

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



This time, we include some of the organists who broadcast in the good old days. References were *American Organist* (AO), *Diapason* (D) and *Motion Picture Herald* (MPH) magazines, and *Local Press* (LP).

May 1916 (D) Announcement is made that the large Wurlitzer unit orchestra installed in Chicago's Covent Garden Theatre will be opened on June 8. This is expected to be the greatest of all the unit orchestras and one of the most remarkable organs in the world. Highly skilled artists will play it and it will give a Chicago theatre the attention which several houses in New York and other cities have enjoyed.

Feb. 27, 1927 (LP) Theatre advertising proclaimed: "The best organ music in Rochester by Rochester's best organist, **Tom Grierson**," is at the Riviera Theatre, while the Family Theatre was advertising organist **Harry G. Sullivan**, "Rochester's most popular organist on the tremendous new orchestral organ now being installed."

Apr. 1927 (LP) **John Mc Cartney** and **Kenneth Laughlin** were alternating organists at Passion Week services in the Grand Theatre in Centralia, Wash., April 11-16.

Feb. 1928 (AO) **Arthur Hayes** is playing the 4-manual Robert Morton in Loew's Midland Theatre Kansas City, Mo.

Mar. 1928 (AO) Midnite shows are quite popular in New York City. People along Broadway don't retire before 7 a.m., so midnite shows have been running for some time at the Paramount, Colony and Loew's New York theatres. (Times surely have changed in that area, what with muggers, street walkers and assorted characters which cause many people to stay home, thereby hurting the theatre trade.)

Mar. 1928 (AO) **Frederick C. Feringer** is broadcasting over KFOA, Seattle on the 3/28 Aeolian in Rhodes' Store.

Mar. 17, 1928 (LP) **Henry B. Murtagh** opens Loew's Ohio Theatre in Columbus. **Bill Dalton** becomes house organist on May 6.

June 12, 1928 (LP) Over WBET in Medford, Mass. at 9:15 p.m. was broadcast a show from the Metropolitan Theatre in Boston. The Met grand orchestra was under the direction of **Arthur Geissler**; organ solo by **Arthur Martel** at the 4/26 Wurlitzer. The Publix presentation was *Hobohemia* with Gene Rodemich and the Met stage band.

June 13, 1928 (LP) **Eddie Dunham** at the Elks Hotel organ and **Lloyd Del Castillo** at the Del Castillo organ school, broadcast jointly over the 650-kilowatt station in Boston, WNAC at 8:30 p.m.

June 19, 1928 (LP) **Henry E. Murtagh** broadcast over WBET from the Metropolitan Theatre in Boston at 8:15

p.m. **Gene Rodemich** and his Publix Pals were in the stage review *Main St. to Broadway*.

June 27, 1928 (LP) At 10:01 a.m. from the Houghton & Dutton studio, **Wilbur Burleigh** played organ selections for Anne Bradford's half-hour show over WEEI, Boston.

July 1928 (AO) **Harry Quinn Mills** is broadcasting over KFWB, Los Angeles, using the 4-manual Marr & Colton in Warner Brothers' Hollywood Theatre.

Oct. 1928 (AO) Warner Bros. have bought the Stanley Theatre chain. Deal involves about \$250 million.

Jan. 1929 (LP) Smiling **Sammy Williams** when playing at Chicago's Regal Theatre, is assisted by his singing organ club members, a group which boasts a membership of 7,000 and still growing.

Feb. 1929 (Roxy News) How many of you remember when Roxy and His Gang broadcast every Sunday from two to three, and Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.? The following stations were on the NBC hookup for these programs: WSB, Atlanta; WBAL, Baltimore, WBZA, Boston WBT, Charlotte, N. Car.; KYW, Chicago; WJR, Detroit; WHO, Des Moines; WZM, Nashville; WJZ, New York; WOW, Omaha; KDKA, Pittsburgh; WHAM, Rochester, WBZ, Springfield, Mass.; KWK, St. Louis; and WRC, Washington, D.C.

June 1929 (Syracuse Daily Orange) The Syracuse Regent Theatre management has loaned house organist **W. Stuart Green** to the Brighton Theatre to accompany a backlog of silent films booked by the recently wired house.

Jan. 17, 1931 (MPH) **Betty Lee Taylor** is not only doing well at the console at RKO Proctor's in Schenectady, N.Y., but is also making a good name for herself over the air.

Jan. 17, 1931 (MPH) Besides **Jesse Crawford**, the New York Paramount features **Ann Leaf** and **Fred Feibel** over the air. They're making names for themselves, too.

1934 (LP) Looking down the radio listings in several newspapers, we find the following organists were playing 43 years ago: **Dick Hull** over WHEC, and **Tom Grierson**, WHAM in Rochester; **Lew White** on WJZ, New York, with the Radio City Symphony and Chorus appearing four hours later over the same station; **Dion Kennedy**, WJZ, New York; **Elsie Thompson**, WOR, Newark; **Ann Leaf** over CBS network using the N.Y. Paramount Studio Wurlitzer; **Stokes Lott**, WOR, Newark; **Dr. C.A.J. Parmentier**, WABC, N.Y.

Gold Dust: 10/28 **Ted Coons** at the Roosevelt, Gary, Ind.; **Fred Little**, Legion Theatre, Marshalltown, Iowa; **Kenneth Cutler**, Riviera in Waterloo, Iowa; **Russell Warren**, Lorraine in Hoopetown, Ill.; **Warren Johnson**, Parthenon in Hammond, Ind.; **Albert Meur**, Taylorsville, (Ill.) Theatre; **Harry J. Lee**, State in Rhinelander, Wis.; **James Swingen**, Gaiety in Ottawa, Ill.; **Edward Eigenschenk**, Roosevelt, and **Harold Cobb**, United Artists in Chicago; **Kenneth T. Wright**, Lloyd's in Menominee, Mich. . . . 2/29 **Dr. C.A.J. Parmentier** is chief organist, with **Deszo Von D'Antalfy** and **George Epstein** assistants at New York's Roxy.

That should do it for this time. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & The Old Prospector