

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



This time, we travel all over the lode, picking up nuggets from the old era. References were *Diapason (D)*, *Motion Picture World (MPW)*, *Local Press (LP)* and *Around the Town (ATT)*.

October 1923 (D) The Midmer-Losh organization is rebuilding and enlarging the organ in the New York Hippodrome, built about 10 years ago for the great spectacles there. This was a 2-manual organ of limited range but of great power, including high-pressure, large-scale stops. It is being converted into a three-manual instrument and removed from its location under the audience to spaces in the proscenium buttresses. There is included a 50% increase of tonal material.

The Hippodrome is being extensively rebuilt with greatly increased seating capacity, making it the largest theatre in the world, and the new policy will include presentation of motion pictures. FREDERICK KINSLEY is organist and the reconstruction of the organ is under his direction.

In addition to a supplementary plant recently purchased, Midmer-Losh has completed substantial enlargements.

March 1924 (MPW) Residents of the Beacon Hill district of Seattle turned out in full force for the opening of the Grey Goose Theatre on January 29. The house seats 500, and has two side aisles which are carpeted with cork, leading to the organ pit. A No. 25 Fotoplayer organ is in use.

Sept. 26, 1925 (MPW) ROBERT J. BERENTSEN, organist at Rochester's Eastman Theatre, this week rendered the selection "Tell Me More" by George Gershwin. Last week, he arranged a program entitled *Echoes From the Metropolitan Opera House*.

May 1926 (LP) LOUIS IUPPA and AARON MERCHY signed a contract with Wurlitzer to buy a Style E pipe organ for their new Madison Theatre in Rochester, N.Y. Representing Wurlitzer were Charles S. Stewart and Millard M. Crane.

Oct. 23, 1926 (MPW) The Lyric Theatre in Booneville, Mo., a Universal-leased house, is undergoing improvements which will cost \$50,000. The entire floor elevation is being changed and steel girders put in. New seats, a new organ and new carpets also will be included.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) LEO TERRY, celebrated organist, who has gained national acclaim through the value of his work, is now playing a return engagement at the Piccadilly Theatre in Chicago. Terry presided at the mammoth 300-stop Kilgen organ upon the opening of this marvelous cinema palace and was chosen because of his ability, showmanship and personality.

He returned to the Piccadilly to the great delight of this theatre's patrons after splendid success in other theatres. Terry formerly filled brilliant engagements at the Capitol and Stratford theatres and with the Great States Theatres

Inc. houses in Chicago.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) One of the most liked feature organists, RICHARD "DICK" BETTS, is in his first year at the Century Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., after opening numerous houses in the Schine organization. He is a prime favorite of the patrons of the Century. Good luck, Richie!

Dec. 1928 (ATT) Anyone who has been successfully featured at Schenectady's Proctor's Theatre for four years, broadcast over the General Electric station WGY there, started an organ club, and then secured an engagement at Schine's Avon Theatre in Utica, N.Y., has created a triumph. One can be safe in saying that STEPHEN C. BOISCLAIR is a sure thing in the solo organist field. He is a national (sic) favorite and his playing is a stimulant to the music lover.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) There is an inspiration about DON WILLIAMS, solo organist and assistant director of the orchestra at the Fox Japanese Gardens in New York where he has been for five years. Mr. Williams has been the private organist for William Fox for two years, and has several compositions to his credit, including "Despondency," "Agitato" and "Eastern Twilight." He formerly played at the Palace Theatre in Wichita, Kansas.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) Ever since MORRIS L. SCHEFF opened the Sanders Theatre in Brooklyn, he has been the big favorite with the patrons. He is featured as solo organist and in the space of a short year, has created an enthusiastic following. Formerly at the Capitol in Brooklyn and at the Lasky houses in Florida, Mr. Scheff is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music in Moscow, and has composed several numbers which he introduces as organ solos.

Dec. 1928 (ATT) ERNEST HARES is solo organist at Loew's State Theatre in St. Louis. Mr. Hares, billed and featured as "the youngest organist" and "the Welsh Boy Organist," has created a large following in his first year there. Previously, he had been doing concert work throughout the country. He broadcasts over KMOX, and features spotlight solos and specialties at the theatre.

GOLD DUST: 12/28 GRENVILLE TOMPSETT, Granada in South Bend, Ind.; ED SCHNEIDER, Atlantic City's Earle; HUGH J. DODGE, Piccadilly in Rochester, N.Y.; LEONARD MAC CLAIN, Philadelphia's Strand; JOSEPH K. GLASNER, Philadelphia's Metropolitan; ART VOSTEEN, Buffalo's Bailey; GEORGE WALD, Stanley in Utica, N.Y.; LES HOADLEY, Milwaukee's Wisconsin Theatre; WENDELL ENGLISH, Toledo's State; JOHN DE PALMA, Frankford and GEIBEL FALCONER, Germantown in Philadelphia; BILLY BARNES, New York's Loew's State; CARLOS MEIER, Chicago's Terminal; RUSS THAYER, "The Singing Organist," Detroit's Ferry Field Theatre; MILLARD SPOONER, Philadelphia's Orpheum; EMILE CATRICOLA, Lincoln in Troy, N.Y.; MAURICE COOK, Loew's State, Syracuse; STANLEY PINHERO, Proctor's Palace, Newark, N.J.; HAROLD JOLLES, Lerner in Elkhart, Ind.; RAY C. GRUIS, Milwaukee's Modjeska; ROLAND KERNS, Westmar in Norristown, Pa.; PAUL TOMPKINS, Baltimore's Stanley; F. DONALD MILLER, Detroit's Fisher; KARL BONAWITZ, Stanley Co. theatres, Philadelphia; HARRY G. SULLIVAN, Rochester (N.Y.) Theatre; ERNEST J. HUNT, Cleveland's Loew's State.

See you in June. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & The Old Prospector □