



Billy Barnes at the console on June 10, 1978.

original red and gold finish. Thanks to the playing and tender loving care given the organ by Steve from 1959 to 1966, and Preston Spaulding from 1967 to 1978, the instrument still sounds as good as ever.

ABC Southeastern Theatres closed the theatre November 3, 1977, however, a new company, Tennessee Theatre Classics, reopened the theatre March 15, 1978 with gala showing of *Grand Hotel* and is continuing to show old Hollywood classics. Preston Spaulding presided at the console for reopening night. In June, the theatre brought Billy Barnes back for a week, and his always current selections included music from *Star Wars* and *Rocky*, as well as a parody to "Hello Dolly" entitled "Hello Knoxville."

In August, an American Cancer Society benefit had Dennis Morgan in person, with his old film *Shine On Harvest Moon* on the screen. Preston Spaulding was at the Mighty Wurlitzer. October 19th will be Patricia Neal Night when the star and former Knoxville will be honored, and Billy Barnes, an old friend, will be back again at the console.

Gone are the huge vertical sign and graceful marquee with the flashing sequence lights so fondly remembered by nostalgic moviegoers, but the interior grandeur of the past still remains. Views of Spanish balconies, stained glass windows and vast spaces under the huge blue dome, echoing the tones of the mighty organ, still give one the feeling of having enjoyed a "real experience!" □



## OCTOBER 20, 1978

### *When the Organs Play at Twilight Around the World*

Sit back, close your eyes, and imagine the thrilling symphony of sound as Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organs unite in a reverberating chorus of song. Not just two or three organs playing together, but dozens of magnificent instruments joining together in concert. It's an exciting idea that stimulates the senses and captivates the imagination.

And on October 20th, the idea becomes reality when Mighty Wurlitzers from around the world participate in an unusual, if not unparalleled concert. Mighty Wurlitzer Days 1978 is a musical happening like none other; the day theatre pipe organs around the world join together in song.

Last year's concert, the first such event for Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs, was a tremendous success. Here was a chance to awaken public interest in one of the most fascinating instruments ever created. Although theatre organ enthusiasts knew what a vital role pipe organs played in the glittering era of the silent screen, the public did not. It was time to create public awareness and recognize the theatre pipe or-

gan's vital role in shaping 20th century music. More than just an accompaniment to the staccato movements of silent greats, Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organs were the unspoken emotions of the screen, the multifaceted voice that could swell like pounding surf or roar with the impact of a dozen thundering trains. And last year's concert paid tribute to these giants of a bygone era.

This year is even more significant. It's a continuation of last year's concert, expanded to an international scope. Beginning at 8 p.m., October 20th, Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organs in different parts of the world will play the same arrangement at the same local time, starting at the International Date Line and moving westward for an entire 24-hour period. Continuing in last year's tradition, Mighty Wurlitzers will play "When the Organ Played at Twilight," a favorite of the legendary organist Jesse Crawford. The number was arranged by another well-known organist, John Muri, 1977 ATOS Organist of the Year.

Since the first universal Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ con-

cert was staged October 14, 1977, word has spread. Organs that were still in restoration, have been completed; organists who had prior engagements last year have kept October 20th free, and many organists or establishments housing theatre organs who were not familiar with Mighty Wurlitzer Days are now preparing to participate.

Among first-time participants in this year's concert, is Wurlitzer's own Mightiest Wurlitzer, the most complete Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ in existence. Housed at Wurlitzer Corporate Headquarters in DeKalb, IL, the Mightiest will lend its own unique sound to this musical happening.

Be part of Mighty Wurlitzer Days this year when theatre organs around the world unite in song. Listen, and you can almost hear the powerful Tibias coming to life. It's the music that has dazzled audiences for decades, the nostalgic voices of theatre pipe organs. Be part of this event, this musical blending of past and present, designed to generate new enthusiasm for pipe organs around the world. □