



CHAPTER NOTES

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ALABAMA

Our September meeting brought another of our relatively new members as guest artist, in the person of Tyler Smith. It was our first opportunity to hear Tyler play, but we surely hope it won't be the last.

Tyler came to us from Columbus, Georgia, but is originally from Flora, Illinois. We were very pleased to have as guests in our audience, Tyler's parents from Flora. I know they were just as proud as we were of his performance.

Tyler began his formal musical training at age five and continued to

eleven. He says he had nine teachers in seven years, didn't like any of them, and the feeling was mutual. At twelve he found the teacher he was looking for. She taught him classical, pop, fake book reading and chart reading. It wasn't until he was fourteen that he got so interested in the organ. A year later he started playing at clubs in and around his home area. Shortly after that he began making a 200-mile round trip weekly to St. Louis to take lessons from a well-known organist there, and continued this all through his high school years.

After a year's tour as pianist for a gospel singing group, Tyler moved to the sunny south and went to school in Columbus, Georgia. He tuned and repaired pianos along with a selling job to help pay school expenses. It wasn't long before he landed the position as WRBL-TV 3's organist, where he remained for two years until moving to Birmingham.

Tyler was employed by one of Birmingham's oldest and most respected music houses in a selling-teaching position. He was only here a short time before being trans-

ferred to that company's Anniston, Alabama, store as manager. Of course, we're happy for him because of his promotion, but we also miss him and his wife, Renee.

Again, we would like to thank Tyler for giving us a wonderful program at our September meeting and hope he'll do another very soon!

On Sunday, September 25, we were all deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved "First Lady of the Alabama Theatre," Lillian Truss. Lillian was one of this chapter's charter members and the first picture organist at the theatre. The absence of the talents, charm and grace of this sweet and lovely lady will be felt for a very long time.

In October, it was a pleasure and a joy to welcome back an "old" member who has moved out of state. Jay Mitchell, former house organist at our Alabama Theatre and one of the founding members of this chapter, gave us a fine program, lending his wonderful talents again.

Originally Jay had planned to dedicate his whole program to Lillian Truss who was ill at the time. But since her passing saddened us all so very much, he did a short tribute to Lillian by playing a portion of her own program she presented to the chapter on August 12, 1973, as a gesture of his admiration for her. Jay's comments from the console and his memorial songs for Lillian touched us all. I'd like to quote just a few lines of Jay's thoughts, because I'm sure they speak for all of us who knew her.

"It was at Lillian's program that I came to so ardently ad-



One of the chapter's founding members, Jay Mitchell, plays a return engagement at the Alabama.



Tyler Smith plays his first concert at the Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer.

(Thomas Hatter Photo)

mire her youthfulness in thinking, movement and music.

The songs she played are gone, yet they remain in my mind as an unforgettable experience — the experience of truly meeting 'The Young At Heart'."

Thank you, Jay. I believe you expressed all our feelings.

Jay is a Birmingham native and quite well-known throughout the state. Church playing and choir directing occupied most of his time for a period of thirteen years in North Alabama, and for the past four years he worked in sales of pianos and organs in Huntsville, Alabama. Among his other numerous accomplishments, Jay was praised by Conn Organ Corporation for his design and installation of the new concert organ in Redstone Arsenal's Bicentennial Chapel, Huntsville, Alabama, which is the largest electronic pipe organ installation ever undertaken by that Company.

Jay recently joined, and is currently the featured nightly organist and music director of Music Grinder Pizza Corporation in Atlanta and plays the 3/21 Wurlitzer in their pilot restaurant in Marietta, Georgia, where he now lives. We really do miss him, but we're also very proud of him and delighted for him in his new endeavor. He's doing a tremendous job at the pizza parlor — and from Jay's own glowing reports — he *loves* every minute of it!

It's always a pleasure to have Jay perform for us. He is a fine musician and a friend to all of us here in the Alabama Chapter. Even with his very busy schedule, he has always found time to come to Birmingham to play for ATOS meetings and participate in other activities of the organization. As always, it is appreciated. Again, our thanks to Jay for giving of his time and traveling from Marietta to bring us another of his superb performances.

We were delighted also to have as special guests in the audience at this meeting, several members of the Atlanta Chapter. We appreciate their making the trip to Birmingham to join us for this concert, and welcome them back at any time.

In December, the Alabama Theatre and our Mighty Wurlitzer will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

JO ANN RADUE

ATLANTA

It was a struggle, but Atlanta Chapter recovered sufficiently from the April 3 Keyboard Colossus to have a regular meeting in May at Don Quinn's lovely home in Tucker. Chairman Jack Goodwin appointed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for election in June. After the business meeting, Bob Van Camp presided at the console of Don's Moller Artiste. After the mini-concert, the usual gravitation toward the refreshment area took place for lots of conversation and elbow-bending — but in this case there was another organ, an electronic, to be enjoyed as well.

June busted out all over in Atlanta for organ enthusiasts. On the 3rd, chapter members conducted public tours of the Fox Theatre under the sponsorship of the Speaker's Bureau of Atlanta Landmarks, and took this public occasion to inaugurate sales of our new recording, *The Many Moods Of The Mighty Mo*. Sales were brisk, as we set up in the refreshment area, the last stop on the tour.

June 10 was a big night at the Fox when the chapter presented Hector Olivera in a public concert as a benefit. Hector was in town under the auspices of the Conn Organ Company for their exhibit at the NAMM Convention, and donated his services for this benefit. It was his first visit to the Fox 4/42 Moller, and the audience was stunned with the brilliance of his performance. Careful study of the tapes assures us he played all 42 ranks — and very well, thank you.

June 16 was the occasion of a "social" at Dick Weber's Music Grinder Pizza Emporium in Marietta. Dick graciously hosted a pre-opening bash for our group because it would be difficult to have such a group after the 7-day operation opened for the public. Walt Winn introduced us to the delights

of a beautiful 3/23 Wurlitzer which came from Plattville, New York and is in mint condition. We had heard Walt before, especially on demonstration of the Fox Moller during the tours; but this performance gave us a new look and listen at a very talented young man. You have to be good to get our group to stand and applaud — and Walt certainly qualifies.

The pizza operation is now in full swing, 7 days a week, and the outlook is Atlanta Chapter will be one of the fattest chapters in the nation! Dick Weber has single-handedly started quite a group of people on jogging and dieting, as we organ knuts can't stay away.

June 23 was the regular business meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Akins in Decatur where officers for the year were elected. They are: James West, chairman; Jack Goodwin, vice chairman; Margaret Embry, secretary; and Wanda Carey, treasurer. James Thrower was confirmed in the position of Convention Chairman for the 23rd National Convention to be headquartered at the Fox on July 9-13, 1978. After the business meeting, Jay Mitchell, formerly of Alabama Chapter, entertained on the Akins' big Lowery. Jay has joined Atlanta Chapter after having been engaged to play regularly at Dick Weber's Music Grinder. Jay has an almost limitless repertoire, so he keeps things jumping when he's at the console.

July 24 the new chairman rapped his first meeting to order at the Rodgers Organ Studios on Piedmont Avenue where there were amply demonstrated the Rodgers Trio and a "Skinny-Rodgers" hybrid incorporating several ranks of pipes to augment a fine electronic instrument. 'Twas ear-opening and mind-boggling.

Blanche Hood was the featured organist at the home of Bob McKoon in Newnan for the August meeting on the 28th, and the September meeting at the home of Vice Chairman Jack Goodwin was devoted to a business session followed by open console. Then on October 9 members of the Convention Committee journeyed to Birmingham to hear Jay Mitchell again at the Alabama Wurlitzer followed by a business meeting over lunch at the Hyatt

SAVE THE FOX

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ATLANTA LANDMARKS, INC.
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Regency. The regular chapter meeting for October was focused on Bratwurst and Beer at the home of Nelson Harris for the annual Oktoberfest.

The rumor is out we may have our next meeting at the Fabulous Fox. It has been so well booked during prime time, we have had to defer to the paying customers. Hopefully, though, we will have a report in the next issue about a glorious time in the presence of the greatest of them all — The Mighty Mo!

JAMES K. JOBSON

CENTRAL INDIANA

"Hot and humid" is almost sure to be a part of the daily weather report during Indiana's summer months, but that didn't discourage 79 enthusiastic ATOSers who gathered at the home of Ed Morris in Indianapolis on one of the hottest days.

Ed just completed installation of his new 2/9 Barton pipe organ and as though that isn't project enough, he has also found time to build a swimming pool. Ed, with assistance from Larry MacPherson, spent many diligent hours getting the organ ready for the July meeting. It includes Harp, Glockenspiel, Chimes and other interesting attachments.

Larry, reaping the rewards of his labors, "dedicated" the newly installed organ by presenting the program at the meeting. Open console followed.

The late summer and fall special events on the chapter calendar promise some interesting and diversified activities. A weekend trip is being planned to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in October and two concerts have been announced; one featuring Dennis and Heidi James at Manual High School in September and Lee Erwin at the Hedback Theatre in November.

The largest electronic organ ever built by Baldwin was custom designed and its construction and installation supervised by Bill Stevenson, Baldwin engineer. This organ is located in the Elliott Hall of Music Auditorium at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The August meeting was held in this magnificent auditorium. The organ is unique in that it is designed to be played as

either a classic or a theatre organ by merely pushing a button.

The first portion of the program was presented by Ken Double to exemplify the theatre style and the second portion featured the classical organ with Tim Needler at the console. It would take a great deal of time and a repertoire of untold magnitude to perform enough numbers to amply demonstrate all the features of this unusual "giant" of the musical world. But as usual, both Ken and Tim, in the small amount of time available, chose just the right selections to touch the basics.

Ken chose first "Red Sails in the Sunset" to show the balance of styling of two organs in one. A Latin number demonstrated the solo voicings and the remainder of his program utilized the rhythm section and finally a beautiful arrangement of "Beware My Foolish Heart" to fully show off the romantic Tibias, which incidentally are found in all three sections of the organ.

Another special feature of this organ is that besides the usual chambers on either side of the auditorium, there are chambers across the proscenium of the stage, projecting the effect of a separate organ that fills the auditorium with beautiful flowing sounds all across the front.

Tim opened his portion of the program with a lovely contemporary classic by Harry Rowe Shelly, followed by a Purcell Trumpet Voluntary to demonstrate the use of the newly installed State Trumpet, which is comparable to the State Trumpet of the pipe organ located in St. John the Divine Church in New York City. The magical sounds of the flutes were incorporated in a lovely number by Debussy. Improvisations are mastered by few, but Tim is one of those few. His improvisation on "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was exciting and a fitting finale for a program that held everyone spellbound.

Thanks to both our artists for superb performances and a special word of congratulation to Ken who was recently named sports director of WFLI-TV in Lafayette, Indiana.

We would like to thank Jack McCarthy, director of the Music Hall, and Art Felton, assistant technical director, for opening the Music Hall on Sunday afternoon so we could have our meeting there. We thank

them, too, for the time they spent in conducting tours through the building with much commentary on interesting features and statistics relating to both the Music Hall's fantastic sound system and the unbelievable speaker system of the organ.

Open console followed.

RUTH D. WARD

CENTRAL OHIO

Bob Tyo's attractive new Hammond studio added greatly to the enjoyment of our September meeting. Following the election of officers and a short business meeting we were introduced to Tommie Johnson, local professional organist, who was concert artist for the day. Tommie used the new Hammond Concorde. Members agreed the Concorde is a remarkable instrument and enjoyed the open console time. Tommie graciously stood by to assist members with the many features this organ has to offer. He has our thanks for this and for the outstanding concert he gave.

The Concorde was again enjoyed in October at the home of Stella Collins. Following our September meeting Stella purchased the instrument. Dean Wagner performed as concert artist and offered a varied program with interesting arrangements plus highly agile pedal work for the selection "In The Mood."

Bob Richards, newly-elected chairman of COTOS, conducted the business meeting and discussed with members some possibilities for educational activities our chapter might pursue. It was suggested we write our local educational radio station, WOSU, to thank them for including theatre pipe organ music on their weekly program entitled *King of Instruments* and to request more theatre organ music. WOSU broadcasts the concerts using tapes from the Ohio Theatre organ series.

IRENE BLEGEN

CHICAGO AREA

Despite the absence of these notes in the last two issues, CATOE did not die after the "Chicago '77" convention. A recent change in personnel and the subsequent resignation of Terry Hochmuth as *Vox CATOE* editor (he's busy putting in 26 ranks



Motor City's Lance Luce opens CATOE's fall social season at the Arcada Theatre.

C. Albin Anderson Photo

of Wurlitzer) delayed reports about a busy schedule since July.

Rumors that the Chicago Oriental Theatre, played by Walter Strony at the convention, would close on September 29 did not come true when a new operator was found to lease the house. It is open and CATOE people, led by Greg Simanski, continue to work on the organ. We have reached agreement with both the operators and owners to continue there. We are drawing plans to secure the organ's future in Chicago.

John Muri opened the concert season on September 9 and 10 when he played two different dedication concerts at CATOE's own 3/10 Wurlitzer at Maine North. A hit at the convention, the organ was originally played by John when it was in its original home in the Indiana Theatre, Indiana Harbor. Organist of the Year, Muri also played for two student assemblies the same week. A total of 43 people are enrolled in an adult education course at the school about theatre organ taught by Jack Olander. By the time you read this Tom Cotner will have played his debut CATOE concert at the Pickwick Theatre on December 1.

Our social season opened with two newcomers to the organ scene. Detroit's Lance Luce played for us at the Arcada's 3/16 Geneva on August 28. His well-planned, well-played program indicate great potential for theatre organ playing. His uncomplicated, clean arrangements, sensitively played, indicate sufficient maturity for the 18-year-old to break into the concert circuit. Lance's program was followed by brunch at

the Baker Hotel where Les Hickory played the Geneva for those who filled the rainbow-hued, glass-floored ballroom.



David Hamilton, a transplanted Britisher, brought life back to the once-threatened 4/20 Oriental Wurlitzer.

(Bill Lamb Photo)

The second newcomer was England's David Hamilton. He played for well over 200 people who gathered at the Oriental at midnight on September 23. David demonstrated the British approach to a 4/20 Wurlitzer which indicated plenty of life in the organ and his playing. More will be heard from David as he is now a permanent resident of Chicago. He played for Land of Lincoln Chapter at the Rockford Coronado on November 5. Welcome to both these newcomers and to Rob Calcaterra, who played the Chicago Wurlitzer for us on November 13.

CATOE has done a good deal of travelling this past fall. First was a bus trip arranged by Ione Tedei to see the fantastic 50th Anniversary

Show staged at the Coronado in Rockford. Then Alden Stockebrand saw another busload off to Ft. Wayne to visit the Embassy and other sights the weekend before Halloween.

The chapter participated in the Mighty Wurlitzer Days promotion on October 14 by arranging to have Ed Tooke play the commemorative arrangement of "When the Organ Played at Twilight" at the Chicago Theatre. Peter Miller, now division manager for 20 Plitt theatres and managing director of the Chicago, rearranged the film schedule to permit the intermission.

Members recently voted to raise our annual dues to \$8. We feel most of our 450 members will agree to the increased fee. Diana Lehan joined as our 450th member just before the close of our membership year on October 1. This is our highest membership ever.

After playing the concert of the decade at the Chicago Theatre on July 4, George Wright started making arrangements to record the organ. He did so in November using a direct mastering system without using tape recording. From the results obtained by Walter Strony in his recording of the same organ, George's results should be spectacular. Organman Bill Hansen was on hand to babysit the organ.

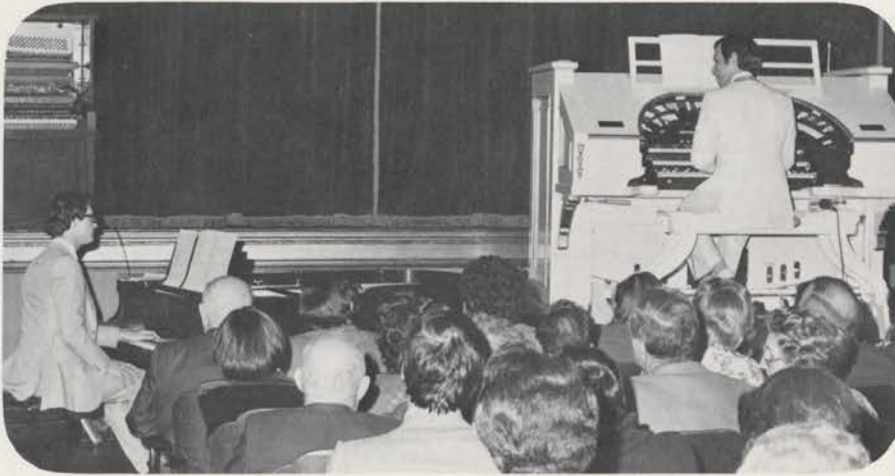
Additional copies of the souvenir brochure from "Chicago '77" are still available for sale. See the ad in the classified section for details.

TOM TIBIA

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our October meeting at the Opera House in Thomaston, Ct. departed a little from our usual custom of holding our meetings on Saturdays. This one was scheduled for Sunday so that neighboring ATOS members and friends from Eastern Mass. and New York chapters as well as fellow organ enthusiasts from the Southeastern New England association in Providence, R.I. and from American Guild of Organists in the Torrington area could more conveniently be with us.

Following a middle afternoon open console session, at four o'clock all present were treated to an hour concert by artist Lou Hurvitz at the console of the Marr & Colton. Lou has played for us before and it was a



Tom Gnaster (left) and Lyn Larsen (right) perform duets at Thomaston Opera House in October. (P. Miller Photo)

real pleasure to welcome him back, especially in view of the most enjoyable and well-executed program he played for us, an hour such as that makes a gathering fondly remembered, indeed.

Business was conducted at 7:30, following dinner. The balance of the evening was given to more open console.

From several members were heard compliments to Program Chairman Paul Plainer for arranging an outstanding program for our October meeting.

Later in the month, on the 14th, 15th and 16th, the chapter presented organist Lyn Larsen at the Thomaston Opera House organ with Tom Gnaster, piano soloist.

From organist Lyn Larsen we heard the varied, well-prepared, colorful program that we have come to expect from this very capable musician whom we have invited back to Thomaston a good number of times. He always shows us consideration by keeping repeat numbers to a very few.

The great highlights of the evening

came when Lyn was at the conole and Tom Gnaster was at the piano. What music we heard! The numbers played were well chosen and nicely arranged. For their final joint offering our artists played the Scherzo movement from the beautiful "Concerto in D Minor" by H. Litloff. It was a great performance, one that truly justifies the use of the term "artists" applied to our pianist and organist.

The concert committee deserves extra praise for bringing Tom Gnaster and Lyn Larsen to us in such a memorable joint concert.

WALLACE F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

Our first meeting of this new season was held at the fabulous House on the Rock, near Spring Green, Wisconsin, in September. Its founder Alex Jordan, was our host for the day.

Originally started as a one-man project to build a 'house' on a rock, 120 feet above the valley floor below which could leave the rock in its natural state, also leaving trees grow-

ing through the roof, it has now evolved into a million dollar project. In addition to the house, there is now an addition called Streets of Yesterday.

The Streets exhibit contains, among other things, one of the largest and most unusual collections of early mechanical musical instruments to be found. Our group had quite a time dropping dimes and quarters into the appropriate slots to be serenaded by such instruments as the Franz Josef.

Also included in our tour was an advance look at things to come. In the stages of being constructed are the world's largest merry-go-round, with seven horses abreast, and a 15 manual organ, the organ is to be constructed as three, five-manual consoles, playable by rolls or manually. What a spectacular installation this should be. No date for completion was given, but it was only understandable that it was going to be years in the making. Our thanks go out to the Jordans for such a warm reception, including the refreshments.

The sad news this month is the 3/27 Kimball from the Centre Theatre in Milwaukee is for sale. Originally it had been planned that this organ would be installed in Boy's Tech High School, but plans never materialized because of the tremendous cost involved in converting the present facilities for the organ.

Presently there is a 2/11 Wangerin installed there in one chamber. In order to accommodate the Kimball, it would have been necessary to enlarge the existing chamber and construct another for the main chest pipes. Plans also called for installing the console on a lift, and raising it from a small room below stage. The Milwaukee School Board wanted



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to all our
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The Rochester Theater Organ Society

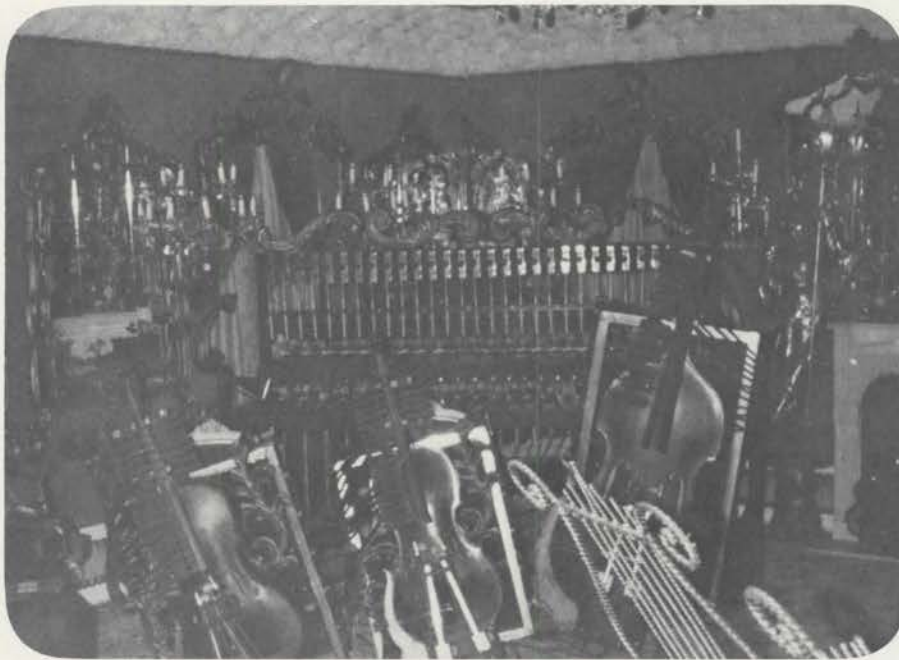
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Season's
Greetings

TO ALL OUR
ATOS FRIENDS

Jason and the Old Prospector





The Blue Room at House on the Rock.

nothing to do with the \$60,000 price tag of restoring and installing the organ.

Our October 14 "Twilight" concert was a five minute feature story on the local six o'clock news. The only problem was that by the time 10 p.m. rolled around, the Avalon had emptied and there were less than twenty people present to hear Gary Hanson play a twenty minute mini-concert. He did a fine job.

On October 25, we were pleased to have Walter Strony as our guest artist at the Avalon in Milwaukee. The subtitle of the concert should have mentioned something about the few remaining seats, because that's all there were. Without any official figures in yet, we estimated that there were about 50 empty seats, meaning about 1250 people attended the concert.

The good response was due to Walter playing a concert in his

adopted hometown of Milwaukee, and the tons of pre-concert publicity. People in this area have come to know him because he plays nightly at Pipe Organ Pizza on 6th and Oklahoma and the amazing amount of talent he possesses for being only 22 years old.

The organist and the organ performed flawlessly. (No ciphers).

The program was a variety of compositions ranging from "Strike Up The Band," to "Introduction and Fugue on the 93rd Psalm." After a standing ovation, Walter concluded with an encore of "Winchester Cathedral." The concert was recorded for a prospective record release sometime next year.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL

EASTERN MASS.

Despite a dismal, rainy evening on September 24, a cheery atmosphere prevailed as Chairman "Pete" Hoag-


land opened our first fall meeting at the home of our Wurlitzer, Richard Knight Auditorium, Babson College. Craig Johnson, vice chairman, announced that Lou Hurvitz had agreed to play a membership concert during our March 25 regular meeting. Lou's easy style and manner is certain to insure a large turnout. The Ray Bohr fall concert details were the major topic of business with a good response to the call for volunteers.

Bob Legon invited all who were interested, to six free sessions he plans to conduct at Lakeview Congregational Church, Waltham, on stop control, combinations, use in songs and home organ application plus some general "tricks of the T.O. trade" — a commendable gesture. He also volunteered to play the club organ for a Halloween Horror Film Night sponsored by the Babson Film Society.

Chairman of the nominating committee, Pat Fucci, read the slate of 1978 officer candidates for the election, to be held during our November 26 meeting.

As our evening's artist, Bob Legon, adjusted himself on the console bench, Craig announced that it was the birthday of Rita Hinchliffe, wife of our *Eastern Pipes* editor. Bob responded with "Happy Birthday to You" singing from our Mighty Wurlitzer which she graciously acknowledged. Other selections enjoyably played, reflecting the rinky tink of the 20's and the melancholy of the 30's. Bob's final offering was the appropriate "September Song." Customary open console followed, with many taking advantage of playing real theatre pipes — still not a common opportunity.

Came October 22 and a first appearance at EMC by Raymond Bohr, chief organist, Radio City Music



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AND
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WORLD AND FRIENDS
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FROM THE NO. 2 CHAPTER
FOR A MERRY, PROSPEROUS, MUSICAL
1978

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF DELAWARE VALLEY

Hall. Babson was the venue with program Chairman Craig Johnson welcoming the audience and introducing our artist. The lights dimmed as Ray was picked up by the console spotlight and launched into his extensive program. At the same time, the stage curtain slowly ascended and colored lights played on a large sign (provided by Patti Johnson) which read "Happy 30th Ray," to acknowledge so rare a tenure at RCMH. Our organist explored the console to extract countless combinations for the many moods created, from Latin to Manhattan. Shades of Jesse Crawford were present in certain registrations and, at times, the sounds were those of the RCMH organ when the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" had the famed Rockettes precision marching in costume across the vast stage in our imagination.

After intermission, Craig had Ray come on stage for a brief interview and we learned of some of the more amusing "happenings" at Music Hall. A homemade cake (baked by the writer's wife, Persis) decorated with small fall flowers, candles reading "30" and a musical note was presented to honor his many years at the mightiest of Wurlitzers. The surprised and grateful Mr. Bohr then resumed his fine and varied program with tonal combinations not often heard on our instrument, including certain tastefully used percussion. Constantly changing lighting enhanced the moods, and was handled by Dick Johnson and Don Phipps. The evening was over all too soon, but not before Ray was brought back with enthusiastic applause for an encore of several melodies. He is a consummate artist who plays the older familiar songs with clean precision. He knows his instrument and how to make the most of its resources, thus making for a most en-



ATOS Charter Member Ray Bohr cuts a cake at the Eastern Mass. Chapter Wurlitzer celebrating his 30th year at Radio City Music Hall. *(Paul Callahan, Jr. Photo)*

joyable concert.

Sunday afternoon, October 23, Ray played a similar program on the Stoneham Town Hall 2/14 Wurlitzer. A brief chapter meeting was called to order by Chairman Hoagland immediately prior to the concert, inasmuch as this coincided with our normal meeting time. Craig again introduced Mr. Bohr who proceeded in his thoroughly workmanlike way to play this totally different sounding Wurlitzer in a live auditorium. It was an unusual opportunity to hear and compare almost the same selections on two organs in different locations, each with its own merits. The interview format was repeated for the benefit of the new appreciative audience, among whom were former ATOS National President Stillman Rice and wife, and Conn. Valley Chairman Norman Ray and his spouse. The formal program

ended with two long ovations, one standing, which our artist acknowledged with enjoyable encores.

Much credit is due to so many, particularly to the organ crew headed by Arthur Goggin, who labored long on both instruments. The Stoneham crew of Royal Schweiger, Tim Holoran and Bill Carpenter worked all summer rebuilding nine reservoirs and resetting the organ to proper operating pressures as first steps in a major rebuilding. Colorful fall floral bouquets graced each console and were provided by Pat and Rosalie Fucci. Many others will have to remain without recognition, but two concerts on two organs located miles apart succeed only through much planning and teamwork. A big thanks to all concerned as we reflect on and relive those pleasant hours of live theatre pipes!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

happy
holidays

from
NIAGARA
FRONTIER CHAPTER
and
RIVIERA THEATRE



from
Connecticut Valley Chapter

LAND O' LAKES

About 125 members attended our picnic at Cedarhurst! Clyde Olson did a terrific job at the console. He wisely kept his program light and nostalgic, with softer registrations. His nice flowing counter-harmony in "Moon River" was especially enjoyable. We are grateful for all the fine music from Clyde, our member of long-standing.

The afternoon flew by with "Glorious Goldie," Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer, sounding greater than ever (she should, after the loving retouching by Claude and Lance Johnson from Fargo, who visited the Newmans before the picnic). Announcements and recognitions by our amiable host held the interest of the crowd. Being the perfect host, Claude conducted members through the pipe chambers in the basement; while others set up their tables on the veranda.

Cedarhurst, as huge as it is, is so comfortable, relaxing and charming, we hated to leave; but the memories of an extra pleasant meeting stay with all of us the whole year. We are sincerely grateful to Fred, Claude and Sedonia Newman for making our picnic so successful and happy. Also thanks to the crew of volunteers who took care of the parking and other duties!

On October 21, all passengers arrived on time at the Honeywell Security lot — bag and baggage! At six o'clock sharp, our silver "Chariot" arrived, piloted by Jim Carroll and co-piloted by Steve Allen. Thirty-three organ buffs were on their way to North Dakota for a weekend of the best organ music ever.

We arrived at Moorhead Holiday Inn at 11:00; rooms waiting and ready; deposited luggage in assigned abodes. Our early morning call was



Clyde Olson at the console of Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer.

(C.J. Newman Photo)

"bus loads at 9:30;" it did, and we were off to Fargo.

Entering the beautiful Fargo Theatre, members of the Red River Chapter met us in the foyer with cordial welcomes to everyone. The charming and gracious Hildegard was among the dignitaries who greeted us, and she is everything they wrote about her in THEATRE ORGAN. It is no wonder Fargo loves her. Unfortunately, she had broken her left wrist four months ago, by falling off a stool while hanging curtains! Still suffering immense pain, she was unable to play for us, but just meeting her was an experience.

The Fargo Theatre is something — freshly painted; the vaudeville drop with the big jardiniers in a garden scene, with the front curtain — all in place ready for the concert. Mentally, we were back 40 years thinking "If only the young people of today could appreciate this scene as we did in its original era!" There

it was in all its beauty, with the organ in the center.

Lance Johnson was introduced as our organist and guide through the chambers. His program was much too short as we could have listened for hours more, but he thoughtfully considered the limited time we had for our organists to try the splendid organ, the 2/8 Wurlitzer. It sounds small, but Lance made the instrument sound like a giant. What lovely, lush sounds came from the chambers, and his selection of tunes pleased the audience and was greatly appreciated by all. Too soon, it was time to leave; cheery goodbyes were given and we were off to Bismarck. We are grateful to Lance Johnson and the Red River Chapter for a most wonderful morning in Fargo!

We arrived in Bismarck at 5 p.m. A quick check-in, dinner and we were off to Delzers for the evening concert. What a breath-taking setting for the famous Minnesota Theatre Organ. Since our hosts had in-





Spud, Del and motorcycle-oriented cake. Del got the piece with a wheel.
(Bob Hill Photo)



Robin shows his audience the pattern on his loud socks. (Zimfoto)

vited guests, we were proud to have our organists play, who were accepted with appreciative applause. Clyde Olson accompanied the silent movie — Laurel and Hardy in *Two Tars*. Clyde did the job like the pro he is.

Sunday morning at 10:00, we arrived at the Welsh home for more wonderful music and fun. Everyone had their turn at this lovely organ. It wasn't quite as big as the others, which didn't scare away some of us not-so-used-to-pipes people. We are grateful to these delightful people for their friendly hospitality.

The entire trip was highly successful in all aspects.

BEA ENGLUND

LOS ANGELES

Although it wasn't an official ATOS event it sure seemed like one. Most of the 150 plus people who crowded into the Joe Koons Motorcycle Shop on September 3 to help Mrs. Joe "Spud" Koons celebrate her birthday (39th?) were ATOSers. Among those who helped Spud over the milestone by playing the 3/34 Wurli-Welte was ATOS Hall of

Famer Del Castillo, who was awarded the front wheel from the birthday cake with the motorcycle motif. Joe Koons, still ailing, couldn't attend.

On September 25, members met at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium to hear England's Robin Richmond who was in the midst of a west coast tour which ranged from San Diego to Seattle. Robin brought along his British sense of humor and between tunes he sometimes sounded like a standup comedian. But he proved to be a master of pop and light music at the 3/16 Wurlitzer. Robin conducts a BBC radio organ broadcast series from London, and he undoubtedly acquired lots of source material for future programs during his LA visit. His visit to the Bob Power home in Camarillo with its "260 Special" Rodgers (now equivalent to 15 ranks), certainly provided more grist for future broadcasts. Robin was accompanied during the tour by his wife, Renee.

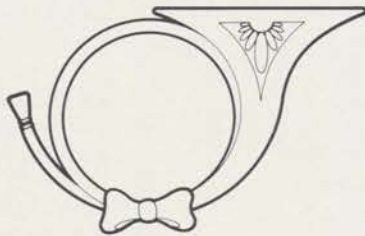
Sunday, October 23, marked the return of Ann Leaf to the San Gabriel auditorium for an afternoon concert. As always, Ann opened with her broadcast theme, "In Time." Her

tunelists are always carefully selected to include the offbeat as well as the familiar. In the former class were David Rose's "Masked Waltz," organ transcriptions of Gershwin's pianistic "Three Preludes," St. Saens' "Danse Macabre" (for Halloween), Alfred Newman's panorama of New York named "Street Scene" and Debussy's "Ballet" from *Petite Suite*.

On the pops and standards list were "What I Did For Love," "Hy-



Ann (Stufoto)



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Toledo Chapter ATOS

acynth" (ragtime), "You Make Me Feel So Good," "Rain on the Roof" and "Like Young."

As always, Ann's arrangements were richly orchestrated. She made good use of the organ's piano during the Gershwin tunes and "Street Scene."

Ann's final grouping may have been her most appealing. It was a non-stop medley of oldies such as "Somebody Loves Me," "I'll Follow My Secret Heart," "By Mir Bist Du Schoen," "Carolina Moon," "Autumn Leaves" — 12 in all. It earned her the greatest "hand" of the afternoon.

The petite organist MC'd her show with easy informality. Her audience demanded and got an encore. They liked both the artist and her music.

Ross Farmer reports that the re-arrangement of stopkeys (from Kimball to Wurlitzer style) on the Wiltern console is near completion, with only some bugs to iron out.

Scheduled next (November 22) is Tom Hazleton at the LA Elks' Bldg. 4/61 Robert Morton organ.

G. BANDINI

MOTOR CITY

Artists for our Second Sunday programs at the Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, our Fourth Sunday at the Royal Oak Theatre in September and October included Warren Colby, Scott Smith, and Herb Head.

At a special meeting, on September 14, the membership voted in favor of purchasing the Barton theatre pipe organ from the owners of the Royal Oak Theatre. Learning of our efforts to preserve theatre pipe organs in their original settings, Los Angeles Chapter member Marion Cook graciously offered to purchase the instrument for us and donate it to our chapter. Under our

agreement with the theatre, the organ will remain *in* the theatre under a 30-year lease.

In October our chapter received, as a gift from member Dick Chapman, a 3/8 Kimball-Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. The console is a Kimball and is now on display in the Redford lobby. The pipework is all Wurlitzer and is in storage until a suitable location for the instrument is found.

The high point of our Buy the Redford fund raising drive was a special benefit show on September 24 re-creating the opening of the theatre. Patterned after the format used at the Redford's 1928 opening night, the program featured Lyn Larsen at the Barton pipe organ accompanying *Eternal Love*, with John Barrymore, and three professional acts of vaudeville: a dixieland sextet, a harmonica trio and Fr. Joseph Dustin, the Banjo-playing Priest.

Even though tickets sold for \$10, we had a paid attendance of 1003!

A dozen vintage Model A Fords, provided by a local classic car club, dispensed the evening's performers, as well as several chapter members in 20's costume at the door of the theatre. Each was ushered up a red carpet from the curb to the entrance by two uniformed doormen, played by members Stuart Grigg and Marvin Spear.

Emcee for the evening was Detroit radio personality Jack Allen. During intermission, champagne was available in the lobby. Advance publicity for the event included television film coverage by two of Detroit's major stations. A lot of warm thanks goes to the many chapter members, too numerous to mention, who helped to make this event a success.

As our final activity for our Buy the Redford fund raising drive, we held another three-day garage sale



The re-creation of the 1928 opening of the Redford featured red carpet treatment with chapter members Stuart Grigg and Marvin Spear officiating as doormen. (Don Lockwood Photo)

at the theatre in October, netting a profit (after expenses) of over \$2000. The organ was heard throughout the sale, as various members performed.

In connection with the garage sale, we held a paper drive in the Redford parking lot and completely filled a

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Bonnie and Clyde (alias Marge and Jerry Muethel) in the spirit of the evening, were among many chapter members who dressed in costumes of the 20s. (Don Lockwood Photo)

slowly sinking semi-trailer with 21,970 pounds of newspaper. Our profit was \$240.

We presented Lee Erwin and the Mary Pickford film *My Best Girl* in a matinee and evening performance at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on October 13. We repeated the same program at the Redford on October 14 and 15. The film is one of the best around as far as audience enjoyment and the quality of the print are concerned. And Lee did it justice with another superb film score.

Contributions are still welcome to our Buy the Redford project. Write: MCTOS, P.O. Box 40716, Redford, Michigan 48240.

DON LOCKWOOD

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On September 9, the *Buffalo Evening News* printed the story of the Riviera Theatre organ with pictures of the organ and the crowd attending the concerts. The article

went on to tell of the effort of the Niagara Chapter to restore this organ and of our monthly concerts presenting internationally famous organists.

Our September concert, following this publicity, was a complete sell out. We had to turn them away at the door ten minutes before concert time.

Don Thompson, the artist for this concert, came up on the lift decked out in white, tails and all. Don was as cool as a cucumber. Nothing seems to bother this pro. The slides got misplaced and he had to skip the sing-along, but Don did an outstanding job on the silent movie. He played some pizza music and a polka and had the crowd in a uproar. After intermission he played a melody of dance tunes from the big band era and again the applause was loud and long. He then broke into a melody of waltzes and again the crowd let him know what kind of music they liked.

Don's new recording, made on the Riviera organ, went on sale for the first time at this concert and Don was busy with autographs at intermission and after the concert.

Our October concert brought back another one of our favorite organists, Don Kinnier. We heard Don at the 1970 convention and he has played several concerts for our chapter since that date. He is a fine musician, full of wit and good humor, a great entertainer and the crowd loved him.

The old question: Should classical music be played at theatre organ concerts? I say yes, if the artist wishes to show off his ability to play this type music, however I believe he should confine his classical music to one or two selections of not over five or six minutes each. Just because he has a captive audience it does not give him a license to over-

load his program with this type music. After all, there is plenty of opportunity to hear classical organ recitals which usually have a attendance of about fifty people.

I once heard Fred Waring giving an interview. When asked to what he contributed his fifty years of success in show business, Mr. Waring's reply was: "Play to entertain your audience not to educate them. I play what pleases the crowd not what pleases me and try to play the best that you know how."

An artist should not turn a deaf ear to the crowd. He should play the type music that brings out the loud enthusiastic applause, not continue to play music that receives a weak courteous acknowledgment. I also go to concerts to be entertained not educated.

STEVE CROWLEY

NOR-CAL


Members enjoyed our annual outing at Bob Chaney's home in Lafayette, California, on August 21. Bob is a genial and hospitable host and provided his pool, patio, home and studio for our delight and enjoyment. Following our noon picnic, Dave Schutt started the organ-izing on Bob's 4/11 Wurlitzer, followed by many members performing on this great instrument located in a recently remodeled and enlarged studio. Bob also has a plug-in electronic organ and a player grand piano. As usual, the jam session on all three instruments evolved for our entertainment. John Seng also joined in the open console parade and, needless to say, we enjoyed his music. It was a fun afternoon and we again thank you, Bob Chaney, for your warm friendship.

Sunday, September 18, our chapter was introduced to the talent of

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Salutations

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John Seng joined in the open console parade at the Chaney Wurlitzer. (Dave Schutt Photo)

Mike Koons at Bill Breuer's Cap'n's Galley in Redwood City, California. Mike is relatively new to the area and few members were acquainted with him and his familiarity with the pipes. His program was well balanced and included the loud and rollicking "Brass Man's Holiday," the melodic "Danny Boy," novelties like "Dizzy Fingers." Ballads of "Feelings," "People," show medley of *Porgy & Bess*. "Joy to the World" in rock style, a theme from a James Bond movie, "The Maple Leaf Rag" and the entire score of *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* for the finale. The 4/23 Wurlitzer was in top shape for his concert and Mike demonstrated his artistry and command of this wonderful instrument. To Bill Breuer, we again appreciate your support of our chapter and the use of your fine facilities. Thank you Phil Freeman for fine-tuning and setting up the Wurlitzer for a peak performance.

Two of our hardworking members Bob Baese and Dave Schutt have researched and published a list of public performing pipe organ installations in the greater San Fran-

cisco Bay area. Their "Tummy Profunda" has been updated and published. Copies are free and available to you all and would be beneficial for any visitors to our area. Want a copy? Just send a self-addressed envelope, with a 13 cent stamp affixed to Bob Baese, 10385 Mann Drive, Monte Vista, California 95014.

JIM DUNBAR

NORTH TEXAS

We have lots of good news to report this time, all of it indicating what a great job our chairman and his committees are doing. Chairman Jim Peterson has gotten things really moving. For example, he set up the September 18 meeting at Casa Manana in Fort Worth to give us all a chance to again hear the Wurlitzer moved there from the old Worth Theatre in downtown Fort Worth. The theatre has been torn down and is being replaced by a large multi-story building, but the organ sounds off regularly at Casa Manana pre-show and intermission times. Thanks again to the Walsh family for purchasing the organ and donating it to Casa Manana. And thanks, too, to our chairman, Jim Peterson, who did the major installation work. Chapter members have helped on various occasions with a lot of the work but Jim has put in untold hours on the instrument.

One item of discussion at the chapter meeting put all else in the shade; Jim's reading of a letter from the Loew's Theatre Corp. donating to the chapter the 4/24 Wonder Morton from the Loew's Jersey City Theatre on Journal Square in Jersey City. Many months of negotiation were involved and we certainly had to prove to the Loew's people that we were a non-profit organization in

the strictest sense of the word. Thanks to proper guidance on the legal aspects of the situation and the establishment of the chapter as a non-profit organization during Lorena McKee's terms in the chair, we were able to prove our proper legal status to the Loew's people and now the organ is ours. Jim Peterson gets the lion's share of credit for arranging the donation, with proper pats on the back to Lorena McKee and some of her predecessor officers for finally achieving the nonprofit IRS status.

Needless to say, the rest of the meeting went on with the appointment of a "steering committee" to oversee the whole project of moving and installing this great instrument in North Texas area and attention to all the little details involved, like transportation, storage, removal from Loew's Jersey City and installation in North Texas with an interim storage facility already arranged. Several members volunteered to go up to New Jersey to remove and load the instrument and the "steering committee" under Jim's leadership has begun work on the plans. There are plenty of things to keep the whole group busy. We have some appreciation now of what other chapters went through in acquiring organs for their groups. Once the approval of the donation is obtained, then the work begins, including a lot of detail like arranging insurance coverage for those working on the organ removal, a requirement of Loew's and a necessary one at that. One thing is sure, the chapter has something to really work on, and with. Interest is growing by leaps and bounds, as indicated by the large turnout at the meeting.

After the business meeting it was time for the Casa Wurlitzer concert. Jim Peterson made a quick costume change to MC the show. He intro-



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Bob Goodwin, regular organist at the Casa Manana Wurlitzer, entertained 1250 at the September program.

duced Bob Goodwin, regular organist at Casa, and our special artist for the concert. There was considerable publicity beforehand, and the public was invited. The refreshments committee had provided for about 200 guests at the free concert. When Bob rose out of the organ pit at the console, he, Chairman Jim, and especially the refreshment committee were astonished to see 1250 of the Casa's auditorium seats filled. Bob played a great concert, fully approved by the audience, especially when some theatre organ favorites were played.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the gals of the refreshment committee were worrying about (a) How are we going to serve refreshments to 1250 people when we have enough cake and soft drinks for 200? and (b) How are we going to serve anybody, when a heavy thunderstorm just hit the outdoor area we had set up to serve the group, and it was against house rules to serve in the

auditorium? How? By a quick trip to a nearby bakery and a soft-drink supplier while the program was still on, and then by serving and serving like crazy and a careful cleanup afterwards so the house management would have no complaints about the serving indoors. The refreshment committee gals missed most of Bob Goodwin's great playing, as did

several young volunteer helpers.

But the meeting was successful in other ways too. Voluntary contributions by the audience enhanced the treasury for the move of the Jersey City Robert Morton to a considerable extent, and the business meeting, reconvened after the concert, finalized the establishment of the guidance committee and several other items. In addition, the session brought in four new members of the chapter.

We mustn't miss any of the highlights, so now we'll discuss the cake auction. Member Sandra Vaden had baked two cakes for the meeting. One was a long cake imitation of a theatre organ manual, complete with all octaves, but enlarged about three times. The other was a complete model of a theatre organ console, complete with candy bar tabs and licorice sharps and flats on the manuals. The organ manual cake disappeared in a hurry at intermission when sliced up to refresh the many guests. Jim Peterson auctioned off the organ console cake, with the final bid price adding nicely to the Wonder Morton fund. The successful bidder was Carole Boyles, a the-



Chapter member Sandra Vaden's organ cake featured raisin stop tabs and licorice sharps and flats. (Koski Photo)



Chairman Jim Peterson congratulates Carole Boyles, the highest bidder for the cake at Casa Manana. (Koski Photo)



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atre organ enthusiast, and a very attractive young lady, too. All in all, the afternoon was a great one, with Bob Goodwin, Jim Peterson, Sandra Vaden, Carole Boyles and all the rest outdoing themselves to make it a great theatre organ day.

The Casa Manana September 18 program was an extra in the chapter's schedule planned by Chairman Peterson. Since then we have had two business sessions, discussing chapter plans and especially the arrangements for the removal and shipment of the Jersey Wonder Morton from Jersey City to the North Texas Chapter. The chapter full well realizes that the acquisition of the organ is only the beginning. The business sessions have emphasized this, with members seriously discussing all the possibilities, funding problems, technical problems, site selection problems and others. With a December 31 deadline for the removal of the instrument, the name of the game is *action* these days.

JOE KOSKI

OREGON

On October 1, we had the privilege of hearing the popular bay area organist, Everett Nourse, at the fabulous Organ Grinder 4/41 Wurlitzer. Everett is nationally known from his Doric recordings of the 4/36 Wurlitzer in the Fox Theatre in San Francisco, where he was staff organist for 19 years. Although he is a top-notch professional, music has always been his hobby.

The sheer size of the Organ Grinder instrument requires considerable reliance on the combination pistons. Accordingly, Everett had to memorize quite a number, and tailor his arrangements around them. His generous program included many of the numbers he featured on the *Farewell To The Fox* series. His excellent the-



Everett Nourse at the Organ Grinder in Portland during the October meeting. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

atre style was never too loud nor too soft, and he made tasteful use of the vast resources of this giant organ. Of special note was the smooth modulation between numbers, using all the soft and delicate voices, so seldom heard.

We had a fine turnout which included members from the Oregon coast, Eugene, and fans from California. Thanks to Everett Nourse and the Organ Grinder staff for a wonderful concert.

On September 11, a beautiful Sunday afternoon, we had the pleasure of hosting the Oregon Chapter at our home in Milwaukie, near Portland. There was a good turnout to hear an electronic organ with one pipe.

Our lead artist was Pauline Schultz, a former silent film organist who has retained her outstanding musicianship and showmanship. There is never a dull moment with Pauline playing! Her fine program was followed by open console, with many members of the audience participating.

The organ is a three-manual Conn



Pauline Schultz, a former silent film organist, at Bud Abel's Conn in September.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

650 with extensive revoicing. Except for the Tibia, all stops sound through four channels and speakers, each with random and independent phase shift. This provides a four-rank chorus effect. The Tibia is produced by two different types of Leslie speakers. The lone pipe is a 16' open wood, actuated by a large woofer for heavy sub-bass.

Thanks to Pauline Schultz and all participants for a most unusual and enjoyable afternoon.

BUD ABEL

PIKES PEAK

On October 2, 1977 PPATOS presented the last concert on the newly-restored Chief Theatre 3/8 Wurlitzer at Mt. Saint Francis Convent. Performing were six PPATOS members plus a special guest appearance by organist Joel Kremer. Mr. Kremer, a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, was former house organist for the Paramount Theatre in Denver, Colorado. An excellent organist and a knowledgeable organ technician, Joel has helped us im-



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measurably in planning the installation of the Chief instrument in the Colorado Springs City Auditorium. Again, thanks to Joel and all the ATOS members who attended the concert.

Immediately following this concert, the blower was disconnected and the following weekend the organ started to come apart. It will move downtown and begin filling the new chambers in the city auditorium. Plans call for completion by Spring with dedication to be held in early Fall 1978. After three years of work restoring the instrument, it will be a great day when this organ, so much a part of Colorado Springs' history, will be completed in its new home. As was emblazoned on the celebration cake which we enjoyed after the concert: "On to a greater adventure."

We are happy to report that Mt. Saint Francis Auditorium will not be without organ music. The auditorium, which is affectionately called

the PPATOS club house, is still available to us and will be the temporary home of a 2/8 Wurlitzer pipe organ. The organ belongs to club member Dr. Gerald Ott who generously loaned us the instrument to use. Dr. Ott is leaving for a new position in another state and the organ, which was installed in his home here, was given to us for safe keeping until preparations can be made for it to join him in his new home. Meanwhile, the organ is ours to set up and play. We are grateful to Dr. Ott and we wish him the best in his new position.

PPATOS were the guests of the Rocky Mountain Chapter at their fall meeting at the home of Jack Walden in Loveland, Colorado. The Waldens beautiful home on the lake and the music of the 2/11 Kimball theatre organ made for an enjoyable afternoon. PPATOS member Mike Gregorich from Pueblo, Colorado, had the privilege of presenting the program at the Kimball. It was an

afternoon of music and socializing and we wish to thank Jack Walden and the Rocky Mountain Chapter for their hospitality.

It will be a busy winter for PPATOS members and we extend a welcome to all ATOS members who will be skiing in the Rocky Mountains to stop and visit us while in the area. We can be contacted through P.O. Box 7002, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80933.

SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN

PINE TREE

In has been a long time since our chapter in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, has been heard from. To recap, here is what we Pine Tree Staters have been doing. After a very slow and long winter we got back in action during the month of June. First of all our long awaited English horns finally arrived. After installation, all 61 of 'em, we at last have a real 13-rank Wurlitzer. Considerable work has been done on the entire instal-



Cliff Lind at the 3/13 Wurlitzer in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. (Joe Williams Photo)



(Left to right) Dwight Leighton, Leon Carpenter and John Lind at the setter-board of the Old Orchard Beach Wurlitzer as Paul Lutz, ATOS member from Tiffin, Ohio, looks on. (Joe Williams Photo)



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lation and as a result our instrument has never been in better form.

Richard Frank opened up our summer season. On June 18, Old Orchard Beach celebrated the 50th anniversary of Charles Lindberghs landing the *Spirit of St. Louis* on the sands of our fine beach. During the weekend celebration the replica of this plane landed at the same place that Lindy did 50 years ago. Our chapter, together with the town, presented the silent film classic *Wings* with music from the Wurlitzer to accompany the film. Our own Cliff Lind did a magnificent job of scoring the picture. Cliff, a student of the long gone Del Castillo theatre organists' school, proved to one and all that he was no stranger to the art of cueing a silent film. For many of us he was the real star of the entire program.

The following week Luella Wickham broke all of our attendance records with her fine concert at the high school.

Other talent that appeared this summer includes Tim Holloran, Tim

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Bjarby and Bob Legon from the Boston area. Also Darrel Stucky from Brockton, Mass., and Russell Gray from Portland.

We have our usual fine cooperation from the town of Old Orchard Beach and many thanks are due to the town manager, Jerome Plante, for all the help he has given us. We are now in the process of making plans for the winter and we hope to be able to have at least one concert a month. We had a fine summer here and hope that everyone else did too.

JOE WILLIAMS

POTOMAC VALLEY

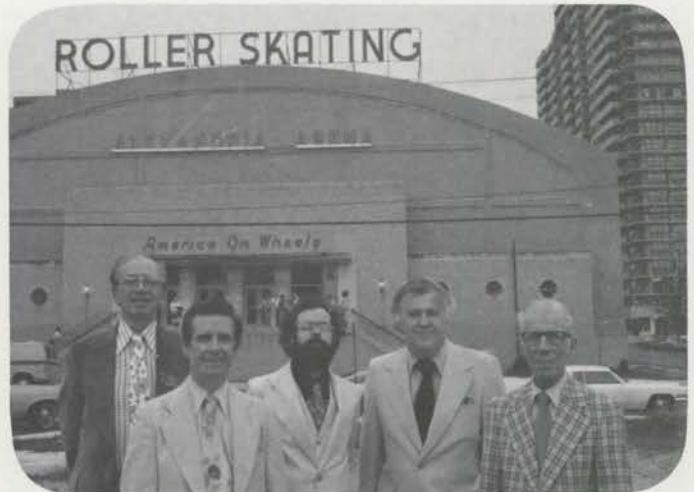
The Alexandria Roller Skating Rink was the setting for 130 devotees of theatre pipe organ at the August

meeting — a relatively large attendance for a vacation month. The reason? The Jimmy Boyce 4/34 Mighty Wurlitzer in concert at the rink always promises, and provides, a thrilling sight and sound musical experience, as its totally unenclosed resonant voices fill the huge arena.

There being no club business matters for consideration, Chairman Al Baldino got right down to the business of entertainment by turning over that part of the meeting to Jimmy Boyce. Jimmy introduced a competent quartet of featured chapter theatre pipe organists, Doug Bailey, Earl Sharits, Robert Stratton and Richard (Rick) Maryman. Their program consisted of a pleasing variety of staples and light concert classics — each performer in his own individualistic manner and style concentrated on the type of music in which he excelled. It should be noted that none of the four had more than a few hours practice time with which to familiarize himself with the resources of the intricate instrument, nor previous concert ex-



Chairman Leon Carpenter presents a bouquet to Luella Wickham, who broke all attendance records at the high school. (Joe Williams Photo)



(Left to Right) Bob Stratton, Jimmy Boyce, Rick Maryman, Doug Bailey and Earl Sharits performed at the Alexandria Arena 4/34 Wurlitzer in August. (Harold R. Richman Photo)

Maria Kumagai

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perience at the Wurlitzer.

All four do have two outstanding similarities. Doug, Bob, Earl and Rick are always on hand to take over a program whenever needed. Each has, in the past, given freely of their talents, time and energy mechanically, in organ restoration and maintenance projects over the years, as well as musically.

Doug Bailey played, in the relaxed Bailey manner, melodies of the 30's, mostly Rogers and Hart, and a few contemporary, the program including, "Manhattan," "Little Girl Blue," and "If." Earl Sharits offered familiar oldies, such as "Jeepers Creepers" and "Baby face," and Gershwin rhythm numbers, "Fascinating Rhythm" and "I've Got Rhythm." Bob Stratton carried us along the keyboard route, with "On the Trail" and "Sunset from the *Grand Canyon Suite*, by Ferde Grofé, and "Huckleberry Finn" and "Mardi Gras," from the *Mississippi Suite*, also by Ferde Grofé. Rick Maryman, an accomplished artist, relatively new on the theatre organ scene, entertained us with the moving "On With the Show," "Once in a Lifetime," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," concluding with "Kiss Me Again."

Our thanks to Jimmy Boyce and Mr. Brown, owner of the rink, for making the organ and its home available to the chapter. We are looking forward to hearing Jimmy Boyce on his own Mighty Wurlitzer for our November program.

On September 11, approximately 150 persons were in attendance at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond. The number increased to about 175 for the afternoon concert at the Mosque. In addition to members, representatives from the Tidewater and Piedmont chapters were present,

including the former national chairman, Dr. Paul Abernethy.

Literally, we were off to a slow start because of a mix-up in internal communications within the Trailways Bus Charter Division. The first bus went to the Chevy Chase Lake Super Market on Connecticut Avenue rather than the proper pickup point in the shopping center at Wisconsin and Western avenues! Bus captains were finally able to get buses and passengers together.

The morning program was held at the Byrd Theatre. Artist Bill Floyd began his tuneful program on an even keel with "Anything Goes" and then got a good head of steam going with his rendition of "Night Train." During the first part of his program, the performance was marred by what appeared to be an intermittent cipher. The interference was finally traced to an errant tape recorder operated by someone in the audience. After the recorder was silenced the program proceeded unhindered. Bill then led us on a musical tour through New York City, playing memorable numbers as they would have been played in the 20's at the Roxy and other theatres. The last stop was the Radio City Music Hall. In addition, Bill played a silent comedy featuring Laurel and Hardy, whose efforts in trying to sell Christmas trees in Southern California in July were a part of *Big Business*.

After the 10 a.m. performance at the Byrd Theatre came a lunch break at Stanley's Cafeteria, then by bus to the 5,000-seat Mosque Civic Center for an afternoon concert with Eddie Weaver at the console of the 3/17 Mighty Wurlitzer. Eddie offered an impressive, varied performance from the light classics to current pop tunes. Unfortunately our errant tape recorder followed us

from the Byrd Theatre. It continued to "bleep" until Chairman Al Baldino again asked that the offending recorder be silenced. Eddie provided some amusing introductions, such as reference to his "friends," Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who were "Big Bad Leroy Brown" and "Sweet Georgia Brown." Particularly pleasing were his imitations of a parade and a variety of marching bands.

After the formal, scheduled concert at the Mosque, the audience was entertained by several chapter members at open console. Those playing included: Bob Stratton, Karl Hoffman, Ron Kragler, George Johnson, Earl Sharits, Pete D'Anna and several others.

The opportunity to play open console at the Mosque had special meaning for Bob Stratton. Bob tells me that 48 years ago, in 1929 and 1930, he played the same Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Mosque on a regular basis. The 3/17 instrument was originally installed in the orchestra pit of the theatre in 1927. The console of the organ is now installed in a loge to the left side of the stage.

Thank you, Karl Hoffman, for providing the details of this trip for the writer.

HAROLD R. RICHMAN

PUGET SOUND

Autumn started early for the chapter on August 14 with our now traditional potluck celebration at Haller Lake Clubhouse and a program by Mahon Tullis at our chapter 3/8 Wurlitzer.

From the traditional we moved on to attempt something quite different for us; presenting a public concert by Jonas Nordwall of Portland for and at, the First Covenant Church. This installation was of

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particular interest to us as the organ, a 3/30 Kimball/Balcom & Vaughan, had originally been installed in the Colonial Theatre in Seattle and was a fine example of a pre-theatre organ. It had been replaced in 1916 by a 2/10 Wurlitzer.

Our next function, October 9, was also a public concert, once again in a church, but this time with an actual theatre organ. The Calvary Temple features quite a lively music program. The organ is another Balcom and Vaughan rebuild of the Centralia Liberty Kimball and the Wurlitzer from Loren Whitney's home. To enliven this event, we were privileged to hear and enjoy Robin Richmond, who was concluding his American holiday tour.

Another program of particular interest was the first appearance at Bremerton of the newly installed Dan Adamson organ in the Community Playhouse. the program — a Halloween showing of (guess who) *The Phantom of the Opera*, with Lew Wells and John Nafie cueing the four performances.

In Seattle, Pizza and Pipes Greenwood treated us to a Halloween jazz night featuring Dick Schrum at the Wurlitzer with his superb group of



Robin Richmond at the Calvary Temple Kimball/Wurlitzer.



Jonas Nordwall at the First Covenant Kimball.

traps and instrumentalists. Tables and benches were rolled back and the floor cleared for dancing to a rich mixture of dixieland, jazz, and sentimental oldies.

November 6 will find us back to the theatre, the Burien Theatre to be exact, but now converted to an Italian-style restaurant renamed Big Bob's Pipe Dream, and sporting a bigger-than-life theatre organ. It is a composite of the Seattle Coliseum and Tacoma Rialto Wurlitzers, installed and maintained by resident technician Eddie Zollman and crew and is somewhere in the neighborhood of 4/42 at present, including a four rank antiphonal mounted in the open. Again we will borrow from Portland to hear the super-talented Gerry Gregorious.

Then the newly refurbished Wurlitzer in Vancouver B.C.'s Orpheum Theatre will be introduced by the renowned Reginald Foort in his (let's hope not) farewell performance: two concerts, November 12 and 13.

GENNY WHITTING

RED RIVER

September found us at our projects in earnest, after summer vacation.

The 3/7 Barton-Johnson in Bud's Roller Rink, Moorhead, Mn., has gotten very little use in the past four or five years. So, along with extensive redecorating by the management, our organ crew began the entire cleaning of the instrument, under the direction of Lance Johnson, former owner of the organ — originally a 2/3 Barton. Some new things have been added, a large picture window the width of the chamber on the lobby side, new screening and dust cover behind the organ grilles, and a change in wind pressure on the Posthorn to 17", the rest remaining on 10". This rink was the scene of past chapter concerts in the 60's, featuring Leon Berry and the late Dick Leibert. In a party atmosphere on October 27, the organ will again be heard for an adult skating session.

Our own chapter organ, a 3/12 Wurlitzer, may be close to finding a

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home at last. Extensive research is being done on the possible site, Moorhead Senior High School. We have toured the auditorium which seats 850, has truly fine acoustics, two large areas for chambers, and possibilities for a lift. It appears our main stumbling block is the cost of installation — the structural changes needed for two large tone openings through double walls! We're looking into ideas now for spreading out the financial burden.

On October 22, we hosted a social for a busload of Land O' Lakes members at the Fargo Theatre. Following a half hour concert by Lance Johnson at the 2/8 Wurlitzer, tours were conducted to the chambers and the understage dressing rooms which are being refurbished. A number of guests, Paul Bowen, Byron Carlson and Alan Gerber, to name a few, took turns during open console.

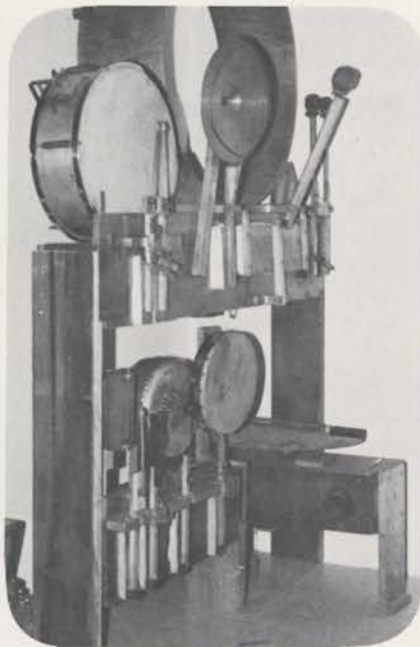
Our next big event is set for early November at the Fargo Theatre, featuring Rob Richards, one of our chapter members. Rob is currently associate organist at Organ Stop, Phoenix. This will be the sixth in our series of presentations at Fargo, all of which have been sell-outs several days in advance.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

On August 14, we visited the Air Force Academy, had dinner in the Officer's Club and heard Professor Oswald G. Ragatz in concert in the chapel.

I keep writing about Fred Riser's "Palace Theatre," but until now, have not had pictures to show progress. The front of the chambers have been covered, the shutters on the right have been put in place, the toy counter is now secure and ready for wiring and the pipes are ready to



Toy counter for Fred Riser's 2/7 Wurlitzer is partially finished.

'poke into the little holes.' Then comes the wind and juice and we should be ready to play by this winter, if all goes well.

Dick Lewis and crew have now completed the Masonic Temple organ.

Our annual picnic was at Jack and Nancy Walden's place in Loveland, Colo., on Sunday, September 25 where the Loveland folks played the



Fred Riser's 2/7 Wurlitzer, with Secretary at the controls.

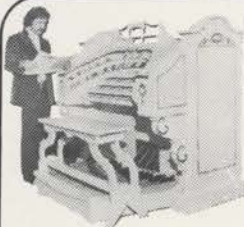
organ followed by open console. This was an old fashioned 'auction off the box lunches' deal to raise money for the chapter.

September was a busy month out here. We had a class of music and organ students visit us at the Aladdin Theatre, where we walked and crawled them through the 3/17 Wicks and gave them an impromptu concert.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO


Our chapter is now the proud owner of a Wurlitzer Style "D" pipe organ, donated to us by member Sandy Fleet. On August 5, Sandy, Ray Krebs, Wendell Shoberg and Bob Lewis headed for Santa Rosa to remove it from the California Theatre. On the return trip the console and chests were left at the Villemin Organ Co., in Porterville, for re-leathering, rebushing and new keys. The remaining portion of the instrument was lovingly unloaded on Monday, August 8 at its new home in the California Theatre in San Diego. Richard Villemin did a fantastically fast job for us, even taking pictures as they went along, and on September 19 the arrival of the chests and console completed the delivery. What a gift, Sandy! The enthusiasm and immediate response of the chapter members to volunteer their time and talents in this undertaking shows the sincere appreciation felt by each and everyone of us. Gene Ginder and Wendell Shoberg have completed the paper layout for the installation and Bob Lewis and Ray Krebs are supervising the willing crew of workers. The owner of the theatre, Mr. A.W. Coggeshall, is as delighted as we are to once again have an organ in this beautiful old building. As you can see, the organ is uppermost in our minds in all our planning for the future.




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

We started our fall season on September 26 by presenting Robin Richmond at the Pavilion in Pacific Beach on the 'Mighty Mo.' This entertaining and charming Britisher completely captivated us Yankees with his inimitable wit and a style of playing seldom heard in this country. The English quick-step kept the audience applauding for more as he ranged through the standards of both continents. Small wonder that his weekly radio program in England *The Organist Entertains* is so popular. A standing ovation proved our pleasure in his playing. Henry and Adela Agsten and Gwen O'Conner acted as chapter hosts to Renee and Robin and transported them to and from their vacation spot in Laguna.

October 2, found 45 of our members enjoying the view from Jane and John Dapolitos' home in Mt. Helix. A short business meeting was fol-



Robin and Renee Richmond during his San Diego concert in September. (Jerry Sullivan Photo)



L.A. Chairman John Ledwon at his October concert on the 'Mighty Mo.'

(Ed Minder Photo)

lowed by the surprise impromptu concert on the Conn 651 given by member Bill Wright, from Monrovia, Ca. Open console and a fabulous jam session followed on piano, trumpet and organ. Solos, duets, singing. You name it. We did it! A most delightful time, thanks to our hosts and the many talented members who performed.

John Ledwon was our concert artist on October 17, a remarkably talented organist who had the uncanny ability to coax a greater variety of sounds from the 'Mighty Mo' than many of us have ever heard in a single program. His style is original and refreshing; his technique clean, crisp and often lightning fast. The audience approved of his performance with enthusiastic applause following each selection and a standing ovation brought him back twice for encores. We agree with the local concert review that he should do more concertizing. As chairman of the L.A. Chapter, John knows how important publicity can be and most willingly woke up at the crack of

dawn to appear on a local TV program the morning of the concert. True ATOS dedication. We hope to hear him again soon for it was truly an evening of beautiful music. Chapter thanks go to Bob Brooks for hosting John during his stay.

We wish 'Holiday Happiness' to all of you from all of us.

VERN BICKEL and LOIS SEGUR

SIERRA

It was hot, hot, hot, in the Sacramento Valley during August, so we all enjoyed the lovely weather at our annual picnic at Pine Grove. Lots of good food, good organ music and good friends. Our very hospitable hosts, the Jim Welch family, made us all feel very much at home.

In late August, the California State Fair — CAL-EXPO began its annual three-week run. Thanks to the maintenance crew, the Seaver Memorial Organ was in top shape. Emil Martin entranced the thousands of daily visitors who enjoyed the music and wondered at the action within the windowed chambers.

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Dick Cencibaugh



Jimmie Paulin and Don Zeller discuss pedal action.



Sierra's Craft-Fair booth. The "tabs" are appropriate colors and each bears the name of a well-know organist.

Previous to each evening's stage-show, Sierra Chapter members played the half-hour pre-show concert. The Fair Board has many changes and improvements planned for next year, and Sierra is also hoping to make our little "D" more interesting. We are still hoping that, since this is a *state fair*, some kind hearted Californians will help us to enlarge the organ for the enjoyment of the thousands of people who see it annually.

Resuming our regular schedule in September, we held our meeting at Bob Breuer's Arden Pizza and Pipes with Dick Cencibaugh at the console of the 4/24 Wurlitzer. Dick, and Don Croom, are house organists at Breuer's new Fresno Pizza and Pipes, and he is also house organist at the Fresno Warnor Theatre (a Robert Morton) and a church organist. His training has been in classical organ, but he played a most enjoyable program of both pops and classics. We plan a caravan to Fresno to hear both the pizza and Warnor organs. It was noticed that many of the ladies present were busily engaged in needlework during the concert — preparation for our Arts and Craft Fair.

October was probably the busiest

month Sierra has ever had. Early in the month, the new owner of Sierra Inn (formerly Greer Inn) invited us to a special concert by Jimmy Paulin, who will be the new house organist. Approximately fifty members were fascinated by the fine playing of this artist. It has been a long time since we have seen anyone travel around a console with such dexterity, and we are happy to know that once again we can stop in at Sierra Inn and hear the Robert Morton in capable hands. Don Zeller will again be in charge of maintenance for the organ, as he was the first two years of the Inn's operation. Evelyn Osborn will play the cocktail hour, and Jimmy will play five nights a week, with the Alan King Orchestra playing for dancing on Friday and Saturday. Plans are afoot to relocate the console and feature the organ in a larger bar.

The weekend of October 15 and 16 was our scheduled Arts and Craft Fair at Country Club Plaza Mall. For months, many of our members had been engaged in making all kinds of interesting articles to be sold, and a special booth, designed to resemble (somewhat) a console, has been built. Designed by Bob

Longfield, the booth had been constructed in the driveway of the Carroll Harris home, much to the curiosity of neighbors. John Carleton, Rod Daggert, Carroll Harris, Bob Longfield and Art Phelan were the busy carpenters. Cindy Carleton, Barbara Harris and Betty Wilmunder headed the craft and sales committee and so many members contributed articles that it would be impossible to name them all. It was a successful venture and helped to raise money for our Seaver Memorial Organ and the Clyde Derby Scholarship Fund.

The 16th was also the day of our joint meeting with the Bladwin Organ Club which was held at The Golden Bear Theatre at CAL-EXPO. The first half of the program was played by Howard McCullough at the Baldwin Theatre organ. He has been Baldwin's representative in the United Kingdom for several years. The second half was played on the Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer by Hal Randal, who is well known by those who attend the yearly Home Organ Show at Asilomar. Nearly three hundred guests enjoyed this excellent duo-program by two fine organists. Another October event

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transpired when Rex Koury accompanied a special Halloween showing of *The Cat and the Canary* at the Grant high School Wurlitzer. And thus ended a very busy month.

KEYZANPEDALS

SOONER STATE

On October 14, Tulsa, along with the rest of the country, added the voice of the Oral Roberts University 4/21 Wurlitzer to the celebration of Mighty Wurlitzer Day. On that Friday, at 9 p.m. Central Standard Time, ORU student and Sooner State member Chad Weirick joined all the other organists in the nation who were playing the John Muri special arrangement of "When the Organ Played at Twilight." Actually, we celebrated twice: earlier that day Channel 8 News had videotaped a duplicate performance for airing that night, but other news prevented it from being shown until later in the week.

For those of our members who made the trip down the turnpike, the highlight for September was Hector Olivera's concert at the 4/16 Kilgen in Oklahoma City's Civic Center. The newly-chartered Oklahoma City Chapter has done a fabulous job on the organ, and it was obvious that Hector was as delighted

with it as was his audience. He played everything from Bach to "Bumble Boogie," but the medley from *Star Wars* — complete with lights reflected around the auditorium from a revolving sphere above his head — was breathtaking!

Our business meeting in September was held in Roberts' Piano Store, with owner Bill Roberts as host. Bill's 2/6 Kilgen, originally installed in the Goldman Hotel in Fort Smith, Arkansas, is stacked neatly around the store while Bill decides whether to set it up in the store or in an addition to his house. Music for the meeting was provided from Bill's extensive collection of recorded theatre organ music, and from elderly (and fragile) piano rolls played on the George Steck player piano he was currently reconditioning. The meeting was devoted to chapter business, principally election of officers, and plans for the year. All current officers were elected to another term, with the addition of Bill Roberts as a second vice-chairman. Officers re-elected are Phil Judkins, chairman; Harry Rasmussen, vice-chairman; J.D. Ellis, treasurer; and Betty Weddle, secretary; with Joe Crutchfield appointed program chairman and Dorothy Smith as magazine reporter.

The meeting for October was open

console at the 3/10 Robert Morton in the American Christian College. We enjoyed music from Phil Judkins, Joe Crutchfield and John Hickman. Phil also treated us to a "preview" of what Bob and Betty Weddle's 2/4 Robert Morton will sound like, by playing on just the (similar) four ranks the two organs have in common. They'll get a lot of music from their four ranks when the organ is finally set up!

We also paused to remember the 3/7 Wurlitzer (Opus 1999) which was destroyed when the Tulsa Coliseum burned in a spectacular blaze 25 years ago on September 20. Over a block long and nearly a block wide, the Coliseum was built in 1928 by millionaire Robert Whiteside as a showcase for professional hockey, and also featured ice shows, family skating and wrestling and boxing matches. It took a lot of organ to fill this huge building, but it did its job well with 25 inches of wind. In 1946 the keys (and pedals) had to be replaced — the ivories were completely worn through! During its many years of life the organ was played at least 24 hours a week for the many activities taking place. Tulsa loved it! The site is now a parking lot.

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