

## Closing Chord

Theatre organist **James Barnard**, known professionally as Barney Barnard, passed away on May 27 of this year. Born about 1900, and mostly self-taught, he began his career at fifteen playing piano in a nickelodeon, followed by a stint in vaudeville as accompanist for Evvy Hayes. He toured the country for Orpheum, Pantages, and Ackerman and Harris.

Barney started on pipe organ at Seattle's Colonial about 1920, then the Rialto at Medford, Oregon, and Liberty at Enumclaw, Washington; then back to Seattle and the Pantages, beginning as assistant to Henri Le Bel. Other towns where he played were Aberdeen and Hoquiam, and finally the Garrick Theatre in Winnipeg, Canada in 1928-29.

After this, he spent a period at Station WCTN in Minneapolis as pianist, but returned to Seattle and pipe organ at the Roller Rink, and later at the Seattle Ice Arena. He played many club dates for local organ clubs after retiring.



William R. Dalton

**William R. Dalton**, for over 50 years a theatre organist, died at his home in Hartford, Conn., August 11 as the result of a terminal illness.

A native of Richmond, Va., he started playing in theatres at the age of 12. Much of his activity was centered in Columbus, Ohio where he played the Majestic and James theatres, and beginning in 1928, a five-year stint at the Ohio. Other theatres he played included the Byrd and Loew's in Richmond, and the Para-

mount in Birmingham, Ala.

He toured the Sheraton Hotel circuit, and broadcast over stations in cities where Sheraton hotels were located: Columbus, Boston, Detroit, Springfield, Mass., and Rochester, N.Y.

A graduate of Ohio State University, he studied organ under several teachers including Pietro Yon, official organist of the Vatican. He performed for several organ clubs in recent years.



Walter Mahns, Jr.

**Walter Mahns Jr.**, owner of the famous Mahns' Bicycle Shop, died on July 13, 1977. Back in 1967, Walter read an advertisement offering a Robert Morton theatre organ for sale. In no time, it was purchased. Because the console was too large for his home, it was put into the bicycle shop. With the help of his son Robert, the organ was installed and has been the center of theatre organ music for the public. Sunday concerts were offered and bicycle customers were intrigued with the pipes. It was a special place where "you can buy a bicycle or have one repaired and enjoy a live organ recital at the same time." In October 1969, THEATRE ORGAN published a story with pictures of the bicycle shop.

In September 1972, Walter became a charter member of the Garden State Chapter when it was formed. Through the years he has been a very active and loyal supporter of the chapter. Many happy memories of the summer-fun picnics and open console at the bicycle shop will remain with us. Our condolences are extended to his wife Mary and to his son Robert who will carry on the tradition of theatre organ midst the bicycles.

Jinny Vanore



**Lyle W. Nash**, conductor of this magazine's HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE column for many years, died on August 20, of a massive coronary attack. Born in Starkweather, North Dakota, in 1913, he moved to Pasadena, Calif., in 1936. He remained in Pasadena for the rest of his life, except for eight years in Europe as a Field Director for the American Red Cross during and following World War II.

In Pasadena he established himself as a newspaper reporter and public relations consultant and expediter. During his first year in Pasadena he became a member of the Tournament of Roses committee, sponsors of the annual Rose Parade on New Years Day. Later he became a Director of the local public library, Public Service Director for radio station KRLA and Field Representative for a Pasadena city councilman. Always a solid theatre organ buff, Lyle was instrumental in smoothing the way for the planned installation of the LA Chapter's Marr & Colton organ in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

"I love this town," he once declared to the writer. Lyle was well connected in the inner circles of film-dom and the Hollywood aristocracy, as his CAVALCADE columns indicated. His hobby was books; he loved to read.

He had been ill for the past three years, and suffered from angina pain much of the time. Because his columns were delivered by mail, no one on the THEATRE ORGAN staff was aware of the seriousness of his illness until he missed a deadline about one year ago.

Lyle Nash leaves his wife of 28 years, Francie, and a son, Herbert. His HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE readers and this magazine's staff will miss him.

Stu Green □