzer.

1927 (J) C. SHARPE MINOR is chief organist at the new Rochester Theatre. HARRY SULLIVAN is associate organist.

1927 (Met.) ARTHUR STRENG, Columbus, Ohio organist, is visiting Chicago because of a musicians' strike back home.

1927 (Met.) MILTON CHARLES has left Chicago, presumably for New York. KENNETH WIDENOR has succeeded Charles, alternating between the Uptown and Tivoli theatres with EDDIE HANSON.

1927 (Met.) LEONARD SALVO, popular organist in Chicago's Colony Theatre, has been transferred to the Highland Theatre.

1928 (MPH) TOM GRIERSON opens Rochester's Keith's Palace 4/21 Wurlitzer Special on Christmas Eve.

1930 (D) EDWARD BENEDICT and son, GARDNER BENEDICT

are a piano-organ team at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, playing classical and popular music. A far western hook-up of stations carries the 15-minute program of this duo from Wednesday to Saturday.

1931 (MPH) JOSEPH STOVES, organist at the Valencia Theatre in Jamaica, N.Y., presented a community singing novelty which was both entertaining and topical. It is called "Football Fancies" and it incorporates a number of specially written versions together with some good, singable tunes. The solo opens with a special chorus to the tune, "Collegiate," which is about the audience's being the players and the organist, the coach. This is followed by regular singing choruses of "You Try Somebody Else," "Love Letters" and a special to "Roll on Mississippi," "River Stay 'way From My Door," special to "Gang's All Here," and a final chorus, backed up with scenes of football games on film as the organist plays "Anchor's Aweigh." A good solo, well presented and thoroughly enjoyed.

GOLD DUST: 12/27 DICK LEIBERT opens 5-manual Robert Morton at Loew's Penn, Pittsburgh; GEORGE A. JOHNSON, Omaha's Riviera; HENRI A. KEATES, Chicago's Oriental; RUTH GORMAN FARLEY, Cooney's Capitol Wurlitzer, Chicago, ARTHUR HAYES, Midland in Kansas City, Mo.; HERBERT (Herbie) LEE KOCH, Des Moines' Capitol; GEORGE LANTSCH, Plaza in Englewood, N. Jersey. . . 12/28 HENRY B. MURTAGH and GEORGE A. JOHNSON at the twin-console Wurlitzer in Brooklyn's Paramount.

The Old Prospector can remember those Christmases of long ago. Invariably we came down with what was called the grippe, around the Yuletide season, just like clockwork, too. However, Santa Claus never failed to bring a present. Remember the pressed steel toys known as "Buddy L's"? One was always under the big tree on Christmas morning. And, you couldn't break them the first hour. They lasted!

A Very Merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year from . . .

Jason and The Old Prospector. □