

cellent magazine because, he said, it had too much classical content and he didn't understand it. In actual fact, only 16% of the program was classical, and virtuoso exciting pieces at that, so his comment to me would seem to indicate not a failure to understand, but a closed mind. After all, what's to understand in a dramatic toccata which uses all the resources of the organ? The kids understand it all right, but they would just laugh if I tried to play acid rock on the organ. So I think these are some of the answers. Maybe other organists would care to comment.

Yours sincerely,
Don Thompson, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

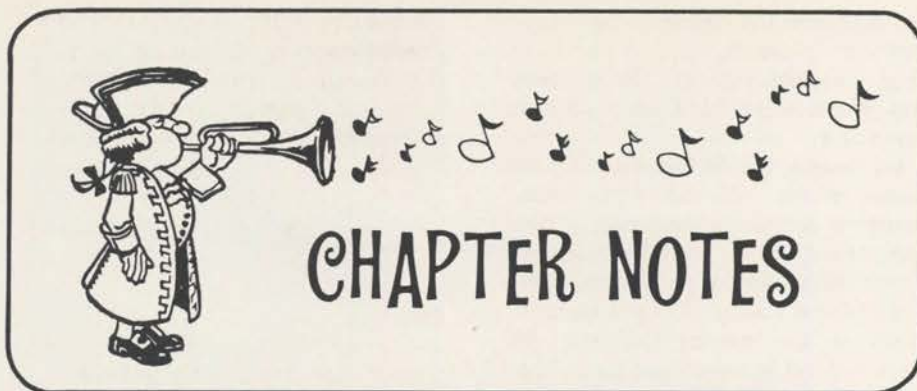
The King Records, Inc. catalog of recorded masters was recently purchased by Gusto Records, Inc. Among the many valued masters in the King catalog are some twenty cuts by George Wright. Recorded at the New York Paramount Theatre on the Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ, selections include:

- "Love For Sale"
- "Jeanine"
- "Makin' Whoope"
- "Easter Parade"
- "Take Me Out To The Ball Game"
- "Tenderly"
- "Times Square Boogie"
- "Stella By Starlight"
- "Stardust"
- "Body and Soul"
- "Night and Day"
- "Beguine The Beguine"
- "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes"
- "Always"
- "España Cani"
- "Brazil"
- "Birth Of The Blues"
- "Honky Tonk Train Blues"
- "Falling In Love"
- "Blue Moon"

Due to the historical significance of these early George Wright selections, do you think there would be active interest from your readership in purchasing these recordings if they were made available on album and/or 8 track tape?

We would appreciate your opinion as to the interest and feasibility of re-issuing the aforementioned George Wright "collector" edition.

Cordially,
Jim Wilson



Let us know what's happening in YOUR Chapter!

Send Photos and News to:

GEORGE THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 1314
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93901

Deadline for all material is the FIRST of the month PRECEDING Publication.

Copy for Aug.-Sept. issue must be in by July 1.

ALABAMA

We have another newcomer to announce this month. The wife of Chuck Hancock, who is head of our work crew here in Birmingham, presented him with their first child. Congratulations to the Hancocks. We're raising a whole new generation of ATOSers!

Our March and April meetings brought us some super entertainment. Both performers are members of our chapter — so we feel very fortunate to have such capable and willing artists right in our midst.

At our March meeting, Jack Moelmann journeyed over from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and entertained us with a marvelously varied concert. We had a larger-than-usual crowd and all were quite pleased and enthused by Jack's performance. He is a Major in the Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and is quite well known throughout that state. He has played, at one time or another, at most of the large hotels along the gulf Coast, performs at numerous charitable community activities, has given benefit concerts in his home on his own special Hammond which he customized himself and has given concerts on the Temple Theatre pipe organ in Meridian,

Mississippi. As you can well imagine, Jack is a busy fellow and much in demand and we're especially proud to have him as a member of our chapter, and very grateful to him for playing a concert for us.

Jack is certainly no newcomer in the pipe organ field having been assistant organist at the age of 12 at Grace Episcopal Church, Chicago, Illinois (which is his hometown) on a 4/98 Casavant. He toured Europe in 1960 and performed at such places as Westminster Abbey in London and the Pantheon in Rome. He also became only the second military person to perform in concert on the magnificent 3/99 Moller in the Chapel of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. For a year and a half he presided nightly at the 2/9 Wurlitzer in Shakey's Pizza Parlor at Anaheim, California. It was on this particular organ that he cut his latest record album, "Jack Moelmann at the Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ." A hobby of Jack's is collecting old silent films, and he



Major Jack Moelmann from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. (Thomas L. Hatter Photo)

brought one for our viewing enjoyment.

On Saturday night before the meeting we had a jam session and party at the Aureds'. This, too, was a most enjoyable evening. Al Neissen came as Jack's guest and added much to the entertainment of the evening. Al plays at a club in the French Quarter in New Orleans. The two of them teamed up on piano and organ in the Aureds' rec room. All in all — I think everyone had a fun weekend — and we heard a lot of great theatre organ music! Again, a very special thanks to a wonderful talent, and a very nice man . . . Jack Moelmann!

Our May meeting was equally as exciting when we presented Mark Landers, from Birmingham, and he did a super job for us. Mark is only 19 years old, so his list of accomplishments is especially impressive for such a tender age.

His musical interests are not restricted entirely to the organ, although now this is his first love. "Way back" when Mark was still in high school he played French Horn and piano. He received "Best Musician Award" from High School in 1975, five Solo and Ensemble Awards, was in All-State Band two years, and the Mid-South Honor Band one year.

Already studying piano, it seems only natural that Mark's interests would expand to the organ which he started studying in 1970. Only four years later, in 1974, Mark entered the Yamaha Electone Festival. That year he won the local and regional competition, and placed third in nationals in Houston, Texas. In 1975, he again won the local competition, and received a "Distinguished Performance Award" at the regionals. In 1976, for the third year in a row, Mark was the local and regional winner, placing second this time in the nationals in Chicago, Illinois.

Mark is now a sophomore at Samford University, Birmingham, majoring in Business Administration, while still actively pursuing his musical talents on the organ. He's getting a lot of good performing experience playing weekends at Green Valley Country Club, in Hoover, a Birmingham suburb, as well as doing other special programs for the Alabama Theatre from time to time.



Mark Landers at the April meeting.

(Thomas L. Hatter Photo)

This young man is just getting started in theatre organ, and what a wonderful start he has made! He certainly can hold his own. He presented a terrific show with plenty of variety ranging, as Mark puts it, "from the sublime to the ridiculous." He did some beautiful ballads with the theatre styling that we all love so much, some Broadway show tunes, a few arrangements with contemporary jazz overtones, and even a couple of gospel tunes — all of which added up to a very enjoyable program.

All we can say is, keep your eye on this young man! We believe he's going places. Thanks, Mark, for a job well done! It was a wonderful program!

JO ANN RADUE

CATOE

"Chicago '77" is almost here, and all effort is being directed toward making it a memorable event for everyone. We are indeed looking forward to welcoming you to the Theatre Organ Capital of the World!

CATOE's own Wurlitzer, the 3/10 from the Indiana Theatre is in the final stages of installation at Maine Township North High School, in the beautiful theatre which was built to house a theatre organ. It will have its premiere performance during the convention.

The March social was held at Chicago's newest "musical eatery," Sally's Stage, where CATOE member Bill Hansen installed a 3/10 Barton theatre organ from the Retlaw (that's the owner's name, Walter spelled backwards) Theatre in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Restaurant owners Joe and Mike Bortz have invited ATOS conventioners to stop in on the 4th of July, following the convention. Scott Smith of Lansing, Michigan, presided at the console for the social, and gave a very entertaining and enjoyable program. March concluded with a public show featuring Ron Bogda at the Patio Theatre's 3/17 Barton. Ron is used to a somewhat larger instrument, as he's the organist at the Chicago Stadium's giant 6-manual Barton. We'll hear him there during the convention.

CATOE celebrated its fifteenth birthday on April 24 (just a few months late) at WGN's television studio 3, which houses a 3/11 Wurlitzer, modified by Kimball. A member born the same year as CATOE, Greg Mackintosh, gave us a fine program on the organ. It's very rewarding seeing young talent developing, so that we know these instruments we love will be played by future generations. A special surprise feature of the social was the presentation of the First (and maybe only) Annual Kangaroo Award to member Marie



CATOE Chairman Richard Sklenar presents member Marie Pond with kangaroo award "Pouch" and "Pouch Celeste."

(Jim Taggart Photo)

Pond. Now what do kangaroos have to do with theatre pipe organs? They both have pouches, of course! While a kangaroo's pouch will usually last a lifetime, the hundreds of leather pneumatic pouches in a pipe organ eventually wear out and have to be recovered. Marie earned her award by single-handedly releathering over 1400 pouches from the Maine North and Oriental Theatre organs. The award consisted of a kangaroo hand puppet, appropriately named "Pouch." Inside Pouch's pouch was "Pouch Celeste."

May 15 will bring CATOE's final event prior to the convention, a social and election of officers at Downers Grove North High School.

JIM TAGGART

CENTRAL OHIO

Chapter members met at the home of Irene and Jim Blegen in March. Our concert artist at the Conn 651 was Mark Williams. Mark did an exceptionally fine job with a well planned variety of selections. Kenny Winland and Neil Shivers gave us organ and piano duets, Dennis James took a turn, and for those who stayed later, treated us to some great musical listening.

One of our finest chapter meetings was held in April in the auditorium of the Worthington High School. The program was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Riley. Mr. Riley is a staff member of 1st Community Church. Laden with five large cameras, recording equipment and transformer, Mr. and Mrs. Riley have made eight trips throughout Europe photographing churches and church pipe organs and garnering information about them. Much of the photographic work is credited to Mrs. Riley's artistry with her cameras. The result of their effort is a highly professional film. The tapes of organ music are exactly as heard while recording.

The film is titled "An Organ Sampler" with pen and ink lettering done in the style of sampler stitching done by Mrs. Riley. With narration by Mr. Riley, we viewed many films of breathtaking beauty and some console cases were the original — works of great beauty — with newer organs added. From the introduction to the end with the majestic organ

music heard, we were an enraptured audience. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Riley for sharing this with us and most certainly will avail ourselves of their offer to return with their sound/film of Spanish churches.

IRENE BLEGEN

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

"... and along came Bill": On Saturday, March 19, at the Thomaston Opera House we were treated to the artistry of that "grand old gentleman" of the console, our own beloved Bill Dalton. It was a genuine love affair between the audience and this truly "gentle man" whose music spans over a half century of "Theatre organ entertainment."

This, his third appearance at the Opera House, was perhaps the most memorable as the audience showed its affection and appreciation with not just one standing ovation but three, to which Bill graciously responded with four separate encores; and even then his fans were reluctant to let him leave the console.

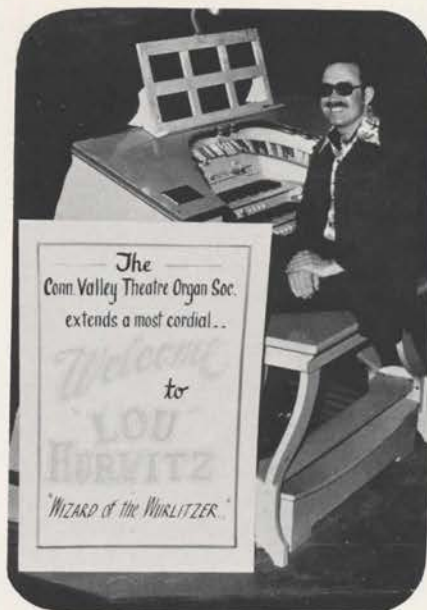
The evening's program ranged from light classics to pops — something guaranteed to please all tastes, beginning with a wonderful Gershwin medley which included the hauntingly beautiful "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Swanee" and the lively "Strike Up the Band." Then a turn to the classics with excerpts from famous waltzes by Chopin, Brahms and Strauss's great "Tales From the Vienna Woods." It was a wonderful, musical evening.

JUNE L. GAREN

Our April meeting took place in two very desirable locations — the Center Theatre in Waterbury and the Roberg residence in Plymouth. Both feature excellent pipe organs maintained by our membership.

The day began with mid-afternoon open console at the Center Theatre. Some unusually good talent occupied the console and the ideal surroundings of the theatre made for most enjoyable listening.

At the close of open console Chairman Norm Ray again conducted a business session on schedule so that we could hear the featured artist of the day as programmed. Good going, Norm.



Lou Hurvitz at the Center Theatre in Waterbury.

(P. Miller Photo)

For the April meeting Program Chairman Paul Plainer was able to bring us an outstanding artist who had to travel some distance to accommodate us. Lou Hurvitz came from West Point, N.Y., to play a scheduled hour's concert which he did with a minimum of talk and a maximum of music in both quantity and quality. At the finish of his well arranged renditions of a nice sampling of music from theatre, concert, and other sources, audience response was such that Lou was obliged to squeeze in an encore before we had to vacate the theatre prior to the evening motion picture presentation. Thanks to Paul Plainer and Lou Hurvitz for such a fine program.

Our day continued at the Roberg residence in Plymouth where informal organ playing and friendly socializing were carried on in the traditional hospitality of Gen Roberg.

W.P.

EASTERN MASS.

Chairman "Pete" Hoagland announced at our March meeting that Erle Renwick would be committee chairman to evaluate the original goals for our Wurlitzer, to ascertain accomplishments to date and what must be done for full realization.

Bob Legon invited our members to Connecticut Valley Chapter's sponsored field trip on May 15, visiting the 3/9 Kilgen theatre organ in Lakeview Congregational Church,

Waltham, and nearby member Pat Fucci's resident 4/19 Robert Morton.

Our dual spring concerts by Hector Olivera on May 21 at Babson and May 22 at Stoneham Town Hall were then discussed. Vice President and Concert Chairman Craig Johnson reminded those present that this year the chapter (Charter Number One) celebrates its 20th anniversary. Carl Getz was appointed to produce an appropriate booklet for the spring concerts.

Craig appointed a committee chaired by Pat Fucci with Stu Hinchliffe and Bob Legon assisting, to contact various potential organists and present details to the members for selection. Pat and Rosalie Fucci invited the chapter for another field trip to their residence in June. This is always a fun outing with plenty of good food, fellowship and Robert Morton.

With business over, Craig announced that the evening's theme was "Spring is Here" and, appropriately, had this title on a Cook label LP played by Bill Floyd on the N.Y. Paramount Wurlitzer utilizing Babson's newly installed speaker system. Live music followed with a potpourri of playing members at our console — Cheryl Linder, Dick Metzger, Al Winslow, Tim Bjareby, Julie Feltman with Bob Legon concluding. As each name was read, the audience's applause seemed equal. Each was asked to draw a slip from a box with only one paper being marked. Bob was the prize winner — a large poster of a beautiful four-manual Wurlitzer "waterfall" console.

In April, after Secretary Rosalie Fucci and Treasurer Dick Metzger's reports were heard, it was revealed that the Wurlitzer Orchestral Oboe on loan from Art Goggin had now been purchased. After disposition of certain spring concert details, Craig announced the names of 12 organists being considered for our fall concerts. These were reduced to six by a showing of hands.

Discussion has been going on with the Stoneham Town Hall Organ Committee concerning the chapter's restoration and maintenance of the fine Wurlitzer. Before voting, Bob Legon reminded all not to forget that Stoneham had been EMCATOS' unofficial "home for over 17 years. The membership quickly agreed

with the Board's recommendation to proceed.

Erle Renwick, previously appointed chapter organ committee chairman, named those assisting him as Arthur Goggin, Garrett Shanklin, Elbert Drazy and Ed Stanley. The various schools of thought about restoration, possible enlargement, etc. must be fully considered before presenting their finding to the full membership — always a most controversial subject!

With no further business, Craig pushed the "on" switch at the console and presented his guest organist, Phil Bordeleau, from Bedford, N.H., only 16, but with eight years of piano lessons and an organ pupil of Ken Wilson's since last summer. Phil should have a great future as his lush handling of "Stairway to the Stars," and other selections indicated he has that elusive touch.

Another pleasant surprise was the presentation of a former theatre organist, Mrs. Norma Durgin, who played as Norma Knapp at the Strand, Newburyport, Mass., Wurlitzer. Despite her long absence from a Wurlitzer, her "know-how" showed itself immediately as John Phipps assisted her with registration on the unfamiliar console.

The popular open console portion of the evening followed with many "subscribers" to the sign-up sheet, led off by John Phipps and continuing until after midnight, despite Daylight Saving Time with the lost hour going into effect. What matters time in the presence of live theatre pipes singing forth!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

On Sunday, February 13, a grand open console and meeting was held at the Trenton War Memorial. Members lined up for a chance at the 3/14 Moller — a pure delight to play. A party atmosphere prevailed. Tables were set up on the large stage and members brought box lunches. Coffee and desserts rounded out the menu. While members played, others were taken on tours through the beautiful building.

A mini-concert was given by Bill Vlasak, a young and talented organist from Ohio, who has been a featured organist at the Ohio Theatre and is now one of the select staff at



Bill Vlasak after his mini-concert at the Trenton 3/14 Moller.

the Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona. Bill's music was delightful and the hour flew by quickly. It is especially enjoyable to hear a young, talented up and coming organist play. His concert made the day! Garden State extended an invitation to the Delaware Valley Chapter to hear the concert and join in the open console time. And quite a few Delaware members came.

Garden State has recently had some great publicity in newspapers and has been the source of many new members. On Sunday, January 16, the Asbury Park Press ran a fine article on theatre organs and showed pictured of the Mahns Bicycle Shop's Robert Morton theatre organ. A very accurate, comprehensive description of ATOS and its purposes, plus many interesting tidbits on theatre organ were given. Bob and Walter Mahns, who are charter members of our chapter, love theatre organ and have founded a wonderful nucleus of interested people in their area. Frequently Sunday afternoon concerts are given at their bicycle shop and they have been responsible for quite a few new members joining ATOS.

In March the Bergen Evening Record, which covers all of Bergen County, published a full-page article and pictures of the Pascack Theatre Wurlitzer and its hard working crew.

This article created a lot of interest and Garden State received more new members. It is amazing what a little publicity can do!

Intermission organ music on Wurlitzers is being played by GSTOS members every Saturday night at the Rahway Theatre in Rahway and at the Pascack Theatre in Westwood, N.J. The audiences have been most enthusiastic. Posters in the lobby of the theatres and a trailer on the screen help identify our chapter.

Open console was held March 20 at the Montvale Roller Skating Rink, which has a 2/8 Robert Morton. Playing members climbed to a glass enclosed booth which is built high over the skater's heads, and took their turn playing the theatre pipe organ. Unfortunately, the day was a wet one and it discouraged some members from attending. Those who did come had several chances to "do their thing." House organist Al De Luca played a mini-concert for our enjoyment.

GSTOS now has four restoration projects going on in theatres and extra work crews are being encouraged to join. The theatres are the Rahway, Casa Italiana in Newark, Pascack, and St. Joseph's Chapel in West New York.

JINNY VANORE

The Casa Italiana, formerly the Stanley Theatre, had its annual Carnival March 5 attended by over 300, with a musical program, and dining in the beautiful atmospheric theatre. It was especially decorated for this event by Walter Froehlich, general manager and organ crew chief. He and his crew are also installing the 4/33 Wurlitzer from the Fabian Theatre, of Paterson, which will make it the largest organ in a theatre in this area, exclusive of Radio City Music Hall.

The organ was integrated into the affair, with solos, marches and accompaniments for the singers, and added a dimension to the proceedings that only an organ can. The *Italian Tribune* of Newark had extensive coverage with pictures of the pageant and organ.

As house organist, who plays intermissions weekly, it gave Bill Gage a chance to show what a wonderful sound a Wurlitzer can make when involved in affairs of this kind. Many were impressed and thrilled.



Tony Tahlman at the Cicero 3/15 Barton Organ.

(Gene Bryant Photo)

LAND O'LAKES

Land O'Lakers have had a busy three months of the new year. Our first meeting at Cicero's Pizza Restaurant was a huge success. One hundred sixty-five members and their guests attended; weather conditions co-operating to make our attendance almost "standing room only." Our board chairman, Alan Gerber, opened the meeting by introducing the newly elected board members. A resume of chapter statistics was also given:

91 Memberships; 149 Members; and \$1324.00 in the treasury.

From the ooh's and aah's from the members, we took it to mean — thanks to our jovial, hard-working treasurer, Marge, for a job well done.

Tony Tallman was our guest artist at the Cicero meeting, but before he started his concert, a very thorough, printed story of #3 Cicero's beginning; Terry Kleven's involvement in the installation; a short personal review of Tony and complete specifications of the Barton organ was passed out to each member. Thanks to Tony, who had the forethought to put this information together. It most certainly helped us to understand how much knowledge it takes to install and operate these huge, magnificent instruments.

By suggested compliance to the five-minute limit during open console, we were privileged to hear fifteen of our members play the Cicero organ.

February gave us a surprising and

impromptu meeting. Expect the unexpected and you'll have a good time; so we found out on Tuesday evening, February 8. Our treasurer got a hurried call from Bill Sweasy of Red Wing, Minn., inviting the board to preview the dedication of their refurbished Kilgen organ in the Red Wing Auditorium Theatre. As many members as possible were contacted by phone and forty responded. Walking into the foyer of the theatre, with the traditional popcorn machine and candy counter, made one feel we were back in the 20's — a perfect setting for what followed. Two flights of stairs to the balcony, where they had a section roped off for our delegation, we had a perfect view of the orchestra pit with the beautiful white and gold Kilgen console, against the white walls of the freshly repainted old theatre and the red velvet stage curtain. Mr. Hawley Foote, who M.C.'d the performance, introduced Rose Morley, of Red Wing, who originally accompanied the silent films at this same theatre. Lights dimmed and a spotlight on the organ revealed our master of the evening, Lee Erwin. Mr. Erwin's concert included the nostalgic golden oldies, and popular stage show tunes, the Buster Keaton silent, *The Haunted House*, and sing-along slides from the past, with some interesting new words. It was an evening of enjoyment.

On February 20, at Gethsemane Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, an unexpected large turnout heard



Lyle Hagert at the Ruffatti pipe organ.

Lyle Hagert at the Ruffatti Pipe Organ. Mr. Hagert is a well-known concert church organist, having performed all over the country, and we were privileged to hear his inspiring classical concert. He explained the organ and pipe installation in detail, as well as each selection he performed.

On March 20, members were cordially greeted at the home of March and Dee Dalquist, in Edina. Though the weather was threatening cold and more snow, there was warmth inside the beautiful and spacious home. Our congenial chairman opened the meeting by introducing our artist, Paul Wesley Bowen. His concert was well received and his manner of adding little quips about each selection made the audience feel relaxed as we enjoyed the lush sounds coming from the Wurlitzer pipe organ. Mr. Bowen is a young, accomplished concert organist, who came to our city from the West



Paul Bowen at the 3/7 Wurlitzer.

Coast. We feel fortunate in having him among us, where we eagerly await each concert he gives.

LOS ANGELES

On March 13, Jonas Nordwall played a concert for the chapter on the San Gabriel 3/16 Wurlitzer. This young man seems to grow musically with each concert, which is probably the way he plans it. He brought the gleaming white console up to a bouncing "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" then changed moods completely for a haunting "The Way We Were." Other memorable selections were "Valse Bleue," a medley from *Carousel*, "Muskrat Ramble," "Don't Worry 'bout Me," Overture from *Tommy* and a rousing closer, the overture from *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Jonas' MCing was just right, and he was always in complete control of the instrument. He employs no gimmicks; he just produces very satisfying music in theatre organ style. His audience was with him all the way.

Wiltern theatre maintenance crew chief Ross Farmer announced that the 4/37 Kimball will be back in action for the George Blackmore concert on June 18. The organ has been out of service for over a year while the console was renovated and the stopkeys rearranged in the standard pattern.

The chapter's "rent an organ" project continues, now under the direction of Ross Tigert. You pay your money and find yourself sitting in a sea of stopkeys over 4 manuals, the Elks Bldg 4/61 Robert Morton.

This service is open to all chapter members and the price is right.

The chapter's Marr & Colton project in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium is moving along satisfactorily. Bids for chamber and elevator construction are being collected by the Project Committee which is headed by Cliff Schwander. The bids will be submitted to the Pasadena Center for budgeting. We are dealing with a municipality, and that can make progress seem slow. But the establishment of a home for our Marr & Colton will be worth the total effort.

Although we are writing before the event, we trust our May 21-22 Organ Crawl will come off as planned. We'll travel Amtrak (by private RR car if the reservations warrant it) from Los Angeles to San Diego for visits to five theatre pipe organ installations (including the Reginald Foort 5/28 Moller), a Harbor Cruise in San Diego Bay and a space adventure in the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theatre. We'll return by Amtrak the next day. Look for a report in this column next issue.

The chapter's general business meeting was held on March 28 at the Pipe 'n Pizza in the San Fernando Valley. The once 2/10 Wurlitzer has been re-installed for better "hearability" and some ranks of pipes have been added (we didn't find out how many). Once the business was concluded, our talented members entertained at the console while the rest of us chomped pizza. The presence of an organ always seems to move the business sessions along at a delightful pace.

The chapter's "Mothers' Day" concert (May 8) will introduce us to



Jonas Nordwall (Nakahara Photo)



Dan Semer (Stufoto)



Lance Luce, Motor City member, won in the Youth II category at the Yamaha regional contest in Wisconsin. Now it's on to the finals in Los Angeles. (Larry Luce Photo)

youthful Dan Semer, a pupil of Bill Thomson and Richard Purvis. Dan has been getting enthusiastic reviews so we decided to find out what he can do with the San Gabriel Wurlitzer.

While it won't be a chapter event, members are looking forward to George Wright's second concert on the San Gabriel Wurlitzer set for May 13.

BOB POWER & STU GREEN

MOTOR CITY

Our lively Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre 3/13 Barton in March featured long-time chapter member Don Jenks. He treated the large audience to many popular favorites and spring songs. No Second Sunday was scheduled in April because of Easter Sunday.

Ray Ebey appeared at the 3/16 Barton for our Fourth Sunday event at the Royal Oak Theatre in March. Ray has been a teacher, church organist and dance band leader in the Pontiac area.

The artist for our April Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak was new member Carl Creager. Carl is a professional supper club organist in the Detroit area. Open console is also a part of these Second and Fourth Sunday events.

Lee Erwin appeared at the Redford Theatre for our three-night D. W. Griffith Film Festival in March. The films were *Way Down East*, *Orphans of the Storm* and *Sally of*

the Sawdust. With a different film each night, Lee came up with three superb film scores to delight our combined audience of 2000. Our own Motor City Chorus introduced Thursday and Friday evening's film fare with the appropriate "Don't You Wish You'd Been Around."

A committee has been created to manage fund-raising activities and develop new programs necessary to complete the purchase of the Redford Theatre properties. Contributors of \$25, or more, will receive a "I'm An Angel — I Helped Buy the Redford Theatre" pin. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to: Motor

City Theatre Organ Society, P.O. Box 40716, Redford, Michigan 48240.

Motor City again invites ATOS members who will be in town on Thursday, August 11, to attend our Fourth Annual Bob-Lo Moonlight Cruise on the Detroit River on board the 75-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia*. There will be dancing to an electronic organ on the dance deck and a cash bar on the third deck.

Tickets for the private-charter moonlight are \$4.00. For tickets and information write: Motor City Moonlight, P.O. Box 671, Dearborn, Michigan 48121.

DON LOCKWOOD

NEW YORK

It's a fairly safe assumption that no musician in the history of theatre organ concerts (and possibly any kind of organ, or even the piano) ever made an entrance quite like it!

True, she confined her manifold talents to the piano while her equally talented husband presided over the four-manual console for a charming, sparkling program of duets and solos.

But, while Dennis James' entrance was merely a traditional walk-to-the-console from "prompt" side of the giant Radio City Music Hall stage, Heidi James rode in on the back of a white swan. Actually, she drove on from well upstage in a sweeping



Heidi's entrance at Radio City Music Hall.

curve toward the orchestra lift. Dressed in a white, floor-length gown that matched the color of the swan's back, she handled the motor-driven fairy-tale stage piece with great aplomb. After pausing to acknowledge applause from the slightly-amazed audience, she made her way to the grand piano on the orchestra lift and, within seconds, 88 notes of Steinway and 56 ranks of Wurlitzer were romping together through "Popularity" — their NYTOS concert opener in mid-March.

The audience, numbering well over 500, had assembled virtually at the crack of dawn in the then all but deserted streets of Sunday morning Manhattan. Yes, they queued up in the traditional sidewalk line outside the 50th St. entrance well before the doors were opened. They had come by train, by chartered bus and by cars which bore license plates not only from New York and New Jersey, but also Connecticut, Pennsylvania and other surrounding states.

Never before had theatre organ fans heard the huge Music Hall Wurlitzer in a duet concert, although Dennis and Heidi's concerts are house-fillers at the Ohio Center for the Performing Arts in Columbus (nee Loew's Ohio Theatre with the original 4/20 Robert Morton a prime focal point of interest).

Dennis and Heidi are not only extremely talented musicians — perfectly attuned to one another, they possess an exceptional sense of "showbusiness." Their programs move like clockwork treating the audience to a kaleidoscope of musical interests with each number prefaced by interesting background on the composer, anecdotes about how the composition was inspired, or possibly what happened when the work was first played in concert. If Dennis and Heidi could bestow academic credit upon their audiences after a season of their concerts, music appreciation courses elsewhere would never be the same. They simply charm their audiences into learning both by their musicianship and close personal rapport with their listeners.

Because the NYTOS program preceded another busy day for the Music Hall, which was presenting its renowned *Glory of Easter* pageant and a colorful review called *Top Hats and Tales*, it wasn't possible to



Dennis and Heidi after their program at Radio City Music Hall.

position the concert grand close to the organ console. In that vast theatre, Dennis and Heidi were playing virtually a "small city block" apart. But this somewhat awkward physical arrangement daunted the duo not one wit. Their duets were as precise in tempo as if they were being played on one instrument.

During their intermission, NYTOS Secretary-Treasurer Allen Rossiter appeared on stage to present an honorary membership in both ATOS and New York chapter to John Henry Jackson, vice president and producer of the Radio City Music Hall. And the audience was treated to a demonstration of some of the mechanical marvels of the great stage by the chapter's MC for the morning, Claud Beckham.

One indication of how Dennis and Heidi left their mark in Manhattan can be gleaned from the actions of the lighting crew of the Music Hall itself. They responded impromptu to the spirit of each of Dennis and Heidi's numbers by appropriate color-mood lighting of the great house itself.

It was a feast for the eyes, but first and foremost, it was a feast for the ears. Dennis and Heidi have brought

a bright new "team" concept to the concert world and it is welcome again — any time — in the Big Apple!

ARTHUR M. COX, JR.

NIAGARA

Colin Cousins, one of Canada's most prominent theatre organists, opened the 1977 season at the Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda, N.Y. on January 19.

Colin was making his debut here, but is well-known in southern Ontario and western New York for his concerts in other centres and for being a staff organist at the Organ Grinder, Toronto.

Although inclement weather of 50 mph winds and temperatures far below zero prevented a capacity crowd, Colin entertained a good house with rousing marches, favorite ballads, selections from light opera, and several light classical numbers.

With the accent on formality, and to the obvious pleasure of the audience, Colin wore full-dress tails with cape, cane, and silk hat. Rather than rising with the console from the orchestra pit, he chose to enter from the audience-level. He was accompanied in his entrance by lovely Diane MacRae, who appeared in a full-length burgundy evening gown. The reaction was electric, and the audience was undoubtedly thrilled by the sight of such a charming young couple.

Following the tremendous ovation Colin received, many people advanced to the console to extend their thanks and congratulations, and to have the artist autograph the jacket of his new record, "Presenting Colin Cousins at the Theatre Organ."

CHERYL PAYNE

On March 23, Rex Koury made his third appearance at the Riviera. He was the house guest of Lynn and Charles Yeager.

Channel 2, one of the local TV stations, decided to put the story of the Riviera Theatre organ on the air. This was a new experience for the TV crew. They spent nearly an hour looking the organ over after they realized it was not a Hammond, then, proceeded to tape Rex at the console which they later put on the air on two separate occasions.

This kind of publicity is good for the theatre organ, good for our concerts, good for our chapter and we thank Sheila Murphy of WGR-TV for arranging this program.

The week of April 17 will be a busy one for our chapter. On April 20, Ron Rhode will play his second concert at the Riviera; April 23 our annual banquet will be held at Chicks Restaurant, Angola, N.Y., and April 24, open house at the Riviera Theatre, where a bus load of members from the Western Reserve Chapter will be our guests.

May 14 will find Len Rawle from England making his first appearance at the Riviera and on June 15 another organist from England, George Blackmore will play his first public concert at the Riviera.

This is not the first time that George has played the Riviera organ having played for chapter members only last year while a guest of Laura and Joe Thomas.

At this time I would like to thank the members who have taken the time to write our chapter secretary and various other officers pointing out what our chapter is doing wrong. How easy it is to find fault when you are standing on the side lines. If only they had taken a few minutes more and told us what to do to correct these faults!

I realize that there is no way that you can please everyone but keep on trying. So please keep sending in your criticism along with your suggestions on how to improve our concerts.

STEPHEN T. CROWLEY

NOR-CAL

Hospitality was extended to the NOR-CAL members who visited the home installations in Vallejo, Cali-

fornia, for our February meeting. The Judd Walton's beautifully voiced Wurlitzer had past chairman Warren Lubich on the bench with his melodic favorite selections. At Norm Lippert's Wurlitzer, Bill Taylor was featured. Norm recently installed sub and super couplers and these were well demonstrated. Tours of the installations and open console followed each concert. Our thanks are extended to our hosts and artists for a most enjoyable day of music and enjoyment.

Ron Rhode took a breather from the Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix, Arizona, and made his Bay Area debut for the chapter on April 3. By courtesy of Bill Brewer, his Redwood City Cap'n's Galley was closed to allow the public concert. The 4/24 Wurlitzer and Ron Rhode made beautiful music together. Many heard Ron for the first time, but judging from his record sales, his music will be enjoyed over and over.

Two of our members, Bob Baese and David Schutt, spent countless hours assembling data on the Bay Area pipe installations. There are 14 locations where music is played regularly, plus three that are temporarily inactive. Artists, performing schedules and locations are detailed. This publication would be a great aid for any of you who are planning a trip to the San Francisco Bay area. A copy is free, if you send a large size, self-addressed and 13¢ stamped envelope to Bob Baese, 10385 Mann Drive, Monte Vista, California 95014.

Another in-theatre organ has been removed but not lost from the area. The San Francisco Orpheum 4/22 Robert Morton has been saved and is scheduled for installation in the new auditorium at Oakland's Piedmont High School. Hopefully, details

can be arranged so our chapter will have frequent access to this fine Wonder Morton.

OREGON

Due to the untimely death of our chairman, Bill Peterson, there was no meeting in January. Our February event featured Andy Crow playing the Bob Rickett 3/18 Wurlitzer. This remarkable instrument was pictured on the cover and described in the Summer, 1963 THEATRE ORGAN, and sounds better than ever. Originally installed in the Castle Theatre in Vancouver, Washington, as a 3/10, it was moved to the Rickett's Portland home in 1954. Over the years it has been enlarged to 18 ranks, with modern Tibia mutations. Large bedrooms upstairs have been converted to organ chambers which speak down into the living room through grills in the ceiling. The volume is never overwhelming, and each voice is clear and distinct.



Andy Crow played the Bob Rickett 3/18 Wurlitzer in February.

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Andy Crow's home is in Olympia, Wash., and he is a leading Northwest organist. He is nationally known through his tours for Rodgers and his recording "As the Crow Flies." He is featured twice weekly at the Pipes and Pizza in Tacoma. Andy is a master of delicate and tasteful registration who makes many lightning-quick uses of combination pistons. His program was very enjoyable.

It was so good to hear Andy again. He was one of the first organists to play the Organ Grinder Wurlitzer when it opened in 1973. Thanks again to Bob and Nadine Rickett for a wonderful afternoon.



Dean Lemire at the 3/24 Kimball in Benson High School.

In April we returned to Benson High to hear a rising young Portland organist, Dean Lemire, at the 3/24 Kimball. Dean is very busy as relief organist at the Oaks Rink 4/18 Wurlitzer, a salesman and demonstrator for the Day Music Co.,

and organist for the Portland Trail Blazers.

As previously described, the Kimball's added ranks appear as floating divisions with their tabs and couplers located on the back rail. This is a tremendous increase in the resources of the organ but makes the console quite a challenge to a stranger. However, on short notice, Dean played an excellent program with unusual introductions and complex accompaniments. He makes very effective use of mass string and voxes for soft passages. Thanks to Dean Lemire for a fine program.

Our chapter is grateful to Mike DeSart who has been substituting as chairman since the death of Bill Peterson.

BUD ABEL

PIKES PEAK

The evening of November 22, 1976 was a red-letter day for the newly-chartered chapter. That evening, in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Chapter of the AGO, we presented Ron Rhode of the Mesa, Arizona, Organ Stop Pizza in concert at the Margery Reed Auditorium 3/9 Wurlitzer. This event drew ATOSers and AGOers both locally and from surrounding cities, as well as the general public. Ron presented a highly varied program designed to provide "something for everyone."

The director of music at one of Colorado Spring's largest churches was overheard to comment that the organ was "in perfect tune," and indeed, our little Wurlitzer did perform admirably under Ron's very capable and experienced direction. Only one cipher presented itself, and this was quickly squelched by the "cipher crew" who were standing by hoping they would not be needed.

During the second half of the program, Ron accompanied the Laurel and Hardy film *Brats* which had the audience first snickering, then audibly chuckling, and by the conclusion of the film, guffawing. Following the film, as a special surprise, Ron introduced Miss Ruth Etting. Well known in the late 1920's and 30's as a popular singer, Miss Etting is now a resident of Colorado Springs. Unknown to anyone Ron had arranged for Miss Etting to be present in the audience. After the introduction, Ron played a medley of songs made popular by Miss Etting, and then presented her with a dozen long-stemmed red roses.

Then, after his closing number and an encore, Ron and Miss Etting were guests at a reception, the organ chambers were opened for inspection by interested parties and the audience departed with that satisfied feeling we all get after having just experienced a wonderful evening of superb entertainment.

Thanks, Ron for a spectacular evening. We hope to have you back soon to "Play it again."

The Pikes Peak Area Chapter was chartered to cover the Southern half of the State of Colorado, including the major cities of Colorado Springs and Pueblo. The nucleus for the chapter was formed in 1972 as the Pikes Peak Area Branch, Rocky Mountain Chapter, ATOS. As interest and participation grew, it became apparent that a separate chapter, more conveniently located to its membership, was needed. The Pikes Peak Area Chapter (Branch) has for several years published its own newsletter, planned its own activities, and in general, served the interests of organ enthusiasts in Southern Colorado.

The chapter has two Wurlitzer organs in Colorado Springs under its

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Ron Rhode and Ruth Etting at Reed Auditorium in Colorado Springs.

pervue for maintenance. The first, a 3/9 Style 'E' Special, was originally in the Isis Theatre in Boulder, Colorado. About 1948 it was removed and later installed in the Margery Reed Auditorium. The organ is in near perfect playing condition and is the main concert instrument for the chapter.

Our second Wurlitzer, a 3/8 Style 'F' Special was removed from the late Chief Theatre in Colorado Springs, (formerly the Burns Opera House), by chapter members in early 1973. This organ was donated to the City of Colorado Springs when the 1800-seat Chief was demolished to generate more parking facilities in the downtown area. In 1975, the Colorado Springs City Council appropriated funds for the complete restoration of the organ. This provision of funds allowed the chapter to begin a two-year effort of rebuilding which has resulted in an instrument which is now playable at a

temporary work location. Reinstallation in its permanent location in the City Auditorium is expected to be completed in late fall of 1977 with a dedication concert following shortly thereafter. Built in 1905, the City Auditorium has portable seating on the main floor and arena-type seating in the surrounding pseudo-balcony. The proscenium arch was designed with ample organ chambers and, with the auditorium's acoustics, it should provide an excellent setting for performances on the Wurlitzer.

The chapter also has an interest in the 4/55 Austin installed in Pueblo's, Memorial Hall in 1919, and which has generally been unused and unmaintained since that date. This fascinating church-concert-theatre-type instrument has three expressed chambers around the proscenium arch as well as an unenclosed Great organ, and an eight-rank Antiphonal organ in the rear of

the auditorium. The instrument is complete with some traps, percussions, and two 32-foot pedal stops, and a 64-foot resultant pedal stop. The City of Pueblo permits the chapter to play the organ in exchange for whatever maintenance the chapter can provide. After some considerable work in restoring the organ, the chapter hopes that concerts can be given on it, and that the City of Pueblo will further utilize this valuable instrument.

The chapter would be pleased to show visitors to the region any or all of the above organs. Contact should be made through our mailing address: P.O. Box 7002, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80933.

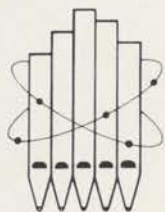
The Pikes Peak Area Chapter #56 is proud to be a full-fledged member of ATOS, and hopes that our futures may be ORGAN-ized.

Our 1977 chapter officers are: Robert V. Boyer, chairman; John Grunow, vice-chairman; and David Weesner, secretary-treasurer.

POTOMAC VALLEY

The February meeting was held in the relatively new Maryland University Adult Education Building Theatre, Maryland University, College Park, Maryland.

For the past two years our chapter has had four volunteer work crews, widely separated geographically, overhauling and rehabilitating various sections of a 3/10 Kimball. A home for the half-completed project, for which we held option to purchase, had not yet been confirmed. In his first announcement, Chairman Al Baldino told us that the Adult Education Center of Maryland University had, prior to the meeting, assured our group that the center was more than willing for us to complete the restoration and permanent-



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ly install the Kimball in their impressive 750-seat theatre. Additionally, he reported, the center offered to build in, at no cost to our chapter, necessary modifications to the stage area to provide two large chamber spaces for the Kimball. The theatre auditorium has motion picture projection facilities and excellent acoustics and lighting; an adjacent banquet room, restaurant and coffee shop. As a bonus, acres of free off-street parking spaces are available, as well as a drive-in loading area to backstage and similar access for an elevator to lower level storage rooms below the stage. Literally, the place seemed to have been made to order for us.

Our chairman introduced us to the then current owner of the Kimball, the president of the Washington Educational Television Association (WETA). Chairman Baldino presented a check to WETA for the complete inventory of organ parts, transferring ownership to the Potomac Valley Chapter.

Mr. Doug Bailey, chairman of the Kimball restoration committee, gave us a capsule background story of the 3/10 Kimball instrument. For example, we learned that the organ was originally installed and used from 1926 through 1940 at the Earle (Warner) motion picture/vaudeville theatre in Washington, D.C. Ida Mae Clark was featured as a part of its opening program. The organ operated on direct current, with electrical power taken from the street car lines.

Chairman Baldino then expressed his appreciation to the four hard-working committee crew managers and staffs for their progress on the Kimball. Those cited included: Ed Stricker, console; Dick Haight, pipes; Frank Harris, chests, and George Johnson, relay team. Each



The Kimball movers — March 12, 1977.

(Harold R. Richman Photo)

crew leader, in turn, identified by name all persons working under his guidance. George Johnson was elected foreman for the installation and coordination of the Kimball installation at the Adult Education Center.

A dispiriting note, is the announcement that our chapter is losing another in-theatre meeting place, and as a consequence, its Grand Barton installation. The Virginia Theatre in Alexandria, Virginia, will be demolished in early April. A farewell concert at the Virginia, scheduled for March 26, starring the popular Rosa Rio had to be cancelled.

To round out the February meeting, several of our members provided a nostalgic group of organ related films. Ethel Thom projected a Dick Liebert sing-along (1931), Doug Bailey showed an entertaining documentary on the MGM studios and its personalities and George Merriken presented a film which chronicled

the destruction of the Oriental Theatre.

On March 12, 1977, with the acquisition of a new home for our ongoing 3/10 Kimball a reality, many dedicated persons were on hand to pitch in and transfer, piecemeal, part and parcel, the remaining Kimball package from its "Water Works" storage place near Potomac, Maryland, to the University College Adult Education Center in College Park, Maryland. Imagine, for example, guiding a seemingly endless trail of heavy and bulky items such as a 16-foot Tuba and other large-scale wooden Diaphones, numerous pipe crates, resonators and wind chests, down three-and-a-half flights of stairwell — which included six narrow, abrupt turns — to a huge tractor trailer-moving van waiting below. Some parts were passed down the stairwell relay fashion, from person to person, landing by landing. This, for a full four hours. Then unloading, the same, long day.



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The work team included: William L. Alexander, Shirley Anderson, Harold Andrus, Doug Bailey, Donald D. Faehn, Lawrence M. Goodwin, Jr., Frank Harris, Jr., Allen L. Hartman, Henry L. Hynson, George Johnson, Donald Johnston, Ken Joseph, Marion Long, Susan McMains, Leland J. Prater, Howard Reagan, John Sneedon, and C. Edwin Stricker. Unknown, thoughtful persons at appropriate times provided coffee and doughnuts on the job. The proceedings at the Kimball storage place were also recorded on Super 8 sound film by this reporter.

HAROLD R. RICHMAN

PUGET SOUND

Our year started in February with a concert by Greg Smith at Seattle Pizza and Pipes. Greg is one of the staff organists at both the Seattle and the new Bellevue Pizza and Pipes. Some of you will surely remember his first ATOS appearance (ATOE at the time) as part of the skit that was featured at the convention banquet at Portland in 1966. He was 14 years old at the time, and his mentor was the fabulous Martha Lake, who made her national debut on the same occasion.

After abandoning the organ for several years for more important growing-up chores, Greg has resumed his earlier interest, and hopes to make playing his profession. He has had pipes in his home since 1960 — first a 2/5 Wurlitzer, followed by a 3/8 Leatherby-Smith. He presented a very polished performance made more notable by his cool poise.

Following the concert, an invitation was extended to visit the Balcom and Vaughan warehouse, where restoration of a 2/8 Kimball organ from the Juneau Coliseum Theatre had just been completed. The organ had



Greg Smith at Seattle's Pizza and Pipes' 3/17 Wurlitzer.
(George Belston Photo)

been completely set up for testing, before shipping back to Juneau. Many members stopped by after open console at Pizza and Pipes to try it out.

In April we enjoyed the 3/17 Wurlitzer from the Academy of Music in New York, completely refurbished and installed in the newest of the Pizza and Pipes chain, located in Bellevue across Lake Washington from Seattle. This beautiful new restaurant is the product of much patient planning and negotiation on the part of owners Jack and Betty Laffaw (Bill Breuer's sister) and Bill Carson and his amiable crew of organ restorers.

Dick Schrum, also a Pizza and Pipes staff organist, presented a delightful concert, which he shared with other staff organists: Donn Clayton, Greg Smith and Patti Simon. Open console followed.

Our chapter has a prestigious new member: the Alaska State Library. The library building, a new glass and concrete structure eleven stories high, is the setting for the recently restored 2/8 Kimball referred to earlier. The organ is located on the eighth floor level in an indoor courtyard which is surrounded by tiers of offices and library rooms up to the sky-lighted eleventh floor. The sound is stupendous, judging from the earliest tapes brought back by Don Myers.

GENNY WHITTING

RED RIVER

We began the new year with more huff 'n puff than bang. On January 9, with temperature of thirty below zero, several of us braved the weather to caravan two hundred miles from Fargo to Bismarck for a warmup with Reiny Delzer's Mighty 4/21 Wurlitzer. "You have to be crazy to do this," chattered one member as we made a pit stop. We thawed quickly at Delzer's with a delightful few hours. Several of us played the former pride of the Minnesota Theatre. We frosted our musical cake with a visit across the street at the home of Charles Welch whose Marr & Colton once graced the stage of the Bismarck Theatre.

Our February meeting was held in the Fargo Theatre, a labor of love for us now going into the fourth year. We've nearly restored the fifty-one year old Wurlitzer that was dormant for a quarter-century. Chairman Dave Knudtson reported on the fifty in a series of Silent Movie Nights to be held May 12 featuring a classic Keaton film. Lance Johnson and Lloyd Collins will complete the one-night stand with sing-along and trip through the organ.



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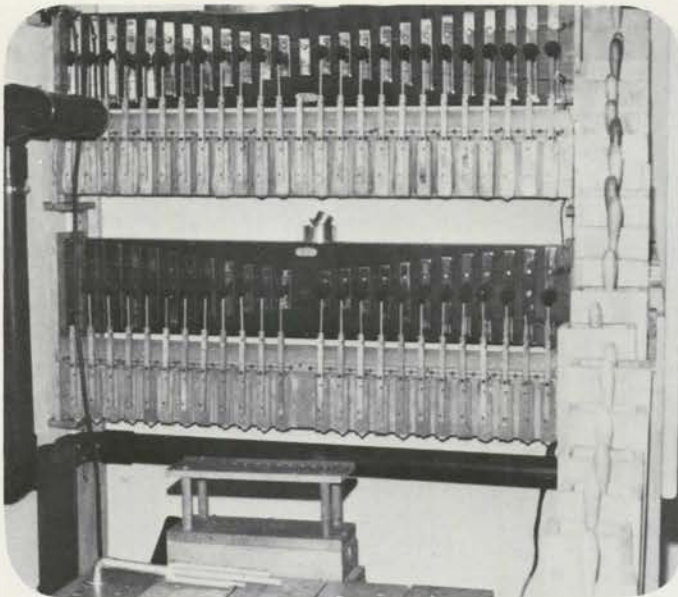
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Bill's Harp with Tibias on the right. Note the Train Whistle on the pipe chest.



Bill Arthur with Marr & Colton.

Sonia Carlson clickety-clacked to Milwaukee in February to hear Walter Strony play the 4/20 Moller at Pipe Organ Pizza. Sonia heartily agrees that "music hath charm to soothe the savage beast," especially the talented Strony who, says Sonia, "is a master of double pedaling."

March reversed its traditional role coming in like a lamb and staying. Dr. George Schulte hosted us for an evening of organ music and a special treat of rare film featuring Jesse Crawford, Don Baker, and Ann Leaf at the Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer.

We are now in our fourth year of organ intermission music at the Fargo Theatre. Audience response has been most gratifying from young patrons who have a deep appreciation for organ music. The award-winning film *Rocky* had an extended run at the Fargo Theatre with chapter members presiding at the Mighty Wurlitzer several nights each week.

LARRY KINDLE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Chapter Treasurer Bill Arthur heard of a theatre organ for sale; his Rodgers 3/whatever just wasn't enough. Wife Pricilla rolled a wary eye at old Bill, but he went ahead anyway. Results are that he owns a 2/5 Marr & Colton painted "Bedroom White" trimmed with gold. It originally came from the World Theatre in McCook, Nebraska. Then it went to a Presbyterian church in Sydney, Neb., and finally ended up in storage in Boulder, Colo. in 1969. After negotiations were completed in October of 1976, he had it brought down and started installation.

It came like a kit — all apart. Parts were scattered all over. Bill remade the keydesk, refinished the console, made new ductwork and placed the 3-phase Spencer 3 hp blower in an outdoor enclosure. His

Be an angel . . .

HELP BUY THE REDFORD

See page 10

wife calls it the "outhouse." It has a Kohler harp, a Liebich glock and a nice toy counter complete with a 3-note train whistle. Bill hopes to add a fire truck bell later. (Neighbors beware!). Bill has a very compact setup in his walk-through chamber and hopes to have it playing sometime this summer, when visits and tours will be in order.

Our congratulations to member Stinson Jones, now recovered from surgery and back at home for wife Betty to nurse back to active organ health.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO

On January 17 we presented Korla Pandit in concert on the 5/29 Fort-Moller organ at Organ Power Restaurant in Pacific Beach. 'Standing Room Only' and extensive applause from our largest attendance ever proved that his listeners definitely enjoyed his delightful and unusual arrangements.

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February 21 we were flattered to have Rex Koury introduce an original composition for our concert. His "Balboa Park Suite" brought a standing ovation. The fact that Rex has played for five of the last six national conventions is indicative of his talent. Wendell Shoberg and Gene Ginder had the Moller tuned to perfection. What a joy to hear it played by one of the top organists.

Jim Hansen and Tommy Stark hosted our February business meeting at Southland Music where we laughed heartily as Tommy accom-



Korla Pandit at Organ Power # 1, San Diego. (Ed Minder Photo)

panied Charlie Chaplin in *The Rink* and appreciatively applauded Jim as he performed an unpublished "Adagio" by Richard Elsasser.

Due to extensive renovating and expansion of the Pacific Beach restaurant our March concert was held at Kearney Mesa on the 3/12 Wurlitzer presenting that master musician Del Castillo. The charm, warmth and wit that emanates from this man is marvelous to behold. His concert included all our favorites,



Rex Koury at the 5/29 Foort Moller. (Ed Minder Photo)

and his accompaniment of the *Son of the Sheik* starring Rudolph Valentino proved again that he is a true veteran of the silent film era.

In April we were pleased to participate in the Grand Opening of the new Spaghetti and Pizza Pavilion (formerly Organ Power #2) when we presented Maria Kumagai in a special dinner-concert. Her artistry seems almost unbelievable, as she



Del Castillo at the 3/12 Wurlitzer at Kearney Mesa. (Ed Minder Photo)

completely holds her audience captured with her nimble fingers, tone color and sensitivity to the composers' desires. An over-capacity crowd gave her a standing ovation long before intermission. The previous day she played a dedication concert on a 2/26 Blackinton pipe organ for the San Carlos United Methodist Church. She pleases both classical and theatre groups. Her Australian tour during June should be most successful.

The music was matched by the intriguing new Pavillion-in-the-Park decor of the restaurant. The 'table and chair' atmosphere includes a library, wine cellar, Captain Nemo's Room and gazebo.

See you at the convention —

LOIS SEGUR

SIERRA

It is interesting to compare, both musically and from a standpoint of personality, the young people who are coming up in the theatre organ world today. For our February and March concerts, we presented Jim Riggs and Don Croom, our two youngest professionals. Jim is nineteen years old, short, bland and a bubbling personality. Don is twenty-three, very tall, dark, and has a somewhat reserved personality. Both are very friendly guys and each in his own style a fine organist.

Jim played at the Big Top Pizza in February and it was his first public concert. Surprisingly for such a young person, Jim is strictly a ballad boy, and his program consisted of fine old numbers from the great theatre days of the '20s, '30s and early '40s. He knows just how to play them, with good choice of stops and subtle use of percussions. Each number was introduced with comments

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about its originality and those who made it famous. Jim said he learned Fats Waller's "Ain't Misbehavin'" as a child, from the family player-piano, and urged parents with musical youngsters to "get the kids a player-piano." Jim also said that improvisation was his idea of musical fun. Before the program, he had asked member Sue Lang to write down a few bars of a tune composed on the spot. When the "sealed envelope" was given to him, Jim without hesitation turned the few notes into a lovely ballad.

Don played our March meeting at Arden Pizza and Pipes. He has been playing around the Sacramento area for two or three years, mainly as relief organist at Arden. In early March he opened the new Fresno Pizza and Pipes in that city and will be house organist. He was very excited about the new Bob Breuer establishment and said they had had capacity business since they opened. Don played a varied program including a bouncy, jazzy "Who's In The Strawberry Patch With Sally" — proof that some of today's top tunes make great theatre organ music.

It's certainly nice to have people like Dale Mendenhall around. During a cypher he headed for the chambers, but it blew itself out before he got there. This brings one to wonder who caught the cyphers during the days when organs were in the theatres. I remember hearing in-theatre organs for many years, but can't recall having heard a cypher.

Both maintenance crews deserve thanks for their excellent care of these organs. Dale Mendenhall and Ray Anderson keep the Arden organ singing, and Don Wallin, house organist, and Scott Bosch see that Big Top's "Moon River" organ does likewise.

April saw us back at our own Seaver Memorial organ in the Golden Bear Theatre at Cal-Expo. After more than a year, it was good to have member Jeff Barker playing for us again. Jeff now lives in the San Francisco Bay area and plays for the Bill Breuer pizzarias chain. His excellent variety of music is always enthusiastically anticipated by his many friends and fellow members. He is probably best known for his ragtime and Sidney Torch presentations, but he can, and will, play everything from the classics to the latest pop tunes. Jeff is not only a fine organist but he also has a very keen sense of show business and adds much to his concerts with between number comments.

The program was dedicated to Clyde Derby, well known local organist and co-founder of Sierra Chapter. During intermission, Clyde and his lovely wife Kathy were introduced to those present. We were very happy to have Clyde with us as he has been in ill health for some time.

When Jeff again took over the console he announced a request for "Alley Katt" and had just started the second chorus when another organ was heard. The curtain went up to reveal "Ali Katt at the Mighty Purlitzer" followed by several other assorted marionette characters presenting their acts. The closing act was two skeletons, one playing a beat-up classical console. At the end of the act, when the skeletons fell apart, so did the console. The taped organ music had been prepared by Jeff and the puppets were those of Bob Longfield and his partner Mike Herd.

Our thanks to Jeff, who donated his pay to the Seaver Organ Fund. We want very much to add to this

popular organ and we badly need a larger console and additional ranks of pipes. We would much appreciate any donations, especially from Californians, since this organ is seen by thousands of people during the run of the California State Fair and at other concerts during the year.

KEYZANPEDALS

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

On Sunday, March 27, a very special program was held for our members and guests featuring Miss Karen Clauss, soloist, with accompaniment by honorary member Lon Hanagan at the console of the Conn 650 organ. The program consisted of selected solos by Miss Clauss having both a popular as well as humorous theme. The concert, also featuring numbers on the Conn, was held at Lois and Larry Seamands' home and drew about 70 members and guests.

An outstanding soprano, Miss Clauss is a native of Kingman, Arizona. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona and has also studied in Rome, Los Angeles and New York. She has appeared in operatic performances, such as *Madame Butterfly*, and at the Brooklyn Academy. While filling an engagement with the Tucson Symphony on March 25 and 26, Karen stayed over for an extra visit with her parents and for a special performance for us.

Mr. Hanagan is also a resident of New York City where he has a studio teaching organ.

A donation was accepted for our theatre organ fund. The possibilities of a theatre organ for Tucson are better now since the response from the new owner-managers of the fifty-year-old Temple of Music and Art, which is an established house of 929 seats including the balcony.

On Sunday, April 3, our second

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#2 Pacific Beach, 5/28 Moller, 1165 Garnet Ave.

#3 Solana Beach, 4/20 Robert Morton, 113 S. Acacia St.

regular meeting of our year was held at Lois and Larry Seamands. Following the business session came a program followed by open console and refreshments.

BOB HIGH

TOLEDO

The chapter started the first quarter of 1977 in our new home by signing an agreement with "The Society of the Preservation of Polish American Traditions Inc.," to install and restore a vintage theatre pipe organ in the Ohio Theatre, now known as "St. Hedwig's Cultural Center," the present owner of this fine neighborhood theatre, which seats 1257 persons, on Lagrange St. Toledo, Ohio. A 2/8 Wurlitzer organ was once housed in this theatre, built in 1921.

Our first meeting held at the theatre graced on stage a Conn Trinidad electronic organ which was graciously furnished by Howard's Pianos and Organs of Toledo. Virg Howard is a member and staunch supporter of our chapter. Harold E. Johnson opened the program with nostalgic memories of a past era, which was followed by a short meeting, organ and song renditions by Donald and Joyce Gwinner and open console. Upon leaving the theatre, a glimpse of the worse winter in Toledo in one hundred years greeted all. Due to the energy crises we canceled our February meeting but work continued in moving chapter owned organ parts to the theatre.

Our March meeting opened in the theatre with the writer doing the honors. The membership then proceeded en mass from the theatre to St. Hedwig's Church for an organ concert by Daniel Dietzer and a tour of the church by member Rev. James C. Southard after which we adjourn-



The Ohio Theatre where the Toledo Chapter hopes to install a pipe organ.

ed to the parish house for meeting and good fellowship.

Our April meeting included sound films *Hollywood Dream Factory* and *Music In The Wind*. It was also the month of our participation in A & P Donations Day with moderate success. We hope, with the Toledo memberships approval, to purchase a suitable viable organ for the theatre or perhaps maybe some members of the national organization would advise us of an instrument available for tax deduction purposes, purchase or combination of both.

WILLIAM W. COTTLE

VALLEY OF THE SUN

On February 26 we were proud to present Ron Rhode in concert at the Phoenix College Auditorium. The majority of the concert was given on a beautiful Allen digital organ. Ron surprised everyone by playing "Tip-Toe Through the Tulips" on the partially renovated Phoenix College Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. During intermission VOTS-ATOS chairman

Jack Sheak presented an honorary membership to Ron Rhode who accepted most graciously. Another surprise was Ron Rhode's brother, Chuck, singing "If I Ruled the World" with Ron accompanying. The whole concert was considered by all to be a huge success.

On March 13 our chapter held a quarterly business meeting at the 7th St. Organ Stop Pizza. Bill Carr, program chairman, discussed plans for the Los Angeles Organ Crawl, slated for April 29 - May 1. The group travelling to Los Angeles will be staying at the Alexandria Hotel and taking in several exciting organ installations in the Los Angeles area. Some of the stops will be at Dick Simonton's to see his 4/36 Wurlitzer and 3/61 Skinner, the Wiltern Theatre 4/37 Kimball and the Pasadena Crown Theatre 3/11 Wurlitzer. After the business meeting, many of our members took advantage of an exciting open console on the Organ Stop's Wurlitzer. What a thrill! Thanks to Bill Brown for letting us hold our meeting at Organ Stop.

Several of our members attended the Ron Rhode concert on March 20 at the Mesa Organ Stop. Ron's performance was outstanding and the Wurlitzer was in great shape for the concert. Ron included quite a broad range of tunes in the program. The audience loved it all and showed it with *three* standing ovations!

On April 20 our regular monthly meeting was held at the Phoenix College Auditorium. The main item of business was the finalization of plans and reservations for the Los Angeles Organ Crawl. VOTS-ATOS is anxiously awaiting June 3 when the Phoenix College Auditorium will open its doors for our next concert — Dennis and Heidi James!

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WOLVERINE

Our March meeting was held at the Berkley home of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Gammage, where there is a 3/10 Page installed. Doug, being one of the "old timers" of the theatre organ craze, has spent much time regulating, voicing, and adding to his instrument, and it shows. Some of the more notable additions include a Vibraphone, Krumet and English Post Horn, the latter being fabricated from a Skinner Oboe. Several of our members took advantage of the nice weather, by attending, and the excellent instrument, by performing. Our thanks to the Gammages for letting us invade their home.

The Temple Theatre Organ Club in conjunction with the Wolverine Chapter were proud to present Donna Parker in her Midwest premiere theatre organ concert, which was performed at the 3/11 Barton in the Temple Theatre in Saginaw on April 17. Donna presented a varied program with a sampling of virtually everything from classics to pops to (yes even) hoedown music. Donna, who will be one of the featured organists at the Roaring Twenties Pizza Parlor in Grand Rapids, recently overcame some problems encountered in a severe auto accident,

however, none were evident in her playing. Thanks much to Donna for an excellent concert.

Boy-is-our-face-red Dept.: For the last several months, we have been having a monthly concert series known as "First Saturday" at the Michigan Theatre in Lansing at the 3/11 Barton installed therein. We are embarrassed to admit that we



Mr. & Mrs. Bob MacNeur (Donna Parker) in the lobby of the Temple Theatre, Saginaw, Michigan. (Ed Corey Photo)



Doug Gammage — one of the old timers of the theatre organ craze. (Ed Corey Photo)

have neglected not only to mention the series, but also the names of those who have performed for us. So, to catch up, our sincere thanks to the following people: Fr. James Miller (October — our kickoff concert), John Lauter (November), Scott Smith (December), Barry Rindhage and Burt Castle (January), Greg Yassick (February), Don Jenks (March), Lawrie Mallett (April) and Lance Luce (May).

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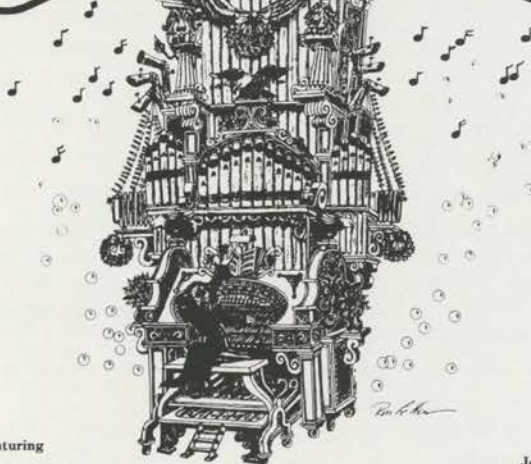
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