

- 1938 — Shakespeare Repertoire with Maurice Evans. Epstein served as musical director.
- 1939 — *Knickerbocker Holiday* with Walter Huston.
- 1940 — *Charley's Aunt*, revival with Jose Ferrer.
- 1941 — *Lady in the Dark* with Gertrude Lawrence. A coast-to-coast show, in which Epstein served as accompanist for the star.
- 1944 — *Cyrano DeBergerac* with Jose Ferrer.
- 1945 — *Glass Menagerie*. Served as musical director.

For a period of several years following World War II, Mr. Epstein had a trio, working hotels and clubs until about 1955, when he began selling electronic organs. First he managed a Hammond showroom in Brooklyn, then worked for Thomas for 11 years, demonstrating and touring, until he retired. □

DINNY'S COLYUM

as
transcribed
by
Del Castillo



I gotta thank Mr. Costello for givin me the jack to go to the Convenshun. Was that sumpin. I thought L.A. was quite a town, but that Chicago is somethin else. They got skyscrapers that really is Skyscrapers. They got two of them that must be a couple miles high. You walk in the front door in the rain, and when you get out at the top you got sunshine with the clouds down below. And bein down below is like bein in the Grand Canyon. The people is scurryin around like ants, and another difference with L.A. is they dont wait for red lites. If we did like that to home, we'd get a \$10 ticket and I aint kiddin.

And them theayters with the big organs takes me way back to the 20s when I use to go to the big theayters

with the big orchestras and the big organs and the big stage shows. Everythin big. Nowadays things is different. We was to so many organ concerts all week that I got organ music comin out of my ears instead of goin in. They should of called it From Fifteen to Fifty on acct. they started off with a 15 year old young feller kid on Tuesday PM. and wound up six days later with Mr. Geo. Rite who is maybe the best known organ player that most people know about. And in between they was all kinds and sizes from the Stadium that they can get 20,000 people into and they is so much ekko that the organ music meets itself coming back, down to the WGN TV studio that only got room for 100 so Mr. Melcher had to do his stuff three times while they hustled people in and out like they was in a subway jam. Bein a old ely-vator man myself I got a kick out of the theayters where the organs was on a elyvator. Of course the organ players they aint really elyvator men, and I was kinda (sic!) humiliated at the Chicago Theayter where the elyvator went up and down so slow you wasnt sure whether it was movin at all. I felt kinda sorry for Mr. Muri who played a hole peace and when he finished the elyvator still wasnt all the way up, and when he finished his last peace the elyvator went down so slow people thought he was all done before he started in on Mr. Jesse Crawford's theme song The Forgotten Melody. Of course when the organs was in skatin rinks the only trouble was they was so loud they needed to have people skatin so you didnt get deaf lissenin, and I would of like to get a skate on myself about then.

Of course we was took everywhere on busses, and we musta gone over 500 miles to say the least. Get up early for a quick cup of coffee, onto a bus, joggle along, off the bus, into a concert, out and onto a bus, joggle into another concert, onto the bus and like that all day. I was joggled on busses so much I got saddle sores. If I had been a girl I would of been bussed to death. And them bus drivers move them big busses around like they was kiddy cars. They squeezed past cars so close I just shut my eyes and scrinched, but they always made it. You would think they always knew where they was goin, but you would of thunk rong. Every time

we had a long way to go, some bus would get lost and then we all had to wait for them to back track, one bus went too far for over 30 miles and wound up in another state. State of Confushun I guess. But they was all nice fellers and they was doin the best they could.

The worst day was on Thursday which I called a Bad Day at Black Rock. Nobody got strung up like in the picture but everythin else happened. First off we got woke up to thunder and litenin and dont you think that in them walls that go around the Palmer House you didnt think you was in a artillery barradge in the World War. So then it started in to rain and the first stop that day was to the theayter in Juliette where the rain had got into the theayter and I sure felt sorry for Mr. Don Baker where all the lites go out on the organ and he has to play with two fellers holdin flashlites for him to see by and when they finally come on the audience gives them a big hand but Mr. Bakers troubles aint over they is somethin rong and he winds up givin the concert on the Posthorn and the Bells to cover up the stuff that aint workin, and he is so mad he takes off after the con-

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