

beautifully balanced percussions on any Wurlitzer installation anywhere. If the Rawle living room lacks reverb — and it does — Len has balanced ranks so skillfully that the full organ sound is richly satisfying without any painful hoots or shrieks. Having heard Len play both Rawle Wurlitzers I can only say that each has its unique beauty and integrity, and both are far and away the best home installations I've ever heard. When you go to the Convention in London try to hear at least one of them if you possibly can.

I returned to the States convinced that the London ATOS Convention would be the event of a lifetime. It will be well worth the little extra effort on our part.

Cordially,
Walter J. Beaupre
Kingston, RI

Gentlemen:

In regard to the erroneous information printed in the Dairyland Chapter News in the Dec./Jan. THEATRE ORGAN concerning the Kimball Theatre Organ Society (of Milwaukee), we would like to set the record straight.

The Centre (formerly Warner) Kimball in question is a 3-manual, 28-rank instrument being restored to original condition by a team of dedicated and capable buffs, both professional and nonprofessional, for eventual installation in the Oriental Landmark Theatre of Milwaukee, which originally housed a 3-manual Barton. The Kimball, when installed, will be enlarged by two ranks and a 32' pedal extension. Also, a new solid-state relay will be included in the rework for expanded versatility.

The Kimball Theatre Organ Society is an independent organization and has no affiliation with the Dairyland Chapter of ATOS, although there are several Dairylanders working with us on this project.

When the Kimball is complete, we should be happy to provide a full account to THEATRE ORGAN of its rebuilding and reinstallation. An original organ of this magnitude should hopefully make an outstanding addition to the present concert circuit.

Sincerely,
J. Clark Wilson,
Vice-President KTOS
Brown Deer, WI ☐



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ALABAMA

After a long lapse in reporting, the correspondent is back in business. Last year was one of our best years yet, as far as concerts, group activities and membership are concerned. The Dennis James concert in April and the Tom Helms concert in October were both great successes, particularly because more and more people are now taking a greater interest in the Alabama Theatre and its beautiful Wurlitzer organ.

The chapter met at the Alabama Theatre on January 13th to hear chapter member Dr. Cecil Prescott at "Big Bertha." To make his program even more delightful, his daughter, Cecilia, brought her trumpet and joined him in several selections. The combination of organ and trumpet was quite a treat for those who had never heard Dr. Prescott play before.

On February 10th, members braved a very cold and icy morning to enjoy the music of "Big Bertha" once again. As has been a custom for several years, February is open console. The nimble-fingered artistry of talented members JoAnn Radue, Beatrice Fee, Sam Troutman, Jr. and Sr., Bob Rabin, Chris Radue, Cecil

Whitmire and Linda Whitmire was featured. It was an informal meeting that most thought was the best in some time.

As the year 1980 progresses, members are looking forward with great anticipation to the upcoming spring concert in April, which will present Walt Strony to the people of Alabama for the first time. Walt has said he likes to use the pizzicato for special effects and the crew is diligently working to have it in operation before the April concert. This will be the first time the unit has worked since before 1968.

Aside from the normal maintenance work on "Big Bertha," the crew has made several trips to the home of member George Ferguson to assist in the completion of his pipe installation. A few more trips and the organ will be in full operation.

The chapter's Slide Spectacular, telling about the Alabama Theatre, the Wurlitzer and the activities of the chapter, is still in great demand. Last month it was presented to the Teachers' Association and this month will be presented to the Retired Teachers' Association. The program is being revised somewhat this year to bring it up to date and to replace some of the slides that have become worn from much use. The chapter is proud of its slide presentation and is always delighted when asked to present it. It has proved to be the best way to keep the chapter, the beautiful Alabama Theatre and the Wurlitzer in the public eye. It works!

CECIL WHITMIRE

ALOHA

The roof has not caved in on the Aloha Chapter, but for a while members thought it might.

Heavy rains and a deteriorating

roof on the old Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu, which is approaching 60 years of age and which houses one of the two remaining theatre pipe organs in Hawaii, caused leaks and large chunks of plaster started falling recently, narrowly missing the Robert Morton pipe organ console which the chapter members are trying to preserve.

For several weeks, the theatre could only seat patrons under the balcony. Whenever chapter members met to play the organ, "hard hats and a light foot on the low bass notes" was the recommendation.

It is hoped that the theatre will be designated a National Landmark and slated for preservation. The theatre management has just applied a

new roof, loose plaster has been removed and the structure is safe for patrons once more. In the meantime, chapter members have been busy maintaining the organ and releathering all the pouch rails.

Soon, members hope to start holding public concerts once again, which had to be cancelled when the roof nearly caved in on them.

BEEHIVE

Chapter members met in February at the Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City, Utah. After a short business meeting conducted by Chairman Wayne Russell, a report was made as to the status of the organ restoration project which is still several months in the future. As "live"

organ was not available, members were treated to performances recorded on several organs in the area, accompanying several silent comedies.

David Reese, JoAnn Harmon, Blaine Gale, Mike Ohman and Gaylord Carter were the performers. The organs used were those at the Capitol Theatre, the Organ Loft and Provo Pipes and Pizza.

After the show in the auditorium, members and guests were escorted through the newly-remodeled theatre, rehearsal rooms and the more adventuresome were taken to the chambers in the attic. Refreshments courtesy of Maxine Russell were served in the organ workshop in the basement.

CLARENCE E. BRIGGS



Betty DeRosa, chairman of the Aloha Chapter, displays the recommended headgear for members playing the Robert Morton when the ceiling falls down.



Aloha Chapter members busy at work releathering the pouch rails of the old Robert Morton organ they are trying to preserve. (L to R) Mary Chandler, Scott Bosch, Frank Loney, Jim Chandler and Bob Anderson.



Richard Harger, chief maintenance "honcho" for the Aloha Chapter saves the delicate portion of releathering for himself.

pedalboard and changes and modifications during rebuilding and the reasons for them. He also described the shutters and also explained the fire protection system.

The second half of the program was presented by Kurt Von Shakel, whose choice of music was appreciated by all present. He later stated, "This organ is so well-maintained

that it is indeed a great pleasure to play it."

The club plans to attend future programs sponsored by the Paramount. These include Tom Hazleton on June 8, 1980; Ron Rhode in late August or early September; and house organists Donna Parker and Bill Vlasak at Christmas time. The chapter is delighted in being able to support and receive help from the Paramount.

The February 10th meeting was held at the Wilking Music Company's warehouse in northwest Indianapolis. The meeting was called to order with 96 members and guests present. After a short business meeting, the Wilking representative, Ken Stoops, played several numbers at an Allen theatre electronic spinet. His selections were well-known standards. Following Mr. Stoops, a very talented young man from a local Wurlitzer store, Rick Moore, a jazz and theatre organist, played various selections including popular numbers, marches, classics and songs from the 1920s.

The chapter is planning bus trips this year for all member participation. The first trip will be in April, and is to include visits to the Roaring 20's Pizza establishments in Kalamazoo and Lansing, Michigan, as well as to other area installations.

H. J. HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

On a glorious spring-like day in January, there was a large turnout of members and guests at the home of Bob and Betsy Richard to hear member Mark Williams perform at their Conn 651. The pipe speakers helped to create a musical environment very close to real theatre pipe organ sound. Open console followed Mark's performance with much local talent in evidence.

COTOS was honored by a sizeable article in the January 6, 1980, magazine section of the *Columbus Dispatch*. The progress of the chapter's Wurlitzer at Worthington High School was told in word and picture. This kind of exposure in the community proves invaluable to present and future program hopes.

Some 27 members and guests were in attendance when COTOS met in February at the home of Ed and Joanne Lougher. During the business meeting, plans were discussed for

our trip to Indianapolis to see the unusual 42-rank Wurlitzer at the Paramount Music Palace. Organ entertainment featured Betsy Richard playing the Lougher's Baldwin Studio II. Betsy presented a repertoire of perennial favorites from the 30s and 40s. Open console followed.

The chapter's Worthington Wurlitzer project is moving toward a March 23rd deadline for five operational ranks, with the hopeful timely arrival of some missing pipes. The long-awaited pipes are being fashioned at the organ pipe factory of Bob Shopp in Alliance, Ohio. A tour through his plant alone is worth the trip to Alliance. The smelting of zinc and lead, the cold roll, the fashioning of pipes and their voicing are an educational experience.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK
DR. JOHN POLSLEY

CHICAGO AREA

Our delayed holiday social occurred on Sunday eve, January 6th, at Holy Name Cathedral, which is one of Chicago's landmarks. It is in this church that numerous notables have appeared throughout the years, most recently the Pope, for the indoor Mass in October, 1979.

Fr. Tom Franzman, of Holy Name, welcomed our CATOE group with a few remarks about the church and organ and led into the program presented by our soloist Thomas Harris, organist from the Church of The Atonement (Episcopal). In his excellent program Mr. Harris included some holiday carols with CATOE "soloists" giving forth, especially for the TV cameras which were present.

Among the open console performers were Harry Koenig, Charles Sauer, Mark Noller and David Hamilton. These chaps brought forth a lot of delightful sound from this ancient instrument and it was exhilarating to see and hear David at the console after his bout of illness.

We were flattered to have the TV Channel 2 crew present to film the activities. This crew had been at Leon Berry's home in the afternoon to get footage on his "Beast In The Basement" pipe organ. Leon explained and demonstrated the organ which was included in the program 2 On 2, and aired on January 20th. The CATOE "soloists" hit the cut-



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ting room floor, plus a bit more! The aired portion showed some of the church interior, Harry Koenig at the console and our soloist Mr. Harris. A long shot of the Chicago Theatre was also included. Member Joe Duci Bella gave an interview telling about the part that pipe organs play in our group and for the public. It was a marvelous plug for ATOS, CATOE and the "King of Instruments."

The organ is a 3/52 Johnson/Wangerin built by a Milwaukee firm and reworked some years ago by Sauter.

CATOE plans to be part of the April Film Festival at the Chicago Theatre and on June 15th, Walter Strony will perform for us at St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois.

Our Chicago Weekender "80 Regional," November 28th through the 30th, is well under way with plans being finalized for this great event. Hope to see you then.

ALMER BROSTROM

CONN. VALLEY

It was a case of "cold feet, warm heart" when Karl Cole made his second concert appearance in Thomaston for the benefit of the Opera House Restoration Fund on January 19th and 20th. Though our guest artist was having some admitted difficulty coping with the chill of our New England weather after the balmy breezes of Florida, he had absolutely no problem charming the Thomaston audience with his warmhearted friendliness. From the moment he took his place at the Marr & Colton, his intent was clear as he opened with "Say It With Music" and "I Got Rhythm" — and we got the message. Karl also deserved extra points for giving us a brief explanation of what voices and combinations he planned



Karl Cole at the Thomaston Opera House Marr & Colton.

to use before many of the numbers. For those not really familiar with the theatre organ, it had to have made it more interesting and understandable.

The evening's program concluded with a tribute to that fine composer, Albert Hay Malotte, who is in the ATOS Hall of Fame — his best known composition, "The Lord's Prayer."

JUNE L. GAREN

The first meeting of the year, which marked the chapter's 19th anniversary, was held at the Windham Regional Technical School in Willimantic where a fine 3/15 Wurlitzer occupies a prominent place in the auditorium/gymnasium.

During the business session the membership approved expediting the organ installation at the high school in Shelton. Completion of this worthy project will make available a 1000-seat auditorium with a fine Austin pipe organ. Also ap-

proved was the procurement of color lights and a 6-channel dimmer board.

President Norm Ray turned the meeting over to Program Chairman Joe Graif, who introduced the artist of the evening, Robert Madoff, organist at Radio City Music Hall. The music brought forth from those 15 ranks by this young, very talented artist was something extra special. Audience appreciation was loud and long throughout the program and encores were demanded.

Chapter members wish to acknowledge the accommodation and help of Regional Technical School Director Felix Gryczch and his associates.

On May 17th and 18th, Hector Olivera will preside at the console of the Thomaston Opera House Marr & Colton. Information and tickets are available from Concert Tickets, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483, or telephone (203) 888-9696. All are welcome!

WALLACE F. POWERS

GARDEN STATE

New Year's Day found the work crew celebrating at the Olde Rahway Theatre by pulling apart the chryso-glott. The bars were rebushed and restrung, a magnet replaced, and it rings out beautifully once again. The crew had previously tarred the roof over the chambers in an effort to cure the flooding that occurs with every rainstorm.

A new, larger capacity blower was installed in the blower room, but an amount of conductor work was necessary, especially adapting a 12-inch outlet to fit the existing 10-inch pipe from the original outlet.

The next item for refurbishing will be the glock, then the snare drum and tom tom. As the saying goes, "A man's work is from sun to

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Bob Balfour (L) and Bob Reilly tar the roof of the Olde Rahway Theatre.

sun, the organ maintenance crew's work is never done."

On January 20th, U.S.A.F. Major Jack Moelmann held an open house for members of Pete Polito's plug-in-organ club. Pete delivered a full busload, and with the dozen or so cars that showed up, there was a packed house. Everyone was overwhelmed by the goodies that Jack has tied onto his Hammond, including a piano and a winded Wurlitzer toy counter with about a dozen or more electric toys.

Chapter membership is on the rise, with a number of younger members who show a good deal of promise. Look for some rising stars!

Work is progressing well on the St. Josephs' restoration in North Bergen. A big hand to the crew who really deserve it.

We feel there is a need for coordination of notices of adjacent chapter events, and therefore ask that chapters close to New Jersey send us notices of concerts and other events. This way we can act as a clearing

house for our own members, and will be happy to respond to the senders with events scheduled by G.S.T.O.S. Please call (201) 542-8862, after 6 p.m., or write to: Don Plenkens, Stony Hill Gardens, Apt. 185B, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

DON PLENKERS

GULF COAST

Winston Churchill once said, "Never have so few, done so much, for so many." So it is with the Gulf Coast Chapter. The few are the chapter members, who are doing so much for the many people of our area so that our Robert Morton will sing for them again.

Under the guidance of B. D. Rhea, a work crew including Walter Smith, Curt Goldhill, Bob Sidebottom, Tom Helms, David Dietrich, Lee Walker and the writer, is diligently working on the restoration in the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola, Florida. The work however, is being done in phases.

The architects and city fathers told the chapter that it could store all its acquired parts for the Robert Morton in a large storage area under the balcony. After working for days hauling all the things up there and stowing them away, the crew received word that everything had to be cleared out of the area. Several heavy chests, the old console and a myriad of pipes had to be relocated on the double. Everything was hauled down again and now rests in various lend-lease locations all over town.

The chapter is moving ahead on the planned enlargement of its Robert Morton. Steadily and gradually all the parts are being re-leathered, revoiced, repuffed and reglued. The refinished grand piano, which has been wired and equipped to be played from the organ, is ready to be shown. Curt Goldhill has worked up the necessary wiring plan to set up the new electronic relays. The original console will be refinished in ebony and will become a slave console when the new console is completed. At least this is how it is visualized at this time.

Chapter representatives have met with the architects to assure that the organ and its installation is adequately considered in the overall renovation plans of the theatre.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

KIWI

It is not because we are "down under" and so far away that there has been no news, but it is just that 1979 slipped by so rapidly. However, there has been much activity down here and we were very happy during the year to welcome several visitors from America. A busy one-day stop-over in Auckland by the Safari visitors was all too short, but we managed a visit to the home of Bert



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Standing (L to R) are Claude Newman, artist Bill Tandy, Terry Kleven, crew chief and Tim Patterson. Seated (L to R) are Carl Eilers, John Zetterstrom and Don Johnson, LOL Chapter chairman. (Edwin C. Hirschhoff Photo)



Bill Tandy at Goldie, a 3/17 Wurlitzer. (Edwin C. Hirschhoff Photo)

(Edwin C. Hirschhoff Photo)

Olsson in Devonport to view and play his two-manual organ, and to see the fabulous display of model trains, all in working order and electronically controlled. Then came a visit to the Hollywood Cinema where restoration work is being carried out on a 2/8 Wurlitzer, Opus 1475. We were also very pleased to have a visit from Tom Norman of California.

Some of our members were fortunate to make the trip across the Tasman to attend the eighth Festival of TOSA, the venue this year being in Melbourne. Guest artist for this event was Lyn Larsen at the four-manual Wurlitzer installed at the Moorabin Town Hall. Tony Fenelon was joined by John Atwell in concert at the Dendy. The program concluded with a surprise visit from Lyn — a most memorable experience for all those lucky enough to have been present. Melbourne is exceedingly well blessed with wonderful instruments and organists, more so than many other cities in the world, but there is something miss-

ing — no Victorian Chapter of ATOS.

Meetings are held frequently during the year, with members entertaining us in their homes. After business comes open console, followed by the great New Zealand pastime, tea and refreshments.

At our Christmas gathering, Jack Granwal, our new chairman made a presentation to Norman Dawe, founder of the Kiwi Chapter and Chairman for the past four years. We look forward to a great year with Jack at the helm, assisted by John Johnston as vice chairman. Tribute must be paid to Mollie Granwal for her untiring efforts and for being such a wonderful secretary.

N. J. DAWE

LAND O'LAKES

Sunday, November 4th, saw the election of chapter officers, a concert by Paul Wesley Bowen, and celebration of Land O'Lakes 20th Anniversary as a chapter. Officers elected are Don Johnson, chairman; Burton Frank, first vice chairman; Michael

Erie, second vice chairman; Verna Mae Wilson, secretary; and Alice Rabus, treasurer. Oscar Mogen was also elected to a three-year term on the board of directors.

The theme of the affair was the 20th Anniversary of the chapter, an event magnificently symbolized by a 2-manual, 1-rank cake complete with tabs and unplayable keys. While the temptation to do away with the cake right then and there was great, it was raffled off after the festivities. Goldie's owner, Claude Newman, won the bid. (Editor's Note: Goldie is a beautifully-restored 3/17, late model Wurlitzer.)

About 100 hours of dedicated labor by a mostly-volunteer crew and a prodigious amount of pipe organ expertise were needed to prepare Goldie for Bill Tandy's December concert.

The major project was the completion of a new electronic combination action in time for the concert. However, the mechanism, which is shipped unwired, did not arrive until No-

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Alden Miller, ATOS and LOL charter member, cuts the anniversary cake. Alden also published *The Kinura* and other newsletters preceding the formation of ATOS. (Edwin C. Hirschhoff Photo)

Well, he may not have "known them when," but he played them with genuine affection and appropriate style.

ROGER DALZIEL

LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Inaugurating the year in which we felt exceptionally privileged to be invited to sponsor and host "Silver Convention 80" was our first chapter club night at Wurlitzer Lodge presented by our highly-popular and dedicated member Len Rawle.

Obviously well acquainted and always delighted to play his parents' superb home 3/19 Wurlitzer, Len gave us his usual well-structured and impeccably played programme. He included delicate touches of his favourites, George Wright and Jesse Crawford, delightful novelties and some full-blooded sing-alongs.

Len also introduced our chapter's newest protege to the console, 16-year-old Stephen Vincent of Welling, Kent, and winner of our second highly-successful Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition, staged by our chapter at the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn, last November. Guided by his tutor, John Norris, a most accomplished all-around organist, Stephen acquitted himself extremely well.

Interestingly, this typically pleasurable and hospitable club night was also punctuated by a half-hour television programme featuring one of Britain's finest-ever theatre organists and very good chapter friend, Douglas Reeve (who is also the current presenter of our well-known BBC national radio programme *The Organist Entertains*). Invariably able to welcome visiting American or other foreign guests to these super evening gatherings, this time we

were delighted to have Walter Beaupre with us.

Quite apart from the quickening tempo of the planning for the July Convention, now at a most exciting stage, we are also planning three "in-theatre" concert presentations at the 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer at the Gaumont State, this spring.

We already have several eager entries for our third "Young Organist" competition in November, while always keeping an eye on the possibility of presenting visiting top U.S. console stars in concert if we can be given reasonable notice for planning.

The year 1980 already promises to bring much more than the popular cliché of "heralding an exciting new decade." Highlighted by the mid-year convention, and so much more besides, our chapter will ensure that it will unquestionably be the most eventful and rewarding year in the annals of the British theatre organ enthusiasts fraternity to date. And that is something which really spurs all our efforts to greet and welcome more ATOSers from more parts of the world during 1980 than any of our 49 other partner chapters.

LOS ANGELES

Dennis James opened our 1980 concert season at San Gabriel with a varied program all the way from a Laurel and Hardy silent comedy to Tchaikovsky's magnificent "Marche Slav." Outstanding was his presentation of Lee Erwin's beautiful overture music to Valentino's *The Eagle*, a Henry Murtaugh arrangement of "Baby Face," and, in memory of ATOS founder Richard Simonton, "None But the Lonely Heart." His spontaneous standing ovation was certainly well deserved.

Purely by coincidence, our Febru-

vember 26th, considerably later than anticipated.

Bill Tandy played a Roaring Twenties nostalgia program for 140 LOL members and guests Sunday, December 9th at Cedarhurst.

The lack of the new combination action did not phase Bill. He is a musician's musician, self-taught, and the tunes poured forth smoothly, with well-chosen registrations that kept his fingers jumping around the tab rail.

Appropriately, there was a sprinkling of holiday tunes. But, it was the nostalgic numbers that set the tone, and pleasantly surprised everyone and caused them to wonder. Most of the tunes Bill played were written and some were almost forgotten long before Bill, who is 25, was born! As someone in the audience remarked to him, during a break, "You weren't even born yet (when these tunes were popular)."

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Dennis James.



Shirley Hannum.

ary artist, Shirley Hannum, was another of Leonard MacClain's outstanding students. This was Shirley's second appearance for LATOS (her first was at the Wiltern in 1973 and we won't wait so long again to bring back such a wonderful console artist!). With a program containing something for everyone, Shirley beautifully demonstrated her complete mastery of the Wurlitzer with a

lush arrangement of Richard Rodgers melodies, some snappy ragtime, a stirring patriotic medley and moderns by Marvin Hamlisch and Barry Manilow, all played in true "golden age" theatre style.

The installation of the world famous Foort-BBC 5/27 Moller is scheduled to be completed in March, and the dedication program, sponsored by the City of Pasadena, is

planned for April 23rd. LATOS will present its gala premiere performance with Lyn Larsen at the console on Friday, May 23rd at 8:30 p.m.

RALPH BEAUDRY

MAGNOLIA

The chapter is alive and well, just a little quiet for the past few issues, so there is some catching up to do.

Our July meeting was held in a most unlikely place, the Carousel House at Highland Park in Meridian. The reason was to discuss the feasibility of MTOS, with the aid of the city of Meridian, acquiring a band organ to replace the one that was removed from the Merry-Go-Round. As far as we know, Meridian has the last remaining public carousel. This one was manufactured in 1898 and installed at Highland Park in 1914.

The August meeting was held at the home of Adam and Vivian Jensen. Frank Evans entertained a very short while on the accordion, and Adam Jensen, Frank and Effie



Kathrine Sullivan, 84-years-young, enjoys the carousel at Highland Park in Meridian. (TAD Photo)



Frank Evans at the console of Sam Feltenstein's Lowrey in November. (TAD Photo)

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FRANK CIMMINO
Organist

Evans entertained at the Hammond.

We met at the Temple in September, to play the Robert Morton. The work that would be necessary to bring the instrument up to par for a Shrine Ceremony to be held there in November was discussed.

In October we again met at the Temple for a short business meeting and more discussion about work on the Robert Morton.

Our November 24th meeting was started with the election of officers. Sam Feltenstein was elected chairman; Adam Jensen, vice chairman; Marl Cobler, secretary; and the writer was appointed as reporter. After the elections, Frank Evans presented a concert at the Lowery electronic.

The December meeting was delayed a few weeks in order that all of the members could be present for the return of Jack Moelmann. Jack had been in New Jersey, with the Air Force, for the past eighteen months. We had a fine evening's entertainment and a Christmas Party on Sat-

urday evening, December 22nd. Jack entertained us at Sam's Lowery. Jack was passing through Meridian on his way to the Gulf Coast. On Sunday afternoon he played a concert at the Jeff Seale Robert Morton.

Our January meeting was a two-day affair. It started on December 31, 1979, and ended on January 1, 1980. The home of Marl and Kitty Cobler was the scene of this gala affair. And who should turn up, but Jack Moelman, on his way back north. A good time was had by all.

TOMMY DARSEY

MOTOR CITY

Fr. Jim Miller, whose appearance last fall, with the New McKinney's Cotton Pickers, at the Redford Theatre was so enthusiastically received, appeared again with the famous jazz ensemble in January. But, this time it was at the Royal Oak Theatre, with chapter member Fr. Miller making ambitious use of the 3/16 Barton. As expected, Fr. Jim and the New McKinney's Cotton Pickers came through with another crowd-pleasing program. Although we rent the auditorium for our public shows at the Royal Oak, we *do* own the organ.

Our public offering on February 2nd was back at the Redford Theatre (where we own not only the organ, but the building and a couple of parking lots). The artist was Gary Reseigh, who plays regularly at the Roaring Twenties Pizza establishment in Grand Rapids. In addition to Gary's superb performance at the 3/10 Barton, the evening's entertainment also featured popular stylings by The Singing Dolls, a vocal trio, backed up by a two-man electronic percussion section.

On February 10th, members were invited by Ed Corey to attend a private party at the Detroit Theater

Organ Club, where the afternoon's artist at the 4/34 Wurlitzer was 17-year-old chapter member Tony O'Brien.

Artists appearing at the 3/13 Barton for our Second Sunday event at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor were Rupert Otto in January and Don Haller in February.

Our Fourth Sunday series at the Royal Oak Theatre's 3/16 Barton featured Grace Joslin in January and Paul Kline in February.

DON LOCKWOOD

NORTH TEXAS

In January the chapter had an opportunity to promote theatre organ, the chapter and the preservation of this musical art form. The Wurlitzer in John Beck Hall, now the proud possession of Gil and Sylvia Swift, was televised on KDFW's *4-Country Reporter* show. As the cameras panned into various sections of the installation, Gil Swift explained the functions of the different components. Commentary included a historical background on the theatre organ, its origin and the revival of interest through ATOS activities. Gene Powell, at the console, demonstrated the organ and its potential.

The February meeting was held at Organ World in Garland, Texas. The chapter is very proud of the fact that 1979 Chairman Richard Nichols, besides doing a fine job of guiding the chapter, was designated "Engineer of the Year" by Rockwell International. (*Editor's Note:* See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Treasurer Bob McGillivray reported that the chapter is in good financial shape, but is still interested in developing an adequate fund for the renovation and installation of the Wonder Morton. Gene Powell told



Sam Feltenstein, chairman of the Magnolia Chapter.
(TAD Photo)

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Outgoing Chairman Richard Nichols (R) presents 1980 Chairman Gene Powell with the gavel.
(Koski Photo)



Gene Powell at the console (center) of his "Organ World Special" in duet with Dale Flannery at the electronic.
(Koski Photo)

about the proceeds from the sale of a Schoeber kit donated to the chapter by a friend, as well as a Conn 652, donated to the club by Mr. Sullivan, specifically to be sold to raise funds for the Loew's Jersey Wonder Morton project. The entire instrument is valued at about \$23,000, and the chapter is open for prospective bids on this fine Conn.

The following officers were elected: Gene Powell, chairman; Dale Flannery, first vice chairman; Grace Lerner, second vice chairperson; Bob McGillivray, treasurer; and Lorena

McKee, secretary.

Dale Flannery and Gene Powell discussed progress on the Organ World theatre organ installation, thanking Dick Cooper and Homer Pettigrew for their efforts in adding ranks, swell shutters and other improvements. Gene was then steered into the organist's seat at the console where he presented a fine program. He invited Dale up to the console of a Conn which had been placed beside the pipe organ console, and the resulting duets were enjoyed by all.

Work on the Wonder Morton is progressing, with some slowdown due to bad weather. The Fort Worth group has been working on re-leathering, while Past Chairman Richard Nichols has been planning a solid-state, computer-type switching relay to replace the old relay installation,

and the Dallas group has been working on various other phases of the restoration.

JOE KOSKI

OREGON

On January 20th we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rickett to hear Rob York at their 3/18 Wurlitzer. Although a very young man, Rob has been playing professionally for 10 years. He is organist for St. John the Apostle Church in Oregon City and is on the playing staff at Uncle Milt's Pizza in Vancouver. He is also associated with Collins and Erwin, representing Rodgers Organs.

Rob's fine concerts opened with a rousing "Swanee," and was followed by a wide range of old and new numbers.

The organ originated in the Castle Theatre in Vancouver. Now in the



Rob York played Bob Rickett's 3/18 Wurlitzer at the January meeting of the Oregon Chapter.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



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Rickett home, it has been enlarged to 18 ranks, with extensive Tibia mutations even on the solo manual. The three chambers are located on the second floor and sound down into the large living room through grills in the ceiling. A picture of the console was featured on the cover of the Summer 1963 issue of the THEATRE ORGAN Magazine. It has also been used as a model for large custom electronic organs.

Special mention should be made about our host Bob Rickett. Bob is the pioneer of the theatre organ revival in the Pacific Northwest. Long before the organization of ATOS, his efforts generated many enthusiasts, who later installed organs themselves. Much of the widespread enjoyment of these instruments is due to this man.

On February 22nd, we had a large turnout at the home of Chairman Terry Robson for what was intended primarily to be a social function. However, with many members playing organ and piano, and professional singing by David Donnell, this also turned out to be a most enjoyable evening of music. Our scrapbook of historic photos and events was on hand and proved to be of great interest, especially to newer members.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND

Chapter members came from Vancouver, B.C., to the north, Vancouver, Washington, to the south, and from east of the mountains to hear Hal Randall put on a concert that crowded the Pizza and Pipes in Bellevue at the February meeting. From the opening strains through the patriotic finale, Hal kept the audience on its toes with a delightful program.

Hal started his career playing piano in the Navy, then went into the home organ field, and is now commanding the mighty organs around the states. Originally from the Bay Area, he is well-known to those who have been at Asilomar Home Organ Festivals, and has played at several pizza parlors.

The Bellevue Pizza and Pipes organ is the 3/17 Wurlitzer from the Academy of Music in New York City. It is in its third year of operation here, where owners, and members, Jack and Betty Laffaw are very generous in allowing the chapter to meet and concertize.

Officers for the new year are: Thelma V. Barclay, chairman; Genny Whitting, secretary; Bill Brown-ing, treasurer. With these officers and a program committee consisting of Dick Schrum, Norm Evans and Merv Vaught, members look forward to an exciting year.

Another big event enjoyed by members was the 25th Anniversary of the Greater Seattle Organ Guild. On hand were Sandy and Mary Balcom, who are known to many pipe organ makers, repairmen and installers. Mahon Tullis, Eddie Zollman and Pliny Allen presented three

totally different programs.

Recently, some members were privileged to hear, in a concert sponsored by McKee Organ Company of Tacoma, a newer artist, Phillip Keverin, who is a college student at Gresheim, Oregon. He is studying jazz improvisation and orchestral arranging with Jonas Nordwall, and has a fantastic stage presence. He was the winner of a National Yamaha contest and went to Japan for the finals.

Vancouver, B.C., members enjoyed the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in a recital, with Maurice Andre on the trumpet, and Alfred Mitterhofer at the organ. The audience reaction and interest was appreciable.

Canadian member Doris Miller, who used to play for silent films in Vancouver, has been featured in an article about the 1927 Vancouver Orpheum Theatre organ, a 3/13 Wurlitzer. She plays it occasionally, but for the most part the organ is silent, and is played only when the



(L to R) Mahon Tullis, Sandy Balcom, Eddie Zoelman Sr. and Pliny Allen at the 25th Anniversary of the Greater Seattle Organ Guild.



Hal Randall takes a well-deserved bow.



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The Fargo Theatre's Wurlitzer can be freely moved about the stage until the new hydraulic lift arrives. (S. Carlson Photo)

maintenance crew comes to tune it. Plans are now being formulated for the 1981 Convention in Seattle. See you in Seattle in '81.

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

Early one Saturday morning in January, a group of able-bodied chapter members met at the Fargo Theatre to dismantle our lift. Two men from Iowa, representing the Cedar Rapids Chapter, had arrived the evening before and were ready to take their newly-purchased lift out. Without much trouble, we moved our 3-manual console onto the stage, setting it on a special dolly. Piece by piece, the lift mechanism was removed from the orchestra pit, with the only complaints being greasy hands.

Even on the stage, the console has plenty of slack in the cable, so it can be freely moved about. When not being used, it sits between the main stage curtain and the movie screen. It's pulled to center stage for movie intermissions, temporarily. Our new hydraulic lift is due to arrive in the spring, when another crew of muscle



Lance Johnson reconnects the console on stage at the Fargo Theatre. (S. Carlson Photo)

men will be on the scene for that installation.

In March, to celebrate our 15 years as a chapter, we decided to have a leisurely dinner at the Treetop Restaurant and forego a regular business meeting.

On April 17th, we are pleased to present Walter Strony in a program of silent film and concert selections on the Fargo Theatre's mighty Wurlitzer. The local chapter of the AGO is hosting a reception following.

SONIA CARLSON

SAN DIEGO

The chapter began its 1980 activities on January 5th with Del Castillo in concert playing the chapter's Wurlitzer which is located in the California Theatre. Preceding the Charlie Chaplain classic film *The Gold Rush*, Del Castillo presented a wide spectrum of organ arrangements, concluding with a unique arrangement of "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers."

Approximately sixty members attended the February membership meeting at the new home of Wayne and Cheryl Seppala. A special treat




Replica of the San Diego Chapter-owned Wurlitzer. This well-done creation has space and slot in top for use as a suggestion box. Pictured are Joe Forand and Carroll Cunningham.



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was the organ and piano duets performed by Wayne and Cheryl.

A model of the chapter's Wurlitzer console has been crafted by members Joe Forand and Carroll Cunningham. It is a very close replica of the original with the addition of a slot in the top, for members to use as a suggestion box.

The chapter's organ crew is at work refinishing and refurbishing the three-manual console that has been donated to the chapter by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Maxwell of San Mateo. When the necessary work is completed, this console will replace the present two-manual keydesk.

Chapter activities and concerts during the summer months will be stepped up to take advantage of the increased availability of the California Theatre while the "Old Globe" Players are on summer leave.

COULTER CUNNINGHAM
JANE DAPOLITO

SIERRA

Sierra Chapter started off the 1980s with the kind of event that ATOS members will be eagerly anticipating many times in this new decade: a Dennis James concert. On January 27th, Dennis played a concert, open to the public, at the 4/22 Wurlitzer in the auditorium of Grant Union High School. As this was the instrument that George Wright helped design and install during the late thirties as a student at the school, Dennis acknowledged that this Wurlitzer had long been on his "must play" list. Impressed by this instrument's ability for subtle, distant sounds not usually a part of most theatre organs' capabilities (effectiveness of swell boxes notwithstanding), Dennis delivered an absolutely top notch performance filled with registration variety.

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High winds of up to 60 miles per hour and one of the heaviest rainfalls ever to hit during the usually moderate winters of Sacramento, put a damper on the turnout for our February 17th program, with only about 65 brave souls risking the weather. The event was at Cal Expo (the site of the California State Fair) in the 260-seat Golden Bear Playhouse where resides Sierra Chapter's own 2/7 Wurlitzer. As part of its effort to spread the interest in pipes to our "plug-in" friends, the chapter teamed up with Fleming Music Co., the local Rodgers dealer, to present a pipes and electronic program. Featured at the Rodgers Trio was Muriel Daniels, a lady with a long string of symphony orchestra and church credits in the Stockton and San Francisco areas. Most of Muriel's program was light classics including a descriptive piece of her own composition reflecting the beauty of the Sierra mountains near her home of Big Trees. She also played "Turkey In The Straw" on a real violin and accompanied with both feet on the pedals of the Rodgers.

The Wurlitzer pipes portion of the February conclave was performed ably by chapter member Joe Gustin, who lives in the Sierra foothills community of Paradise. An English teacher by profession, Joe classifies himself as a "hobby" player, but showed that even hobby players can put together good, entertaining performances, when given the resources of a theatre pipe organ.

The chapter is being forced to delay a teen-age theatre organ talent scholarship search, and show, due to repairs to the access ramps of the building at Cal Expo. This show is to be similar to LATOS's "Stars of Tomorrow," with judges choosing up to seven finalists from taped auditions at the Cal Expo Wurlitzer, each of whom will receive a \$100 scholarship, and perform in a final, live show for parents, friends and the public. The scholarships are from the Clyde Derby Memorial Fund. The late Clyde Derby, a founding member of Sierra Chapter, was for twelve years organist at the 4/16 Morton that was installed in the Carl Greer Inn, just outside Sacramento. The final show was to be held in late June, but now is delayed until at least September. The prime mover behind this project, Gary Konas, is determined that the talent search and show will happen, even if delayed until next year.

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

Sooner State has done it again; we've moved another pipe organ! This one is a dream-come-true Christmas miracle — and hardly believable even yet.

Faced with the prospect of moving their 2/6 mostly-Wurlitzer organ from their home in Forsyth, Mis-



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souri, to their new home in Springfield, Clayton and Corinne Brinkmeyer made the reluctant decision to sell it instead. And they wanted it to go to someone in Tulsa.

Arrangements were made for the Pipe Packer's Platoon to gather the first weekend after New Year's, before the winter snows set in. Three Smiths — Lee, Dorothy, and number-one-son Stephen, drove to Forsyth on Friday to get started wrapping pipes. The rest of the crew, including Bruce and Martha Wilson, Hervey Barbour, Phil Judkins and Bob and Betty Weddle, arrived early Saturday morning. Clayton had already unsoldered most of the wiring, so our main task was to take the parts out and load the truck.

As this is the fourth pipe organ we've moved this year, we're pretty much old hands at the job. Snow on the ground and cold weather were ignored as we removed what had to be thousands of screws. We carted out pipes, chests, regulators, xylophone, glockenspiel, toy counter, and miles of duct work. Even the relay, switch stack, and blower were loaded without too much trouble.

The garage pipe chamber was nearly empty when we had our first accident in all of our "moves." Laden with two small Tibia pipes, the writer tripped on a Diapason pipe on the floor and smacked her nose on the Tibias! Although we finally decided it wasn't broken (the nose, that is — the pipes were all right, thank goodness!), I could only sit in the living room with cold compresses on my face and watch as the console was dismantled and moved out the front door. The Weddles later decorated me with a "Purple Heart with Nose Clusters" for my wounds.

We arrived in Tulsa early Sunday afternoon and immediately began to round up the *unloading* crew, which

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consisted of Phil Judkins, Bob and Betty Weddle, Bob Busby, Harry Rasmussen, Bill Roberts and our daughter Laura.

We now have a one-organ garage, wall-to-wall console in the living room, and one bedroom filled with pipes and left-overs. The toy counter is stashed in the last available space in the new storage building in the back yard. As soon as the weather warms up, we'll get busy on the installation.

Bill Roberts hosted our annual business meeting at his piano store. All of our current officers were elected to serve another year: Dorothy Smith, chairman; Lee Smith, first vice chairman; Harry Rasmussen, second vice chairman; Bob Weddle, treasurer; and Betty Weddle, secretary.

Projects accomplished during the past year were listed by the chairman. Four organs have been moved: two of them are installed and playing; work on the Weddle's Robert Morton is progressing; and a long-time debt was paid. Our chapter-owned 3/10 Robert Morton is still in storage, but several possible installation locations seem very promising. Future projects include rewriting our chapter by-laws and expanding our newsletter.

Our first technical session of the year was hosted by Bill Roberts in January. Phil Judkins ably presented an excellent explanation of reed pipes: their construction, operation, voicing, tuning and maintenance. Guest Kenneth Knepper gen-

erously brought some pipes to use for examples.

February found us at the home of John and Charlene Roberts for Nostalgia Night. John played tapes of our 3/10 Robert Morton, recorded before we removed it from the American Christian College. In addition we heard music from two of Tulsa's now-demolished downtown theatres: the 4/16 Robert Morton from the Ritz Theatre, and the 2/9 Wurlitzer from the Orpheum. There was much remembering of the "good old days," especially of the big Wurlitzer in Tulsa's Coliseum. The organ could be heard for blocks, and was the inspiration for Phil Judkins' interest in theatre pipe organ. The Coliseum was destroyed by fire about twenty years ago.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTH FLORIDA

One of the chapter's most talented musicians, entertainer Karl Cole, was featured artist at the mighty Andre Hall Wurlitzer for the club's February meeting. Members who had not heard Karl in a club program for several years showed their appreciation and enthusiasm by demanding four encores.

Karl made a special tribute from the console to long-time THEATRE ORGAN Magazine publisher Betty Mason. While *her* welcome to Miami was warm, the weather was not. Near record lows kept the audience of over 100 wrapped in their coats. The temperature, which would normally have been in the 60s, was instead hovering in the low 40s that night. This caused havoc with the organ, but the audience seemed undaunted by the pitch discrepancies between the flutes, reeds, piano and other tuned percussions. Ironically, "tuned" percussions can't



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really be tuned, and it was so cold that organ owner Bob Andre and his volunteer club member crew were unable to get the cold pipes up to the same pitch as the percussions. Andre Hall, like many South Florida homes, has no central heat. It just doesn't get that cold that often. However, Karl covered over any problems masterfully, selecting combinations of voices which sounded more than pleasing.

In addition to his delightful program of organ music, Karl also proved his versatility by providing the crowd with several vocals. He has sharpened his singing skills through many years of nightclub work in South Florida.

Other than cold pipes, the 4/15 Wurlitzer had no problems, nor did the artist or audience at this excellent program.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Several gifts have been received by the chapter in memory of our founder, Al Sacker.



Jim Connors. (George R. Hockmeyer Photo)

Adele Ibert Howard, former organist at the Liberty Theatre in Beaumont, Texas, and elsewhere, died February 14th.

Thanks to a grant by the Southeast Texas Arts Council, the chapter plans to present Jim Connors in a free public concert at the 3/8 Robert Morton in the Jefferson Theatre in March. Jim is a staff organist at Pipe Organ Pizza in Houston.

TOLEDO AREA

On January 7th through January 27th, ATOS members in Toledo were busily-engaged in what was termed "An Orga-thon" at the Ohio Theatre. This was an all-out work session daily from 12:30 until 10 p.m. Chairman Art Howard and Restoration Chairman Dave Ring led us through the various stages of restoration. Workers came in and out depending on their available time. Some of the ladies, and one gent, furnished, prepared and served evening meals. These same persons helped with the restoration so it made for a very busy and rewarding three weeks. It was all very educational learning how to disassemble, clean and regasket chests. We also washed pipes and chests which had been stored for years.

Those with technical knowledge worked in the lower chamber. Several hundred pipes found their new home and it's really looking great. We still have awhile to go, but a giant step was most certainly made in January. Our Wednesday night work sessions are still held. Whenever the ladies are needed, they come running, for most work sessions now only include the men, because of the nature of the work now being done. Of course, we ladies are most anxious to be a part of all this!

We understand the theatre will soon be painted by St. Hedwig's Parish. The Ohio Theatre is their culture center as well as the home of TATOS and our wonderful, nearly-completed organ.

ANN MOXLEY

VALLEY OF THE SUN

While parts of the country were contending with freezing temperatures, rain and snow, the chapter started its new year with a January potluck social held at Phoenix College in an almost spring-like atmosphere. The munching was followed by a program on the 2/9 Wurlitzer the chapter has been restoring. Artists for the day were members of the restoration crew. Mary Peterson was recognized for all of the help she gave the chapter last year. Though not an ATOS member at the time, Mary put in countless hours in restoration, hospitality and publicity.

Our February social was a demonstration of an Associated Organ Builders electronic instrument at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Phoenix. Though built to AGO standards, it can be voiced as a theatre organ. Chapter member Don



Mike Ohman at the Phoenix College Wurlitzer.

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David Brewer at his 3/16 "Marr & Barlitzer." The console was originally a 2 manual. (Ed Corey Photo)



Tony O'Brien at the Detroit Theater Organ Club's 4/34 Wurlitzer. The Mayan coachwork matched the decor of its original home, Detroit's Fisher Theatre. (Ed Corey Photo)

Watson played several selections, then others participated in open console.

The first chapter concert of the year was held February 24th at Phoenix College. Californian Mike Ohman managed to cross the flooded Agua Fria River, and played a most appealing and varied concert. Some of his song titles characterized the weather conditions in California and Arizona. Members greatly enjoyed Mike's concert, and look forward to seeing him again on future trips to California.

MADELINE LIVOLSKI

WOLVERINE

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with a housefull of good friends and good music played on a fine instrument? This is just what the Wolverines did as we enjoyed the fine hospitality of David Brewer and his mother for our January meeting.

The 3/16 "Marr & Barlitzer" was in fine form, as always, and many took a turn at the console. We thank the Brewers for so generously opening their home to us.

Our February meeting at the Detroit Theater Organ Club's Senate

Theater was a great success as over 200 guests joined to hear 17-year-old Tony O'Brien display his talents at the mighty 4/34 Wurlitzer.

Tony played a varied program which ranged from the classics to ragtime. He has a well-disciplined technique and a keen ear for registration, both of which were evident throughout the program.

We are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity of hearing a young musician who may well one day be a major artist in the growing field of theatre organ.

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