

NUGGETS from the GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



Pot luck columns are popular, so here we go with nuggets from all over the Mother Lode. References were: *Etude (E)*, *Motion Picture World (MPW)*, *Local Press (LP)*, *Motion Picture Almanac (MPA)*, and *Motion Picture Herald (MPH)*.

1910 (E) The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of Cincinnati has purchased the entire plant of the Hope-Jones Organ Co. of Elmira, N.Y. The organs of this concern will hereafter be built at N. Tonawanda, N.Y. in connection with the Wurlitzer establishment. Mr. ROBERT HOPE-JONES will absolutely control the production of these famous instruments, his retirement from the management of the Hope-Jones Co. enabling him to devote his entire time and attention to the production and further improvement of "The King of Instruments."

April 1924 (MPW) Theatres being remodeled: Princess in Bloomington, Ind.; Centennial in Warsaw, Ind.; Liberty in Marietta, Okla.; Leopold Street Theatre in Corpus Christi, Tex.; and Victory in Anacortes, Wash.

July 3, 1924 (LP) Peery's Egyptian Theatre opened in Ogden, Utah. FRANZ RATH, Jr., "The Artist Supreme," was at the silver-toned Wurlitzer, playing his personally arranged *An Old Refrain*. On the screen, Lon Chaney appeared in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with supporting cast of over 3,000.

July 1925 (MPA) JOSEPH L. BRITE is appearing with MILTON CHARLES in a special organ act this summer at the Balaban & Katz' Tivoli Theatre in Chicago. Joe, who attended the University of Wyoming, lists motoring, golfing and swimming as his hobbies.

Sept. 12, 1925 (MPW) This week at the Capitol Theatre in Chicago, organist LEO TERRY is playing *There Ain't No Flies On Auntie*.

March 15, 1926 (MPA) RAMON BERRY opened the Finkelstein & Rubens-owned 1124-seat Fargo (N. Dakota) Theatre and is solo organist at the 2/7 Wurlitzer.

Sept. 25, 1926 (LP) Rochester, N.Y.'s newest neighborhood theatre, the 1508-seat Riviera, opened this evening. At the console of the 3/11 Marr & Colton, REGINALD E. WEBB, one of the world's most famous organists (sic) and formerly of the Martha Washington Theatre in Hamtramck, Mich., played the overture *On the Riviera*. On the screen were a Hal Roach Our Gang Comedy, *Uncle Tom's Uncle*, and Colleen Moore in *Ella Cinders*.

Oct. 1, 1927 (MPW) The Gladstone Theatre in Kansas City has reopened after being closed six weeks for repairs and improvements which include a new cooling system and a pipe organ. (A Style B Wurlitzer).

Oct. 1, 1927 (MPW) A new \$12,000 Robert Morton pipe organ is to be installed in the Regent Theatre in Newton, Kansas.

Dec. 27, 1927 (LP) Birmingham's new \$1.5 million Alabama Theatre opened yesterday. Esther Ralston and Neil Hamilton starred in the movie *Spotlight*. Ralph Pollock and the Alabama Stage Orchestra presented the stage revue *Banjomania*. JOE ALEXANDER, at the console of the "Golden-voiced Organ", introduced himself with the presentation *Organs I Have Played*.

April 1928 (Syracuse U Daily Orange) High schooler W. STUART GREEN is spelling BART WRIGHT at the Syracuse, N.Y. Regent's Marr & Colton nightly.

June 26, 1928 (LP) DEL CASTILLO has been doing weekly broadcasts from his organ school over WNAC, Boston, in the evening. Organist WILBUR BURLEIGH has been concertizing over Boston's WEEI weekly in the afternoon.

Sept. 1930 (MPA) MERLE E. CLARK has been appearing as solo organist at Toledo's Paramount, a Publix Theatre since May 15. Educated at the Malek Conservatory of Music in Grand Rapids, Mich., Merle's hobbies are "all sports."

Oct. 24, 1931 (MPH) At San Antonio's Texas Theatre, EARL ABEL's song-slide presentation included these late hits: "Moonlight Saving Time," "Loveless Love," "It's the Girl," "Nevertheless," and a nifty parody to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." His original solos are well liked.

Feb. 13, 1932 (MPH) ARTHUR GUTOW at Detroit's Michigan Theatre, substitutes for Dorothy Dix or Beatrice Fairfax in a musical skit called *Leap Year Lovelorn*. A special set of illustrated slides helps the comedy angle with special lyrics. The songs played include "Hoosier Little Sweetheart," "Goodnight, Sweetheart;" "You Call It Madness" and "All of Me."

Sept. 24, 1932 (MPH) FLOYD WRIGHT at the Berkely (Cal.) United Artists Theatre officiated at the magnificent organ in masterly style at the opening of this new house. He was formerly at the California Fox and received a warm reception. He offered a distinct novelty when he presented three fellow organists in concert after his formal dedication of the instrument. CHARLES WILSON of the Oakland Fox offered selections from *Aida*; EDDIE SELLEN of the San Francisco Paramount played Fritz Krisler's "Caprice Viennois"; and RICHARD AURANDT of the San Francisco Fox presented his own arrangement of "St. Louis Blues." Wright wound it up with a humorous rendition of "The Whistler and His Dog."

Oct. 22, 1932 (MPH) More than 150 songs were written by San Diego composers for a recent song contest, staged by the Fox Theatre and a local newspaper. The audience judged the winners of the best ballad and waltz. RON BAGGOTT and DON MOORE (Ron & Don), organist team, played the songs as part of their act.

Oct. 22, 1932 (MPH) MILTON SLOSSER has just signed another year's contract to remain at the console at the Ambassador Theatre in St. Louis. This makes 13 years in the City of Blues for Milt; 8 at the Missouri and 5 at the Ambassador. Milt says that he has decided to stay in St. Louis "until Kate Smith gets that moon over the mountain!" This go-getting young fellow also plays over KMOX, "The Voice of St Louis" every Wednesday nite from 11:45 to 12:15.

That should do it. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & The Old Prospector

□