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### ALABAMA

The chapter was pleased to be host for one day for those who attended the 1978 ATOS Convention. We hope all of you had a great time in Birmingham and enjoyed Eddie Weaver and Don Baker at the Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer and Dr. Edward Tibbs at our Civic Center

Theatre. It was a long day, we know, but we certainly thank those who came to see us. Come back again.

Our August meeting was held on a beautiful summer Sunday morning, and our members had a great time discussing the convention. Our program was in the hands of a very talented young man from Birmingham, Mark Landers. Mark is a student at Samford University majoring in marketing, but he really can do a selling job on the Alabama Wurlitzer. He has been a music and organ student for several years, having studied with Bernard Franklin (who is house organist at the Alabama Theatre) and Dr. Tibbs at Samford University. He has played the Alabama Wurlitzer for some of the special student movies, and also is performing on the electronic organ at one of the local country clubs.

Mark's program for our August meeting began with a salute to the day, "Oh What A Beautiful Morn-



Mark Landers during his August program at the Alabama Theatre.

(Tom Hatter Photo)

ing," and we were treated to a wide variety of selections ranging from moody melodies to the folk rock music of James Taylor. He also shared with us one of his own compositions entitled "Cindy's Song." Mark is a versatile musician and this was most apparent in his reharmonization of "Finlandia."

The chapter is beginning to plan for a special concert in connection with the Birmingham Festival of Arts next spring.

RIEDEL WEST

## CENTRAL INDIANA

The July meeting was held at Betty and Phil Hedback's lovely and interesting home. Their abode has been publicized before as they have a collection of antique cars and musical instruments. At least one instrument per room and several cars in the barn!

The Indiana weather held true to form. Following a heat wave, there were thundershowers in the afternoon forcing the catered party into the barn with the antique cars! However the spirits of ATOS members could not be dampened by a mere downpour.

The Wurlitzer Organ Company furnished a beautiful model 950 console for the occasion and local manager Sam Eberwein put on a fine concert exploiting the organ's capabilities. Sam's capability was "right in there" too; some pretty fast footwork. His repertoire consisted of a variety of popular and show tunes, standards and some classical numbers.

The August meeting was held at

the home of Ed Morris and was a "pitch-in" dinner plus swimming in the pool. The Morris hospitality was super! We thank you.

Virginia Rhexoris was the surprise unscheduled artist of the day and came through with flying colors. The organ was a 2/9 Hilgren-Lane with a Barton console. It was in excellent playing condition and the bench was kept warm by members during open console until a late evening hour. There were approximately 80 in attendance at this meeting.

BEE BUTLER

## CHICAGO AREA

CATOE was well represented at the Atlanta convention, after which our members literally departed in all directions before returning home. Then it was back to business. On Sunday afternoon, July 30th, over 150 of our members drove to Mundelein (a short distance north of Chicago) for a social at the auditorium of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. Just visiting the grounds alone is a beautiful experience, but we had a real treat as well. Tim Needler, of Indianapolis, presented an excellent program at the theatre organ. ATOSers who remember this organ from the 1965 and 1969 conventions, and John Seng recordings, may wonder about the status of the organ. The organ is, and always has been (since 1934), the property of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. The beautiful black four-manual Wurlitzer console, originally one of the early Chicago Theatre consoles, is still in excellent working condition. Fifteen

of the 24 ranks of the organ are still in place and playing beautifully, while the other nine departed without authorization several years ago. Through the offices of new CATOE member Father Tom Franzman, CATOE was invited to take over the maintenance of the organ, and under the careful skill of Tom Cotner and Fred Kruse its familiar brilliance and beauty was there for Tim's program.

On August 20th, CATOE had its first annual picnic at one of the Chicago area's many forest preserves. Nearly 70 attended. The highlight was the three-manual Conn Theatre, furnished by member Dick Canfield. Yes, a three-manual organ in the middle of the woods. A portable generator provided the power, so we didn't have to look for volunteers to pump!

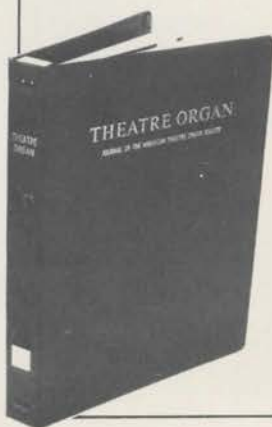
By the time this issue reaches you we hope to have completed a very successful Chicago Theatre Variety Revue, and we'll have a report in the next issue.

The Montclare Theatre's 3/10 Barton has been sold, and is slated to go into a local restaurant. It was sad to see this happen, as this was the first organ CATOE restored.

CATOE elects its officers in mid-year, and our new officers and directors took office on July 1st. Jim Taggart is the new chairman; John Peters is vice chairman; Ione Tedei, secretary; Beverly Barton, treasurer; Marie Pond, *Vox Catoe* editor; and Virginia Ferroli, membership chairman. The remaining directors are Bill Benedict, Joe Duci Bella and Greg Simanski.

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## EASTERN MASS.

Although no formal meetings were held during July and August, regular Wednesday evening work sessions (except convention week) were continued by the organ work crew under the direction of Art Goggin. The focus of attention is the 2/14 Wurlitzer in Stoneham Town Hall with a long-needed major rebuilding of the chests being undertaken — a considerable job.

Over 40 members, family and friends attended a summer social Sunday, August 6th, at the Ipswich home of Tim and Kaarina Bjareby, which has evolved into an annual event. Their kindness and easy hospitality always insures a good time, with the focal point a 2/8 gold and white console controlling a beautifully-installed Robert Morton.

With many playing members present a wide variety of styles were enjoyed and showed the versatility of the instrument. One member, Dr. Jonathan Kleefeld, after his first encounter, was enthusiastic in his praises and loudly exclaimed in his amazement "and everything works" — not a universal state even with the best maintained. Our host, Tim, was in top form, making the organ sound twice its size and being played with four hands and feet. Others did a very creditable job at this little gem which has recently been further improved with a Tibia extension and single stroke added to the Chryso-glott.

This summer interlude had all the ingredients for a "fun" gathering — good fellowship, good listening and good homemade "eats" — who could ask for anything more!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

## GULF COAST

"Porgy and Bess" could describe this better than I can. It's summertime and the living has been easy. Too easy, I suppose, for we haven't accomplished too much during the summer!

The board of directors has met regularly to keep the business in order and make plans for the winter concerts and meetings. We are in the process of changing a minor part of our by-laws as suggested by our chairman, B.D. Rhea, M.D.

We have reserved our beloved Saenger Theatre here for two concerts late in October. This will be the 27th and 28th of October. We plan to put on *The Phantom of the Opera* for both nights. We received many requests to do this again this year. Our staging was spectacular and pleased the crowd immensely when we put on the *Phantom* last year.

Tom Helms, our premier organist and spark plug, gave the chapter, and its invited guests, a pre-convention preview of his convention concert. This was well-received and for the ones who didn't get to the convention, was a special treat. For those of us at the convention — we

got to hear it again on the Moller. Great!!!

DOROTHY STANDLEY

## LAND OF LINCOLN

Our chapter held its annual picnic and meeting at the Bob Tuttle home in August. Officers and board members were elected for the coming year, and reports for the past year were read. Members Bob McKee and Orrill Dunn gave a very fine report on this year's ATOS Convention. Bob's pictures, along with Orrill's commentary, made us all wish that we could have been there.

The big attractions at Bob Tuttle's farm are the John Brown tracker or-



LOLTOS members and friends enjoy a feast at the annual picnic.

(Bob Schmoock Photo)



Don Rublee at the LOLTOS annual meeting.

(C. Albin Anderson Photo)

gan in the house and the Page theatre organ in the 75-seat theatre Bob has created from the old granary. These, along with numerous player pianos and music boxes, always make our visits there pleasant.

On August 12th, LOLTOS and the Coronado Theatre hosted about 800 children for the final outing for the Rockford Public Library summer reading program. Bob Coe presented a description of the organ and a silent movie, all very much enjoyed and appreciated by the kids. The Coronado Barton is undergoing replacement of stop switches and eventually all stops will be converted and all air eliminated from the console. October 22nd will be the date for the Coronado's 51st birthday and the occasion will be honored with a variety show featuring Myron Floren of Lawrence Welk fame, and Chad Weirick will be at the organ.

BOB SCHMOOCK

## LAND O'LAKES

May brought our annual organ crawl of Minneapolis churches. Would you believe that 71 members arrived at Soul's Harbor lobby at 8:15 on a Saturday morning? Not a flaw in the whole trip; everything came off right to the scheduled minute, with two busloads!

Our first stop was Park Avenue Covenant Church, where Ledona Wall, staff organist, played beautifully at the Moller pipe organ. A guest, C. Wesley Anderson, who was affiliated with the public school music department for forty years, played several fine selections. Our new member, Alan Lowrie, from Toronto, also did a fine job at the console. Paul Bowen and Alan Gerber gave us a mini-sample of their talents; thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our second stop was the Basilica

of St. Mary where we were escorted into the organ room, which is seldom permitted, and enjoyed hearing Bob Vickry play the 45-rank Wicks pipe organ, which echoed beautifully through the huge marble structure. "Pomp and Circumstance" was his opener. Between numbers, he explained the organ, the pipe installation, the church and then played several requested numbers.

Our third stop was at St. Mark's Cathedral, the historical landmark of "Lowry Hill" where Howard Small gave us a twenty-minute concert. The organ, built by Welti, has a Moller console and an antiphonal Kimball. While members played, others were permitted to walk about the church to view the beautiful carved wood and paintings.

The climax of our tour was the Twin City Federal Bank, where Paul and Alan, on double organs, really let go! Paul played the Eminent and Alan was at the Baldwin church organ. Their "Stars & Stripes" was a headliner! After more music with several others trying both organs, we decided to call it a day at five o'clock in the afternoon!

June was our super deluxe concert, featuring Kay MacAbee at the console of Byron and Lillian Carlson's gold and white, 5/21 Wurlitzer pipe organ in their luxurious home. With an almost complete sellout of tickets for the two concerts, the weather cleared and Byron's new central air made everything very comfortable and pleasant. Mr. MacAbee was more than we had expected! His warm, friendly personality had us in the palm of his hand before he started. His selections were thoughtfully-chosen, and as he played, he remarked, "This is the second five-manual organ I have played," but during intermission, while talking to Byron, he realized this was the

organ he had played in its original home. His opener, "Jalousie," was beautifully handled; as were selections from *Carousel*, Leitz' "Hungarian Rhapsody," "Clair D'Lune" and "Dizzy Fingers." The organ responded to his mastery with all its beauty. A standing ovation at his closing brought an encore (with gusto); we all loved it!

BEA ENGLUND

The LOL chapter has added a new dimension. A "Home Groups" plan, developed by member Ed Hirschhoff, has been in effect since last spring. Five groups of about 14 members each were established according to geographical location. Meetings of the groups alternate between homes; monthly during the winter months, less often during summer.

Benefits are many. There is closer association than is possible with only full chapter meetings. There is also the opportunity to play various instruments, perform for others and learn from seminars and discussions. Learning and performing problems are discussed and solutions sought. The plan is now in full swing, with about 70 members participating.

Marge Shepard, chapter chair-ma'm, is participating in one of the groups, and is enthused with the results.

Nine LOL members enjoyed the many fine concerts and camaraderie of the '78 convention in Atlanta.

Our chapter was again favored to hear Lou Hurvitz, long-time LOL member. After his return to West Point following the convention, he came to Minneapolis for a special concert on Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer at Cedarhurst near St. Paul in August.

It was a brilliant performance. Lou's flawless technique, brilliant styling and exciting orchestration



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Lou Hurvitz at the console of "Goldie," Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer, after his concert for the chapter in August. Lou is the only professional theatre organist in the U.S. Army, with rank of MSgt. (Ed Hirschhoff Photo)

brought the audience of 140 to its feet in a standing ovation. Imbued with a true love for the pipe organ as well, Lou's fame has been growing rapidly the past five years.

Other recent events included a Twin Cities Organ Crawl, and a performance by Carl Eilers in July on TV station KSTP's famous Wurlitzer, which members have recently brought back to musical life.

EDWIN C. HIRSCHHOFF

## LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

However enjoyable and newsworthy may be our four major concert presentations during each year, it is the imaginative series of intermediate functions — home concerts,

parties, film shows and coach trips to organ venues in other parts of the country — that are the real stuff of the year-round foundation of our chapter.

Principal venue for monthly chapter Club Nights is "Wurlitzer Lodge," the congenial home of Edith and Les Rawle at Northolt, just outside northwest London (generally on the last Friday evening of each month if American friends are in the UK).

Most recently, we have featured Doreen Chadwick at the 3/19 Wurlitzer. A great star of the halcyon days, we are exceptionally fond of Doreen's exquisite combination of delightful personality and sheer musical professionalism. Global theatre organ ambassador and good friend George Blackmore has also entertained in his usual impeccable

style. Ever-popular stylish young David Shepherd (who has just returned from another triumphant Stateside concert tour) is frequently with us on both sides of the organ bench.

In deference to our several steam enthusiast members, one recent outing combined a rail excursion trip to one of the many East Anglian havens of steam locomotive, traction engine and fair organ exhibits and memorabilia with a visit to the 3/19 Balaban Style 4 Wurlitzer now in the showroom of the Kitchen Brothers motor garage at Diss on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. Formerly in the Paramount-Odeon Theatre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the northeast of England, and much admired by the great Jesse Crawford who played it during his UK tour in 1933, this luscious instrument is immaculately preserved and highly popular both live and on record.

Our member Les Bezley, proud owner of the famed EMI Studio Compton of earlier years and now in his home in Cornwall in the west country, notably gave a most polished performance here.

A most rewarding recent chapter coach trip has been that to the home of member Graham Kent and his charming family at Thornbury near Bristol for the inauguration of his beautifully installed British-built Compton theatre organ that was originally in the Savoy Cinema in the London suburb of Stoke Newington. In a major extension to the family house built on a steeply sloping site, the organpipework is installed in chambers under the floor of the music room with horizontal shutters on either side of the slimmed console.

We have also had glowing, if somewhat envied, reports from our

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well-known member Father Gerard Kerr who attended this year's ATOS Convention at Atlanta. Gerard is, together with our Chapter Chairman George Harrison, mentor of a beautiful vintage Compton now installed in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church at Hornchurch in Essex, just outside east London, and still retaining its full theatre specification.

A measure of the overall progress that we are making in our second year of association is the fact that chapter membership has now topped the significant 150 mark — from all parts of the UK, and indeed from continental Europe and the USA itself.

## LOS ANGELES

The month of June was especially important to members of the Los Angeles Chapter for they were entertained at the San Gabriel's 3/16 Wurlitzer by famed Radio City Music Hall Organist, Ashley Miller. This appearance had a special significance to the 46 stalwarts for whom he had played at the "last show" at Radio City in April.

While on the West Coast, Ashley also appeared in concert for the San Diego Chapter and at the 4/35 Wurlitzer in San Sylmar, the famous Merle Norman Tower of Beauty in the San Fernando Valley. Among his listeners there was the incomparable, George Wright, who indicated that Ashley was one of this favorite artists. A reception was hosted in his honor at the studio-home of Liaison Chairman, John Ledwon, where the Miller magic poured forth from the 3/26 Wurlitzer in John's magnificent cathedral beamed 30 by 50-foot living room.

Our artist for August was youthful David Shepherd from London, England, who presented a delightful



David Shepherd at the San Gabriel 3/16 Wurlitzer.

(Zimfoto)

and varied program at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium's 3/16 Wurlitzer. Gently kidding we colonists, as well as his fellow countrymen in the business, he proceeded to demonstrate some of the basic differences in "English" and "American" theatre organ styling.

Now it seemed time for another organ crawl. After all, we had only been to New York City, Atlanta and San Francisco Bay Area for such events this year. Rod Skelding and wife, Patty, cooked up one which started at Vice Chairman Mike Ohman's Great American Wind Machine Restaurant in Reseda. After a bit of open console at Mike's 2/11 Wurlitzer, more than 80 members were bused to the home of Glenn Spelman for a program at Glenn's 2/6 Robert Morton by ATOS Music Merchant, Ken Rosen.

Next stop was the home of Stan Weisbard, where Jim Melander and Stan himself played the 2/7 Wurlitzer. Difficulty was encountered in

luring the crowd away, not only from the organ, but from Stan's incredible collection of restored cars and workshop in his backyard, not to mention his two battling tortoises.

After a luncheon stop at The Wind Machine Restaurant, and a bit of open console on the Wurlitzer again, it was straight to the home of Chapter Chairman Bob Power and the one-of-a-kind Rodgers "Style 260" custom *almost* theatre pipe organ. And, take our word for it, with that full wall of speakers and a real toy counter, it could fool a lot of people. Here the artistry was provided by Bob himself, Rod Skelding and Mike Ohman.

At the John Ledwon home, the artistry was provided by a real favorite: composer, conductor, organist, Lloyd del Castillo — whose repertoire includes everything from Bach to boogie, and all the stops in between. Following del, to present the British style, was Rod Skelding.

Last stop was again the Great

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One excited Niki Gordon at the Robert Morton console. *(Tad Photo)*



Major Jack Moelmann and Dalton McAlpin after Sunday afternoon entertainment at the Robert Morton. *(Tad Photo)*



Bill Oberg — all the way from Memphis, Tennessee for this weekend. *(Tad Photo)*

American Wind Machine Restaurant for a bit of open console and music by staff organist, Candi Carley, who sees more with her other four senses than most of us do with our eyes.

Tired of trips? Hardly. Rod and Patty just left for a 17-day tour of England on September 1st.

BOB HILL

## MAGNOLIA

All planned events for 1978 came to an end with "Jack's Last Fling" July 2nd. Major Jack Moelmann presented his last public concert at the Temple Theatre Robert Morton. The show was complete with sing-along, a vaudeville act presented by the male chorus from Keesler AFB and *It's A Gift*, starring Snub Pollard, circa 1923.

Mark Smith, a former member

of the male chorus and now of New Orleans, entertained the audience with "The Lord's Prayer," "This Is My Country" and "God Bless America."

The concluding number of Jack's concert was our national anthem, and the enthusiastic audience of about three hundred called for an encore, but Jack did not return to the console. A number of people wondered why, not knowing of the show business tradition that when a show is concluded with the national anthem, no other numbers are played.

The weekend of July 8th and 9th was another two days of theatre organ music, this time a private, by invitation only, event at the Jeff Seale Robert Morton in Laurel, Ms. On Saturday afternoon, Dalton McAlpin of Starkville, Ms. was at the console.

Sunday afternoon, a group from Meridian was entertained for more than an hour, everyone sat, and listened to a Jack Moelmann that we had never heard before. His program was inspired. There was music we had never heard him play before, showing his classical and church training. He closed his concert with the parting song "Auld Lang Syne."

Without too much coaxing, Dalton McAlpin played thirty minutes of popular and traditional music.

The console was then opened to others who wanted to play. Esther Stanton presented some of the old standards from bygone days. She was followed by Niki Gordon, and I have a feeling we will be hearing more from this young lady and the pipe organ in the future. Bill Oberg journeyed from Memphis just for this event, took his turn next, and surprised us with some fine organ



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playing. Bill is the sole support for two very fine pipe organs in Memphis, the Malco Wurlitzer, and the dual-consoled Kimball in the Memphis City Auditorium.

C.S. Soley, now owner of the fine Robert Morton of Jeff Seale, has assured us that the organ will not be sold, nor will it leave the City of Laurel, and that is good news.

Meetings of the chapter are usually held at the Temple Theatre on the second Monday night of each month. Though our attendance is usually small, we keep trying to increase our membership. Those present discussed ways that we could increase our membership and generate public interest in the theatre organ. A number of plans were covered, from an all-out assault on the media to the production of a slide show to be presented to various civic groups and clubs across the state. If there are any chapters that have had similar problems or have tried different ideas, please pass along the results, or any other ideas that you may have.

TOMMY DARSEY

## MOTOR CITY

Our annual picnic this year was held in July at the home of Mert and Rita Harris. Some 85 chapter members enjoyed the potluck meal as well as the Harris' three manual Wurlitzer.

Our fifth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 76-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* in August was attended by 550 members and friends. Dance organists for this year's cruise, in the order of their appearance, were: Tony O'Brien, Wilma Steslick, Lance Luce, Ken Saliba and Dennis James. The organ was a Rodgers Trio, courtesy of Musical Heritage in Royal Oak.



The 76-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* back at the dock after another successful private charter moonlight cruise for Motor City members and friends. (Don Lockwood Photo)

Our three-hour cruise took us up the Detroit River and out into Lake St. Clair while people danced, relaxed or strolled the decks of the 2500-passenger steamer.

The Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in July was an open console session at the 3/13 Barton. The artist for the August Second Sunday program was Ron Morocco, 16, from Royal Oak.

George Krejci was the featured artist at the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in July. Those who took advantage of open console at the 3/16 Barton afterward were Sigmond Ross, Amy Reimer (from Muskegon), Gladys Nancarrow, Jerald Nagano (from California) and Steve Stephani. The artist for the August Fourth Sunday program was Evelyn Markey.

Sales of organ pendants, manufactured exclusively for our chapter, went extremely well at the convention in Atlanta and are still being

sold at the Redford Theatre boutique counter. This counter, in the theatre lobby has turned \$1000 over to the "Buy the Redford" project.

Our continuing series of bi-weekly films on Friday and Saturday at the Redford has been a help in keeping current with the many expenses of owning a 1500-seat movie house.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NOR-CAL

Our belated congratulations and thanks to both the Atlanta and the Alabama chapters for another entertaining and memorable convention. Approximately 22 Nor-Cal members attended the national conclave and enjoyed the programs, artists and instruments. A delightful experience in the Southland.

One of the many outstanding organists in the San Francisco Bay area is Larry Embury, a resident artist with Bill Breuers' Pizza and



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Eddie Vodicka at the Campbell console after the August concert. (Dan Creswell Photo)

Pipes restaurant chain. Larry was the guest performer at our July meeting in Redwood City at the 4/23 Wurlitzer. This talented showman got the 170 attendees to their feet immediately for his opening number, "The Star-Spangled Banner," played entirely on the pedal board. After resuming our seats we were treated to a varied program including tunes ranging from "Danny Boy" and "Donkey Serenade" to blues and jazz melodies. It was announced Larry will tour Australia and New Zealand this fall. Members "Down Under" who attend his concert will be richly rewarded by his excellent musicianship.

The August meeting was held at the Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes in Campbell, Ca., housing the 3/23 former Buddy Cole Wurlitzer-Morton instrument. The guest artist was Eddie Vodicka from the Chicago area. Eddie is a touring concert artist for Conn Organs. It was Nor-Cal's good fortune to be the first ATOS chapter to enjoy this young man's talents. Eddie's debut featured smooth ballads, snappy Latins,

rousing marches, a rolling waltz, light classics, comic and light-hearted novelties. Eddie Vodicka is another of those up-and-coming musicians who will be a credit to the profession. He exhibits the ability to promote pipes and electronics equally well. Registration, expression and arrangements were well-done. A nearly full-house was most appreciative of his efforts, and required two encores.

Our future 2 p.m. meetings will be at Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, Ca., for the balance of the year. On October 15th Everett Nourse performs and on November 5th, Tony Fenelon, from Australia, concertizes. Come join us.

JIM DUNBAR

## OREGON

In July, we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Milt Kieffer for a picnic and final hearing of their 2/9 Wurlitzer

in their beautiful home near Vancouver. Fortunately this fine organ will not be lost to our area as it is to be relocated in a restaurant in Vancouver, Washington, just across the Columbia River from Portland.

The open console program was provided by many very competent members, including top professionals Jonas Nordwall, Gerry Gregorius and visiting Patty Simon from Seattle.

Our August meeting was scheduled for the studio home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koep near Eugene. But, because of the sudden death of Mr. Koep, an informal gathering was substituted at the home of Marti Lynch, near Portland. Marti has a fine three-manual Conn with standard stop arrangement, making pipe organists feel right at home.

The open console was expertly played by many of our members, including our gracious hostess. A surprise bonus was the superb playing of Everett Nourse of San Fran-



Everett Nourse, at Marti Lynch's open house for the chapter.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



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Marti Lynch at her open house.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

cisco Fox recording fame, who happened to be visiting in the area.

We are grateful to Marti Lynch for saving the day with beautiful music, and opportunity to socialize; impossible at a formal concert.

BUD ABEL

### PIKES PEAK

Chapter members continue to work hard on our many projects. Work still continues on the installation of the Chief Theatre Wurlitzer in the Colorado Springs City Auditorium. The organ sounded its first note on July 4th. We now plan for completion by Thanksgiving. Tight scheduling for the auditorium leaves us little time for work on the organ.

PPATOS continues to maintain the 3/9 Wurlitzer at Penrose Hospital on which the local historical society recorded recently. The recording, played by two of our members, was used as a soundtrack for a slide show on the life of famous local poet Helen Hunt Jackson. Using the magic of modern recording techniques we were able to "cue" the slides with the narration beginning with the beautiful theme song "Ramona" inspired by Mrs. Jackson's novel of the same name. The historical society was very much pleased with the results and promised us future projects of the same nature. This is certainly a good way to get theatre organ back to the public, fulfilling the purpose for which it was designed.

PPATOS members in Pueblo are currently restoring the solo division on the 65-rank Austin in Pueblo's Memorial Hall. The organ has suffered much deterioration over the years and new problems appear as fast as the old ones are fixed. Hopes are for the organ once again to be-

come a viable concert instrument in Southern Colorado.

SCOTT CHRISTIANSEN

### POTOMAC VALLEY

The June meeting was hosted by the Gordon Keller Music Store, Alexandria, Virginia. Featured artists for the musical portion of the meeting included four of our own group of creative entertainers, Doug Bailey, Earl Sharits, Robert Stratton and Todd Strickland, with a solo performance by Fred North, who is on the staff of Gordon Keller. During the business portion of the meeting Frank Lybolt was voted in as an honorary chapter member, a token of our appreciation of his outstanding work on behalf of the chapter.

Three musical instruments were available to us: a Shimmel grand piano; a Gulbransen Rialto II and a Rodgers Model 250 electronic augmented pipe organ. The Rodgers is unique in that the tones of its electronic components, through computerization, are so compatible with its eight ranks of Ruffatti pipes that the ear cannot differentiate between the intermixed voices of pipes and electronics.

Several long, discussions closed out the business meeting. Appropriately, Doug Bailey, seated at the Rialto II electronic organ, opened the informal concert session by announcing that he was abandoning his prepared program of "upbeat" music, and proceeded with an unbroken, single medley of quiet, low-key tunes in the relaxed and polished Bailey style and manner.

Fred North is an accomplished organist at the St. Michaels Catholic Church in Annandale, Virginia. He is also the Washington area consultant for Rodgers organs. Fred,



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L. to R. Robert Stratton, Doug Bailey, Earl Sharits and Tod Strickland.

(Harold R. Richman Photo)

with his right leg in a cast, nevertheless, with finesse, played on the Rodgers, classics as written, lighter classics and moderns. He included some silent movie music to demonstrate the capabilities of the Rodgers as a theatre organ.

Todd Strickland had prepared no formal program. In its place he offered musical selections as they came to mind, such as he would play for his own amusement and relaxation at home. He then, with no further comments, forgot all about us, it seemed, and did just that. Toe and heel-tapping pieces of variety and oldie theatre, radio and movie music followed, extemporaneously. His handwork at the console and footwork at the pedals came naturally and faultlessly.

Earl Sharits, as in the past, had dug into his legendary stock of "old stuff" of the 20s, to play for us some oldies, each with its recall of memories for the oldsters. Included was a 1925 "Symphonic Dearrangement" of the Rogers and Hart tune,

"Manhattan." Earl concluded with the complete theme for the 1923 silent film epic, *The Covered Wagon*.

To cap off a thoroughly enjoyable program, Bob Stratton at the Rodgers, Earl Sharits at the Gulbrandsen Rialto II and Todd Strickland at the Shimmel grand presented, completely unrehearsed, a trio rendition of the Ketelby "In a Persian Market" — skillfully synchronized, in a manner which brought the appreciative house down.

Potomac Valley Chapter members numbered 56 at the Atlanta convention. We believe this could be the largest attendance of any chapter.

HAROLD R. RICHMAN

### PUGET SOUND

Ashley Miller presented a concert at Greenwood Pizza and Pipes to a warm and appreciative audience. This climaxed a short vacation-stay in town during which we were

able to enjoy his company as well as his music.

In July, a farewell party was held for Donn Clayton at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes. He has played here four nights a week for three years, along with his duties as church organist in Everett. He will be giving his time and attention entirely to the church as musical director for a large church in Merced, California. His many friends here will miss him.

In August, we convened for our yearly potluck — truly a banquet with Annabel Browning filling her usual role as organizer to perfection. A white elephant auction was conducted most successfully by Ken Gallwey. Following this we proceeded to open console at the club organ.

The following day, fifty friends and members convened at Seattle Center in the early morning to view the King Tut exhibition. Of special interest — a bronze trumpet with gold overlay. When shall we see a King Tut Trumpet of gold in the pizza parlor chambers?

GENNY WHITTING

### RED RIVER

Our chapter had Chicago visitors the middle of August when Jack Olander and family came through Fargo on their way home from a camping trip. Lance Johnson took them to the Fargo Theatre where he played a movie intermission for the enthusiastic crowd. Jack later had a turn at the 2/8 Wurlitzer. He was nice enough to write a very complimentary letter to the editor of our paper about the organ and the public's response. Thank you, Jack!

The following week we had another visitor. Rob Richards, associate organist at the Organ Stop Pizzas in Arizona, spent a few days



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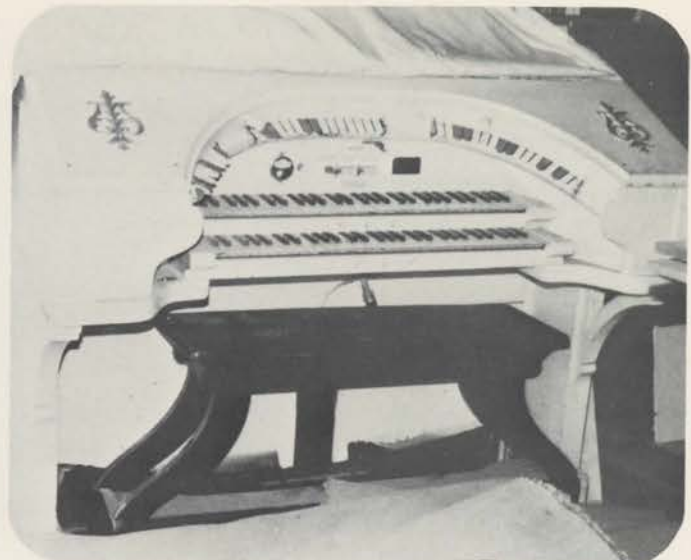
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Our own 2/6 Wurlitzer, Opus 1370.

here. He played for a half-hour preceding the early movie at the theatre. We enjoyed seeing and hearing him again.

Plans are not far enough along to name a date and program for our fall show this year, but we're aiming for late October or early November. The Fargo Foundry is working on the parts for our lift which will be installed at the theatre soon. The lift will be large enough to accommodate a three-manual console, so it can be used for our own chapter organ someday. Other improvements are possible also; perhaps the big sign outside may be painted at last.

SONIA CARLSON

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Hooray and hallelujahs, we had it comin' to us — (sorry for the corn), but our little old chapter just purchased its very own pipe organ. It is a 2/6 Wurlitzer with chimes, Opus 1370, originally installed in the

Legion (now Rialto) Theatre in Alamosa, Colo., in 1926. This piece of Colorado music history has the reputation of being probably the last regularly used theatre in the country, mainly due to the efforts of one man, the late Joe Brite. Joe was theatre manager and organist and many a theatre organ buff made his pilgrimage to Alamosa to see and hear this historic instrument. Stops are Trumpet, Tibia, Vox, Flute, Clarinet, String and Chimes.

A few years ago, Joe was killed in a holdup at the theatre. Later our chapter was instrumental in obtaining his song slides and projector for the ATOS National Library. After trying vainly for a number of years to obtain the organ, we heard that it was sold to Ron Rhode in Phoenix. We contacted Ron and asked for the option to buy should he want to sell. Well, it was not very long when we got a call from Ron and he said to come and get it by April 23rd, 1978. Well, we really had some fast board meetings and decisions to make.

Guess what? No money.

One of our very active members, Mr. Ivan Duff came forward and handed us a check for the full amount and said, "Keep smiling boys, it's only a loan." We voted, kept smiling and accepted the offer. After much scurrying around, we got a team together for the trip to Phoenix and another off to Alamosa. The Phoenix job was fairly easy. The pipes were boxed and the console ready to load. This was done and the trip was started to Alamosa to meet the other team in time to load the chests, and all the rest of the stuff that goes with it. Everything worked out like clockwork. We have it stored in Bill Arthur's garage. Winter is coming. Help!

We are now on a money raising party and all tax deductible donations are cheerfully accepted. We had our annual picnic at Jack and Nancy Walden's in August and raised \$142.50 which is helping a great deal.

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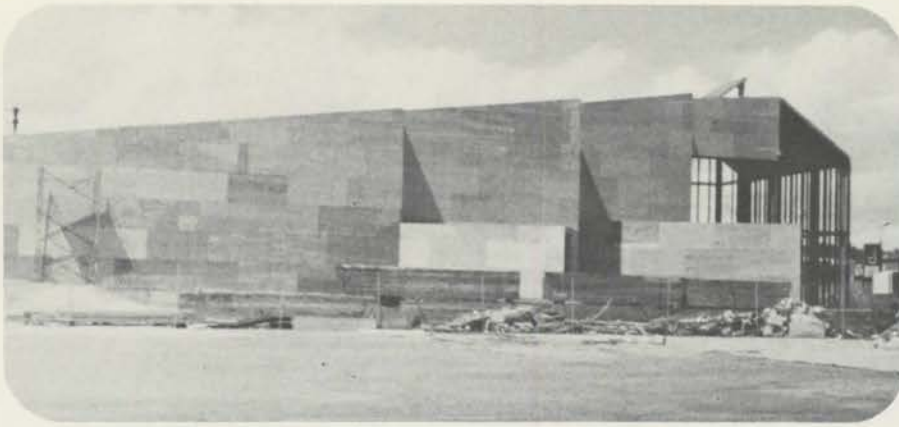
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Side view of the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Denver. Rear of the building, is almost three stories high.



Dave Bishop and Steve McCormick hoist the relay.

rant being built here (Denver), has got to be the biggest building in the neighborhood: acres of parking and right in one of our large shopping centers. The front looks like it will take 32' pedal pipes standing free with room to spare.

The 2/6 Wurlitzer at Fred Riser's is really coming along now. The blower is running, the relay is wired and the wiring to the back of the console was started. The winding in the chambers is about completed.

We hope to have it playing for our Christmas party and election of officers meeting.

We now have 42 members to brag about and more coming in right along. The crew at the Aladdin Theatre played the overtures for the evening shows of *The Sound of Music* to very full houses. The old Wicks is sounding pretty good now due to the efforts of the Saturday morning work crew. We still have not figured out how to get the combination action up out of the boiler room yet, but we will.

Bill Arthur's Marr and Colton is all hooked up and playable from the console. It is not in tune yet but we'll get it done.

Work is being done on the Paramount Theatre organ in Denver in preparation for another silent movie late in the fall.

FRANK R. GANDY

## SAN DIEGO

July and August have been "vacation" time for our chapter as we had no concerts during these months; nevertheless, we have some exciting news and a great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes.

First of all, our chapter is very proud that the founder of our chapter, Preston M. (Sandy) Fleet, has been elected National ATOS president. We all are looking forward to a great year for the society under his enthusiastic guidance.

During this summer interlude our membership chairman, Bob Brooks, with the dedicated help of member Myra Genter, published our new roster — it is really an outstanding booklet of which we are very proud. Many, many long hours went into its preparation and we are appreciative of the work Bob and Myra have done for our chapter.

August 26th was the date for our annual summer membership meeting-social-get-together held at the beautiful home of Jan White, high atop a hill, in Rancho Santa Fe. Picnic tables were set up on the lawn by the swimming pool, and there were two grand pianos and a brand new Conn 652 organ in the glass-enclosed music room. We had the pleasure of listening to Carol Jones and Col. Harry Jenkins, as well as many other members and guests. We have so much talent in our chapter that there is never a lack of musicians to provide entertainment.

It was announced at this time that Sandy Fleet had donated six additional ranks for our organ in the California Theatre and work has already begun on their installation.

The chairman told the meeting that October 28th would be the date for our opening concert at the California Theatre. All of our members are going to be working hard to make this the outstanding event of the season. Much interest has been shown by various San Diego civic organizations in our efforts to bring the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer once again to the public in its original setting, and it is felt that our ef-

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forts are an important part of insuring the continuity of San Diego's historical tradition.

Sandy Fleet then told us about the exciting events being planned for the 1979 Southern California national convention and spoke briefly about the goals he hopes to achieve during his tenure of office as national president.

After the meeting was adjourned we gathered on the terrace. After much more beautiful music and enjoyable fellowship, the third annual August meeting came to a conclusion.

Now our various committees will be working hard to put on the best show ever at the California Theatre October 28th and to make the 1979 convention an outstanding event.

MARJORIE GREER

### SOUTH FLORIDA

We promised Don Ursem a return engagement and return he did, to the heraldic salute of the Brass Trumpets, Tubas and Tibias of the Andre Wurlitzer.

Eighty-two people attended the kick-off meeting of our '78-'79 season, following a July recess to attend the Atlanta convention.

As before, Don's program was a

well-balanced blend of nostalgia and current favorites arranged with all the schmaltz of the most popular artists of the twenties. The Andre organ enjoys the benefit of bright acoustics and acute presence which, when combined with a capable artist provides pleasure to all.

Ahead awaits a visit from Lee Erwin with *The Phantom of the Opera* at Gusman Hall in October and a field trip to our West Florida organs, in November.

Look us up, you snow birds, and join the fun when you visit our Sunshine State.

STEVE FITZGERALD

### VALLEY OF THE SUN

During the long, hot summer, life slows down some in Arizona. Our activities during July and August were basically informal gatherings.

Our July social meeting was held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, where Chairman Bill Carr is in the process of installing a 2/12 Wurlitzer for the church. Our artist for the evening was twelve-year-old Jeff Orr, an organ student of chapter member Jack Framke. Though he only had three ranks to work with (and had to compete with a noisy windline), the boy did a fine job. We

hope to have him play for us again when the organ installation is completed. Following Jeff's program, we heard a report on the national convention in Atlanta, and were pleased to hear that the Phoenix-Tucson area was chosen as the site for the 1983 convention.

Jay Hein hosted our group in August. We discussed nominations for our upcoming election of officers. Later, some members enjoyed open console at Jay's Allen organ, while others sat in the backyard to view some slides taken of our organ crawl to the Los Angeles area in May.

On August 27th, several members of our group drove down to Tucson to hear a home organ concert featuring sixteen-year-old Lynn Staininger. Lynn was one of the four young people we presented in a program at the Mesa Organ Stop Pizza this past May. Our hosts in Tucson were Rudy and Bea Kotasek of the Southern Arizona Chapter. We thank them and Lynn for a very pleasant afternoon.

Some work has been done on the Phoenix College and First Christian Church Wurlitzers this summer, but many more hours still need to be devoted to both of these projects.

MADELINE LIVOLSI □

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