

**NUGGETS**  
from the  
**GOLDEN DAYS**

Prospected  
by Lloyd E. Klos



How about a "Potluck" column with nuggets from all over the country? From West to East, enjoy this feast! References were *Motion Picture Almanac (MPA)*, *Motion Picture Herald (MPH)*, *Variety (V)* and *Exhibitors Herald World (EHW)*.

*1930 (MPA Biography)* EARL ABEL, organist. Born in Chicago, Ill., May 26, 1899. Blue eyes. Parents: Ada M. Inden and John T. Abel, non-professionals. Education: Lane Technical High School and University of Chicago, S.A.T.C. Married Lillian Lewis, a non-professional. Hobbies: golf and motoring. Solo organist: California Theatre in Los Angeles; Tivoli in San Francisco; Majestic in Tulsa; Auditorium in Berwyn, Ill.; Belmont and Congress theatres in Chicago. Currently in Texas Theatre in San Antonio.

*Feb. 21, 1931 (MPH)* VERNON GEYER is now chief organist at San Antonio's RKO Majestic Theatre, following a tenure at the Aztec.

*May 23, 1931 (MPH)* "MAC" BRIDWELL at San Antonio's RKO Majestic Theatre, offered "When Your Hair Has Turned to Silver," "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings," and closed with song slides. The audience was not very quick to sing.

*May 23, 1931 (MPH)* BETTY HAMMOND (Rosa Rio) at the New Orleans' Publix Strand Theatre, offers "My Public and Me," a song slide solo which brings in Miss Hammond's versatility as an entertainer. It opens with a hot number, then Miss Hammond sings into the microphone a paraphrase of a popular melody which bespeaks the singing prowess of her public. This is followed with the audience's joining her in singing "When Your Love Has Gone," "Running Between the Raindrops," and "Walking My Baby Back Home." A popular solo, but one lacking the usual originality in Miss Hammond's work.

*Jan. 9, 1932 (MPH)* At Omaha's Paramount. ADOLPH "DOLPH" GOEBEL for his opening solo, surprised the audience with a novelty which was outstanding in its merits. A scene, showing the interior of a broadcasting studio is first thrown onto the screen. A man (it is Goebel, but the audience is unaware of it as yet) announces thru a mike that an organ recital will be broadcast over station PUBLIX, with Goebel at the organ, and the Paramount Theatre mixed chorus as the special attraction. Before going to the console, he introduces himself and then plays "Out of Nowhere," "You Call It Madness," an extremely laughable tongue-twister; a smart parody on local scenes; "River, Stay Way From My Door," a special "Good Night, Sweetheart," and a special chorus of "You're the One I Care For." As he is taking his bows and acknowledging applause, a slide bearing his likeness and words of greeting appear on the screen. Applause was strong during several of the numbers and especially at the finish.

*Jan. 23, 1932 (MPH)* EARL ABEL at San Antonio's Texas Theatre, for New Year's Week, offered a novelty

organ presentation which he termed "New Year's Resolutions." First on the program was "Harvest Moon." This was followed by a clever parody to "Long, Long Trail;" next came a brand new one entitled "Love Gave You to Me;" then a special arrangement of "Auld Lang Syne;" next "Now's the Time to Fall In Love," and for his closing selection, a burlesque on "My Blue Heaven."

*Jan. 23, 1932 (MPH)* CHARLES DARRIN at Mansfield, Ohio's Straughn Hall, who features original community singing novelties at this theatre (located within the grounds of Ohio State Teachers College), recently offered another of his original concoctions, built around the popular ballad "Just a Memory." After the introductory slide, he played the verse in strict, slow tempo, incorporating many pleasing registrations. A chorus followed, enhanced by a scrim tableau with a male vocalist singing the lyric. Novel variations on the melody prepared the audience for a singing chorus which received a significant reception. This audience of college students is ideal for an organist who features community singing, and it has been an easy task for Darrin to build a big popularity for himself.

*June 1933 (EHW)* Among the organists who have been placed within the past six weeks are Mrs. HELEN CRAWFORD at the New York Paramount; BETTYE LEE TAYLOR, Loew's State in Syracuse, N.Y.; BOB WEST, Loew's Stanley in Baltimore; ADOLPH GOEBEL, RKO's 86th Street Theatre in New York; TED CRAWFORD, Loew's Norfolk; and AL CURTIS in the Academy of Music in New York.

*June 1933 (EHW)* Indicating the relative gain in employing an organist in lieu of maintaining an idle organ in the theatre, is an incident which occurred recently at the RKO 86th Street Theatre in New York. During the lengthy period of operation of a straight picture policy at the house, the organ was seriously damaged by rain. When, after persistent demands by regular patrons, the manager decided to reinstate the organ program, the instrument was found to be in an impossible condition, the cost of repairs approximately \$1,000. The re-establishment of the organ was delayed, but when demand continued, immediate action was taken.

*Feb. 1942 (V)* RICHARD LEIBERT, chief organist at Radio City Music Hall, and on various commercial programs, has opened a restaurant, "The Encore," on East 48th Street in New York.

*Feb. 1942 (V)* Former theatre organist, BILL GAGE, is now a technician on *Take It or Leave It*, *The Pet Milk Program*, *Phillip Morris Playhouse*, and *Crime Club*, all on CBS.

**GOLD DUST:** 1/28 DOLPH GOEBEL, Loew's Avalon in Yonkers, N.Y. . . 12/28 EDDIE SCHWARTZ, Proctor's Fifth Avenue, New York; JACK SKELLY, Keith-Albee, White Plains, N.Y.; HOWARD WARREN, Brooklyn's Albee; WALTER WILD, New York's Hippodrome . . . 9/30 HARRY ZIMMERMAN at Publix-Balaban and Katz theatres, Chicago . . . 9/31 JULIUS K. JOHNSON, "premier organist and added attraction extraordinary," at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre . . . 11/31 JOHN GART is organist-musical director at Loew's 46th Street Theatre, Brooklyn; WALTER ANDERSON, Madison Theatre, Brooklyn; DICK HARTIGAN, Schenectady, N.Y.'s RKO Plaza; RON & DON, Brooklyn Fox.

That's all for now. See you at the big show, sourdoughs!  
Jason and The Old Prospector □