

# Vic Hyde Discovers a Cozatt Theatre Organ

by Lloyd E. Klos



The Cozatt residence where Vic Hyde discovered the organ in 1973. Console was in the log cabin at the left; pipe chambers behind it. The house served as a calliope and organ factory as well as a printing and engraving shop. *(Hyde Collection)*



There were literally scores of makes of theatre pipe organs. Some achieved world-wide fame. Others were known only in the region of their manufacture. Ever hear of the Cozatt? We didn't until one of our friends, Vic Hyde, unearthed one back in late 1973. Hyde is the famous entertainer who employs multiple trumpets and other brass instruments for his act. Those who saw him perform at the 1974 Detroit ATOS Convention remember his sensational routine.

"In my 100,000 miles of travel per year," he says, "I have asked people two questions: 'Are there any antique autos in barns around here?' and 'Do you know of any theatre pipe organs available for sale?' The results have netted me a very unique collection of 33 antique and special-interest cars, 14 of them three-wheelers (as of May 1976).

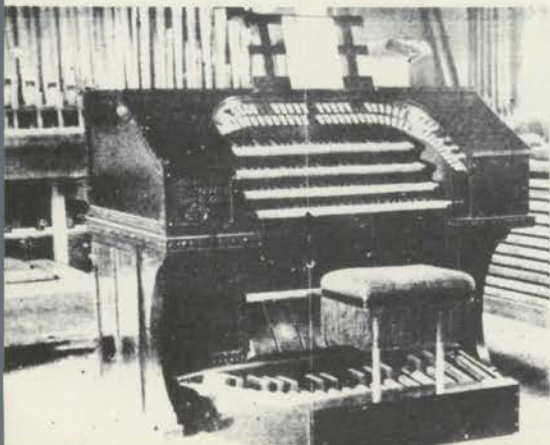
"But now, I own a genuine theatre organ. I had read of people finding them in theatres on the verge of demolition, or in auditoria or churches. But my instrument is a story in itself.

"I was in Danville, Ill., and upon asking the theatre organ question, was knocked for a loop when a man replied: 'Yes, I have one and want to get rid of it.

"So, I followed him to the back of his 65 acres, thru deep grass, thru a woods, pushing aside branches and thick growth. We came upon the remains of a big house, built in 1922 completely off the beaten path. It had been rebuilt into a three-story edifice, and it looked more like a red mill. Decaying with age, it hadn't been used since the owner passed away 15 years previously.

"We pushed against the sagging front door, and upon entering, my eye first hit on a huge fireplace, with tall organ pipes on either side.

Console of Vic Hyde's 1921 4/8 Cozatt that was originally in the Cozatt residence. (Hyde Collection)



## ATTENTION ALL CHAPTERS!

*National Headquarters has sent a form (for listing the 1977 officers) to 1976 chapter officers, to be returned to Headquarters immediately!*

*If you are a newly elected officer please check to make sure this form has been returned to National Headquarters by your chapter.*

*It is important that National Headquarters have this list immediately because it is to be published in the next issue of THEATRE ORGAN.*



stretching to the ceiling. To the right was a massive 4-manual console. The floor was strewn with debris and the furniture was ancient; definitely a gold mine for a collector!

"Going around behind the fireplace thru a door which once led to the kitchen, we came to the organ loft: pipe chests, xylophone and marimba. Stairs led to a catwalk and there were more wood and metal pipes.

"I had previous opportunities to purchase pipe organs, but these went by the boards because the bits and pieces were scattered. However, this organ, a Cozatt (never heard of the make) was intact and had been played up to 15 years previously.

"Mr. Cozatt, Sr., as I learned, was an expert in many trades such as wood engraving, lithography (the old press was still in the house), and I was told he built quite a few theatre organs, having received his training with the Hinners Organ Co. of Pekin, Ill. This particular instrument was built with his utmost ability, the components of highest-grade materials. I was informed that it would cost \$80,000 to build this organ today, and some of the materials are extinct. Every part of the instrument was hand-built by Cozatt: manuals, tabs, relays, wood flute, metal trumpet etc. The thing really shook the area with its music, I was informed.

"I was told that the two items needing replacement were the blower and blower motor which were in the basement because water flooded the area, ruining these components.

"I did not argue price, which was not too steep. I put the money into the man's hand, and told him I'd be back to dis-assemble and move the organ. I got home, thinking very hard: where, how and why! In my mind, it was a case of making sketches, diagrams and photos. Then color-code all connections, remove and re-install.

"I first bought the house and huge yard adjoining my property in Niles, Mich. On this, I planned to erect a garage-type building with double deck to house my fleet of antique cars. Thus, the garage in which they were originally stored, would serve as a room to spread out the organ components. I bought a building permit to enclose my big patio and increase its height to make my organ loft."

By December 1973, Vic had two loads of Cozatt components at home. The console had to be dismantled to get it thru a 2' 6" doorway. "My wife and I built a mini museum building for the auto collection which will hold 20 cars. She did the big work, like pushing up the 2 x 6 rafters and toting the shingles up the ladder, while I sat tacking them down.

"When I returned for the second load of parts, including 500 pipes, the van got stuck in the front yard in Danville, and I enlisted the aid of a farmer with tractor to pull me out. These trips I had to make between engagements about the country."

In March 1974, fresh from a Caribbean cruise, Vic made another trip to Danville, this time getting





Vic Hyde, working in 100-degree heat in the summer of 1973, dismantles the Cozatt in the loft in Illinois. "Lordy, what we do for a hobby!" he says. (Hyde Collection)

a load of spare parts and pieces lying about the property, some of it out of doors. He found a set of chimes lying in debris on the floor, some spare parts scattered outdoors in the yard as well as in secluded parts of the building. There were spools of wire, boxes of white and black manual keys, wooden flute pipes. "None of this is relevant to the organ I was getting, but since Cozatt was an organ builder, these were extras lying around which would have been junked."

The place had been raided during the winter, and antique book cases were stolen, their contents strewn about the floor. Vic fished thru the material and discovered some data on Cozatt which he passed along to this writer.

"Among the pile of paper debris, I found a poster, printed and engraved by Perry Cozatt, Sr., advertising a 'pipe organ concert.' The photo shows an organ, fitted inside a truck, with the side dropped, showing console and pipes. Apparently, this was a mobile unit which moved to small cities and towns to present outdoor concerts. At the bottom of the poster is room for the name of the local sponsor."

Another item Vic found was a booklet on Cozatt organs, "built by Perry Cozatt of Danville, Ill." The material which we quote should solve some of the mystery surrounding the Cozatt instruments:

#### *Classes of Organs*

"The organs which are now offered are the result of long and careful experimenting and are made to meet the requirements of the church or theatre, and from specifications which have been determined as the

result of experience and experiment to be the best suited for this purpose, and which will give the finest organ for the space allotted and the money appropriated.

#### *Pipes*

"The pipes are made of the best materials obtainable with specially adapted, improved scales, having great reserve power and a surprising richness in tone, and giving body to the full organ without any of the disagreeable results produced by forcing pipes of insufficient capacity,

while at the same time capable of the softest and sweetest effects.

#### *Action*

"The action is an improved electric pneumatic action with individual self-seating valves for each pipe.

"The stop action is so arranged that the wind is distributed equally throughout the entire chest with a uniform pressure on all the pallets at the base of the pipes, even when the stops are not on, making always available an ample supply of wind for every pipe when it is brought into

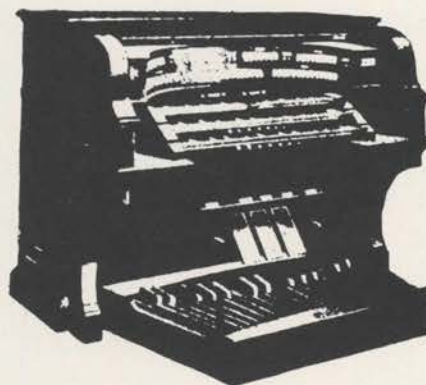
**Better Music  
Draws  
Bigger  
Crowds**

The Pulling Power Of Good Music Has  
Been Proven By The Most Successful  
Theater Managers Everywhere.

### We Take Pleasure In Presenting The **Cozatt Pipe Organ**

The Cozatt organ is a genuine Theater Organ, Built on years of experience in Motion Picture Theater Music. Built to overcome the monotony of the Pipe Organ. Designed to have beautiful tone-quality, Unlimited playing Possibilities, and standard construction familiar to all Organist.

The Cozatt Organ will be a musical feature in your theater that will mean more business and the Elimination of your music worry to you  
**Pipe Organs from \$500.00 up.**



This ad appeared in a Western Motion Picture Company catalogue. The WMPC distributed theatre supplies and its catalogues were printed by the Cozatt Photoengraving and Printing Co. in Danville, Ill. (Hyde Coll.)

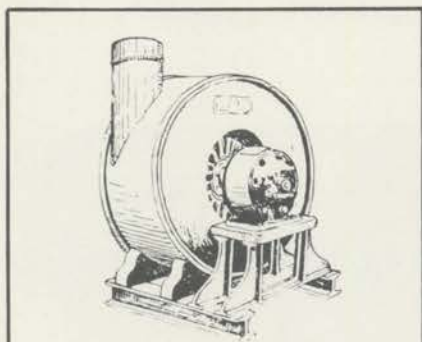




Lloyd Jones at the console of the Cozatt "Master Organ" in the Fine Arts Theatre in Monmouth, Ill. According to the theatre manager, Lou Ring, "Despite hot weather, there was a good-sized crowd at the theatre for the debut of the new organ." Date was not given in publicity. (Hyde Collection)

play, and preventing a robbing from one stop to supply another when it is on.

"Another distinctive feature of the action is a device by which any set of pipes can be played on any manual, making it possible to use any stop as a solo stop with all or any desired number of the remaining stops on the other manuals. By this means, the number of combinations



Emmerson or Century Motor  
All Blowers give 6 in. wind in this type

1-4 H.P. Blower complete	\$ 65.00
1-2 H.P. . . . .	90.00
1-3 H.P. . . . .	110.00
1 H.P. . . . .	145.00
2 H.P. . . . .	180.00

Cozatt Organ Co. Danville Ill.

When electric power was available, an electric-powered Cozatt blower was installed. (Hyde Coll.)

are double that with the same number of pipes under the old method, making the organ equal in respect to the ordinary organ.

#### Bellows

"The bellows are made with the greatest care, of the best materials, and are supplied by air from an electric blower.

#### Installation

"So simple is the construction and co-ordinated are the parts, that the organ can be put together by almost any mechanic and without the services of an expert organ builder.

#### Our Special \$1,000 Pipe Organ Great Manual — 73 Note Chests

8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Flute . . . . . 61 notes.  
Tremola #1, fast  
Tremola #2, slow

#### Accompaniment Manual 73-Note Chests

8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes  
16 ft. Vox Humana . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Vox Humana . . . . . 61 notes  
Tremola #1, fast  
Tremola #2, slow

#### Pedal

16 ft. Bourdon . . . . . 30 notes  
8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 30 notes  
8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 30 notes

#### Very Small Organs

"We build small pipe organs for out-of-door use. Each is furnished with air from a blower, run with a motor, and has 37 notes. All you have to do is screw the drop cord into a light socket and play. It can be heard for blocks. This organ is intended for outdoor advertising as ballyhoo. With orchestras in halls, it gives volume and kick to the music. Price, crated at Danville, Ill., \$175.

#### Consoles

"Our consoles are finished in mahogany or ivory which are most popular at this time. We include only the latest and up-to-date ideas in our consoles: radiating and concave pedalboard, slanting manuals, stop tablets, illuminated circular consoles. All the latest.

"We build a two-manual practice organ with a complete bourdon unit and a diapason as follows:

#### Great Manual — 73 Note Chests

8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes

#### Accompaniment Manual 73-Note Chests

8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Flute . . . . . 61 notes  
Tremola #2, slow

#### Pedal

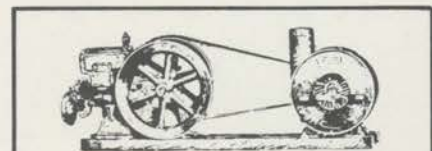
16 ft. Bourdon . . . . . 30 notes  
8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 30 notes  
8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 30 notes

"All for \$750. An organ for the home or studio. Wright (sic) for information.

#### Our Special \$2,000 Two-Manual Theatre Organ

#### Great Manual — 73-Note Chests

8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Flute . . . . . 61 notes  
8 ft. Violin . . . . . 61 notes  
4 ft. Violina . . . . . 61 notes  
Chimes . . . 20 bars



#### THE GAS ENGINE BLOWER

In some small towns where they do not have electric current and in the country where organs are pumped by hand we build a gas engine blower

Some of these blowers have been in use for over five years with out one bit of trouble.

Price of blower and a two H.P. engine \$150.00  
F.O.B. Danville Ill.

A gasoline-powered engine was installed to run a Cozatt blower when electricity was unavailable. One wonders if there were much noise created by this type propulsion. (Hyde Collection)



**Accompaniment Manual**  
**73-Note Chests**

- 8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 61 notes
- 4 ft. Octave . . . . . 61 notes
- 8 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes
- 4 ft. Melodia . . . . . 61 notes
- 8 ft. Cello . . . . . 61 notes
- 4 ft. Violin . . . . . 61 notes
- 8 ft. Vox Humana . . . . . 61 notes
- 4 ft. Vox Humana . . . . . 61 notes
- Tremola #1, fast
- Tremola #2, slow

**Pedal**

- 16 ft. Bourdon . . . . . 30 notes
- 8 ft. Open Diapason . . . . . 30 notes
- 8 ft. Gross Flute . . . . . 30 notes
- 8 ft. Violin Cello . . . . . 30 notes

The information on the Cozatt enterprise has been obtained piecemeal. "Percy Cozatt, Jr.," says Vic Hyde, "is a very busy, high-strung individual, and it is difficult to tie him down for anecdotes and material. I spent an evening with him in his calliope factory where he was feverishly trying to get caught up on orders which were four months behind. He builds and assembles each part himself.

"But I did get bits and pieces of information. For example, Cozatt Sr., built a large pipe organ for a Monmouth, Illinois, theatre in 1928. The theatre burned to the ground in 1929, all was lost. Cozatt also built church organs, some in use today."

Up to the time of finalizing this article, Vic, with the assistance of his wife, had been collating and cleaning the parts for a possible installation in Niles. However, during a round-the-world cruise in April 1976, Vic encountered a man in Honolulu who expressed a desire to buy the Cozatt. What interested Vic was the man's ownership of a 1934 Cadillac V-16 sedan, said to be once owned by Chicago's famous citizen, Al Capone. Vic considered a trade of these items, because he is away so much that he would probably never get the organ installed.

Furthermore, the additions to his home in Niles have reached the allowable limits of zoning restriction.

Whoever acquires the Cozatt will get a unique make of theatre organ. We are thankful to Vic Hyde for sharing his experience with a rare instrument and making available the material concerning its manufacture. □

# Jean Ingelow

SILENT  
 MOVIE  
 PIANIST

by Lloyd E. Klos

When one is on the alert for material which would be of interest to THEATRE ORGAN readers, he is aided by those in the profession known as "stringers." Often, this writer has received tips for feature material in this fashion. A colleague, Tom Lockwood, on hearing about a silent movie pianist living south of Rochester, N.Y., passed the word, we contracted her, and this is her story.

Our subject, Jean Ingelow of Livonia, N.Y., never played pipe organs in theatres, but her story, involving the silent movie era, and her experiences as a pianist in theatres, is interesting, nevertheless.

She was born on March 24, 1892, and was named for a great aunt, Jean Ingelow, who was an English poetess and harpist. Inheriting her

musical talent, she began piano lessons at the age of seven, and at 16, went to Rochester to study with Carrie Holyland.

Three years later, Miss Ingelow entered the Rochester Conservatory of Music on South Fitzhugh St. At the age of 21, she entered the Dossenbach-Klingenberg-Garrison School of Music from which she was graduated in 1915 after thorough instruction in pianoforte, theory, harmony, composition, orchestration and musical history. Her teachers included Alfred Klingenberg and George B. Penny.

Miss Ingelow had played church organ when she was 16, so in 1921, she entered the Eastman School of Music and studied classical organ with Harold Gleason who was head of the organ department. She also

A 1948 picture of Jean Ingelow at the Hammond in Community Congregational Church in Livonia, N.Y. She observed her 40th year as an organist at that time. (Ingelow Collection)

