



CHAPTER NOTES

ALABAMA

The September meeting of the Alabama Chapter featured Jim Ferguson, vocalist, accompanied by Alleen Cole at the Wurlitzer. His program was made up of pop tunes which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. The October meeting featured

guest artist Tiny James at the console. The special weekend we had with Tiny began with an open console — jam session at the home of Lee and Joan Aured on Saturday night. Capt. Erwin Young was along with Tiny and shared a lot of his knowledge in club leadership with



At the October twelfth meeting Alabama Chapter dignitaries pose for camera. (L to R), Jay Mitchell, Alleen Cole, Reidel West, Tiny James, Lillian Truss, Bernard Franklin, Erwin Young and Larry Donaldson. Please note the conservative attire on Tiny James. The trousers came from Tahiti via Minsky's burlesque.

our officers. The next morning Tiny rode our Mighty Wurlitzer up into the spotlight showing his expertise at managing countless combinations of stops on the organ. His program featured the tunes of the theatre organ era and some South Sea island music complemented by his Hawaiian shirt and trousers.

Prior to Tiny's concert, the crew worked hard at correcting several problems in the organ. Due to increased hours of operation in the



Tiny James, at the 4/20 Wurlitzer, was guest at the October meeting. (Thomas Hatter Photo)

theatre it has been difficult for the work crew to keep our Wurlitzer in tip top shape. Whenever time permits they are there faithfully to work on the organ.

Joan Aured has cleared the way for us to gain access to another theatre organ in Birmingham. It is the 3/9 Kimball originally installed at the broadcasting studio of WAPI radio. In more recent years this organ changed hands and was moved to the recreation facilities of South Side Baptist Church. The organ is flawlessly maintained by the church but suffers from lack of regular use. We look forward with great enthusiasm to the opportunity to expand our interests in the theatre organ.

JAY MITCHELL

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CENTRAL OHIO

Bob and Betsy Richards hosted our September meeting which is always our annual meeting and election of officers. President Frank Babbitt reported on what we have

accomplished during the past year and our plans for the year to come. Of course discussion of our Regional Convention was the highlight.

Little did we know we were to be introduced to another of the many faces of Dennis James. This time, slave-driver. He arrived with boxes of convention brochures which needed an insert, stapling and arranging in zip code order for each state. Imagine the surprise of Nan and Don Ebner attending their first meeting with us to be put to work doing Nan's specialty. She spends her days monitoring zip code mailings and it was to our advantage to have a pro on hand. Crews were hard at work to the accompaniment of the Richards' Conn 651. Perhaps to mellow us before we left, Dennis gave a delightful concert and didn't skimp on time.


With the weather *not* cooperating for our annual pilgrimage to Ralph and Leona Charles' home in Somerset, there was an exceptionally good turn-out to hear their Morton organ and partake of the potluck dinner. We've always reported something new with the organ and this time was no exception. The old upright piano was retired to a wall location and reigning with the Morton organ is a newly refinished small grand piano. Another new addition is a large clock



Left to right — Lois Hayes at grand piano, Bill Bendler at calliope, Kenny Winland at Morton console, Ralph Schluttenhofer and Ruth Shaw at upright piano. COTOS meeting, October 1975, at the Charles' home.
(Photo courtesy of Bob Shaw)


which, for our meeting, read "Ralph and Leona Charles Welcome COTOS and Friends." After a short business meeting conducted by Board Member Neil Grover, it was time for Music, Music, Music! Kenny Winland, along with his guest Neil Shivers, presented piano duets using the new grand piano and the older upright. Lois Hayes was on hand to present a concert at the Morton organ and Kenny reappeared at the console of the organ. Open console got underway with Tom Hobson. Hope Decker honored the Charles'

with a vocal selection "Bless This House" accompanied by her husband Gene at the organ console. The evening ended with laughter and applause for entertainment with Bill Bendler at the calliope, Lois Hayes at the baby grand, Kenny Winland at the console of the Morton and Ralph Schluttenhofer at the upright piano — later joined by Ruth Shaw at the upright. Then, playing musical chairs, we had John Shivers at the grand, Lois and Ruth at the upright — a great climax for a great evening.



Merry
Christmas

ALABAMA CHAPTER




A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO THE THEATRE ORGAN
WORLD AND FRIENDS
from
NEW YORK
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY


Happy Holidays

FLOYD AND DORIS MUMM

Designers and Typesetters of
"THEATRE ORGAN"



Season's Greetings
and a Merry Christmas
to your group from ours...



Toledo Chapter ATOS



Hosts Leona and Ralph Charles.

(Photo courtesy of Bob Shaw)

For organists who have seldom, or never, played the Ohio Morton, Bob Shaw, chapter photographer, has been at work for many months attempting to photograph the stop rails, pistons and toe pistons. His goal has been to have these reduced to the smallest but still readable size. His efforts to date make available a series of five 8 by 10 photographs which permit organists to acquaint themselves with the Morton prior to playing. We mention his age again, twenty, as a salute to our growing number of youthful members.

IRENE BLEGEN

CHICAGO AREA

CATOE's 1975-76 concert season opened on October 2 with a true "Splendor in Sound" at the Chicago Theatre! The magnificent sound of this famous Wurlitzer was well worth waiting for. A complete story of the event appears elsewhere in this issue.

On September 14, about 100 CATOE members and guests were entertained at a social at Downers Grove North High School. Featured

artist was Gregory Konold, who was once featured at the Chicago Theatre in the 1920's as "Boy Organist." Greg now plays at a suburban restaurant (on an electronic) and is organist-choirmaster at a suburban church. He brought out some beautiful sounds from the 3/10 Wurlitzer which CATOE members installed in the school several years ago. Twenty-two members then added to our entertainment during open console.

The October Board of Directors meeting was held in the completely redecorated dressing room at the Chicago Theatre that was once occupied by Jesse Crawford. A crew led by Ione Tedei painted the walls and ceiling, installed wall to wall carpeting, new drapes and furniture in time for the October 2 show.

Member Walter Strony was the organist of the day for the social and business meeting at the WGN studios on November 2. Chicago was once the scene of several pipe organs in broadcasting studios, and WGN has always maintained theirs in fine condition, although it's been moved a number of times through the years. (The only other broadcast

pipe organ remaining is at Moody Bible Institute's WMBI.)

JIM TAGGART

DELAWARE VALLEY

Sunday afternoon, September 14, about 70 members of TOSDV met at the King Theatre in Gloucester City, New Jersey, to hear a spur-of-the-moment recital played by Viola Klaiss at the 2/7 Wurlitzer being installed there. What was special about this recital? That very day was her eighty-fourth birthday!

Miss Klaiss, now living (and teaching!) in West Palm Beach, Florida, was, in the heyday of the silent films, one of the best-known theatre organists in the Philadelphia area. Indeed, she played throughout the United States and, as a member of a USO unit during World War II, toured Europe, and even performed in Greenland.

Miss Klaiss comes from a family steeped in music. Her father Martin, had a symphony orchestra of his own in which she performed when she was a mere twelve-years-old. Her older brother, Bill, for many years was organist at the Mastbaum and Stanley theatres in Philadelphia.

She had a solid musical training in piano, harmony, and theory and at an early age she was pressed into service as a substitute organist. Not knowing much, if anything, about the organ, she relied on using the pistons set by her brother or other house organists. She did not realize that what was set for one organ would not be the same on any other organ. She told this writer that sometimes the results were disastrous. The dire experience persuaded her to find out what organ playing was all about. In time she became a feature theatre organist with the "Stanley Circuit."

Season's Greetings

FOREMOST RECORDINGS

Foremost — In Artistic Performance
Foremost — In Recorded Sound

434 Charlotte Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504



SEASON'S GREETINGS
Len Clarke
ATOS Advertising

For this occasion she played a varied, well rounded program.

Following the program, open console time was available to those present.

Sunday, September 22, members again met with New York and Garden State Chapters at the Surf City Hotel in New Jersey for an informal get-together. The attraction: the 3/16 Wurlitzer installed behind plate glass with the console right in the middle of the hotel's elongated horseshoe bar.

The day dawned dark and dreary and, from time to time, heavy rain fell. But, by the time the action began, the rain had stopped and the sun occasionally peeked through the heavy clouds. Walking on the sandy beach was a pleasant interlude if and when one tired of the din inside.

Members from the three chapters had signed up with our own Ruth Matt, for the controlled open console. The list was long but the performers were varied and interesting. Most of the organists were old hands at it; others were young and unfamiliar with the console and its tabs. Always at hand to assist them in "drawing stops" was Tommy Wayne, the house organist. It was reassuring to realize that the young are interested in theatre organ and find the opportunities to practice their techniques.

A highlight of the afternoon was the performance of James Paulin, Jr., who is a staff organist at Radio City Music Hall.

Twenty-one members of our chapter traveled to Hartford to attend the Connecticut Valley's Autumn Serenade during the weekend of October 11-13.

In the last issue of THEATRE ORGAN Grant Whitcomb wrote about the James O. Carter Memorial Organ and the Cinnaminson (New

Jersey) Arts Council, organized to raise the funds required to install the organ in the Cinnaminson High School Complex.

On Wednesday, October 22, Larry Ferrari played a benefit concert at the school for the council. Since the Carter Wurlitzer has not yet been installed, he performed on a Conn Theatre Organ.

EASTERN MASS.

The best laid plans sometimes are shattered by "circumstances beyond our control." The September meeting was to feature the life and sounds of Jesse Crawford, but our console artist, noted as a Jesse Crawford stylist, was caught by the flu the day before meeting night. And so, for this meeting we entertained ourselves, after an unprecedented-in-recent-times two-hour business meeting. It was amazing to hear so many of our membership actually play the sounds of Jesse Crawford.

At the October meeting the "Sentimental Gentleman of the Organ" himself, Harry Jacques, recovered from the flu, did play for us in the Crawford style after program Chairman Erle Renwick presented recorded samples of what *is* and what *is not* the Crawford sound, all from records labelled with the Jesse Crawford name. The 80 members and guests seemed to enjoy this type of program, and especially enjoyed Harry's artistry, which included an emotion-packed original composition about a young newspaper boy who regularly appeared daily on a certain street corner selling his newspapers. One day his customers missed him. Harry's music told the rest.

A comment might be made concerning the changing complexion

of our membership. Early in the life of this chapter the membership was comprised almost entirely of so-called "true theatre organ buffs" — those who were involved heavily in theatre organ in some way. They were salvaging organs from theatres, installing them in their homes or were assisting in this type effort. They were theatre organists. They were long-standing theatre organ listeners — record collectors with a cultivated ear for theatre organ sound. All members were educated, to a degree, to theatre organ, and each had his own strongly held ideas as to proper theatre organ sound and methods to achieve it.

It was, and is now, the purpose of this chapter to carry the knowledge and enthusiasm of the early members to the public at large, acquainting them with the wonderful world of theatre pipe organ sound and methods to attain it. By means of two theatre pipe organ concerts annually and concerted efforts to provide monthly programs of interest to the potential theatre organ buff as well as to ourselves, new members with latent theatre organ interest have joined the chapter.

The present complexion of the membership as compared to that of the early years is heavily weighted in favor of the relatively recent arrival upon the theatre organ scene, which could be interpreted as an indication that the early members have done their jobs well and that the chapter is on the right course in perpetuating the tradition of the theatre organ.

ERLE RENWICK

GULF COAST

It's been a busy season for Gulf Coast. So busy, in fact, that we

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
from all of us in
"THE ACTION CHAPTER"

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER



missed the deadline for the last issue, leaving us with some catching-up to do, report-wise. July found the rest of the chapter wondering if we'd ever see our president, secretary, and treasurer again, after they departed for that Great Theatre Organ Mecca in the West at convention time. But return they did, dreamy-eyed, to share with us tall tales of pipes and pizzas and rotating console lifts! Due to convention and vacation schedules, it was decided to forego a July concert and direct our efforts towards August. For several weeks "Lola," our Saenger Theatre Robert Morton, rested quietly without pedalboard or main regulator while these were being rebuilt in the "ATOS" workshop of Dr. D.B. Rhea, one of our key members.

Third Saturday (August) came, and so did a crowd of nearly one thousand eager listeners! With pedals sparkling and regulator holding steady wind, "Lola" was in fine form. So, too, our talented soloist/president Tom Helms, who thoroughly delighted his audience with a well-chosen concert characterized by variety in registration and music, including a terrific "Tour of Cities" medley accompanied by beautiful color slides of San Francisco taken by our secretary, Bob Sidebottom. Closing out the first half of the program, everyone joined in a sing-along and had a ball! Then Tom played a silent film, *Race For Life*, with Max Sennet and Mabel Norman, and the audience really got involved! Tom did a masterful job of cueing and showing off the latest additions to "Lola's" toy counter: ahoogah horn, bull horn, fire gong, siren, telephone bell, and buzzer, all thanks to our Dr. Rhea. It was a super Saturday for chapter and audience alike!



Tom and Kathy Helms at September 'Save the Saenger' concert.

It was amazing how quickly the time flew between August and September, and time for another in our "Save the Saenger" concert series approached rapidly. But "Lola" was ready, and so was Tom. For the smaller, but just as appreciative, audience, Tom again concertized the first half, winning the hearts of the youngsters (of all ages!) with his Children's Medley. Then a special treat as he was joined by his sister, Kathy Helms, whose vocal talent is right up there with her brother's keyboard prowess. She, too, enraptured the audience, and we can only say "Streisand, look out!" Next a slide show and demonstration took everyone on the "three-dollar tour" of the organ. For many, it was the first look inside a pipe organ chamber, and many favorable comments were overheard afterwards.

The program was completed with Tom accompanying Laurel and Hardy in *The Second Hundred Years*. Score another Saturday victory for Gulf Coast!

The coup d'main of the season came in October. The final concert to bring awareness to the Pensacola public and save the Saenger Theatre for posterity was the culmination of many weeks of hard work in preparing the organ, advertising, selling tickets and the other hundred tasks that must be done in readiness for a major undertaking. In days and sleepless nights following a chapter business meeting and social, everyone was busy, for we were to sponsor a special Halloween Week concert featuring Don Thompson. And *The Phantom of the Opera!* Since all our previous concerts had been free, there was some trepidation about charging admission necessary to cover expenses of artist and theatre, fears concerning the size of the audience we would draw. Would all our efforts, and Don's, be for naught?



Don Thompson thrills audience on October 30, and makes the 'Save the Saenger' effort a success!

SEASON'S
GREETINGS

from
All The Members Of
WEST PENN



We Hope Y'all Have
An Extra Nice
Holiday Season

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

As the house lights dimmed, it was on a near-capacity crowd!! We were ecstatic!! Those who missed it missed a real "happening." Don's score for "Phantom" was superb, and his technique was absolutely thrilling to see and hear. What an exciting evening for all involved! And to cap it off, we were able to announce that ABC Theatres was donating the Saenger to the City of Pensacola. The Saenger was **SAVED!**

For his considerable effort and time in our behalf, our thanks to Don, as fine a gentleman and organist as one could ever hope to meet. We wish him continued success in the future, and we wish him back to the Gulf Coast soon!

CURT GOLDHILL

JOLIET AREA

This will serve as progress report on the 4/21 Barton in the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, Illinois.

The present crew of dedicated men, numbering eight, decided in January of this year that we could no longer tolerate patching up patches to keep the organ going in a semi-playable condition, therefore it was necessary to embark on a general re-leathering and rebuilding program.

Dan Barton built his organs to

last but could not control wear and tear, leaky roofs, and abuse. All these elements combined created a monumental task for our crew. For example, an inventory of dead notes covered four sheets of paper!!

A great number of the original ranks were missing, having been replaced with substitute pipework. The entire pre set action was missing and is being replaced. Luckily, the missing Tuba boots and the chimes were located and returned. A Spring and Fall concert had been planned, but realizing the work necessary these events had to be put off.

The Rialto Barton will be fifty years old on May 24, 1976 and we are hoping to have our "Lady Barton" in dependable condition to commemorate this anniversary, besides we would like to show her off in 1977 when Chicago hosts the National ATOS.

We are determined to have her ready and she is a great organ, this writer knows because she played it when new.

FRANCES IRVING

MIAMI VALLEY (OHIO)

Holding our eighth meeting since organized as a new chapter, we realized that nobody had been delegated to send notes of activities to THE-

ATRE ORGAN. So sorry. This fledgling chapter draws its embryo membership from Springfield, Dayton, and one hearty member from Cincinnati. We include several with dual memberships; drawing upon the Central Ohio and Ohio Valley chapters.

Focal point of most meetings is the State Theatre, Springfield, Ohio, which houses a spritely 3/7 Wurlitzer that is available to members before the regular show. The theatre is the flagship headquarters of the Chakeres Theatres, Inc. which operates a 45-theatre chain in Ohio and Kentucky.

Chapter Chairman Chris Gorsuch and Vice-Chairman Bob Cowley were the original volunteers for maintenance of the organ, and other chapter members have since helped. Right after rendering a stellar mini-concert and film accompaniment last January, Gorsuch left town to join the staff of Sandy Fleet in the San Diego area, and Cowley took over executive chairmanship.

Other significant gatherings have included a potluck dinner at the home of member Dennis Werkmeister who has an outstanding 2/16 Wurlitzer installation, and a concert played by member Chris Phillips at the home of Fred and Kay

Christmas Greetings

LAND OF LINCOLN CHAPTER

Season's Greetings

Garden State Theatre Organ Society, Inc.

GARDEN STATE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY INC. A.T.O.S.

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes in '75

from

CRATOS

Cedar Rapids Area Theatre Organ Society

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

members of J.A.T.O.E.

and the Rialto Theatre Joliet, Ill.

Rieger of Waynesville. Fred owns a particularly interesting 3/42 Estey with parts from various manufacturers. As usual, open console serves to reinforce every member's humility, but it is good fun.

JOHN M. GOGLE

MOTOR CITY

We were notified by the District Director of the Internal Revenue Service on October 1 that we had been granted exemption from Federal income tax under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. There are many advantages to this classification, one being, as a result of this ruling, our qualification for the lower nonprofit postal rate.

Our Second Sunday artist at the Michigan Theatre (Ann Arbor) in September was member Rupert Otto who played to an audience numbering close to 100. Member Gus Borman took control of the Barton for the October Second Sunday, also in Ann Arbor. Open console tempts the curious and is always an interesting part of these events.

In September, member Greg Smith performed at the Royal Oak Barton for the monthly Fourth Sunday membership event. Lance Luce, also a chapter member, played the October Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak. Open console always closes these Sunday morning programs.

Our extended summer Hollywood Film Musical Series at the Redford Theatre ran into mid-September with two more Busby Berkley all-singing, all-dancing hits from the 1930's, *Gold Diggers of 1937* and *Hollywood Hotel*. Chapter artists Jim Boutell and John Lauter played short programs at the Redford Barton during these very successful

Friday and Saturday night events.

The feature film, *Moby Dick*, starring Gregory Peck, was offered one Friday and Saturday night in early October with Greg Smith offering a short pop concert at the Barton.

Dennis and Heidi James performed at the Barton organ and grand piano in the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on October 1. The largely college-age audience was spirited in their appreciation of the two performers and of Dennis' accompaniment to the Lon Chaney silent film, *The Monster*.

October 24-25 saw Gaylord Carter return once again to the Redford to be greeted by two nearly-capacity houses. The audience was entranced by Gaylord's verbal banter, musical stimulation and "The Golden Age of Comedy," which was short films of some of the screens funniest comedians interspersed throughout the evening.

DON LOCKWOOD

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On September 7 our Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the home of Thelma and Gordon Gillet, Niagara Falls, Ont. After the meeting, Roy Simon, Greg Gurtner, Colin Cousin, along with several non-professionals, took turns entertaining the group at the 2/7 Wurlitzer. This was my second opportunity to hear this organ; a magnificent sound for a small home installation.

On September 16 Hector Olivera made his first appearance at the Riviera. He won the heart of the audience when, after bringing the console up with his first number, he turned to the crowd and said, "I have been warned to go easy on the classical and I will confine my clas-

sical music to one number and that will take only about five minutes." After two hours, two standing ovations and two encores Hector said, "Wait till I come back next year, I know now what you like and you will hear a real program." But how could he top the one he had just played?

A large delegation of chapter members from both sides of the border attended the "Connecticut Valley's Autumn Serenade."

On October 15, 1965 Dick Smith played his first pipe concert for the chapter. October 15, 1975, ten years to the day he made his latest appearance. The TV, even with the "World Series," could not keep the crowd away. Dick has played more concerts for the chapter than any other artist. He always has the theatre filled to capacity long before curtain time. He started promptly at 8 p.m. and played until midnight with only one ten minute intermission. Standing ovation after standing ovation showed the crowd's pleasure with this great artist.

On November 19, Rick Shindell will have made his first appearance at the Riviera.

December 17 will have seen another great favorite, our own member, Frank Olsen (an organist's organist). It has become a tradition that Frank play our holiday program. As he books more and more concerts throughout the East, other organ fans are becoming aware of this artist's great talent; something our members have known for the past seven years, ever since he left England and settled in Port Colborne, Ont.

There is a lot of work connected with putting on monthly concerts year after year and there are many members involved. To name a few: Thelma Gillet, Doris Martin, Jane

happy
holidays

from
NIAGARA
FRONTIER CHAPTER
and
RIVIERA THEATRE



VanBrocklin who man the box office. (Or should I say the people who sell the tickets?) Also Ken Martin, who attends the doors and takes the tickets. Ken, a retired Canadian Customs Inspector at the Niagara Falls Bridges, is well trained for this role.

Our schedule for the first half of '76 is as follows: Jan., Greg Gurtner; Feb., Don Kinner and Jack Doll; March, Winifrea Armistead; April, Ron Rhodes; May, Don Thompson and June, Larry Ferrari.

Our entire chapter membership extends our best wishes to all ATOS members for the holiday season.

STEVE CROWLEY

NORTH TEXAS

Major activity these days in the North Texas area centers around the November Lyn Larsen Concert and preparation of the Casa Manana Wurlitzer for that event. Under Jim Petersen's guidance, anywhere from as many as 15 members have been working on Wednesday and Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons on the project. That's a few man-hours of re-leathering, removal and clean-up of various ranks of pipes, repairs to all components as necessary, and a complete new winding system, except for the blower. A Post Horn is also being added.

When you get a gang like that working, you'd be surprised at the talent that shows up in the group. Grace Johnson has become an excellent leather worker, as well as a good pipe washer and cleaner. Edie Reatz, Arline Sturm, Doris Garrett, Jo Koski, Sandra Vaden and the rest of the gals are in there pitchin' too. They've all had their share of various organ building and refurbishing chores, including everything from the wood and metal pipes

to the toy counter. One even made the comment that she had been in the chapter for four years, and now she could finally say that she could actually work on a real, honest-to-goodness theatre organ. They're all learning the craft, and enjoying every minute despite the dust, elbow grease and various chores involved. They're all also realizing what a truly complex piece of equipment a theatre organ is.

Meanwhile, up in the lofts, the men are also involved in everything from the plumbing (ducts) and electrical wiring to the final voicing and tuning. Of course, Jim Petersen has full responsibility including the delicate art of voicing, but he has plenty of help. The chambers are located above the floor of the "theatre-in-the-round" which is Casa Manana, and involve considerable balancing, climbing, hanging by your toes and squeezing into tight spaces without upsetting anything. John Vaden, John Scott, Fred Sturm, Fred Garrett, Cliff Brown, and several others have demonstrated their acrobatic and primate abilities, as well as their craftsmanship in the many fields of artistry involved. That's what makes organ work so interesting. You've got to be a plumber, electrician, leather worker, cabinet maker, tinsmith, mechanic, and a few other crafts, besides the Alpining techniques involved in getting to the various ranks, chests, tremulants and other hardware involved in such an installation.

Access to the lofts is by one of two ways: through the lighting and sound booths, and around the periphery of the whole building through an obstacle course of spotlight platforms, cables, plumbing and airconditioning ducts, or by means of a 16-foot ladder through

one of the shutter openings. A lot of the guys, especially those over 40, found they had muscles they hadn't used in a long time. So you see, you also get involved in some physical therapy and calisthenics climbing around amongst the pipe organ pieces.

Jack Riley was the featured organist at the October meeting. Jack played a Jesse Crawford program on the organ at Organ World. The pipe organ there is slowly but surely taking shape in the new quarters and should have several ranks playable in short order. Jack did a great job with his true theatre-organ type Crawford oldies, and couldn't get away from the console because the gang kept hollering for more.

Dino Santrizos, who signed up as a full, card carrying member of the chapter, has been busy with the Pipes and Pizza Barton in Dallas and the old St. George Theatre (Staten Island) organ which is going into another Pipes and Pizza place in Houston. Jerry Bacon is playing nightly at the Dallas installation, with Dale Flanery and Wally McDevitt filling in on his days off.

George Stucker has been circulating plenty of printed material, via every technique known, so we can have a "full house" at Casa Manana when Lyn hits that opening theme. Meanwhile, keep working on all those fine installations around the country, so we can come hear your theatre organs, and you can come hear ours.

JOE KOSKI

OREGON

The chapter met at the home of Bob and Laura Burke for the October meeting. Opening comments by Chairman Gerry Gregorius were followed by a report by Secretary-

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

MOTOR CITY CHAPTER

Season's Greetings

TO
ALL
OUR
ATOS
FRIENDS

Jason and
The Old Prospector





(L to R) Bob Burke, Gerry Gregorius and Don Ingram at the Burke residence organ.
(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Jane Sparks at the 2/8 Robert Morton, Dr. Paul Abernethy residence.

Treasurer Arlene Ingram.

In an effort to get more non-professional members involved, the concert on Burke's 3/12 Wurlitzer was played by Don Ingram and Bob Burke. Don played several numbers, all from the twenties and thirties. Bob Burke followed with selections from *Flower Drum Song* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. They both received a nice round of applause; maybe for their bravery, as much as anything. Not really, they did very well. To close the scheduled part of the evening, Gerry Gregorius played an overture in real theatre style as a prelude to the film *Double Whoopee* with Laurel and Hardy. It is one of the better Laurel and Hardy films and Gerry does an excellent job. After the film, open console was held and refreshments served.

It is the desire of the chapter officers to feature more of our non-professionals. We really do have a lot of talent in the chapter and these people should be heard.

We are sorry to report the passing of two of our prominent and active members. Dave Newman and Ted Marks are both gone, but the many

services they performed in the interest of the theatre pipe organ will live on. There is no question that both will be missed by the Oregon Chapter.

DON INGRAM

PIEDMONT

Piedmont Chapter hasn't been heard from lately. We've been busy nonetheless.

On September 28, a meeting was held at the home of Dr. Paul Abernethy in Burlington, NC. Yours truly, Jane Sparks, a student of Eddie Weaver, presented a program on the 2/8 Robert Morton. An open console session followed, giving many of those present a chance to show off their skills.

Members are eagerly awaiting the completion of the Elon College Wurlitzer installation. Work is being done by a crew of several chapter members, headed by Mac Abernethy.



You will feel the "Spirit of '76"
at the
ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION

North Carolina's only remaining in-theatre-installation, housed in the Carolina Theatre, has come alive in Greensboro. The 2/6 Robert Morton console has undergone major rebuilding in the past few years and there are plans to renovate the entire instrument. Old velvet curtains have been removed to expose the shutters for the first time. Although beautiful, the fabric completely muted the tone of the little Morton, so chapter members and the theatre management decided the curtains had to go. It sounds terrific!

The Carolina Theatre now has a staff organist. Howard Manley, a long time theatre organ buff and contemporary of Jesse Crawford and George Wright, has assumed the post, playing shows every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.

At the present time, members are excitedly awaiting the appearance of Eddie Weaver for a November 9 concert at the Carolina.

JANE SPARKS

PINE TREE

From Old Orchard Beach, Maine, the sound has been great. Our first summer season of weekly concerts

Season's Greetings
from
NorCal ATOS



SEASON'S GREETINGS

from
the

WESTERN
RESERVE

(all members of W.R.T.O.S., Inc.)





Richard Frank at 3/13 Wurlitzer Old Orchard Beach High School.
(Joe Williams Photo)



Old Orchard Beach, Maine 3/13 Wurlitzer. (L to R) Chairman Leon Carpenter; guest artist Luella Wickham; Old Orchard town manager Jerome Plante.
(Joe Williams Photo)

on the 3/13 Wurlitzer at Old Orchard Beach High School is now history. We are now into the fall-winter schedule of events.

In retrospect it may be said that the instrument sounded better each and every week. This is due to the untiring efforts of our chapter members, Dr. Dwight Leighton and Leon Carpenter, who gave many, many hours to the task of getting the bugs out of our installation. Indeed, everyone concerned with the concert season is to be congratulated for a fine job. No small amount of credit is due to the town and school officials of Old Orchard Beach and especially the town manager, Jerome Plante. Very special thanks are also due to our friends and good neighbors of Eastern Massachusetts Chapter. They were always ready to give us a hand, when needed, and helped to get us over many a rough spot during the summer.

Some of the artists that entertained this past summer include: Douglas Rafter, Luella Wickham, Tim Bjarby, Russell Gray, John

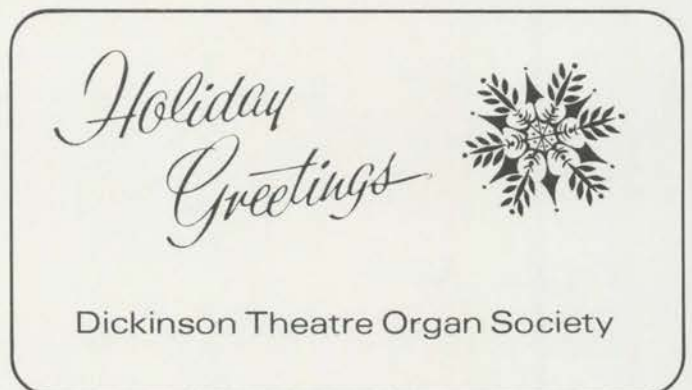
Kiley and Bob Legon. On two occasions we also had silent movies with the Mighty Wurlitzer providing the musical score. Our projection duties were ably taken care of by member Earle Fenderson. In addition to all the fine music, many lessons have been learned that should result in an even better summer next year.

At our September meeting plans were made for the fall and winter season. As an added surprise at the September meeting, Max Pulsifer treated us to a demonstration of his Band Organ. This Band, or Fair Organ, made in France about 1920, has been completely restored to a "like-new" condition by its owner. It is mounted in a trailer and has been in great demand this summer for various public out-of-doors events. Music for this organ is recorded, on order, from a firm in Belgium on a lightweight cardboard and is folded in pleats, accordion style. A very enjoyable impromptu concert was given on this unique instrument at the rear of the high school build-

ing.

At present we plan to have a monthly concert on the third Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. The October festivities planned will feature a dinner-dance at Old Orchard Beach High School, with music supplied by, what else, our 3/13 Wurlitzer with member, Richard Frank, at the console. The evening is to include the official dedication of the instrument.

The concert held on October 19 featured Richard Frank performing at the console of the 3/13 Wurlitzer at Old Orchard Beach High School. It was a small but very enthusiastic crowd that heard a tremendous display of what this organ is capable of doing. To say that Mr. Frank "pulled out all the stops" is an understatement. Just about every type of song and tempo was played to the delight of the crowd. Mr. Frank played this instrument at its first public showing on June 12 for the graduation of the high school seniors. He expressed his pleasure about how much better the organ sounds and works now, and we all agree with that.





A French Fair Organ, (L to R): Leon Carpenter, Dr. Dwight Leighton, Max Pulsifer, Paul True, Jr., Maurice Pope. Old Orchard Beach, Maine. (Joe Williams Photo)

Improvements to the installation continue. Dr. Dwight Leighton and Leon Carpenter have just completed construction of a wind baffle for the blower which was resulted in much less wind and blower noise. A job well done, gentlemen.

During the past month Mrs. Betty Mason, publisher of the THEATRE ORGAN was in the area. While she was here she had a chance to visit and play the Old Orchard Beach Wurlitzer. She was delighted with this instrument and expressed her pleasure to find that the Pine Tree Chapter was active again.

Our next concert will be Sunday, November 23. Russell Gray, of Portland, will be the artist. We will keep you posted on doings from this corner of the country.

JOE WILLIAMS

PUGET SOUND

In September, our chapter at last realized a long-deferred dream



Elaine and Eddie Lippert at their Wurlitzer console, Spokane, Wa.

to visit our Spokane members. A forty-nine passenger busload plus several car-pools from the Puget Sound area journeyed over the Cascades to the eastern border of the state, arriving in time for an early evening Longhorn barbecue in the garden of Eddie and Elaine Lippert. From there it was a quick step to the Lippert studio, erected at the back of the lot, for the purpose of housing and hearing the 3/10 Style H Special Wurlitzer originally installed (1925) in the McDonald Fox Theatre, Eugene, Oregon. The Lipperts obtained this organ in 1969 from Willamette University in Salem, and have spent the intervening years in a painstaking and meticulous installation which is beautiful to see and hear. Eddie's playing reveals the same care, and being a Crawford — Dunstedter — Wright fan, he produced a concert for us which incorporated many flawless renditions of favorite arrangements by those masters. The finale, Dunstedter's arrangement of the "Pilgrim's Chorus" by Tannhauser, brought the audience surging to its feet. Open console followed.

Sunday noon we visited the new First Nazarene Church, which has installed the historic old Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. This 3/20 was first installed in 1914 under Opus 3164, which dates back before the official Wurlitzer opus listing started. The tuned percussions alone would make any pizza parlor entrepreneur drool: two sets of Chimes, three 49-note Harps (two wood, one aluminum), two Xylos (one 40-note, one 37-note), tuned Sleigh Bells, Saucer Bells and Piano, plus two sets of traps. The original Kinetic DC blower operated off the street car lines, and the final note had to be played by midnight, when the

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lines were turned off. This organ was a showpiece, prospective purchasers being brought from all over the U.S. by train to Seattle to hear it. The first organist was Henry Murtagh, who was followed by such men as Oliver C. Wallace, 1920-26, Reginald Watts, Ernest Russel, Frank A. Leon, Albert A. Malotte, Eddy Clifford, Ron Baggett and Don Moore (Ron and Don).

This organ also spent some time at school, going to Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma in 1955, where it was installed in the gym — the 32' wooden Diaphones being suspended across the ceiling. When our chapter visited and played it in this location a few years ago, a large white "pill" made its appearance at the upper opening of one of these huge pipes, paused there momentarily, and then dropped to the floor and bounced away, thus identifying itself as a (long-lost?) basketball.

In April, 1973, the membership of the Nazarene Church bought the organ and moved it to their newly built church in Spokane, where restoration began. The console has been rebuilt and beautifully refinished to suit the decor of the sanctuary. Some ranks and percussions are by now playing, and it is used regularly in the services. The

resident organist made a brief appearance, together with his wife, who accompanied him at the grand piano. Open console followed till around 3:30 and then the long ride home. This very rewarding experience was organized by Russ Evans from the Seattle end, JoAnn Shipley, and Elaine and Eddie Lippert, our most gracious hosts in Spokane.

GENNY WHITTING

RED RIVER

The chapter is still alive and well! The lack of chapter news this past two years was because of a news blackout by the chapter caused by our concentration on affairs concerning the Fargo Theatre organ (Style E Wurlitzer). Now that the chapter has control over this organ, we feel it is time to start sharing our activities.

We will present our second Silent Movie Night on Thursday, November 6. Last year's show featured Harold Lloyd and several hundred people had to be turned away. It looks like another sell-out, as ten percent of the tickets were sold after the third day of sale. Yours truly, Lance Johnson, will be the organist again this year.

Two dressing rooms are now workshops with machines, tools, etc.

Every Friday night members gather to work on the organ.

In June, the chapter purchased the 3/8 Wurlitzer from the First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It will be enlarged and installed in the ultra modern Center for the Performing Arts Theatre on the campus of Moorhead State University in Moorhead, MN. The theatre was built with two organ chambers and stage lift. No one knows yet why organ chambers were included! Chapter members are presented with bags of pneumatics to take home and re-leather. Our goal to get the chapter organ playing is two years.

We are also negotiating to install a two-manual Wurlitzer in the new plush Cinema 70 movie theatre in Fargo. There is adequate room for organ chambers and the owners are thrilled beyond words at the prospect of having a real theatre organ available for movie intermissions and concerts.

The chapter has more than doubled in membership since acquiring usage of the Fargo Theatre Wurlitzer. Hats off to Chairman Dave Knudtson of KTHI-TV for his excellent leadership in rebuilding the chapter. Thanks also to Ted Larsen, chairman of the film department

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of MSU, for his help in establishing silent films as a viable chapter project and combining it with theatre organ activities.

Here's hoping Silent Movie Night number two will be another sell-out!

LANCE JOHNSON

SAN DIEGO

October has been a very active but a most rewarding month for the chapter. Our members were privileged to act as hosts and hostesses at the gala opening October 1 of Organ Power Pizza No. 2 in Pacific Beach. To hear Reginald Foort perform on this "Mighty-Mo," originally designed by him in 1938, was an experience. This man is truly one of the great organists of our time, and most of us returned to the restaurant the following three nights to hear him play a different concert each evening.

(Elsewhere in this issue, you can read a complete resume of this event) Now in it's new home, we hope all of you will have the opportunity of hearing it soon, and know that you share our interest and excitement in this "most traveled pipe organ in history." To add to the listener's pleasure, the restaurant also has installed a 2/6 Wurlitzer, Style D

which can be played in solo or combined with the "Mighty-Mo."

Gene Ginder, Wendell Shoberg and their staff of technicians are to be applauded for a fine installation, and most definitely, Sandy Fleet is to be commended for restoring this "Mighty-Mo" and bringing it to San Diego for the enjoyment of the general public.

Our business meeting on October 13, resulted in many plans for future programs and an excellent choice of officers elected for the coming year: Chairman, Vernon Bickel; Vice-chairman, Ray Krebs; Secretary, Marjorie Greer; Treasurer, Jan White. Our sincere thanks go to our retiring officers, George and Susie Coade and also Wendell Shoberg for all their hard work and interesting meetings.

On October 20, Organ Power Productions loaned us the restaurant and the Mighty-Mo so we could sponsor our first concert open to the public. Another great evening — listening to Gaylord Carter play to a capacity audience as he accompanied the silent film, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. In appreciation to Gaylord for making our first public venture such a success, we have asked him to accept a Life-Honorary membership in the San

Diego Chapter. Thank you, Gaylord and thank you, O.P.P.

An active and musically rewarding month, indeed.

LOIS SEGUR

SOUTHEASTERN

"Work session" has been the keynote for many months with hundreds of man-hours contributed to get the



Exterior, Joe Patten's East Point Theatre.

(Tom Ford Photo)



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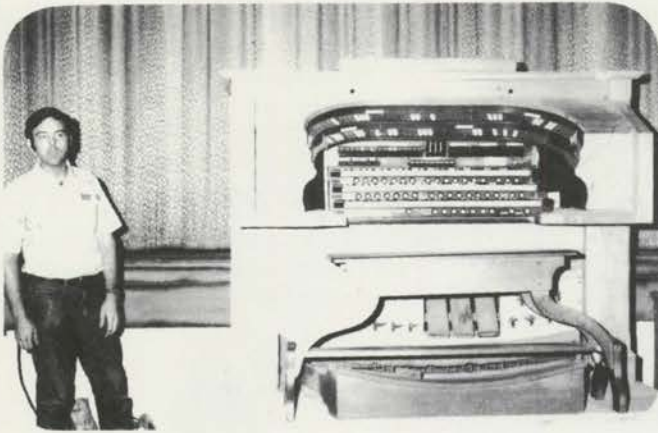
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Charles Walker demonstrates the first working part of the organ, the lift.
(Tom Ford Photo)



Joe Patten with the Moller console. Wood finish is stripped down and will be finished in gold like the Fox Theatre Moller.
(Tom Ford Photo)

Fox Theatre ready for reopening. The organ has, for the most part, been kept silent to ensure all work — no play. However, there have been other activities with the emphasis on play.

On Sunday, August 31, Joe Patten opened his East Point Theatre for a look at the redecoration program now nearing completion. The attraction for the afternoon was the 1924 silent, *The Thief of Bagdad* starring Douglas Fairbanks. Lee Erwin played his excellent score for the movie, but alas, not on the 3/8 Moller in the theatre. Lee's music was from the sound track of a print

of the film.

The Fox has claimed so much of Joe Patten's time that the organ in his own theatre has had to wait. The organ, originally installed in the Riviera Theatre in Scranton, Penna., is prepared for three more ranks and Joe is hopeful of finding Moller pipes of the original specification to complete the instrument. The new decor of the theatre is Spanish. Joe, working with theatrical designer Charles Walker of our chapter, has successfully converted the bare rectangular non-design of the original theatre into a Spanish courtyard rich in authentic detail — complete

with twinkling stars. When the organ is completed, Atlanta and South-eastern Chapter will at long last have a showcase for silents.

The October meeting was, would you believe, a work session at the Fox capped off with that gorgeous sound we'd been missing for so long — the Fox 4/42 Moller with Walter Winn at the controls. More October festivity on the 19th when we had our annual Oktoberfest at the home of Lois Russell. Charles Walker performed on partially tuned crystal stemware with accompaniment from several members on the Russell electronic.



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East Point Theatre stage, showing organ chamber locations in Spanish balconies at both sides. (Tom Ford Photo)

November will find us again guests in a home with two electronics, that of Herbert and Doris Lee. As this is being written, Southeastern Chapter is negotiating with the Fox management for an organ concert by (yours truly) Bob van Camp on Sunday, December 7 and I have been contracted for Christmas music on the Mighty-Mo during intermission of a performance of the *Messiah* by the William Noll Chorale on Sunday, December 14.

BOB VAN CAMP

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

During August last, our chapter participated in a dinner-dance which was organized in conjunction with the commodore and officers of the Wynnum-Manly Yacht Club. On this occasion three of our leading organists played on the Baldwin electronic organ. The attendance was very good and the profit after expenditure allowed us to bank approximately \$200.00 toward our

pipe organ fund.

We held a very successful concert on Friday, 26 September, titled "September Song." This concert was held in the auditorium at the Cavendish Road High School on the southside of Brisbane. It was compered by our vice-chairman, Ken Wherrett. We had a very good attendance. The performance of the artists was of a high standard and it certainly did a lot for the chapter. A mammoth Kawai theatre organ was on stage. It was played by three of our chapter organist's; John Masson, Neil Jensen and Arthur Midgley with guest artist contralto Allison Caudell.

We have not as yet completed a reconciliation of proceeds and expenditure as it will be appreciated that money for ticket sales is still coming in from members.

There is a theatre organ group in the Sunshine coast area some 70 to 80 miles north of Brisbane. We have agreed to cooperate with this group in the presentation of an organ concert scheduled to be held in a town called Nambour on 18 October. This will be a worthwhile presentation, proceeds of which will be donated to the Doctor Moffat Memorial Fund and the monies raised will be used with other funds for the construction of a Communal Centre at the Nam-

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Dave and Dick Brewer at the residence 3/16 "Marr and Bartlitzer." (Ed Corey Photo)



Betty and Chuck Heffer with their 3/6 Morton.

(L. G. Mallett Photo)

bour Hospital.

A number of our members will be participating and a percentage of the profit will be passed on to our chapter. There will be six organs on stage. They will be played by separate organists, and in addition, certain vocalists will take part.

BERYL JENSEN

WOLVERINE

On Sunday, September 14, Chuck and Betty Heffer were in their usual form of outdoing themselves. This particular occasion was the chapter's monthly meeting at their lovely

East Detroit Home. Their 3/6 Robert Morton never sounded better, especially enhanced with the Kimball-Morton "reproducing" grand piano now playable from the organ console. Several new additions are in the planning stage for the organ currently, including that of a Gottfried Kinura.

One of the last warm days of the summer was spent in the confines of the home of the Richard Brewer family in Dearborn, with their fine 3/16 "Marr & Bartlitzer." Many of the members and guests in attendance at the October 12 meeting enjoyed playing and hearing the ex-

cellent instrument that Dave and his father Dick Brewer have built up over the past several years. Chairman Lawrie Mallett and his wife Rosemary provided the refreshments.

The 3/11 Barton in the Michigan Theatre in Lansing, Michigan narrowly escaped an electrical fire that destroyed the main switchboard in that theatre on the night of September 16. Fortunately, both the theatre and organ were out of service for only a short time. The Lansing Fire Department is thanked for quick, efficient action.

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