

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



Let's see who was playing theatre organ around Christmastime during the big era. References were *Motion Picture World (MPW)*, *Local Press (LP)*, *Around the Town (ATT)*, and *Motion Picture Herald (MPH)*.

Dec. 1926 (MPW) OTTO F. BECK is playing "The Wonder Wurlitzer" in the Rialto Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Dec. 1927 (LP) As the RKO Albee Theatre in Cincinnati opens, ARTHUR "High C" GEIS dedicates its Wurlitzer.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) The Terminal Theatre in Chicago is headlining L. CARLOS MEIER at the organ. He features community singing, solos, and spotlight numbers. Meier is in his second year there and is very much appreciated by his audiences.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) ALBERT F. BROWN, solo organist and alternating between the Marbro and Granada theatres, the two biggest ace houses of Marks Bros. in Chicago, is enthusiastically received at each appearance. It is only fitting that these two beautiful houses should have such a splendid organist in Brown. In community singing or feature numbers, he is well liked. Charles Kaley and his orchestra also alternate between the two theatres.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) STEVEN E. BOISCLAIR, formerly at WGY, Schenectady, is now featured organist at the Avon Theatre in Utica, N.Y.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) HAROLD JOLLES easily merits the rating he has received as solo organist at the Lerner Theatre in Elkhart, Ind., where he has been for three years. Formerly he played at the Palace Theatre in Jamestown, N.Y. Mr. Jolles arranges all his special numbers, and features solos, slides and novelties very successfully. He plays a Kimball which does full justice to his remarkable technique.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) HAROLD PERL (sic), solo organist at the Midwest Theatre in Chicago, is meeting with continued success. Perl carries a personality with a fine style in his playing, and as a result, has created a large personal following at the theatre. Lynn Hazzard leads the orchestra.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) BOB CLARKE is featured at the organ of the Hollywood Theatre in Detroit where he is a big favorite with the patrons.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) Spotlight features, community singing and solos have made PAUL H. FORSTER's first year at the Eckel Theatre in Syracuse a success. He formerly played at the Worth Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) ERNEST H. HUNT, solo organist, is appearing at Loew's State Theatre in Cleveland. Mr. Hunt has much personality and with his wide range of knowledge of music, has become one of the greatest organ attractions in Cleveland. He has originated ideas for organ presentations which are now being used in other houses.

"Stubby" Gordon leads the orchestra.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) Shea's Theatres have scored another master stroke by employing ROBERT DEMMING, solo organist, to open their Kensington Theatre in Buffalo. Demming has written some new compositions which will be released shortly. Bobby features novelties, and his famous solos have created a large following. Previous to this engagement, he was featured in Buffalo's Hippodrome.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) The New York Hippodrome, one of the world's largest theatres, is featuring WALTER WILD as solo organist. This is his first year here, and he features community singing and novelties. He was formerly at the New York Strand Theatre for three years. Wild has written several compositions which were published by H. W. Gray Co. Previous to his theatre engagements, he was featured in many organ recitals.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) KARL BONAWITZ, "The Eminent Organist-Entertainer," has found favor with the Stanley Theatre people in Philadelphia and is featured chiefly for opening their houses as guest organist. There is something intriguing about his playing which makes one know it is the real thing. His unfailing ability has been recognized, and he is one of the foremost organists in Philadelphia.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) A versatile solo organist is GEORGE BACON at the Rochester (N.Y.) Theatre. He broadcasts over WHEC and is very well liked by the extensive patronage. Bacon formerly filled engagements at the largest houses in San Diego, Cal. His associate at the Rochester is HARRY G. SULLIVAN, who previously was at the Strand and other houses in the city. He also broadcasts over WHEC, with both organists featuring solos, novelties and slides at the theatre.

Dec. 5, 1931 (MPH) LLOYD "Wild Oscar" HILL at Brooklyn's Albee Theatre, offered a community singing solo this week which was not up to the entertainment standard set by this organist. Apparently, it was because of lack of time in preparation. Nevertheless, the audience sang well three popular songs; two choruses of the first two and one of the last, with Oscar leading the singing nicely.

GOLD DUST: 12/26 TOM GRIERSON, Rochester, N.Y.'s Riviera . . . 12/27 WESLEY RAY BURROUGHS, Lyndhurst's Kohl and C. SHARPE MINOR, Rochester (N.Y.) Theatre . . . 12/28 EDDIE HANSON, B&K theatres, Chicago; EDWARD C. MAY, Riviera, Rochester; LARRY BARALDI, Philadelphia's Aldine; JESSE G. STOUT, Keystone, Phila.; BOB CORDRAY, Detroit's Annex; DWIGHT BROWN, Shea's Buffalo; JIM THOMAS, Branford in Newark, N.J.; MERLE E. CLARK, Detroit's Grand Riviera; LOUIS A. "Doc" WEBB, Marshall Square Theatre, Chicago; MORRIS L. SHEFF, Brooklyn's Sanders; ERNIE MILLS, Strand in Syracuse; RICHARD "Dick" BETTS, Buffalo's Century; HARRY A. CRISP, Stanton, and EDWARD J. MAGUIRE, Nixon's Grand Opera House, Philadelphia; HAYES WATSON, Atlantic City's Stanley; CARLETON A. JAMES, Keith's, Syracuse; BILL BENNETT, Allen in Racine, Wisc.; WILLIAM J. STEWART, Kent and JOHN V. STANGO, 69th St. Theatre, Philadelphia; HAROLD RAMSAY, Baltimore's Loew's Century; JACK MARTIN, Uptown, and ROY SCHNEIDER, Tower in Milwaukee; WILLIAM E. THOMPSON, Atlantic City's Strand.

We send all our readers warmest Season's Greetings.
Jason & The Old Prospector □