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ALABAMA

Alabama is most fortunate to be in an area that has many accomplished theatre organists who will share their talents with us. Our neighboring states of Mississippi and Georgia also have some great talent and for our March and April meetings we had a sample of some of the best.

In March, the Alabama Wurlitzer met the talent of Walter Winn from the Music Grinder Pizza of Marietta, Georgia, and we heard some new type of sounds from this theatre Wurlitzer - like "Pizza Wurlitzer." Walter is associate organist at the Music Grinder and a talent that you need to keep your eve on. He not only can knock out some of the new "modern" sounds known to the pizza emporium, but he has his own special way with the great older numbers as well. He is a master of registration at the Wurlitzer, and we heard some well-known songs in an entirely different way that were really beautiful and in keeping with the traditional theatre organ styling.

If you are going to the Atlanta Convention in July be sure to take in some of the jam sessions scheduled for late evenings at the Music Grinder and listen to Walter — he is really a talent on the way up.

At our April meeting our guest artist from the Mississippi Gulf Coast was Jack Molemann. Jack is a major in the United States Air Force and has managed to combine an electrical engineering Air Force career with the magic of theatre organ music. Jack really knows how to put on a great show and his personality is that of a true showman. We were treated to some of every style and age of song. His call for requests from the audience was answered expertly and we had an opportunity to hear the classical side of Jack's training. Jack even brought along a short silent comedy for our entertainment, and proved that he knew how to use the organ for silent movie accompaniment.

We are sad to say that Jack is leaving our area, having been transferred from Kessler Air Force Base. But, all of you in the Washington, D.C. area be on the lookout — he's headed your way and you are in for some treats in the future.

RIEDEL WEST

CEDAR RAPIDS

Once again CRATOS reports the sound of the Closing Chord; this time for Carolyn (Mrs. Robert R.) Beck of Davenport, Iowa. Both she and her husband were charter members and were tireless workers in the establishment of the CRATOS Chapter, despite living some 70 miles from Cedar Rapids. And, as if this weren't enough, they still had time and energy left for helping in the restoration of the organ in the Capitol Theatre in Davenport. She personally handled disposition of tickets in Cedar Rapids for the silent movie spectaculars in Davenport.

I shall miss the twinkle in her eyes each time we met, after which she invariably would turn to whomever was nearby and explain how hard she did not have to work to make me a member; seems that it was she I first encountered in the theatre lobby with the question of how I could join the society so that I wouldn't miss any silent movie nights!

By the time this report reaches you, CRATOS will have had another of a long string of "Sold Out" theatre organ spectaculars. May 20 was the date for Ron Rhode to be the featured performer; a triumphant return for the young man who is well-known to us for having performed at monthly chapter meetings.

The spring show of the Davenport branch presented Dennis and Heidi



Jack Moelmann at the console of the Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer

James at the Capitol. The 3/10 Wicks restoration has been the result of years of work by the group ramrodded by the Adams family, Jim, Paul and father Howard, with much cooperation by then-manager Dan Lindner.

Plans already are being formulated for the September 1 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Paramount (nee Capitol) Theatre in Cedar Rapids.

LOREN H. FRINK

CENTRAL INDIANA

The March meeting was held at Foster Hall in Park Tudor School. There was not an abundance of new or old business, so we segued to the entertainment of the day. Kurt Von Schakle was the guest artist who was to play the Aeolian 2/27 player organ with built-in Duo Art registration and expression. However, due to much cold weather, it was not doing much "registrating" or "expressing." There seemed, instead, to be a great deal of "malfunctioning," and no matter the amount of coddling by Kurt, would it respond satisfactorily. Members had to be content with viewing its chambers.

However, after refreshments were served, Kurt graciously compensated by inviting everyone to hear him play the pipe organ at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. At least the members were able to hear this very talented young man play, so all was not in vain. So much for our wintry March.

The April meeting was held at the Hedback Theatre. Member Don Craig reported there will be a trip to Chicago, in late September or October, to hear the New World Wurlitzer.

Our entertainment for the day was Rob Calcaterra. Rob is another very talented young man and played original arrangements of "Jealousy," "Dainty Miss" and many others. His wide variety of registration and technique was super. The "piece de resistance" was a humorously illustrated group of sing-alongs. Rob's meringue topping on this musical dessert was his rendition of "Poet and Peasant" Overture.

Our artist began his teaching career in the second grade when he gave organ lessons in exchange for pop bottles. Soon after this he was



Ron Calcaterra at the Hedback Theatre 2/10 Page.

in the "chips" receiving hard cash! He studied three years privately with Dr. Oswald Ragatz at Indiana University. He is a student teacher at Manual High School, where he directs and accompanies three choirs and teaches piano theory.

Many members attended the Lee Erwin concert at Manual High School the Friday before Easter and enjoyed the appropriate King of Kings silent movie accompanied by Lee. The audience also got in the act with a sing-along.

April 21 and 22 our chapter had in concert Lowell Ayars at the Hedback Theatre at the 2/10 Page. He is known as the "singing organist" and has recently completed a tour of England playing to packed houses in London and other British cities. His program was varied and featured nostalgic composers of the pipe organ era. A sing-along followed. After intermission Lowell accompanied the Laurel and Hardy silent movie The Second Hundred Years. All in all the evening's performance was well received. This concert was another of a series jointly sponsored by our chapter and Footlite Musicals.

BEE BUTLER

CHICAGO AREA

CATOE has been busy since our last appearance in these pages. Tom Cotner, back in Chicago after the Old St. Louis Noodle and Pizza Co. folded despite the vitamin of his fine music, played an excellent concert for us at the 3/11 Pickwick Theatre Wurlitzer in December. It featured a vocalist plus the other things which

made Tom's "Chicago '77" show so good. (You'll be able to hear him at the Atlanta convention.)

Jack Olander presented the December social at Maine North High School, complete with two of the school's vocal students. Olander has just completed teaching a second theatre organ class at the school. Fred Kruse was presented with a framed resolution of thanks for his donation of a 16' Tuba to that organ, which is owned by CATOE.

In January we were at Medinah Temple, Chicago, a 5000-seat hall with a 75-rank Austin, circa 1914. It has two consoles, a five-manual and a four-manual. That same month members were invited to hear a 50-rank Austin, circa 1978. This new "American classic organ," designed by Dr. William Barnes and John Peters, was dedicated by member Devon Hollingsworth at Christ Church, Oakbrook. It's nice to know someone can still build a robust organ.



Lee Erwin enjoying himself at the Chicago Civic Opera House. (C. Albin Anderson Photo)

Lee Erwin returned to Chicago, in February this time to play the 3/50 Skinner at the Civic Opera House accompanying *The General*. Members were the guests of landlord L.N. "Chris" Christensen afterwards in the Kib Room, Samuel Insull's private apartment backstage. That same weekend, Lee joined many CATOers at Mario and Jimmy DeLuca's Pipe Organ Pizza, Milwaukee, for the final appearance of Walter Strony. Walter has moved on to Phoenix. Clark Wilson is his replacement in Milwaukee.

The March social was at WGN, where Mark Noller played and Rich-



Milwaukee's Perry Petta following his April social program for CATOE. (Bill Lamb Photo)

ard Sklenar, Ione Tedei and Virginia Ferroli entertained with a musical newscast over "KATO-TV." The station's news set is now in Studio 3, with the organ, and was used to good advantage, especially during the mock editorial reply by Zelda Mae Fern, a spoof of the editorials read by station vice-president and CATOE member Alexander Field.

In April, Milwaukee's 16-year-old Perry Petta played a social program at the Downers Grove 3/10 Wurlitzer. Perry is the young man who won the youth playing competition at the Cleveland Regional ATOS bash last November. It's no wonder; his playing is clean, sensitive and very musical. You will probably be hearing his name and music in the future.

April 23 was "Genesee Theatre Day" in Waukegan, Ill. The mayor and city council had so proclaimed it in honor of the 50th Anniversary show presented by CATOE. It was a re-premeire of another saved organ, a 3/10 Barton, which Rex Koury played for an appreciative 1500 people. This is another opportunity to keep theatre organ alive and well in the Chicago area. John Koch is crew leader.

On April 23, David Hamilton was to play three intermissions during showings of *The Great Caruso*, presented by the Oriental Theatre. During the last show the blower gave

out. Spencer is now fabricating two new impellers, paid for by the new owners of the building. Thus they have proven their interest in keeping this musical treasure secure in Chicago.

As is customary for our chapter, during May new chapter officers will be elected to take office July 1. The retiring board of directors consists Richard Sklenar, chairman; Alden Stockbrand, vice-chairman; Bill Rieger, secretary; Ione Tedei, treasurer; Virginia Ferroli, membership chairman; Marie Pond, VOX CATOE editor; and Bill Benedict, Jim Taggart, and John Peters, directors. New faces will grace the next board as three long-time members are not running. Sklenar is retiring after nearly six years, Stockebrand after four years and Rieger, who has been on our board continuously since 1967.

TOM TIBIA

CONN VALLEY

Our spring season began in style with concerts at Thomaston Opera House by George Wright on March 31 and April 1 and April 2. Patronage was excellent and so was the music. Previous appearances in Connecticut by George did bode well for these dates and our foundest expectations were realized.

During the first half of the concert George gave us a fine musical sample of musical comedy, the Beatles, and popular tunes from years ago to the present. Highlights were the "Cuban Love Song" and "Hora Staccato" done in the Wright style.

This artist makes full use of combination pistons. This writer has not attended a concert during which the artist took less time for setting stops. All the pistons available were used.

Following intermission, during which the George Wright records were sold out, we were treated to a series of compositions somewhat more elaborate than those heard in the first half. These allowed our organist greater opportunity for arrangement and we heard some very skillful ones, including "Petite Waltz," and Mozart's "Ave Vera."

It was a very fine concert, indeed, and we have already engaged this artist for another return engagement next year! Not only was the music great, the artist was generous as well, a combination always appreciated at Thomaston.

Our April meeting this year was held at the home of Irving and Anita Twomey in Manchester, CT. We have been there before and it is always an unusual pleasure to see and hear all the beautifully restored music machines, cash registers, player piano, 2-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ, etc., etc., etc. These various items are all over the house and make every room a treasure hunt area.

The Wurlitzer is located in the basement where many appropriate items such as a rotating mirrored ball and spotlights contribute to a very theatrical atmosphere.

After a brief business session following dinner, Program Chairman Paul Taylor greeted us with the most welcome news - that we would be entertained by none other than our own Ev Bassett at the console. Immediately Ev came on with the "Radio City Music Hall March" as his console riser. He then proceeded with a nicely planned program of "popular music chronologically selected" which began with the year 1919 and went on through 1938, a generous and thoroughly enjoyed program of some 19 selections, all in the popular vein.

As he always does, Ev had found the time to research and put together a very interesting program for us which he played in the comfortable Bassett style.

Some more open console followed Ev's program and finished this most pleasant evening, for which we are very grateful indeed to Irv and Anita Twomey.

W.F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

At our board meeting, it was decided that we should advertise the theatre organ as an item in short supply. President Greg Filardo pointed out that people ran to the grocery store when there was an onion shortage, and waited in lines for hours when there was a gasoline shortage. So we came up with the idea of billing the next concert as being held because there is a shortage of theatre organs.

Other items discussed for our next concert were displaying Model A Fords in front of the theatre before the concert and having members dress in period clothes and generally creating a 1920's atmosphere that that would attract attention from far and near.

Our concert was a success. Our guest artist for the evening was John Muri, who played a delightful concert along with a silent film, *Charlie Behind the Scenes*. Our club also presented scholarships to students at Carroll, Alverno and Concordia colleges as well as the University of Wisconsin.

On Sunday, March 12, our social was held at Organ Pipe Pizza in Milwaukee. The entertainment for the afternoon was provided by Gary Sette, former organist at the Schnitzelhaus Restaurant (that organ has since been sold to a Dallas firm).

Gary played a lot of songs in the vein of *Star Wars*, "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," and "Stormy Weather," with thunder and lightning effects.

Recently some progress has been made with United Artists Theatres toward removing the temporary stage that has been placed over the organ at the Riverside Theatre, according to Mr. Walters, organ curator. Although the instrument is in playing condition, a concert could not be held without considerable work from our club.

The installations of our 2/6 Wurlitzer in the Racine Theatre Guild is coming along fine. Some Saturday mornings there is actually too much help. With a little more work, the organ will be ready in time for a 50th Anniversary concert.

There is a concert planned at the Sheyboygan Theatre for members and friends of D.T.O.S. before the Wurlitzer, which is owned by Jim De Luca of Pipe Organ Pizza, is removed. It is sad to see one of the last remaining Wurlitzer organs in a Wisconsin Theatre being removed to be used as a part of a pizza organ.

We would like to thank Jim Bringe, Jim DeLuca, the Pabst Theatre and Fred Hermes, who had socials for us this year.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL

EASTERN MASS.

Pleasure before business was our reversed procedure for our March 25 Babson meeting. What pleasure

it was with our special guest organist, Master Sergeant Lou Hurvitz, from the U.S. Military Academy Band, West Point, N.Y., swinging onto the bench after introduction by Chairman Royal Schweiger. Lou's rapidly growing console reputation preceded his first appearance with us resulting in about 150 members and guests attending. It would be safe to say that his following has been increased by as many, for this gentleman displayed a crisp, imaginative, authoritive style of playing coupled with a calm, engaging personality. He was master of the console at all times showing a thorough familiarity with the mechanics plus tonal blending of the "unit orchestra" enhanced by his knowledge of band instruments. Lou's warm, friendly manner quickly establishes a rapport with his audience and his obvious love of theatre organ pipes shines through in his music. These are the ingredients for success and this young man is going places in the concert field after active service.

Over an hour of really good theatre organ was greatly enjoyed from his opener, "Say it with Music," to his long-standing ovation second encore "The Stars and Stripes Forever." The latter was his second march of the evening and both displayed the Wurlitzer's "one man band" capabilities. An excellent concert doesn't just happen and Lou's native ability, "basic training," constant practice and genuine enthusiasm put it all together.

Business was opened by Chairman Schweiger who announced several personnel changes approved by the board of directors. Craig Johnson's resignation as vice chairman, owing to an impending move, has Bob Bramhall succeeding him. Tim Holloran is our new program chairman. John Ross is the membership chairman.

Bob Legon reminded the membership that we have now owned our Wurlitzer for 10 years. He also invited the club to an unofficial theatre organ seminar of four evening sessions in May at the 3/9 Kilgen in Lakeview Congregational Church, Waltham.

Customary open console was unusually active with many members and guests taking their turns, including new member, Phil Bordeleau and his busy professional organist sister, Jan. Spring concert flyers and tickets were distributed by Roasalie and Patsy Fucci.

Our April meeting at Babson was short on business and long on good listening. Royal presented a beautiful plaque, with club console engraved, to our first member extraordinaire, Clayton Stone. Applause followed appropriate words by each, as all present stood in approbation.

Program Chairman Tim Holloran spoke briefly and introduced our two mini-concert artists of the evening, Bob Legon and Phil Bordeleau. Each played the Wurlitzer in carefully worked out arrangements creating some nice sounds. One of Bob's was a classic "The Whistler and His Dog" which brought back memories of Lew White's long-ago 78 recording. Phil's theme was "Tribute to Spring" with song titles reflecting the vagaries of that season. Each artist received a deserved good round of applause as they concluded.

Tim then announced that a taped portion of Eddie Weaver's Stone-ham concert of May 14, 1968 would be played over the new P.A. system. It was a nice reminder of a fine concert for the older members and a revelation to the newer — an additional incentive for all to sell tickets to his May 13 program.

A succession of members and friends at the popular Wurlitzer concluded the evening's entertainment. Each brought interesting and varied styles, selections, interpretations and abilities. All had fun and gave pleasure to others in so doing. That's what its all about!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GULF COAST

Our-newly-elected chairman, Walter Smith, has had a change in plans and has resigned the chairmanship. Our chief mentor, Barcley D. Rhea, M.D., fortunately has accepted the chairmanship for the rest of the year.

Representatives from the chapter have met with the cultural affairs board and city council as to the status of our chapter and the Robert Morton organ at the being-restored Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola. We have presented to these groups our rough estimate of the cost of



Jack Moelmann, Jeff Seale* and Senton Granberry at the March program in Laurel, Miss.

restoration to date. This we hope will be in lieu of charges so that we may hold our meetings at the Saenger without cost to us as we have in the past. Naturally, we will pay all fees when our concerts are open to the public for professional charge. We have asked those governing the Saenger that our chapter be allowed to maintain the organ. Also that we be allowed to have the final say-so as to who may play it and when.

Tom Helms, our Peripatetic premier organist, was guest soloist for a concert in Laurel, Miss., on March 11. This was at the invitation of Jeff Seale* at the magnificent, beautifully-restored 3/13 Robert Morton and concert Steinway in his home. Jeff sponsors these Sunday afternoon concerts and invites many friends to enjoy them with him. Several were there from Pensacola, Memphis, Jackson and Meridian as well as guests from Laurel. Tuddy Soley, who did the lion's share in the restoration of this instrument, and Senton Granberry, also very active in the Magnolia Chapter, have cohosted these delightful afternoon organ musicals. After Tom's splendid performance, several organists

*We have since learned of the untimely death of Jeff Seale in Laurel, Miss. His concerts and hospitality were legend. We hope somehow, someway, his Robert Morton will continue to give the pleasure it did during his lifetime to so many listeners. We feel sure he would want it this way. See Closing Chord on page 49.

participated in open console. A most enjoyable afternoon; thanks to the Magnolia Chapter. Senton tapes these events and shares copies with others who wish them.

In April we sponsored a meeting with the American Guild of Organists at the Saenger Theatre. Marcia Cohen, cultural affairs chairman for the City of Pensacola, was our guest of honor. Ken Karadin, president of AGO, and Tom Helms played an entertaining duet of P.D.Q. Bach. Tom then explained the workings of the theatre organ to the group from AGO and others who were present. After his very comprehensive explanations he played some requests from the audience. Besides Mrs. Cohen, the members of the cultural affairs committee were included in the guest list as well as other civic officials interested in the Saenger restoration. Dr. and Mrs. Rhea hosted a reception at their home immediately following the program. Naturally, all conversation centered around our organ and its future in the theatre here. Everyone was pleased to see and hear the Brambach pit piano that Dr. Rhea and his crew had restored so beautifully. This will be wired into the console at the Saenger.

On April 13 our chapter was indeed honored when Tom Helms was asked to play background music for the mayor's reception at the Saenger. Here the city officials, cultural affairs board and other civic minded citizens, including industrial rep-



Tom Helms at the 3/13 Robert Morton in the home of Jeff Seale * Laurel, Miss.

resentatives, were awarded recognition for their contributions to the Saenger. Over \$100,000 was pledged as of this date toward restoration. This amount will be added to other funds already pledged. This totals approximately \$1.5 million for the restoration fund to Save the Saenger!

DOROTHY STANDLEY

LAND OF LINCOLN

The Coronado Theatre in Rockford is being "rediscovered" by the people of this northern Illinois community. Since LOLTOS staged a big 50th Anniversary show last October the Coronado has become the place for groups to tour. LOLTOS has assumed a lot of the responsibility for these groups and about 150 students have visited the theatre during the last few months.

During February, LOLTOS member-organist Bob Coe took an extended tour to the West Coast and back. Enroute, he stopped with friends in Tuscon and played for SATOS members at an informal gathering. Following visits with relatives and friends in California, his faithful Oldsmobile took him to Salt Lake City and the Mormon Tabernacle where he played a few numbers at the tabernacle organ at the invitation of Dr. Alexander Schreiner.

April 20 brought Lyn Larsen to the Coronado Barton for his first concert here. Lyn did an outstanding job, even though his rugged schedule



Lyn Larsen at the Coronado Barton for Land of Lincoln.

and lack of sleep didn't allow for extended rehearsal time. The Barton never sounded better and concertgoers were lavish in their praise of his artistry. Everyone is looking forward to visiting Lyn's new eatery in Sun City, Tivoli Gardens.

On May 4 LOLTOS hosted a large group of Senior Citizens at a free concert with Bob Coe at the organ. This show was made possible with the generous support of the Coronado and Local #217 of the Stage Employees Association.

Upcoming shows at the Coronado are Rosa Rio on June 15, a 51st Anniversary show with Myron Floren and Chad Weirick on October 22, Bob Ralston on March 15, 1979 and to round out the season, Hector Olivera returns in May 1979.

BOB SCHMOOCK

LOS ANGELES

The 4/36 Marr and Colton theatre organ, which was to be installed in Pasadena's Civic Auditorium, has been temporarily dethroned, since J.B. Nethercut very graciously donated his Reginald Foort 5/27 Moller organ to Pasadena. The Moller Organ Co. will install the instrument after some extensive rebuilding by Gordon Belt and his crew from San Sylmar (Mr. Nethercut's "Tower of Beauty," where his impressive collection of antique musical instruments and cars is housed). Chapter members are now searching for a new location for their Marr and Colton organ.

The owners of the Elks Lodge and 4/58 Robert Morton organ have leased both for 20 years to a recording company. They have begun rebuilding several of the regulators and chests and have had the manuals rebushed. The console now shines in a new antique white finish with gold trim soon to come. The huge instrument will be used for the recording of some 125 LP albums. The organ is still available for chapter jam sessions, concerts and the "Pay and Play Plan."

On March 17, an excellent turnout witnessed an interesting and varied program by topflight organist Lyn Larsen. He presented a midnight concert at the "newly-rebuilt" console of the 4/37 Kimball in the Los Angeles Wiltern Theatre. Temperature problems caused some stoppers to drop and tuning problems, but the master organist played "around" the problems nicely and all enjoyed a "Wearin'-o'-the-Green" program.

Canadian organist Frank Olsen was busy setting combination pistons for his April 16 program, and delighted his audience with a sparkling and novel approach to the huge Kimball at the Wiltern. His uptempo jazzy style was evident throughout his two-hour program. It was fun to watch him hold the last chord of each tune, turn around on the console bench and smile to his appreciative audience before releasing the chord.

MIKE OHMAN

MAGNOLIA

This chapter is not dead, just quiet and working hard, and no attempt will be made to catch up on all of the happenings of the past year, just the most important ones.

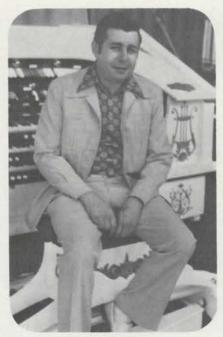
Preparations were started last vear for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Temple Theatre on May 22, 1978. A series of three concerts were planned in order to raise our funds to place the Temple Theatre's Robert Morton on a lift. Cylinders had been secured, and money was needed to have some sprinkler lines prepared as well as for the excavation. Two of the concerts went just fine. Jack Moelmann played for us in May, and Dalton McAlpin played in July, with the third concert scheduled for November with Clyde Lummus to play. The organ was in the best shape it had ever been in. Don May had come over prior to Dalton's concert, tuned the instrument and rewinded the

Everything was close to perfection for the November concert, when misfortune happened. The theatre had been leased for a weekend of Elvis movies in September, and the air conditioning equipment developed evaporator problems. The pan overflowed and water leaked into the left chamber. The Tibia, Oboe, Orchestra Bells, and the Chimes were ruined.

The funds set aside for the lift had to be used to repair the damage in the left chamber. All of the leather is being replaced, along with new valves and springs. The work crew, consisting of Frank Evans, Pop Evans, Marl Cobler, Sam Feltenstein, Tommy Darsey and sometimes the three Darsey boys, have removed the damaged parts for reworking. Jeff Seale* and Tuddy Sollie of Laurel, Mississippi, are recovering the pouches for the Orchestra Bells and Chimes. With all the work being done, the Robert Morton should be back in playing condition in time for the planned Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Temple Theatre in May.

The same group of people, in their spare time, have been helping Frank Evans complete the wiring of the

^{*}Editor's Note: After this was typeset we received word of Jeff Seale's death. See Closing Chord on page 49.



Maj. Jack Moelmann at Jeff Seale's 3/13 Robert

Robert Morton that is being installed in his home. The organ was playing at one time but because of other problems and down time, Frank decided to go ahead with plans to computerize the instrument. This was two years ago, and Frank is now saying that in another four or five months, the Robert Morton will be playing.

Our monthly meetings have been held regularly, either in the form of work sessions or business meetings. The March meeting proved to be an exception, as the membership was invited to the home of Jeff Seale in Laurel, Mississippi, for a concert by Tom Helms from Pensacola. Florida. Tom is an exceptional young man at the theatre organ, and gave us a wide and varied program for the afternoon. After Tom's concert, the console was open to those that wished to play. It did not take long for Frank Evans and Jack Moelmann to take to the bench.

Jeff's 3/13 Robert Morton is undoubtedly the finest home installation of a theatre pipe organ in the South. It is always in tune, and undergoing additions of one sort or another. It even has a Moelmann stop (duck call especially for "Rubber Ducky") and a monkey that plays cymbals and is controlled from the console.

There has been some discussion concerning the Jeff Seale installation and that of the Temple The-



Tom Helms at Jeff Seale's 3/13 Robert Morton.

atre Robert Morton. The Temple installation is the last in-theatre pipe organ in the State of Mississippi. Jeff's instrument is the only theatre pipe organ home installation that is playing at this time, that this reporter knows of.

Major Jack Moelmann will be leaving the State of Mississippi in July for a new post with the U.S. Air Force. Jack has been a leading force in the restoration of the Saenger Theatre in Biloxi, Mississippi, as well as promoting and playing a number of concerts for the chapter. Jack and his talents will be missed, and we hope that we will be seeing and hearing Jack in the future.

MID-AMERICA

The chapter met on March 10. After a social hour and a brief business meeting members enjoyed theatre organ music played on the 4/24 Wurlitzer installed in the home of Bob Foley and David Dillon in Wichita. Members playing this marvelous instrument included Victor Rork, David Dillon, Tom Cusick, Kathryn Moore and Bob Foley. A particular treat for the members were two duets, "Ave Maria" and "Climb Every Mountain," played on David Dillon's new harp, accompanied by Bob Foley at the Wurlitzer.

KATHYRN MOORE

MOTOR CITY

Ron Rhode appeared for a onenight program at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on March 8. In addition to his fine concert and sing-along, he accompanied the silent comedy *The Cure* with Charlie Chaplin.

As a fund raising activity we launched a bi-weekly weekend series of eight Hollywood musicals in March. Taking advantage of our newly-acquired 70mm 6-channel stereo projection equipment, we began the series in early March with The Sound of Music. We were overwhelmed with SRO performances. Over 1500 people attended each showing. A 30-minute organ overture, featuring a chapter organist at the 3/10 Barton, begins each show. The organ is also used during intermission. Audiences have averaged well over 1000 since then.

At his Old West program at the Redford Theatre on April 1, Gaylord Carter really fooled us by making his entrance not on an organ bench, but on a horse! In keeping with the Western theme of the evening, Gaylord, in cowboy attire, rode to the center of the stage, where he dismounted and welcomed the audience, glad (probably) that his short ride was over.

In addition to a Western singalong and the William S. Hart silent feature *Tumbleweeds*, the evening's



One of the good guys (they always wear white hats). The spurs jangled because his legs were shaking.

(Don Lockwood Phota)

entertainment included 24 square dancers on stage, all accompanied by none other than the lone arranger himself, Gaylord Carter.

The horse, owned by Betty Gail Beers of Royal Oak, was held up in heavy traffic on the way in from Rochester, but arrived at the theatre in time for Gaylord's now-famous ride. Unfortunately the photographs of Gaylord on horseback didn't turn out, so reprints are not available, much to the chagrin of the writer.

Billed as a budget-priced alternative for those, who, for one reason or another couldn't attend Don Baker's Radio City Music Hall program in March, member Fred Page arranged a bus trip to the Roaring 20's Pizza in Grand Rapids on April 8. Reservations were cut off when the response grew to three busloads.

The day featured the distaff side of our hobby, a delightful change, and began with a concert featuring Amy Reimer at the 3/11 Barton at the Michigan Theatre in Lansing, sponsored by the Wolverine Chapter. After lunch it was on to Grand Rapids for a program featuring Donna Parker at the 3/33 Wurlitzer at Roaring 20's Pizza. Open console allowed Larry Gleason, Amy Reimer and Sigmund Ross to try the Wurlitzer. Donna returned to the console for another set, and as we left (to give those waiting a chance to sit down) Dave Russell was just beginning his evening's program. The enthusiastic response could well make this an annual event.

The Detroit area premiere of the new Columbia Picture's film Silver Bears was presented as a joint fund raiser in conjunction with the Great-



Donna Parker and Amy Reimer — a double feature for Motor City.

(Marjorie Allen Photo)

er Detroit Motion Picture and Television Council, at the Redford Theatre on April 15. While not competing with commercially-operated theatres in running current filmfare, premieres of this type, as well as Hollywood favorites of the past, provide an interesting film alternative that attracts sizeable audiences to the Redford. You, too, can help us pay off our land contract by sending your tax-deductable contribution to MCTOS, P.O. Box 40716, Redford, Michigan 48240.

Our Second Sunday presentation at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in March featured Bud Bates at the 3/13 Barton. In April, Dave and Jo Lau presented their slide show, "A Tribute to Radio City," with Henry Aldridge at the Barton. Some 66 chapter members took advantage of a special package-rate to attend the RCMH program.

Steve Stephani was the artist at our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre 3/16 Barton in April.

DON LOCKWOOD

NOR-CAL

More activities are being planned for this season with emphasis on hearing some professionals that have not performed for us previously. The San Francisco Bay Area has a wealth of theatre organists and it is difficult to schedule all the able musicians. We are also in a healthy position with many pipes playing in pizza palaces, but losing fast on the in theatre/auditorium installations. There is a rising sun with the installation of the Sandy Fleet/George Allen 4/28 Wurlitzer in the Oakland Paramount plus the former San Francisco Orpheum Robert Morton going into Piedmont High School in Oakland. One of our goals this year is to have a chapter organ in a location allowing more access to the instrument. Both amateurs and professionals have difficulty in arranging time on local commercially used instruments. Perhaps an angel will smile upon our chapter.

Sunday, February 19 was a special treat with a concert by John Muri,



John Muri at Bill Breuer's Cap'ns Galley in Redwood City.



Bob Vaughn (left) visits with John Muri (right) following John's concert for Nor-Cal at Cap'ns Galley, Redwood City, in February. (Virginia Cheshire Photo)



Dick Bailey announces his next selection at the April Nor-Cal meeting at Ye Ole Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo. (Jim Dunbar Photo)



Bob Vaughn in concert for Nor-Cal in March at Pizza & Pipes, Serramonte Shopping Center, Daly City.

1977 Theatre Organist of the Year, at Bill Breuer's Capn's Galley in Redwood City. His California tour closed with us and we were enriched by his techniques and artistry. He certainly practiced what he preaches in his THEATRE ORGAN columns. The hour-and-a-half continous performance seemed only half that time. Members and guests were enchanted by his warmth, stylings and registrations. His program was wellbalanced with fresh rarely-heard selections. There was music for every taste. It was a tribute to John that many local professional organists were present. The brisk record sales of his Detroit Fox album proved our members desired memories of this fine musician.

On March 19, our members were entertained by Bob Vaughn, the featured silent film organist at the San Francisco Avenue Theatre since 1968. The location was Bill Breuer's Pizza and Pipes at the Serramonte Shopping Center in Daly City. Mr. Vaughn is well-known in the West for his silent movie scoring. He deviated from this format and displayed the other side of his talents: pure listening enjoyment of concert theatre music. His program consisted of a great variety of tunes, and melodies from Victor Herbert's Babes in Toyland to Star Wars. Mixed in-between were Sousa marches, themes from several silent movies, Spanish, Irish and Gershwin melodies. Bob Vaughn's performance was at the 1924 vintage 3/19 Wurlitzer, formerly from the Diversey Theatre in Chicago. Following our two hour concert, Bob continued on the bench to entertain the pizza patrons during the normal matinee performance. It was a grand afternoon of old-time theatre stylings.

The next meeting was held in Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo in April with Dick Bailey at the console. Dick is a well-known Bay Area professional organist and organ teacher, and performed to a full house at the 3/13 Wurlitzer. There were Latin numbers, old standards and a smattering of light classics. The registration of each number was well-planned and executed. The volume was extremely well-regulated to fit the small room size. It was a pleasure to listen to an artist who can entertain without damaging the ear drums. Dick's program explored all forms of music and utilized most of the organ voices.

An engraved award was presented to our host, Carsten Henningsen, owner of Ye Olde Pizza Joynt, to signify his contribution of featuring theatre pipe organs. He was the first person to place pipes in a pizza restaurant and started the nationwide practice which has resulted in saving so many fine instruments and keeping them in a public place for us all to enjoy and appreciate. Open console followed Dick Bailey's performance and featured David Peckham, visiting from Rochester. David is a young man with a nice flair for the pipes. Our members who performed included Warren White, Jerry Miller, Don Creswell, Bill Taylor and Al Templett.

Touring professionals, desiring to play chapter concerts in the San Francisco area, are asked to contact Program Chairman Jim Dunbar, 13686 Old Tree Way, Saratoga, CA. 95070, (408) 867-1095.

JIM DUNBAR

NORTH TEXAS

Our Wonder Morton has arrived and on April 16 a meeting was held to show it off. As described in previous chapter notes, an emergency contingent of chapter members had to meet the vans at the warehouse where it is stored to unload it about two weeks before we expected it. Had the organ arrived on schedule, a few weeks later, it would have been stored in a building that was hit by a small tornado, the roof torn off, and the contents of the building considerably damaged. We're certainly glad the organ arrived early and had to be stored elsewhere. Thank the Good Lord, it's still neatly stored in the alternate building, some 15 miles from where the tornado hit.

The April 16 meeting started out with a few minutes of just wandering around amongst the goodies. Recently elected Chairman Charles Evans then called the meeting to order in the midst of all the Robert Morton organ hardware, and announced that the first item on the agenda would be group tours, led by chapter members with detailed knowledge of all the many pieces stacked in the warehouse. There are enough pieces there to require group tours over a large area to see them all. The magnificent four-manual console, of course, attracted a lot of attention, as did the many ranks of pipes, with much discussion as to which pipes were which voices.

Eric Parker, Lorena McKee and other knowledgeable members of the chapter continued the theatre organ education of members through these tours, explaining what each component was, and giving everyone

a good ida of the size of the task we have set out for ourselves in the refurbishing, and installation of this magnificent example of the theatre organ builder's art. Jim Peterson and Gordon Wright being the most knowledgeable concerning pipe organs (Jim is a professional organ builder), will head the reconstruction committee. These two, as approved by the membership some time ago, along with the very knowledgeable Rodney Yarbrough, are the "brains" of the whole operation, called the Restoration and Installation Committee in our new roster. These members, along with a few others, are the ones who can teach us some skills and "tricks of the trade" of the organ builder's craft.

Also present was David McNally, chairman of a new ATOS Chapter in the Providence, Rhode Island, area. Dave is very knowledgeable in organ rebuilding techniques and gave us some good comments on just what lies ahead.

After the tours of the Wonder Morton, Chairman Charles Evans called the business session to order and while everyone's eyes kept drifting over to the four-manual console, items of chapter business were transacted. He read the committee appointments for the new year and emphasized the need for a lot of real teamwork in the rebuilding of the new acquisition, its' funding and the choice of a suitable location.

We are all getting better and better ideas of what other chapters were up against in handling similar projects. We hope to gain from their experience, and make our installation an outstanding one. We've got plenty of talent to play it.

Speaking of the playing talent, we are proud and happy to see that chapter member Lew Williams (currently working on his Master's Degree in Organ at Southern Methodist University) is scheduled to appear at the ATOS National Convention in Atlanta. Lew is a real talent. Keep him in mind. This young man is going places in the field of organ music.

Charles Evans and his Chapter Officers and Committee members have gotten things off to a good start for the chapter 78-79 year. Stan Guy is editor of the revitalized chapter newsletter, *Keraulophone*. Jan Nichols has been appointed chapter historian. Meanwhile, plans are going ahead for our number one project, the reconstruction of the Wonder Morton and the selection of the most advantageous location for its installation.

JOE KOSKI

OHIO VALLEY

Last year it was the natural gas shortage, this year the coal strike — we're not looking forward to next winter's surprises! The coal strike and resulting electrical cutbacks put a crimp in the activities of our chapter for several months during the winter. The University of Cincinnati, owner of Emery Theatre in which our organ is installed, was put on a sharp electrical curtailment and so asked us to not even go into Emery and turn on lights, much less run the organ.

The chapter was saddened at the sudden deaths of two of our members, Stan Todd, and his wife Ginny, owners of the Shady Nook Theatre Restaurant, Stan on January 8. His wife Ginny continued to operate the restaurant, with as little change as possible until her sudden demise on April 9th. The restaurant is still open but is now for sale. Members Herb Wottle and Marilyn Libbin, along with Bob Read, are playing the big

4-manual Wurlitzer on weekends in Stan's place. Ironically Ginny hosted the chapter in a meeting at Shady Nook on March 12. The program for the afternoon was a surprise showing of a feature film, Angel in My Pocket, starring Andy Griffith. In the film, a theatre organ is moved from an old theatre and rebuilt and installed in a church in record time. Herb Wottle played the organ to entertain those who were able to stav for dinner following the movie. At the meeting it was announced that Herb will teach a course in theatre organ to be offered by UC on our Wurlitzer in Emery Theatre. Also announced at the meeting was a firm new date for our next public concert a re-creation of the famed WLW late night radio program, Moon River, to be held April 30. The program was originally scheduled for March 5, but the coal strike took care of that. The show will star Lee Erwin, organist on Moon River for eleven years as well as chief organist at the RKO Albee Theatre, where our organ was originally installed. Lee will be assisted by other performers from the old radio show. All involved are donating their talents for the show, which will be a benefit for the restoration of Emery Theatre. The concert will kick off a fund drive by the chapter to raise money for the restoration and renovation of Emery.

Our first meeting at Emery in several months was held on April 14. The main purpose of the meeting was to make final concert work assignments and check on ticket sales. Henry Garcia, one of our newest members, was featured organist. Henry gave us a hint of his talents when he played one number at an open console session last year as a new member. He has played the organ professionally for a number of years and provided an excellent pro-



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Six days before our April 30 show, we were happily sold out, having run only one newspaper ad in addition to a small amount of other publicity. Most ticket sales were made by members based on word of mouth advertising. We're hoping that this is indicative of Cincinnati's response to future theatre organ shows as well.

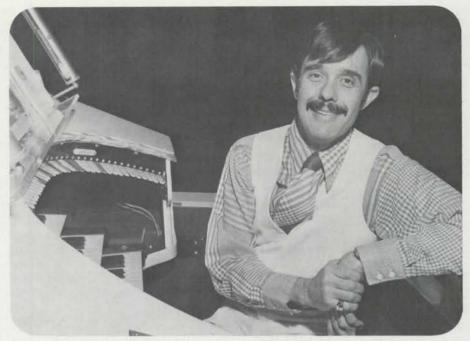
We have leased space in Emery Theatre from UC to provide us with a permanent office for the chapter. Our new chapter headquarters address is 1112 Walnut St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. Our phone number is (513) 721-2741. We have the "Call Forwarding" feature on our line which allows calls to be transferred to members' homes when no one is in the office, so the phone can always be answered. Ticket mail orders for future concerts may be sent to the above address.

MIKE DETROY

OK CITY

A considerable amount of planning, preparation and anticipation culminated in the April 25 concert of Hector Olivera at the 4/14 Kilgen organ in Oklahoma City's Civic Center Music Hall. This was Hector's second appearance here in less than a year. This most recent event was co-sponsored by the local arts council as the kick-off event of the 12th Annual Arts Festival which features many kinds of visual and performing arts.

On the day of the concert Hector and the organ were featured live on the popular local midday TV program Dannysday. The camera provided, some extraordinary close up views of the organist's hands and feet. Hector then went outside into the Oklahoma wind for an interview with the show's co-hosts Danny



Warren Lubitch at the Scottish Rite Temple Wurlitzer at the March meeting.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

Williams and Mary Hart.

Enthusiastic concertgoers were treated well, thanks to the fine manual and pedal dexterity that is a part of Hector's organ playing. The program consisted of a number of tunes in the popular vein from both past and present. There was also a liberal sprinkling of the artist's witty comments as well as presentation of compositions by Bach and Widor. Hector had much praise for the quality of the sound produced by the organ.

During the concert Hector paid a verbal and musical tribute to the late Ken Wright who played the organ during the entire 15 years it was located in the studio of WKY radio. A 1947 recording made by Ken on the Kilgen has been reissued through the support and efforts of several of Ken's friends. The proceeds of record sales will go into a trust fund for the education of Ken's daughter.

OREGON

In March, we had the privilege of hearing the popular California Bay Area organist, Warren Lubich, at the Scottish Rite Temple Wurlitzer. Warren is a staff organist at the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco and is also heard regularly at several of the Pizza organs in the south Bay Area.

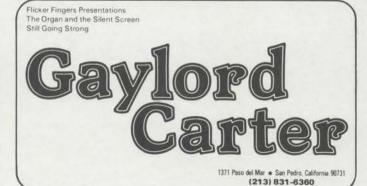
This organ was installed as a Style F 2/8 in Portland's Egyptian Theatre in 1924. In 1936 it was moved to the present location where a third manual and five ranks were added. Because there are no fiery reeds, the tone is rich and mellow, best suited to ballads and certain classical music.

By skillfully tailoring his selections to this organ, Warren played an excellent program which included tunes such as "Indian Love Call," "Light of My Life," "Sugar Blues"

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and the seasonal "Easter Parade."

An exquisite "When You Wish Upon a Star," which featured a most beautiful Tibia solo with string and Vox accompaniment was a special treat.

Thanks to Warren Lubich and the Scottish Rite management for a most enjoyable afternoon.

BUD ABEL

PIKES PEAK

The PPATOS has had a most prosperous spring. Due to forecasted heavy scheduling of the City Auditorium this summer the installation crew for the Chief Theatre organ put in much overtime to complete the installation. In late April the crew scheduled the auditorium for an entire week - 24 hours a day. Some very long days were put in and a major amount of the organ was completed. With some final touches we hope to have the organ completed by late June, much earlier than anticipated. Finally, Colorado Springs will be able to hear the Chief organ after many years of silence.

With the passing of spring we look forward to the coming of summer and the recital series at the Air Force Academy. The Cadet Chapel at the AFA is an imposing structure of steel, aluminum and stained glass. The apex of the seventeen spires are 99 feet above the floor. At the rear of the chapel is the organ. The 3/79 Moller is the largest freestanding organ in the Western United States. The organ was installed in 1963 and designed by Walter Holtkamp. Crowned by the horizontal trompettas and flanked by the full length 32" reeds, the organ makes a most impressive visual impact. The recital series begins on Sunday, July 9 at 8 p.m. and continues through August. The recitals are performed by

internationally famous artists. Even though somewhat out of our realm of theatre organ, Sunday nights invariably find many ATOS'ers from Colorado Springs and Denver present.

Best wishes for a good summer and the upcoming convention. We welcome all vacationers to Colorado this summer to stop and inspect our projects.

SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN

POTOMAC VALLEY

The March meeting was held at the George Washington Memorial Masonic Temple auditorium in Alexandria, Virginia. Over 150 members and guests were there, with a scattering of the general public. The March 16 edition of the Alexandria (VA) Gazette had included a full page picture story of the pipe organ installations of Jimmy Boyce and Bob Stratton. Included was an announcement describing the scheduled organ concert at the Masonic Temple.

One word describes the 3/35 Moller, draw knob console installation, and the acoustics in the auditorium - fantastic. No need for a sound system here. A stage whisper from any part of the stage or floor carries adequately to any point in the elevated seating area. The Moller adapts to generate a wide variety of tonal effects. For example, a 32note Deagan carillon is attached to the Moller. Sound is generated by special rods made and tuned during manufacture. These are struck by an armature which is activated by a solenoid. The sound is picked up electro-magnetically and amplified by a four unit, 2000-watt audio system which feeds 16 speakers at the top of the tower of the temple. Another speaker is located in the organ

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chamber, allowing the carillon to be heard in the auditorium. A secon set of solenoids controls dampers, one for each note. The dampers may be held away from the vibrating rods by depressing a second F sharp of the Moller pedal keyboard. However, the organ's player roll has additional punchings for registration.

The carillon is playable manually from the organ console, or through a



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George Johnson (left) presents Al Baldino with a plaque in appreciation of his services as chairman. (Harold R. Richman Photo)



The 3/35 Moller console at the George Washington Memorial Masonic Temple in Alexandria. (Harold R. Richman Photo)

paper roll type player. The player can be programmed to play hymns at preset times and strike the hours and Westminister Chimes on quarter hours. Numerous music rolls are available for operating the carillon automatically.

Also of interest is another paper roll player, made by the Moller Company. It sets in a small ante-room near the stage, and is part of the organ, for automatic play. The mechanics of these player attachments are similar to the finer old-time automatic player pianos, such as the Duo Art and Ampico, with the addition of special effects and controls. Hundreds of classical and other perforated paper music rolls are available. These are patterned after the conventional music roll but carry much more information.

(We thank Leonard J. Thomas, Sr. for making the technical information on the Deagan carillon available to us.)

The business portion of the meeting was devoted to brief reports by Chairman Bob Stratton and others. These included an updated review of our Kimball restoration, well on

the way toward the installation phase at the University of Maryland.

George Johnson presented Al Baldino with an impressive plaque as a token of our appreciation for exceptional services rendered during Al's term as chairman of the chapter which ended December 31, 1977.

Our scheduled concert artist for the afternoon was Richard "Rick" Maryman, one of a large group of talented members who can always be counted on to entertain us. Rick did a very creditable job. In tune with the conditions imposed by a classical concert organ, he concentrated on the better-known classics, replete with interesting program comments. Rick did include, however, several classical organ arrangements in theatre organ style. We appreciate the opportunity to have been offered the facilities of the temple and its fine instrument in concert.

On March 4, 1978, 186 members of our chapter went to Radio City Music Hall, in New York City, to see and hear a special program sponsored by the New York Chapter, prior to the closing of the theatre.

Neither the world-famous Music Hall, Don Baker nor the Wurlitzer need further introduction!

Don Baker received a warm welcome. At midpoint in his program he gave a demonstration of the various voices of the Wurlitzer. As an additional surprise, Lee Erwin showed up and played several selections at the second console of the organ. The Music Hall Easter show, with a cast of 60 people, plus 30 Rockettes was accompanied by an orchestra of about 65, and the organ.

The stage show closed with the Rockettes doing their well-known and revered precision dance routine. The entire program of entertainment and technical demonstration left an indelible impression on the audience.

HAROLD R. RICHMAN

PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound commenced the year on January 29 by borrowing talent from Portland once again, this time in the person of Paul Quarino, staff organist of the Organ Grinder. A full house at Greenwood Pizza and Pipes enjoyed his performance at



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March 12 found us all at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes to hear Bob Salisbury, who is more frequently heard at the piano accompanying the British music hall team of Maisie and Arden. He's not lost on pipes, though, and even added an extra set: bagpipes played by friend Jim Mc Lean for a few numbers. Both performers appeared in kilts, which enhanced the whole effect.

By April 9, we were ready for our first annual get-it-all-together meeting at Haller Lake Clubhouse. Featured were a Show and Tell, Swap and Sell (many record classics went to happy new owners) snack potluck, open console at the chapter organ and a business meeting with more membership input than is usually possible at a concert meeting. This was followed by open house at Genny Whitting's to try out the 2/10 Hybrid with the Morton console upstairs, and Don Myers' custom fivemanual console temporarily connected downstairs. The latter has been in the building process for almost 10 years, and just got eager to

Other programs of interest in our neighborhood: the Vancouver Orpheum has presented Ann Leaf and Rex Koury in concert, and has other fine artists lined up for future programs

Big Bob's Pipe Dream is now under new ownership and has a new name: the Pizza Works. Pipe organ has not been a familiar feature to the new owners, but they have quickly learned to appreciate it, even to the extent of presenting Jonas Nordwall in a special concert on May 7.

Donn Clayton and Greg Smith presented a weekend seminar at Rosario, the charming resort in the San Juan Islands, and Jack and Betty Laffaw of Bellevue Pizza and



(L to R) Jim McLean and Bob Salisbury at Tacoma Pizza and Pipes. (Dick Daubert Photo)

Pipes played host at breakfast to the costumed members of Queen Victoria's court from Victoria B.C., together with members of the Eastside Convention Bureau. Dick Schrum entertained at the Wurlitzer.

Mother's weekend May 6 at Washington State University featured the 2/7 Robert Morton in the Physics department open house, with a daylong program of silent movies accompanied by Jim Park, interspersed with intermission music by daughters Treta (age 11) and Heather (age 9).

GENNY WHITTING

RED RIVER

We completed our seventh show at the Fargo Theatre, in April, which starred two of our members, Pat Kelly and Lance Johnson. Pat handled the first half with concert selections, a sing-along, and the scoring for a special silent animated film as well as a Chaplin film, *The Immigrant*. Following intermission, Lance played the feature film *Peck's Bad Boy* with the irresistible child actor, Jackie Coogan. As a special touch of class, our own "Incomparable Hildegarde" entertained our patrons preceding the show with music at a Steinway grand in the lobby. We continue to attract people from distant points to our shows and this time from as far away as Chicago.

The first Sunday in April, Tony Tahlman, of Minneapolis, stopped in to visit with Lance Johnson. After a few minutes at the theatre, where Lance played a movie intermission, they took a short drive to Bud's Roller Rink in Moorhead. There. Tony was the last person to play the 3/7 Barton-Moller for skating public. Then it was to Lance's home. where Tony tried out the 2/6 Robert Morton hybrid and heard the newest stop — a specially-voiced reed, after the "Serpent" sound. It'll pin your ears back - not that it's terribly loud, but it is very crisp!

The next day was a time for hard work and pangs of sadness. Steve Stevenson of Wichita Falls, Tex., arrived to begin removing the roller rink organ which he had bought a few weeks earlier. So, Steve, along with Lance, three of his sons, and the writer managed to get it all stuffed carefully into an 18 foot rental truck in a day-and-a-half. Steve is planning a new home around this organ, where it will get much TLC we're sure, but it's painful to see it leave our area. Our family's association with this organ started in 1958, when Lance bought it and installed it in our parent's home. It has had several homes, the first being the WDAY radio studios in Fargo, for which it

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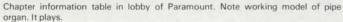
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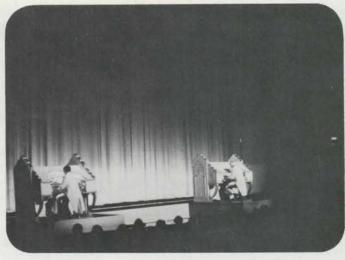
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Left to right: Bob Castle and Rick Dalrymple at the Paramount's twin consoles.

was built in 1925 and played by our own Hildegarde. Steve did leave behind the lift, a gift to our chapter, which we would like to use at the Fargo Theatre someday.

A local Wurlitzer dealer, Music Inc., has given our chapter a set of Wurlitzer posters which we plan to frame properly and display at the Fargo. A number of us have been attending monthly concerts at their showroom, which featured Ron Atkinson, Paul Street and Roy Hanson this spring. We invited Mr. Hanson to join us at the theatre after hours and play the mighty Wurlitzer for as long as he liked. There's nothing like a private concert in an empty theatre after midnight, a pipe organ in top shape, and a personable, talented organist to really make it sing. A great way to end any day!

We've recently had a professional picture taken of our chapter Wurlitzer console by Tom Tollefson and the 8 x 10's of this three-manual ebony beauty on our walls will remind us of what our main goal is here in Fargo.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Thursday, February 23 was a gala night for just about everyone in Denver. The Intermountain Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society booked the 1925 silent movie, The White Desert, that played to a capacity house at Denver's beautiful and historic Paramount Theatre. The plot concerned the problems and dangers of constructing a railway tunnel thru the Rockies. The filming was done high up in Rollins Pass on the line of the Denver & Salt Lake RR Co. Our man, Bob Castle, cued the film at the 4/20 Wurlitzer organ, much to the delight of the packed house.

Our work crew, headed by Bob Castle, worked many hours on the Mighty Wurlitzer to bring it into excellent shape for the show. The lights dimmed after a gay 20's dance review, and a mighty sound filled the theatre as the gold and white twin consoles rose from the pit. The reception was deafening.

Our March program was held at the new Wells Music Co. store in Lakewood, Colorado, where we were entertained by De Loy Goeglein. We saw and heard the new Rodgers electronic/pipe organ made for church and concert work. Also on the bill was Russ Jones who played music on the lighter side.

Our program committee, headed by Bill Arthur and publicity committee, headed by Ron Graham, are really working this year to keep us all busy, going and coming. The new board of directors is working to put this chapter on the map. We have already signed up four or five new members since the beginning of the year and they are very enthusiastic about theatre pipe organs and helping us maintain them.

The wiring on Fred Riser's Wurlitzer is about completed. The giant trunk to connect the two chambers will soon be hung, and with a few minor jobs upstairs, we should have it winded this summer.

The Aladdin Theatre crew are scratching their heads about how to move a seven-foot square, 14-inch deep, several-hundred-pound combination action from the boiler room

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Denver's Paramount Theatre. A capacity house for a silent movie.

to the upstairs to be connected to the console of the 3/17 Wicks. With the 70mm screen and horns built out over the old pit we can't get it up through the house. The old service stairs in the rear of the theatre now has a two-inch gas line running right through the center of the trap door leading to the parking lot. Any ideas??? 'Nuff said. More later when we get the problem solved.

FRANK R. GANDY

ST. LOUIS

In the last issue of THEATRE ORGAN there was an error in our chapter notes on page 67. "Later in the year Marc Eyestone substituted at the Fox until the sad day in Feb-

ruary 1978 when the organ was removed." Corrected, the sentence should have read, "Later in the year Marc Eyestone substituted at the Old St. Louis Noodle and Pizza Company until the sad day in February 1978 when the organ was removed." The organ has been placed in storage.

Jim Labit arranged the February meeting at the Ludwig Aeolian Music Store in the new Chesterfield Mall. Tom Thomassen, store manager, played the musical part of the meeting on a "top of the line" model 950 Wurlitzer. He explained the unlimited capabilities of this fine theatre organ and demonstrated with many novelty numbers and unique registrations. Open console followed and was especially good due to the store's inventory of 25 organs (most with headphones), 43 pianos and a variety of other instruments.

Organ music, bicycles and doughnuts were all around us when Bill and Delores Boals hosted the March meeting at their Schwinn West Bicycle Shop in Baldwin, MO. Ken Iborg, chapter chairman, announced that there would be some theatre organ instruction at each meeting. He initiated the practice by explaining glissando and trill notes, and demonstrated both during the musical portion of the meeting. His first two selections, "Get Happy," and "Bicycle Built for Two" put every-one in the proper mood for a fastmoving program of delightful music. Bill Boals gave the specs of his twomanual Conn theatre organ, then played his own arrangement of 'Mexicali Rose.'

Television played a significant roll in the April meeting hosted by Rich and Melba Oberle at their home. When members filled the music room, others were seated in the living room and also the breakfast

area where they could observe everything taking place in the music room on closed circuit television monitors. This setup was especially helpful since Bob Ellison was guest organist for the evening, and he packed them in just as he packs them in at the Kirkwood Holiday Inn. Bob started his part of the program with a discussion of rhythms in a novel handclapping manner. He then masterfully played a variety of old and new themes in the superb style that has enhanced his vast popularity and made him one of the busiest organists in this area.

Rich Oberle had assembled his organ at home. It has a three-manual console built to AGO standards, 32 pedals, two toe studs and two clusters of electronic pipes over fifteen inch speakers. In addition, it has an RMI electronic piano, tuned orchestra bells, chimes from a church pipe organ and a Thomas Band Box.

During open console at the April meeting Fred Pillsbury and Bernard Nordmann teamed up at the organ and piano and were so sensational that they were forced by applause to encore at least a dozen times. Their impromptu program of old show hits was enormously enjoyed by everyone.

SIERRA

Sunday afternoon, March 19, found approximately 120 members and guests at the Big Top Pizza to enjoy Van Welch at the "Moon River" Wurlitzer.

It is easy to understand why this Bay Area artist is much appreciated by those who remember the good old days, and music. He plays it like it was! I don't believe a single number on his program would have a copyright date more recent than twenty-five years old. His presentation in-

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3/17 WURLITZER Theatre Pipe Organ

Belvedere Ave. Wanaque, New Jersey 07465 (201) 835-3903

FRANK CIMMINO Organist cluded a Hawaiian medley, Rudolph Friml selections, and a selection of the best-liked Gershwin tunes. Two good old-timers, "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me" and "Neverthe-less I'm In Love With You," just about sums up our feeling for Van. We'll be looking forward to his next visit.

Memories of the fabulous San Francisco Fox were brought to our April meeting by Everett Nourse, seated at the Arden Pipes and Pizza 4/22 Wurlitzer. Everett needs no introduction to theatre organ fans. He has been heard in concert at ATOS conventions, and (with Tiny James) made the famous Farewell to the Fox recordings. These records, originally released in 1965, were so popular that they are being reissued on the Doric label. Everett's concert consisted of selections from these records, plus a few more recent numbers, and a seldom heard Rimsky-Korsakow, "Caprice Espanol" with some very exciting piano fireworks.

I'm sure we have two more theatre organ enthusiasts. The concert had just started when a young couple wandered in. It was immediately obvious that they had never seen a theatre organ, for they stopped dead in their tracks to watch Everett play for a couple of minutes and then slid onto an empty bench just beside the console. With the naivety of two children, they become more and more excited as they discovered that he was using one foot for the pedal notes, and the other foot was controlling the shutters, and the various stop tabs changed the sound and brought in the wall-mounted percussions. Whispering very quietly, and with much demonstrative finger movement on the table top, they were like Alice in Wonderland.

During the intermission, our chairman announced that Everett's

records were for sale. This immediately brought up a discussion between them and after much urging by his wife the young man came to the record table to inqure the price. When told the records were five dollars, he returned to his table and again there was a discussion with much nodding of heads. Finally she opened a battered bag and took from it a small coin purse from which she removed and straightened, one by one, three one-dollar bills and some small change. In the meantime he had found a dollar and some change in his pocket. Carefully they added it up and were obviously overjoyed to find they had enough for a record, which he purchased.

When told Everett would sign it for them, they shyly approached his table, received the autograph and carried the record back to their table as though it were solid gold. During the second half of the program they carefully read the record jacket notes, again with much nodding of heads and finger references to the organ console.

After the program was over, the young couple approached me at the door and asked how much it cost to join the chapter. They admitted they would like to join, but just couldn't afford it - they had been married a short time, he was going to college and holding a part time job, and a baby was expected in the not-toodistant future. But they thought the theatre organ was real "cool" and someday they would become members. I told them that in the meantime they were welcome to attend our monthly meetings. The last I saw of them, was as they left, holding hands and clutching a theatre organ record that obviously had meant great sacrifice to them.

Welcome to the club, youngsters! KEYZANPEDALS

SOONER STATE

March and April were quiet months for the chapter — "quiet" meaning that our meetings had no featured artists in performance. Both sessions were held around the 3/10 Robert Morton at Tulsa's American Christian College, with open console following short business meetings.

Several members attended Hector Olivera's concert in Oklahoma City on April 25. Unfortunately, the two-and-a-half-hour drive to our state's capital on a Tuesday night (with another two-and-a-half hours for the return) is difficult for many of our workin' folks to manage — especially when the alarm clock goes off early in the morning. Reports from those who did attend, indicated that Hector gave another fantastic, fabulous performance.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTH FLORIDA

Every so often, in the wide search for varied entertainment, we look inward to our own chapter and discover a new talent. The March meeting of SOFTOS was such an occasion. Don Ursem, a transplant from California, made the mistake of taking the console at the end of one of our many late-night work parties. He displayed a style much like the late Buddy Cole. Within weeks, we had Don cutting his teeth on this first formal club concert at the Allen 435 in the Overbrook Organ Studio, Ft. Lauderdale.

Don's program was well rounded, touching all bases — fast/slow; new/old; show/pop. Patterned from many hours of listening to records, he says. However attained, Don does superbly and can count on many return engagements.



Tom Cotner
Organist

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In April, Gaylord Carter, with his program of movies, sing-along slides and just good music at the Mighty Wurlitzer, opened to a sell-out crowd at Gusman Hall. Our first formal evening concert, sponsored in conjunction with the Miami Herald, was enthusiastically received by the Miami audience. Many folks from Palm Beach drove down to catch the show, having been exposed to Gavlord in his recent King of Kings program in the First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach. It was a grand way to kick off the 1978 concert season and inaugurate the recently restored instrument. Thanks Gaylord, for a great performance. You shall return!

Thanks, also, to the unsung SOFTOS heros and heroines who worked so hard to make it happen.

STEVE FITZGERALD

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Our April meeting gave us the opportunity of hearing one of our newer members, Bill Carr, also of the Valley Of The Sun Chapter, in a spot as a guest artist. We were also playing host to a few others who are members of both chapters. These get-togethers are a great way to become better acquainted and to form new friendships.

The weather turned out beautifully after part of a week of "slop-over" rain from the extreme southern California area. Lois and Larry Seamands' patio was well-used by most of the 50 members in attendance for our usual after-concert luncheon.

Along with Bill Carr's performance we were entertained by Bea Kotasek, Lynn Staininger and Helen Bowers, after which we had open console.

Several of our local members,

Rudy Kotasek, Al Begany, Ray Chase, Ray Staininger and the writer, have been journeying to Phoenix each Saturday to attend Bill Carr's workshop on the care and feeding of pipe organs, in anticipation of Southern Arizona's installation in the hopefully near future. So far we have worked chamber modification, installation of chests and winding of same, connections of spreader bars and tuning. It has been very interesting and very educational and time very well spent. We are very fortunate, as is Valley Of The Sun Chapter, in having the talent and availability of a member such as Bill Carr to train us in this endeavor.

BOB HIGH



Brent Carr pushes stops for dad Bill on Phoenix College Wurlitzer.

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Our area was anything but the Valley of the Sun on March 5 when chapter members arrived at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa for Ron Rhode's third annual spring concert! After receiving most of our annual rainfall during the first three months of the year, the valley was pretty soaked — but the weather didn't dampen



Ron Rhode at the Organ Stop Wurlitzer, following his spring concert.

the spirits of the ATOSers attending the concert. Ron presented an excellent program of organ music, with an added bonus — Ron Rhode sang! With Phoenix Organ Stop organist Walt Strony accompanying him on the 3/25 Wurlitzer, Ron began the second portion of his program by singing "Someday." Many listeners were pleasantly surprised. During the intermission, Organ Stop owner Bill Brown recognized our chapter, and told the audience about our restoration projects.

Our program chairman, Reynolds Galbraith, passed away on March 8. He died of a heart attack in his home in Mesa. At our next board meeting, Don Reasor was appointed to fill Galbraith's post.

Our March social meeting was held at Phoenix College where our chapter is currently in the process of restoring the school's 2/9 Wurlitzer. With a little "help" from small sons Ricky and Brent, chairman Bill Carr explained the pipework in the organ. At present, the Wurlitzer's nine ranks include a Harmonic Tuba, Tibia Clausa, Vox Humana, Open Diapason, Orchestral Oboe, Clarinet, Concert Flute, Violin, and Viones and Process of the Proces

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Fr. Jim Miller at the 3/11 Barton in the Michigan Theatre, Lansing, Mich.



John Lauter, guest artist at the March meeting in the Jenk's home.

(Mariorie Allen Photo)

lin Celeste. Not everything plays, however. There's still a lot of work to be done, but we're hoping to finish it and have a dedication concert before the end of the year. Following Bill's talk, members participated in open console.

Saturday, March 25, was the first meeting of our pipe organ school, usually held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. We are planning on three sessions of six class meetings each where members can learn some of the technical aspects of the pipe organ. Participants include some of our fellow ATOS members from the Southern Arizona Chapter in Tucson.

On April 2, some of our members traveled to Tucson for the Southern Arizona meeting. Bill Carr was one of four organists to play at their social.

It was back to Phoenix College for our April social meeting. Our guest artist for the evening was Dave Broskowski, who presented a miniconcert at the college Wurlitzer. His program for the evening consisted mainly of songs that might have been popular when the organ was new. Later we held a special business meeting concerning another of our restoration projects, the pipe organ from the old Phoenix Paramount Theatre. The organ now belongs to the chapter.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WOLVERINE

Our January meeting was held at the Royal Oak Music Theatre starring John Fischer at the 3/16 Barton. John's program was basically old favorites with some show medleys thrown in. Our thanks to John, crew chief Mert Harris and the MCTOS.

February found us at the Temple Theatre in Saginaw with Fr. Jim Miller at the 3/11 Barton. One of the highlights of Jim's program was an Ellington medley including "Solitude" and "Sophisticated Lady."

Our First Saturday programs in Lansing, at the Michigan Theatre, are gaining more regular attendees with each passing month. In January, Scott Smith was at the console of the 3/11 Barton. Greg Yassick was the artist in February with a widely varied program beginning with the

theme from *Silent Movie*. His comtemporary harmonies proved that one need not play every musical note exactly as written.

Our March First Saturday was cosponsored by an independant group known as "Da Capo, Inc.," who are dedicated to purchasing the fiftyseven-year-old Michigan Theatre, with the organ intact, and restoring it to its former elegance, as a performing arts center. Fr. Jim Miller started at the Barton for a short (but super) program, and concluded with an accompaniment to Harold Lloyd's Never Weaken. Among the speakers in attendance were Tom O. Thompson, president of "Da Capo, Inc.," and Drew Eberson, son of the architect, of the Strand-Michigan Theatre, John Eberson.

DAVID L. JONES

The Brighton home of Don and Shirley Jenks was the scene for our March meeting. Guest artist John Lauter presented a fine program at the residence Rodgers 33E. Visitors were impressed by John's dexterity as well as the pipe-like sounds that emerged from the electronic instru-

Al Sacker

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Host Don Jenks at his Rodgers 33E.



Fr. Jim Miller and his 2/7 Barton, now ensconced in his home in Fenton, Mich.

ment, which has been painstakingly adjusted for this effect. Several of our members took advantage of a lengthy open console session.

Our April First Saturday at the Michigan Theatre in Lansing starred Amy Reimer at the 3/11 Barton. Over 200 persons were in attendance—the majority of which arrived only minutes before showtime via bus from Detroit. Those arriving in this manner were taking part in the Motor City "Poor Man's Organ Trip Show." The beautiful young lady from Muskegon entertained us with a very well-rounded program, capped off with one of the cleanest versions

of "Dizzy Fingers" we've heard yet.

The long-awaited premiere of Fr. Jim Miller's recently installed 2/7 Barton became a reality on April 16. Approval of the instrument was very high - and rightfully so. Since being removed from the Ready Theatre in Niles, Michigan, in late 1976, the organ has undergone rebuilding to the minutest detail in its new home in Fenton, Michigan. To put the icing on the cake, Fr. Jim acquired the tonal talents of professional voicer Rick Swanson, and it shows. Rick evened out all of the ranks, and filled in the missing holes with the proper scale replacements.

The instrument speaks down an open staircase with lightning speed and great authority. This is not to say that it parts one's hair, as some home installations have a tendency to do, nor has it been muffled in any way. It is a near perfect blend of instrument and installation — not to mention the brilliant artistry of its "keeper" — Fr. Jim. We look forward to many return trips to view and play this mangnificent little beast.

Our thanks to the Jenks, Amy Reimer, Fr. Jim Miller, Da Capo, Inc. and the Michigan Theatre staff.

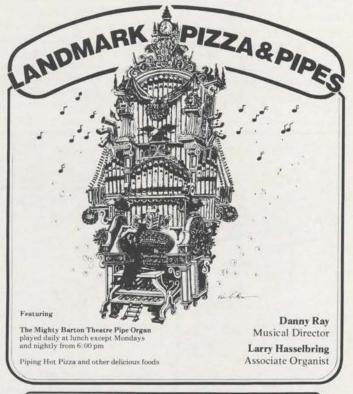
SCOTT SMITH





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