

**NUGGETS**  
from the  
**GOLDEN**  
**DAYS**



Prospected by Lloyd E. Klos

It's Valentine's month again, and time for Jason and I to salute all the hard-working gals in the ATOS. The first two items were found in the July Melody and December 1927 Jacobs magazines respectively.

*MARGARET GRAY* is the only woman organist in Vancouver, B.C. She plays with a 15-piece orchestra during most of the pictures, but because of her unusual ability to play dramatics, she plays that part of the feature alone. This is more or less of a compliment, as orchestras usually play the portions of the picture which enable them to bring out the most striking effects.

Miss Gray seems particularly adapted to picture work. She has accompanied pictures since the day of the piano, and has arranged and played cue music for repertoire companies. She is thoroughly experienced in all phases of show business, has played with a stock company, done several turns in vaudeville, and directed musical comedy and light opera.

It is difficult to get Miss Gray to talk about herself. She was full of praise for the conductor and members of the orchestra, as well as organists in her home town. She spent six years studying piano in Berlin, Germany; then studied organ with Prof. Laurence of Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. Upon coming west, she continued her organ study with Mr. Thwaites in Santa Barbara, Cal., who, by the way, was formerly organist at St. Paul's in Leeds, England.

At the Southern California University, she studied with Prof. Skeele,

and at Vancouver, B.C., with Dr. Vinen of St. Andrews Church. Miss Gray claims that her work with Sidney Kelland, organist at the Capitol Theatre in Vancouver, has proven most beneficial to her. One can see readily the extent of Miss Gray's musical education.

Her instrument is of Canadian build, and is one of the straight type. It hasn't the features which the modern theatre organs possess, but the average auditor certainly can't notice the difference when Miss Gray is at the console. The tone is rich and beautiful, and the action is splendid.

Miss Gray will become guest organist at the Capitol in Vancouver for three months, beginning June 14, during the absence of Mr. Kelland. The offer of this post came as a pleasant surprise and a compliment, as Mr. Kelland is considered one of Canada's finest organists. Miss Gray felt duly honored in being made his substitute. The Capitol boasts one of the finest organs there is. It is perfectly installed, is complete in every detail, and has a marvelous tone. It will, no doubt, be an inspiration to Miss Gray.

Besides her regular organ work, accompanying pictures and giving concerts, she will broadcast a special concert each Sunday over CFYU. You radio fans better tune in each Sunday between six and seven PM, as the concerts will be a real treat.

One of the competent organists and pleasing personalities on the Loew circuit is Miss HENRIETTA KAMERN of the Rio Theatre in New York. Miss Kamern has been on the circuit for over 7 years and has been at the Rio most of the time, with the exception of a brief stay at the 116th Street Theatre.

When Miss Kamern first came to the Rio, an old Hall organ was in use which has since been replaced by a splendid three-manual Moller, one of the finest organs in the circuit. Miss Kamern's mother is the talented director of the orchestra at the Burland Theatre of the same circuit.

Miss Kamern has recently been doing some remarkably successful broadcasting on her fine instrument, through station WHN, the official Loew broadcasting station. Her recitals are usually given Sunday evenings and have met with great favor. Her first program included the

popular "Rhapsody in Blue" and other popular hits.

We are sure the success which she deserves and which has already come to her in part, will be Miss Kamern's in even greater measure in the future.

June 13, 1928 (Local Press) EVA LANGLEY at the 4/26 Wurlitzer in Boston's Metropolitan Theatre, is playing incidental organ music to the feature picture "Hold 'Em, Yale," starring Rod LaRocque. The presentation is being heard on WBET, the 1040-kilowatt station in Medford, Mass.

Nov. 1928 (Syracuse Daily Orange). W. STUART GREEN has been appointed assistant to organist RUBY MANN at the Harvard Theatre, a neighborhood house in Syracuse, N.Y., which continues a silent film policy.

Feb. 1929 (Syracuse Daily Orange) GLADYS BEARDSLEY has been succeeded by organist W. STUART GREEN at the Syracuse, N.Y. Regent Theatre, now a "talkie" house.

May 1934 (Local Press) ANN LEAF is heard daily at 2 p.m. over CBS from New York, while ELSIE THOMPSON also broadcasts evenings over WOR in Newark.

**GOLD DUST:** There were plenty of lady organists in those days as the following memory-twitching bits will prove: 1/27 DESSA BYRD, Indianapolis' Circle; MILDRED FITZPATRICK, Chicago's Piccadilly . . . 5/27 ELEANOR HALEY in the State Theatre & JOSEPHINE PAROFF at Loew's in New York; FLORENCE BLUM & CATHERINE JOHNSON, Prospect in Flushing, Long Island . . . 12/27 HENRIETTA KAMERN, Loew's Rio in New York; Miss MARX at Forest Park's Robert Morton in New York . . . 10/28 MYNA McNEILL, Ellen in Boleman, Mont.; FOSTINE FOX, Lyons (Kan.) Theatre. Thanks to Joe Duci Bella who sent us some names from a 1928 Stagehands Ball Program.

Just as they did in the glamour days of the theatre organ, the gals of today are doing a superb job in the renaissance of the instrument. A tip of the Old Prospector's hat to all of them!

Jason & The Old Prospector □