

of having to publish such rules.

It is true that the copyright laws only prohibit recordings that might be made for commercial purposes — but those union rules have *not* been changed.

There *is* the possibility that use of these hand-held cassette type recorders could cut down the sales of the record albums or tape albums presented for sale by the artist.

As a union member and concert artist, the collector of organ tapes, I sympathize with those who want to tape a concert. I personally don't feel that the type recorder they use could compete with a commercial recording. When I present a concert or concert and movie, I advise the sponsor of the union rule and tell them that I, personally, do not want to *see* such recorders in use. There may have been some in use at my concerts, but I have never seen them. Keep coming to the conventions Mr. Nellis.

Yours sincerely,
Harry J. Jenkins
San Diego, Calif.

Dear George:

Whilst reading THEATRE ORGAN over the years I have often wondered if I would encounter a reference to a theatre organist I heard in my youth. It turned up in a poster illustration in April/May 1980 THEATRE ORGAN, namely — Max Bruce.

In my teens, circa 1930, I would spend sixpence (10 cents) for any seat in the house at the Regent Cinema, Portsmouth, England; after 3 p.m. the regular prices would be charged. I often saw the film again just to hear the 20-minute organ interlude, and the organist was Max Bruce. My memory tells me he was a competent performer, I only know he gave me much pleasure. He was probably in that location for a year or two. The organ was a two-manual Christie.

That experience had a lasting effect. I already had some organ tuition, mostly Bach I think, but enjoyed theatre organ music. Now living in your country, I can and do hear the "greats" in person besides attending a couple of conventions.

What happened to Max Bruce?

Yours sincerely,
Tom Wornell
St. Petersburg, Fla. □



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Jan. 1st. for Feb./Mar.
Mar. 1st. for Apr./May
May 1st. for June/July
July 1st. for Aug./Sept.
Sept. 1st. for Oct./Nov.
Nov. 1st. for Dec./Jan.

CENTRAL INDIANA

Our chapter has really been doing things. On February 29th, Rob Calcaterra played a concert at Manual High School at the 3/16 Louisville Uniphone pipe organ. Mr. Calcaterra, a high ranking young organist in Indiana, gave an excellent performance. He played a number of familiar selections, accompanied a Harold Lloyd silent, *Haunted Spooks*, played a sing-along and returned to the console for a well-deserved encore.

March 9th found the chapter at the Wurlitzer warehouse with 100 members and guests present. Following the usual order of business, host Sam Eberwein introduced artists Nancy Seneff and Jerry Downs, who both performed at the electronic "Mighty" Wurlitzer 950. Sam Eberwein then played a medley of songs and his own special arrangement of "Tea for Two." The final artist of the day was Sue Downs. Following these artists, Mr. Eberwein introduced a seven-year-old organist, Brian Holland. This young man has been taking lessons for a year-and-a-half. He is a natural and has an extremely promising future as a theatre organist. Brian has become a member of the chapter.

Three busloads (105 people) left Indianapolis on the morning of April 12th for a trip to Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan. Arriving in Lansing, we went directly to the Roaring 20s Pizza Parlor, where we were entertained by David Russell at the 3/25 mostly-Wurlitzer pipe organ, a great instrument, equipped with all the sound effects you would ever want.

From Lansing, the buses traveled on to Grand Rapids where all 105 in the group settled in a motel for the night. That evening, we visited the Grand Rapids Roaring 20s Pizza Parlor to be enthralled by music from a 3/33 Wurlitzer organ.

The buses left Grand Rapids on a beautiful, but cool Sunday morning for the trip to Kalamazoo, with a stop on the way at a delightful restaurant, Lee's Quay, for a delicious brunch and musical entertainment by James Lauck at their Marr & Colton 10-rank organ. Afterwards, the group was joined by a busload of 47 from the Motor City Chapter for the trip into downtown Kalamazoo to the State Theatre, a well-preserved old theatre with the original 3/11 Barton, for an organ concert by Donna Parker, Indianapolis Paramount Pizza organist. She presented numbers from the 20s and 30s as well as accompanying the Charlie Chaplin silent movie, *Behind the Screen*.

A tired, but satisfied, group boarded buses for home, with one more stop in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for more organ and pizza at the Village Inn Pizza Restaurant.

Sunday, April 20th, saw most of our chapter at a sold-out public concert at the Paramount Pizza Parlor featuring Lyn Larsen. His performance, as always, was superb.

Due to all of the exciting things happening in the month of April,

the chapter could not find time for a regular meeting. May should get everyone back to normal and making plans for more excitement in the near future.

MARY HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

On Sunday, March 16th, many members attended Roger Garrett's concert at the Ohio Theatre's 4/20 Robert Morton. Roger took us back in time to the prewar years when he was the resident organist at Loew's Ohio Theatre. His traditional sing-along segments were a big hit.

The following weekend brought us together again. The source of interest was our own 3/16 Wurlitzer at the Worthington High School auditorium, where many hours have been spent by our organ crew since we last met at the high school. Several ranks are now fully functional and expertly tuned. For the first time since the organ left the Palace Theatre in downtown Columbus, music emanates from its depths under the guiding hands of our talented membership. Now, only a minimum of frustration need be anticipated due to the few remaining dead keys and hope springs anew that the remaining ranks will soon be ready as well.

Our program for the day was billed as a "change of pace." It was that, and more, as Ruth and Bob Shaw and Mark Williams presented a musical farce using the piano and untuned violins. The organ was reserved for open console lest some-

thing go wrong before the general membership had a chance to get their hands, and feet, on it.

April brought Gaylord Carter back to Columbus at the Broad Street United Methodist Church for presentations of Cecil B. DeMille's *King of Kings* and *Ben Hur*. Gaylord's original scores for the silent epics provided a fitting postlude to the Easter season.

The chapter was informed of the rejection of our grant application to the Columbus Foundation for funds toward the continuing restoration of the Wurlitzer. While disappointed, the board approaches this defeat as a learning experience preparatory to applying for grant money from other private foundations.

The Indiana Chapter invited C.O.T.O.S. members to join a musical sojourn into Michigan during April. Those few who were able to attend saw and heard fine organs in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Future cooperative trips are being considered.

The April meeting was held on Sunday, April 20th, at the home of Jim and Irene Blegen in Worthington, Ohio. Karen Boerger entertained a crowd of about thirty members at the Blegen's Conn 651. Karen's musical program was accompanied by her own narrative of her first year as an over-30 college student in the music department of Whittenberg College. Karen's trials and tribulations were as humorous as her music was lovely.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

Over 100 gathered at the Aragon Ballroom on March 20th for a good old-fashioned CATOE social. Bryon Durack did a short program during which he dedicated "My Man" to Pearl White, who passed on two years ago. Among those who took advantage of the open console time to try the 3/10 Wurlitzer, were Bob and Barbara Meisner, Larry Henschen and new member Bob Roppolo. Bob and his wife, Joann, own and operate a lounge in Lyons, Illinois, where Bob soon plans to install a Barton.

In March, over 110 met at Sallys Stage II in Lombard to hear Jerry Rosenberg at the console of the former Montclare Theatre organ. Jerry is new to the chapter and gave a varied and interesting program. Open console, good food and socializing made it a really fun afternoon.

On April 20th, a crowd of more than 1000 turned out at the Patio Theatre to see and hear Hal Pearl. His program was excellent in variety and included accompaniment for two comedies as well as a sing-along. A former staff organist at the Aragon Ballroom for many years, Hal now keeps busy with many solo engagements and plays for silent film programs at Chicago's Central Library.

CATOE's 17-year-old member, Scott Stryker, won first place in the Peoria area Liberace Keyboard Entertainer Search. In addition to his prize for this, he received the opportunity to go to Las Vegas to compete for the World Finals.



Hal Pearl at the Patio Theatre Barton.



Hal Pearl and a bevy of beauties in a publicity shot taken when he was a staff organist at the Aragon Ballroom.

Lillian Gish graced the Chicago Theatre stage for the American Film Institute April 23rd. *Broken Blossoms*, in which she starred, was shown, with Dennis James accompanying the silent D. W. Griffith epic.

At the April 20th business meeting, at the WGN Studio, nomination of board members were as follows: John Peters, chairman; Barbara Meisner, secretary; Beverly Barton, treasurer; Virginia Ferroli, membership; Almer Brostrom, *Vox Catoe*; Gary Bergmark and Joseph Sonntag, vice chairmen; and Joseph Duci Bella, Bill Benedict, John Gendvalis and Norbert Jarnow, members at large. Following the business meeting, Bill Tandy, staff organist at Sallys Stage II, gave an excellent performance at the WGN Wurlitzer. The chapter is grateful to Al Fields for making possible the meetings held at WGN, and will miss him when he retires and moves south in a few months.

George Wright was in the Chicago area April 20th at the Hinsdale Theatre, where he presented a superb program to a full house. His question regarding Sunday afternoon shows met with definite approval. CATOE member Jim Glass manages the Hinsdale, and the organ shows, and keeps his huge 2-console hybrid organ set up in beautiful working condition.

Lin Lunde of Richmond, Virginia, is to be the featured artist at the Chicago Theatre for the May social and election of officers. Lin has many favorable credits, and members are anxiously anticipating hearing him.

The November 28th, 29th, 30th Week-ender plans are progressing very well under the chairmanship of Dr. Joseph Sonntag. The registration fee is \$65.00 until October 15th; thereafter, \$75.00. It includes concerts, bus transportation, and the banquet. The banquet alone for November 29th is \$20.00. Send advance registration to Beverly Barton, Box 25, Glenwood, IL 60425.

Hot off the press! CATOE member Paul Swiderski, staff organist at the Elm Skating Rink, and his partner, Jerry Glenn, have just released their Half and Half disc using the rink organ. Reports are that it is very good. Available at the rink for \$6.50, or by mail for \$7.00. Order from Paul at Elm Rink, 357 W. Roosevelt

Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Pressing by Concert Recording Company.

ALMER BROSTROM

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

On March 15th-16th, organist Bill Thompson presided at the console of our Thomaston Opera House organ. A varied program, well-played, at a fine instrument, guaranteed a warm reception by the audience. It is certain that after this first appearance at Thomaston by this talented performer, he will be asked to return in the future.

The April meeting was held at the residence of Stan and Marion Barton of Westport, Connecticut, a delightful place containing a great 2/7 Wurlitzer that got quite a workout for one day.

Open console was the order of the afternoon. Chairman Norm Ray managed to keep the business session short so that Program Chairman Joe Graif could have the evening for his presentation. Maintaining the high standard established by him at the February meeting, his first as program chairman, Joe presented for the evening's program his teacher, Lou Hanagan, an organist and teacher of many seasons. This man, with a sense of humor among his attributes, gave a program of very fine musical arrangements. After his generous program, encores were demanded and received. Many thanks to Lou Hanagan and congratulations to Joe Graif.

The chapter extends its sincere thanks to the Bartons for their hospi-

tality that made possible a very enjoyable meeting.

W. F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

Dairyland has been busy installing its 2/8 Wurlitzer in the Racine Theatre Guild Building. Crew Chief Rich Johnson reports good progress on the new switching system and refinishing of the console.

Elected at the annual business meeting in December were: Greg Filardo, chairman; George Larson, vice chairman; Bob Leutner, treasurer; John Scott, secretary; and Fred Hermes, Sr., social committee chairman. Board members elected are Bill Campbell, Carrie Prod, Matt Smith, Fred Wolfram, "Big" Bob, Fred Hermes, Jr., Rich Johnson and Bill James.

Topics brought up for discussion were ticket sales, annual concerts, future club projects and possible weekend trips to organ sites in the near vicinity.

The February social was held at the home of George Larson. Entertainment was provided by James Knight. A group of 40 enjoyed singing along with the artist. Marcy Larson and her daughter prepared a delightful birthday cake for Secretary John Scott's 66th birthday.

In February, chapter members also traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, to attend the grand opening of the Madison Civic Center. Formerly the Capitol Theatre, the new Civic Center features a theatre, art center and Crossroads Lobby. The restora-



Fred Hermes and his five-manual Wurlitzer, formerly in the Michigan Theatre, Detroit, now installed in a 150-seat theatre in his home near Racine, Wisconsin.

(Ned Vespa Photo)

(Courtesy of The Milwaukee Journal)

tion of the Capitol was well done. Members Matt Smith and Marty Dohm put in a lot of time restoring the 3/14 Barton. Without their efforts, the organ probably would not be a predominant part of the new Civic Center.

On March 9th, members and their families were invited to Fred Hermes' residence to hear a concert given by Kay McAbee.

On March 16th, the *Milwaukee Journal* published an extensive article on home pipe organs. All but one were classical organs. The only theatre organ mentioned was Fred Hermes'. The reporter, Don Oleson, was quite shocked at what one person has done with his basement. Quoting from the article, "Picture all this in your home: a mighty theatre pipe organ complete with five manuals . . . 300 stops, more than 2,000 pipes in 32 ranks and a glut of special sound effects. Install it in a 150-seat movie theatre . . . and you have a modest notion of what Fred P. Hermes has created in his place beside Lake Michigan in the town of Caledonia . . ."

EASTERN MASS.

The first month of the first year of a new decade saw the chapter clan gathering at Babson on January 26th. During the business portion of the meeting, the chapter's first theatre organ scholarship recipient, Douglas Forbes, was introduced. This was his first visit to the chapter, and it is hoped he will return many times in the future.

Announcement was made of board approval of two suggestions. Membership Chairman John Ross had suggested that members selling tickets be given one gratis for each ten sold effective with the spring concerts. The second suggestion, made by Organ Crew Chief Arthur Goggin, was to discontinue the back-to-back concerts and, effective this fall, to have one concert at Stoneham Town Hall and one at Babson the following spring.

Vice President-Program Chairman Tim Holloran then introduced the evening's artist, Dr. Jonathan Kleefield. Jon is Chief of Neuro Radiology at the Jamaica Plains V. A. Hospital and Assistant Professor of Radiology at Tufts New England Medical Center. When the focus is



Dr. Jonathan Kleefield played the Eastern Mass. Wurlitzer at Babson College in January. (Paul Callahan Photo)

on theatre pipe organs, however, it is difficult to find an artist with more ebullience.

His widely-varied program included audience participation in singing a medley of patriotic songs during which time he showed beautiful color slides of a cross section of America, taken on various trips across the nation. With much applause ringing in his ears, the artist could not leave without an encore.

Customary open console followed with several members keeping the pipes singing. It was a satisfying evening.

As the Winter Olympics were taking place at Lake Placid, the February 23rd meeting at Babson played to a sparse house. After a brief business meeting, Tim Holloran announced that open console would be the order of the evening and that no guest artist was scheduled. The sign-in sheet and the ten-minute clock were reinstated so that all who wished might have a turn to play. Among those who participated were Tim Bjareby and Al Winslow. What a distinct privilege it is to have our very own chapter theatre pipe organ.

At the meeting at Babson on March 22nd, President Royal Schweiger reported that a new trumpet rank was being built to the Gotfried design to replace the original Wurlitzer brass trumpet rank that had been stolen. Organ Committee Chairman Dick Linder presented the chapter with an audible signal organ tuning unit which he, with the help of board member Bill Carpenter, designed and built.

Program Chairman Tim Holloran announced that six of Charlie Clark's old silents would be screened, to be accompanied by EMC volunteers. Responding to the call were Al Winslow, Bob Legon, Tim Bjareby, Bill

Forbush and Tim Holloran. It was amazing what these volunteers produced musically as they took up the challenge of making these silent oldies come alive, totally without prior viewing. Al Winslow's abilities of mating the organ to the screen action are well known to chapter members, but his fellow organists were a pleasant surprise. Dick Johnson coordinated the audio, projection and lights. Open console with many taking advantage concluded an interesting evening.

The planned program at Babson in April was canceled inasmuch as all pipework, but the Tibia rank and the percussions, was out of the solo chamber being cleaned. This was necessary, as careless workmen, installing insulation in the roof area of the auditorium, had neglected to protect the pipework, with predictable results! But there was still half an organ, and it was open console for those in attendance.

Among those undaunted by this handicap were Bill Forbush, Bill Carpenter, 12-year-old Billy Moore, Carol Moeller, Lucille Weston, Art Goggin and many others, proving that half an organ is by far better than none at all.

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

This report is dedicated to the many people who put in time and effort to keep organs going and events happening. Although most of them don't play in public, they still nevertheless, like applause and are surely deserving of a show of appreciation.

In am sure that I may have missed some people, but it just isn't possible to get everyone's name. At Trenton: Bill Smith, Bill Hartig, Bill McKis-



Rebuilding the player piano are (L to R) Pete Polito, Jack Moelmann, Joe Visinho and Dan Costigan.



Dr. B. D. Rhea has undertaken the task of duplicating a Wonder Morton console for the Gulf Coast Chapter.

sock and many others; at Pasack: Joe Vanore, Roy Frenske, Ed Unis Oliver and Marjorie Vitakis; at Rahway: Bob Balfour, Joe Visinho, Frank McCraigh, Pete Polito, Bob Reilly, Dan Costigan, Paul Szabocsik, Jack Moelmann and Stan Sawyer — Stan donated two handmade break-apart ladders for use in the chambers. This is not to deny the appreciation due the players who have given of

their time and talent, but they get the applause whereas few ever get to know who the people are who keep the air blowing and the pipes piping.

We have had a number of bus rides, run by Pete Polito, to the United Palace in New York City and to Long Island University in Brooklyn, and an upcoming trip to Thomaston to hear Hector Olivera.

DON PLENKERS

GULF COAST

We have a surprise for you! We are building a *Wonder Morton*! We have been picking up ranks and chests and regulators with the intention of enlarging our Robert Morton. The chambers are pretty well taken care of, and we have revoiced some ranks and releathered chests and regulators. Pipes have been polished so that they gleam anew after 50-plus years of grime and dust.

Our biggest surprise however, is our console. Our Chief Mentor, B. D. Rhea, M. D., a practicing radiologist by profession, and a museum-perfect craftsman by avocation, has undertaken the task of duplicating a *Wonder Morton* console for the chapter. Chairman Tom Helms has made two trips to Ft. Worth to photograph and measure the *Wonder Morton* console of the North Texas Chapter. David Dietrich, an architect, has drawn the plans for us and work is progressing at a remarkable pace. Dr. Rhea



"New" Grandpa Bob Reilly pours champagne with the aid of a long-standing usher.



Dan Costigan, Don Plenkens and Stan Sawyer restring and rebush the Glock.



Working on the Chrysglott action are Garden State members (seated, L to R) Don Plenkens and Joe Visinho and (standing, L to R) Frank McCraigh, Pete Polito and Bob Balfour.



Toasting Grandpa Bob Reilly (center) are (front, L to R) Joe Visinho, Paul Szabocsik and Pete Polito, and (back, L to R) Frank McCraigh, Ed Baykowski, Bob Balfour and Don Plenkens.

assures us the copy will be authentic, to the original egg-and-dart molding around the keydesk. His skill has no limits. The hours he spends on this project are infinite, and he gives each minute detail his undivided attention.

Tom Helms has built his own voicing machine, with thanks to Jim Peterson and his Ft. Worth crew for their expert advice. With this dandy machine, who knows what sounds he will be able to create. What he has already done is fantastic. Have we got a surprise for you!

Our Saenger Theatre here is full of work crews. The seats are all out being recovered and workmens' scaffolding is everywhere. Oh how grand it will be to have it back as a theatre again, instead of a maze of temporarily strung lights, knocked out walls and flying dust and plaster. It will be especially nice to hear our organ sing again.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

KIWI

On October 20, 1979, the Town Hall in Tauranga began to fill with people about 7 p.m. Members of the Home Organ Society of Tauranga were hosts, selling tickets, acting as ushers, seeing to lights and checking the organ in readiness for a smooth-running concert.

At last, the house lights dimmed and the 2/10 Wurlitzer, Opus 1482, rose from the bowels of the hall to the tune of "American Patrol." After a few words from HOST President Harold Gunther, the spotlight angled down onto the organ to show well-known HOST member Len Hockly at the console. It was a moving moment for the audience of nearly 400 as he began to play a program of varied music.

After the first half of his program, the writer, also a member of HOST,



Margaret McClymont entertains at the 2/10 Wurlitzer in Tauranga, N.Z., during the October program.

played a short bracket of numbers. Following this short rest, Len appeared again to play for a sing-along, then request time.

Len Hockly is well-known in Tauranga, both as a church organist and at the Wurlitzer console. He also helped to install the Wurlitzer under the direction of Rex White, who is a city councillor and the official keeper of the organ. Len often plays electronic organs for functions around Tauranga as well as for lunchtime concerts in the Town Hall so that city workers have an opportunity to see and hear the Wurlitzer.



Len Hockly at the Tauranga Wurlitzer during his program in October.

The Tauranga Wurlitzer has been played by Dennis James, of the Ohio Theatre, Reginald Porter-Brown, from England and Dennis Palmistra, from Australia. We hope other overseas organists will come this way and share their great talents with our small country.

New Zealand may be small, but make no mistake, theatre organ music is alive and well here. Only the Tauranga Wurlitzer is in regular use at the moment, but, two more are about to burst into life very shortly. ATOS members in Auckland are busy installing one in a cinema there and Len Southward of Paraparaumu (near Wellington) has built an auditorium to accommodate a 3-manual Wurlitzer as an added interest at his vintage car museum.

MARGARET R. McCLYMONT

LAND O' LAKES

About 110 members and guests enjoyed a mixed bag of entertainment and pipe organ music at Cicero's Edina on Sunday, January 27th.

Due to the regular opening time of the establishment, open console preceded Alan Gerber's concert at the 3/15 Barton. The echoes of a somewhat extended open console session had pretty much faded when Alan made a timely and dramatic entrance a minute or two before concert time. He then demonstrated his mastery of the pipes and gave the Barton its opportunity to show off its fine theatre voices, and ran the gamut of the toy counter and all the many other special effects.

On February 17th, chapter member Paul Lagergren presented a concert to a good turnout of members at the Brookdale Civic Center. Paul and the Yamaha EX-2 organ generated some amazing audio pyrotechnics that literally shook the audi-

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Mike Erie plays the Dalquists' 3/7 Wurlitzer at the March meeting of the Land O' Lakes Chapter. (Edwin Hirschhoff Photo)



Walt Strony during his April program at Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer. (Edwin Hirschhoff Photo)

torium. A product of the Yamaha Competition Festivals, Paul is both a superb organist and master showman whose performances are always stimulating, whether he plays pipes or electronics. He has since gone on to win the regional Liberace competition in Chicago. Next stop will be the finals in Las Vegas.

On March 16th, Mike Erie finally let his light shine out from under the bushel where he had been hiding it. It was an afternoon during which a number of things came together in a harmonious blend — a surprising, refreshing performance by a newcomer to the LOL artists' circle, the dulcet tones of the Dalquist organ and the hospitality of Dee and Mark Dalquist, hosts for the occasion.

Being a fan of Jesse Crawford, it is understandable that Mike's styling for popular and traditional music would be sentimental and nostalgic. Registrations were well-chosen, and changes skillfully executed.

Theatre organ artist Walt Strony played a special concert for the chapter on Claude Newman's 3/18 Wurlitzer on April 18th. A featured artist at the last three ATOS conventions,

he was relatively new and unknown to most of the delegation of 20 or so from Land O' Lakes who heard him play at the 1977 convention. At the newly-painted console, in the lovely ballroom of the Cedarhurst mansion, Walt played certainly the best program to date on this fine instrument. The formerly all-gold console is now white and gold, and has a newly-installed electronic capture action. The general opinion, after the concert, was that the organ had never sounded so good as in the hands of Walt Strony.

LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

One of our chapter's most fervent objectives has long been to introduce our much-admired member Hector Olivera in a major in-theatre presentation in London. We finally managed it in early March at our favourite 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer at the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn.

Dashing from Wales to London on the day of the concert, and having never seen the instrument before,

Hector provided one of the most exhilarating and polished musical performances ever to be heard during the 43-year history of this famous theatre to a large and appreciative audience.

Featured at the end of Hector's sparkling performance, under the guise of an invitation to present a framed photograph of himself, with other chapter members taken during the 1979 Los Angeles Convention, Hector presented Florence de Jong, our "First Lady of the Theatre Organ," with an inscribed onyx jewel box in appreciation of her quite exceptional contribution to theatre organ entertainment in all its forms for well over 50 years. Gracious and warm-hearted as ever, Florence said that she had never before seen or heard such an all-round accomplished young theatre organ performer as Hector and greatly praised his unique musicality and extemporisation.

A happy and relaxed house party followed at Wurlitzer Lodge, the congenial home of Edith and Les Rawle, where 83-year-old Florence showed us, at the 3/19 Wurlitzer,

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FRANK CIMMINO
Organist



Florence DeJong presents Hector Olivera with a framed photograph of the Latin artist with London Chapter members, taken at the 1979 Los Angeles Convention, following his March concert at the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn. Looking on are Len Rawle and Stephen Vincent. (John D. Sharp Photo)



The console of Graham Kent's residence Compton. (John D. Sharp Photo)

that she has lost none of her talent and enthusiasm — especially in the silent film idiom in which she has always excelled, and still regularly fulfills (at the piano) at the National Film Theatre in London as well as on national television.

Complementing our major concert presentations are our ever-popular monthly "Club Nights" at Wurlitzer Lodge and occasional coach outings to the homes of more distant members and other notable theatre organ venues.

Although our March Club Night was basically concerned with the for-

mal business of the Annual General Meeting — where a highly-successful second year of activity and healthy membership and financial situation were reported — the usual happy musical evening was provided by numerous chapter members trying their hand at the most-widely played theatre organ anywhere.

Then came a delightful Sunday coach trip to the West country to the homes of our members Graham Kent at Thornbury near Bristol and Tony Lucas at Wynchfield near Tetbury, a little further away in Gloucestershire.

Having been privileged last year to open Graham's ingeniously installed British three-manual Compton (formerly in the Savoy Cinema in the London district of Stoke Newington), we were again able to enjoy this most pleasing instrument and the fine hospitality of the Kent family.

Tony Lucas then proudly demonstrated his three-manual Compton (ex-Alma Cinema, Luton), with grand piano attachment (ex-Ritz Cinema, Oxford), and his custom-built five-manual Compton electric organ — both most imaginatively installed (the pipe organ on an adap-



Hector signs the visitors' register for theatre manager Bill Weir, after having presented Florence DeJong with an inscribed onyx jewel box. Others, L to R, are (front row) Edith Rawle and Les Rawle and (back row) George Harrison and Len Rawle. (John D. Sharp Photo)



London and South of England members on a coach outing to hear residence organs in the West Country. (John D. Sharp Photo)



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Tony Lucas at his custom built five-manual Compton electric organ. (John D. Sharp Photo)

ted "garage" lift) in a former stable near his capacious country home.

Of the many chapter members who also played the Kent and Lucas instruments, it was most pleasing to hear our popular and well-known photographic member Doug Sharp. He was a former circuit organist with the Granada chain and assistant to the great Reginald Dixon during his prewar winter tours of that circuit.

With our enthusiastic member Harry Warburton driving our coach, and also providing us with relaxing stateside taped organ music enroute, this was a wholly-enjoyable experience.

In contrast to our usual presentation of top international artists, our Easter Monday presentation at the Gaumont State saw a welcome return of our first two Young Theatre Organists — 17-year-old Pauline Dixon (1978-79) and 16-year-old Stephen Vincent (1979-80) — with our very popular and exceptionally fine international pipe and electronic organ exponent Len Rawle at this most-distinctive Wurlitzer.

Pauline quickly showed just how much progress and confidence she has built up through her dedication and eagerness to learn and arrange her own music, while Stephen also

showed that he has real promise and a most encouraging harmonic appreciation.

Len Rawle then provided his characteristically well-structured programme. Beginning with a tribute to the great international orchestra leader Mantovani, who had died a few days earlier, Len went on to recreate and explain the distinctive stylings of famous British and American names who have appeared at the Gaumont State in recent years. He then finished off as "himself" with delightful overtones of universal favourites George Wright and Jesse Crawford, especially admired by Len.

Our April Club Night saw the welcome return of Byron Jones from Wales (and owner of the ex-Regal Cambridge Compton theatre organ).

Bringing his mother and several local friends, along with Welsh member Desmond Jenkins (also bringing stateside Boston-area guests Tony Delolis and Jim Rich), a lusty bout of sing-along provided almost a "Welsh Benefit Night" — Edith and Les Rawle also being proud Welsh folk.

Our 1980 convention planning is forging ahead and we also have the exciting young Dutch console star Hans Notrott scheduled to appear at the Gaumont State on the late spring holiday Monday in late May.

Happy, busy and exciting organising Britside!

NORMAN BARFIELD

LOS ANGELES

Rex Koury, one of the very best from theatre organ's "golden days," was our solo artist in March at San Gabriel. Playing in the full organ style of bygone days, Rex's program ranged from the classics such as "Meditation" from *Thais* through operettas with Romberg's *Student Prince* and Broadway's best from the



Rex Koury at the San Gabe console. His "Gunsmoke Suite" mixed prairie panoramas, saloon scenes and a thrilling chase as "they went thataway." (Zimfoto)

'50s on to the '80s with "Can't Smile Without You."

Instead of the usual *Gunsmoke* theme, Rex presented a near symphonic score of some of the tunes he composed to underscore the action on TV's long-running program.

At intermission Rex sold not only his records but a dozen copies of *Theatre Organ Greats* in which appears his arrangement of "Here's That Rainy Day."

In April, by contrast, one of the youngest and best of the new crop of



Jerry Nagano. He landed a plum.

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Candi. (Stufoto)

organists entertained at San Gabriel — Candi Carley!

Renowned for her ability to play "rock" organ with the beat of the '80s, Candi amply demonstrated her command of "TO classic style" with a medley of Nelson Eddy-Jeanette McDonald favorites, a rarely-heard *King and I* medley, some Fats Waller and Duke Ellington tunes, and, of course, her now-famous foot-stomping, hand clapping "Hoe Down!"

The Pasadena 5-manual Moller is a winner! That was the unanimous conclusion of the 3,000 who packed the Civic Auditorium for Tom Hazleton's dedication program in April and Lyn Larsen's followup LATOS show in May. A truly perfect blending of the right instrument in the right theatre. To top off our joy in having this world famous instrument in Southern California was the news that our own Jerry Nagano has been named Pasadena staff organist!

RALPH BEAUDRY

MOTOR CITY

Lionel LaMay started off our concert lineup on March 1st, with a program at the 3/10 Barton in the Redford Theatre. Also on the bill

was a precision dance group, The Sophisticats, which thrilled the audience with a number of dance routines, including a 1940s dance party, with organ accompaniment. Lionel's playing was well-received, as have been his appearances at our biweekly movie series at the Redford.

The chapter presented Bob Ralston, from the Lawrence Welk family, on Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16th, at the Royal Oak Theatre. Bob Ralston has a way of knowing how to please audiences, and his program at the 3/16 Barton did just that.

We've all heard about weddings on horseback, in the middle of bridges and other strange places. But, when Frank Doka and Helen Shook decided to get married, having met on a chapter train excursion to visit the Chicago Theatre last May, their desire was to have *their* wedding in a movie theatre. The Redford Theatre.

Attended by a few close friends, the wedding took place on Saturday, March 29th. Their attendants were their own children (both had been previously married). Chapter member Tony O'Brien played for the ceremony and Lionel LaMay provided dance music at the Barton pipe organ for the reception that followed on stage.

On April 12th, Hector Olivera returned to Detroit to play to an enthusiastic audience at the Redford Theatre. To lend a little Latin atmosphere to the occasion, several chapter members dressed in Spanish attire to greet the concertgoers. It was a most enjoyable concert for the many that attended.

Sunday, April 13th, found chapter members on another "Fred Page Special" bus excursion, this time to the State Theatre in Kalamazoo for an afternoon concert by Donna Parker at the 3/12 Barton. Luncheon



Frank and Helen Doka, with Lionel LaMay (left) and Tony O'Brien (right). This wedding in a movie theatre may be a "first." (Robert Duerr Photo)



Herb Head played the Barton in the Royal Oak Theatre for the March meeting of the Motor City Chapter held there. (Fred Page Photo)



Donna Parker played the 3/12 Barton at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo in April. (Fred Page Photo)



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Members add a Latin flavor to Hector's concert at the Redford Theatre. L to R: Bob Duerr, Hector Olivera, Marge Muethel, Tony O'Brien and Jerry Muethel. (Roberta Duerr Photo)

reservations had been made by Fred at Lee's Quay (pronounced *key*) in nearby Parchment, where the group dined with members of the Central Indiana Chapter amid surroundings reminiscent of a riverboat tied up at a wharf (or, quay, hence the name of the restaurant).

A special feature of Lee's Quay is the Marr & Colton theatre pipe organ, and each chapter was represented during an open console session. Other chapter members joined the busload at the State Theatre (certainly the flagship of the Butterfield chain) for Donna's concert in the over-50-year-old theatre under twinkling stars and drifting clouds.

The monthly Second Sunday series at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor featured Tony O'Brien at the 3/16 Barton in March and Fred Fahrner, from Greenfield Village, at the console in April, which also included a slide presentation of the Michigan and other area theatres by Dave Lau.

Chapter artists appearing at our regular Fourth Sunday programs at the Royal Oak Theatre Barton or-

gan were Herb Head in March, and Gary Wick in April.

DON LOCKWOOD

NOR-CAL

Sunday, February 24th, the chapter meeting was held at Redwood City Pizza & Pipes through the hospitality of owner Bob Patterson. Everyone was anxious to hear Jerry Nagano, whom some had heard play during the National Convention in July, 1979. This young man's professional appearance and artistic ability make it hard to believe he's still in his twenties. Natural ability guided by such teachers as Gaylord Carter and Gordon Kibbee have already made him a polished professional. He played a well-rounded program of selections from jazz to Mozart.

On March 23rd, Program Chairman Ray Taylor arranged another delightful afternoon of music for the chapter. Tom Cotner played the 3/26 hybrid Wurlitzer-Morton theatre pipe organ at the Cap'n's Galley Pizza and Pipes in Campbell, California. The instrument, originally



The Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley, Calif. Its empty chambers await a pipe organ. (Jim McGuire Photo)

assembled by Hollywood organist and arranger Buddy Cole, was installed in his residence studio and consists now of 17 Wurlitzer and 9 Robert Morton ranks of pipework.

Tom Cotner studied classical organ throughout his college years and his program of predominately classical and light classical selections made good use of the resources of the organ.

Judd Walton, past chairman of Nor-Cal, and a present national



Jerry Nagano at the Redwood City Pizza & Pipes four-manual Wurlitzer. (Jim McGuire Photo)



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Tom Cotner at the Cap'n's Galley Pizza and Pipes, Campbell, Calif. (Jim McGuire Photo)

director, presented a very interesting and informative program of historic theatre organ recordings at the Berkeley Community Theatre, April 13th. His collection includes some rare first records of famous artists. Judd proved once again that he is not only a technical expert, but, a dedicated theatre organ historian. At the conclusion of his program, Judd offered a box containing a prize to the first person who could name one of a selection of unannounced tunes. The first selection stumped everyone. The second selection, "Roller Coaster," played by George Wright was quickly identified by Bill Taylor who received the mysterious prize box which contained a dozen windline flanges! It was a most entertaining afternoon.

One of the chapter directors this year is Judson Owens. He is the manager of the Berkeley Community Theatre and it was through his courtesy, and the courtesy of the Berkeley Board of Education, that Nor-Cal was able to hold its chapter meeting in this beautiful theatre. Speaking after Judd's presentation, Judson reviewed the history of the theatre, answered questions and conducted a basement to attic tour of the build-

ing. Judson said the theatre is owned and operated by the Berkeley Board of Education. It was designed about the time of the theatre organ era, but was not actually constructed until the 1950s. It is, therefore, a relatively new building, spotlessly clean, seating approximately 3000 people, with a completely-equipped stage and organ chambers. There is a blower room in the basement already connected to the chambers by a windline. Judson said he has an earnest personal desire to have a theatre pipe organ installed in the theatre, where it would be available for joint chapter and theatre use. Judson assured the chapter that the Berkeley Board of Education is receptive to the idea.

Chairman Jim Dunbar asked for a vote on whether the chapter officers should proceed with an investigation of the feasibility of the chapter installing an organ in the theatre. Chapter members present at the meeting voted in favor of the idea.

RUDY FREY

NORTH TEXAS

Our chapter sadly reports the passing of Doris Garrett, an active member since our formation. One of the builders of the chapter, Doris served several terms as a very capable secretary, always working for the preservation of the theatre organ art, for ATOS, and chapter development and growth. Her husband, Fred, is the actual theatre organist, having played in the area when the organ was an integral part of the movie theatres, but Doris was his greatest fan and staunch theatre organ supporter. Her theatrical and musical background contributed much to the chapter. We all miss Doris and extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Fred and sons Gary and Tony in their loss.

Since the regular business meetings have been set up on a bimonthly basis due to fuel shortages and energy conservation, things have slowed down somewhat. The last meeting on April 27th at Organ World in Garland, Texas, produced a good turnout, especially in view of travel distances involved. Directing the business meeting was Chairman Gene Powell, wielding the special gavel, carved from the branches of a Bois d'Arc tree. Bob McGillivray's treasurer's report established that the chapter is financially in the black, but, still open for contributions to the Wonder Morton project fund. A special part of his report was that he is moving back to the Dallas-Fort Worth area from New Orleans. He has been commuting by air to practically all the meetings since he was elected treasurer, just before moving to Louisiana. But, he has maintained his membership, treasurer's post and loyalty to the North Texas Chapter.

Among items discussed was a resume of the fund raising activities for our Wonder Morton project. The Schoeber organ, donated to the chapter, brought \$2000 at the sale. The Conn 652, estimated value \$20,000, brought no bids, so it was decided to sell it piece by piece. All



Tim Hart, concert artist at the North Texas Chapter meeting at Organ World. (Joe Koski Photo)



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Tim Hart, at the pipe organ, and Dale Flannery, at the Conn, play duets after the April program at Organ World. (Joe Koski Photo)



Homer Pettigrew and Dick Cooper. Their hard work is evident at Organ World in Garland. (Joe Koski Photo)

of the proceeds will be applied toward the Wonder Morton project, which, because of a temporary leather shortage, bad weather, energy conservation, and other such problems, has not been moving very rapidly. The site committee is still waiting to hear from the University of Texas at Arlington on a final agreement to put the Wonder Morton in Texas Hall there. The apparent holdup is state budgeting problems, since there would be some necessary auditorium modifications. Meanwhile, other locations are being looked at, and with the arrival of new leather and further guidance, the renovation project should get moving at a faster pace. Everyone is encouraged to get into the action of rebuilding this great instrument. A project as big as this takes time, but the final results — a beautiful 4/27 Wonder Morton in action — will be an installation of which the chapter can be proud.

Plans are going ahead for future meetings and programs under the capable guidance of First Vice Chairman Dale Flannery. Membership Chairperson Grace Larner reported a roster of 116 paid members, with more applying.

After the business session and a short break, Program Chairman Dale Flannery introduced the guest artist for the day, Tim Hart. A former member of the Southeast Texas Chapter, now living in North Texas, Tim played a fine concert which was truly enjoyed by all. He is a young artist and included in his repertoire some theatre organ numbers that were at least twice his own age. It is certain that he will be asked back for more programs. After refreshments and open console, Tim returned to the console and Dale Flannery joined him at the Conn for a good jam session. A fine ending to a pleasant afternoon.

JOE KOSKI

OREGON

On March 23rd, we met at Stone's Piano and Organ Co., in Salem, for what was to have been a piano and organ concert featuring Mildred Luttrell and Joe Gray, both popular musicians in the Portland area. Unfortunately, the flu bug caught up with Mildred an hour before the scheduled program, leaving Joe to go it alone.

Joe had to abandon their carefully rehearsed duets and substitute solo numbers, trying not to repeat selections he had played for us in Vancouver last October. Having a large repertoire, Joe came up with a whole new program. He played a duet with Gerry Gregorius, at the grand piano, which, although unrehearsed, was up to professional standards. With Joe's styling and registration, the new Rodgers Trio produced a startling reproduction of a theatre pipe organ.

This was followed by refreshments and a demonstration by Gerry Gregorius, of a Rodgers 205 combination pipe and electronic organ.

On April 26th, we had the pleasure of hearing Marti Lynch at Uncle Milt's 3/18 Wurlitzer in his Vancouver pizza place.

Marti is a veteran professional, having been a touring artist for major manufacturers, and is now on the playing staff at Uncle Milt's. Her superb styling is a rare combination of contemporary harmony with traditional theatre counter melody. Marti played this program in sets, without pauses between numbers. This was achieved by skillful modu-

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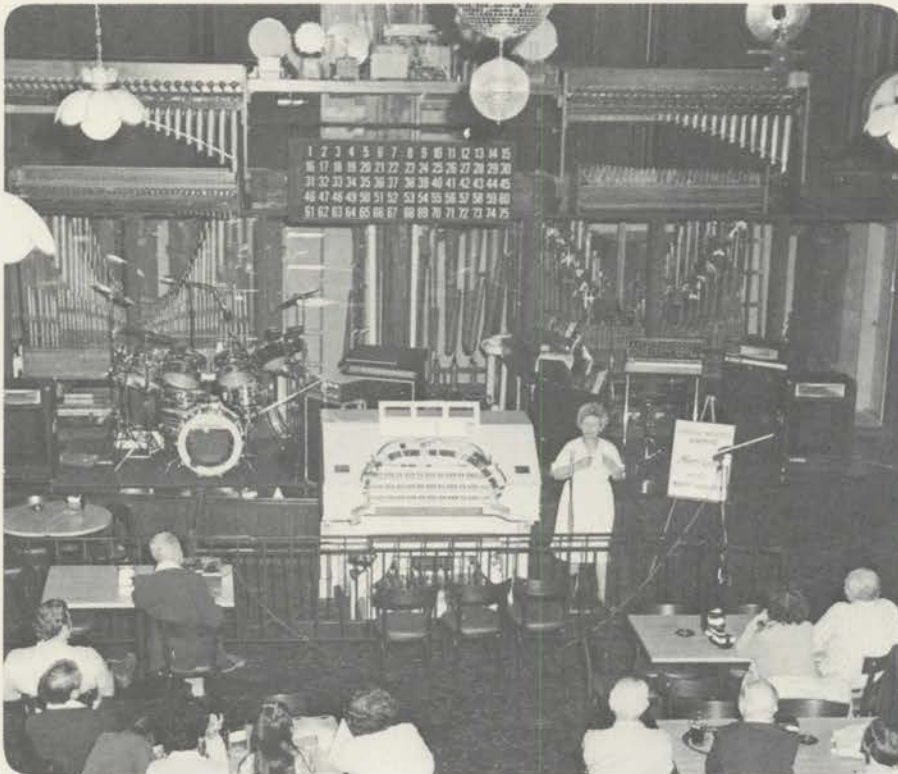
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Her master's voice? Joe Gray and Spanky at the March concert at Stone's Piano and Organ Co., Salem, Ore. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Gerry Gregorius at the Rodgers 205, after the March program at Stone's Piano and Organ Co. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Marti Lynch played the 3/18 Wurlitzer at Uncle Milt's Pizza Co., Vancouver, Wash., in April. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

lation and unobtrusive registration changes.

After the concert, we enjoyed a buffet lunch served in the balcony, reserved for our chapter, and organ music by Gerry Gregorius.

We thank Marti Lynch for the fine music and to Milt Kieffer for having added this very talented lady to his playing staff.

BUD ABEL

POTOMAC VALLEY

When a theatre organist, or any musician, can take a piece of nothing and turn it into a delightful piece of music, there is real talent. Chapter member Lou Hurvitz did just that on the little red 2/8 Wurlitzer at the March meeting of the chapter held at Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland.

Lou really put on a show for the 400-plus people present. His finger dexterity is something to see. He played a something-for-everyone program, including a Laurel and Hardy silent film, for which his ac-

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Lou Hurvitz at the University of Maryland Kimball.



One of the several exhibits at a joint meeting of Music Box International and the Potomac Valley Chapter.

companiment was outstanding.

In addition to the great music, an extra dividend was provided by the staff of the Weinberg Center: a display of colored lights on a scrim on stage behind the console. This greatly enhanced the mood for the music.

The meeting was a joint one with members of the Music Box International. Their members displayed all manner of mechanical music makers as well as a fascinating collection of antique electric fans. A compressed air calliope, mounted in a 1916 White ambulance, was wheezing merrily away in the parking lot outside the theatre, off tune of course, because of the cold, windy March day. It is hoped that a combined meeting such as this one can be held as an annual event.

The April 27th meeting of the chapter was also outstanding. Chapter member Floyd Werle, treated those present with a demonstration of his total musical talent with a program he called "Whatever Happened to _____?" The concert was held at Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland, at a 3/31 Marshall Stone special consisting of Moller pipework recovered from a church in Annapolis, Maryland, and all new equipment other-

wise. While the instrument is a classical one, in Floyd's hands the program was pure theatre organ. The concert consisted of a community sing, ragtime, mood music, pop-classics and marches. A feature of the day was Floyd's improvisation on a hymn selected on the spot by a member of the audience. Floyd displayed his versatility on this one, and included a passage on the pedals a la Hector Olivera.

After treating the audience to a medley of Rudolf Friml tunes, a silent film was in order. This one was *Saturday Afternoon*, Harry Langdon, accompanied by Floyd at the console. The sound effects were unusual in that they are not built into the organ. The appropriateness of the tunes was incredible, and of listenable quality even without the film.

We are very fortunate to have in Potomac Valley, two members of service bands. Lou Hurvitz is an administrative aide to the Chief of Bands in Washington, D. C., after a stint as a percussionist with the West Point Band. Floyd Werle is Director of Composition with the Air Force Band. The Singing Sergeants, and Airmen of Note. Don't miss a chance to hear these gentlemen at the keyboard. Don't make the mistake of



Floyd Werle at the 3/31 Marshall Stone "special" at Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, Maryland. (M. Richmond Photo)

not attending because the concert is in a church. You will be the loser if you do.

DICK HAIGHT

PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound celebrated its 20th year as a chapter at a Sunday afternoon potluck party at the Haller Lake Club in Seattle on April 13th. Charter members Bob Jones, Lorraine and Mark Cockrill, Ken and Corky Mayberry and Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Strickland, Jr., all introduced by Dick Schrum, were honored.

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Dick Schrum (far right) introduces Puget Sound 20-year charter members Ken Mayberry, Bob Jones, the M. H. Stricklands and Mark and Lorraine Cockrill.
(Katy Gallwey Photo)



Phillip Keverin was the featured artist at Puget Sound's Haller Lake 3/7 hybrid in April.
(Gennie Whitting Photo)

of the afternoon was Phillip Keverin, a student at Gresham College (near Portland, Oregon) and featured artist of the day. He entertained first at the Yamaha electronic organ and then on the chapter's pipe organ, a 3/7 hybrid Wurlitzer/Marr & Colton. Eighteen-year-old Phillip is the 1979 winner of the Yamaha local, regional and national electronic contest in the Youth 2 section. He previously won the Youth I category, which took him to the finals in Japan. Having been a student of Jonas Nordwall and Andy Crow, he was able to shine forth in the areas of jazz improvisation and orchestration. The chapter looks forward to seeing him progress most rapidly in his musical career.

The second part of the afternoon featured programming of members from Vancouver, B. C. The Canadian part of the program, headed by Bert and Doris Miller, featured Doris first at the chapter organ. She started out, in 1926, playing in the Princess Theatre, in Vancouver, and is a favorite wherever she goes to play. She knows that pipe organ touch and her repertoire is amazing. George Francis then took the center stage, singing in his rich baritone voice

with a taped background of some of the old time dance bands of England as well as some organ backgrounds. Members listened and enjoyed, almost getting up to dance, as they did so many years ago.

Don Myers led off the open console session and was followed by Ken Gallwey, Eddie Zollman, Sr., Wendell Dela, Merv Vaught and Robert Hutchinson. The organ came through bright and clear, thanks to Jack Becvar and Ken Gallwey, who checked out the organ and sound systems before the party.

Chairperson Thelma Barclay, at the Yamaha piano, joined Doris Miller at the chapter organ for the afternoon finale. Members declared this to be one of the nicest affairs ever, and don't want to wait another 20 years to celebrate an anniversary.

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

In March, several chapter members attended a spring concert by O'Lyn Callahan, Yamaha organist, at Knox Music Center in downtown Fargo. We all enjoyed her selections and warm personality.

Our annual spring concert, April 17th, featured Walter Strony at the 3/9 Wurlitzer in the Fargo Theatre. It was a quality performance and was enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience. To compensate for not having our 3-manual console on a lift (it didn't arrive in time), we used a closed circuit color television system to display Walter and his fine technique on a large screen so that everyone could see clearly. Doug Hamilton introduced Walter, who opened the concert with "I Feel A Song Coming On." The unusually warm weather here for April prompted him to dedicate "Spring is Here" to our chapter. Later in the first half, a juggler from Fargo showed his skills with Walter accompanying. The old vaudeville curtain was used as a backdrop in the true vaudeville tradition.

Intermission followed a sing-along.

Switching his black tux for a white suit, Walter opened the second half with the theme from *Superman*. A silent comedy was last on the program with Harry Langdon starring in *Saturday Afternoon*. Walt received a standing ovation. The crowd kept him busy autographing pro-



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Walt Strony and Hildegard Kraus, following his concert at the Fargo Theatre.
(Charles Ingersoll Photo)

grams and records in the lobby, while the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists hosted a reception on the mezzanine for our members and guests. Hildegard Krause, our honorary member, played the white grand piano in the lobby before the show and during intermission.

Walt's stay with us was a complete pleasure. He is a true professional and a joy to work with.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

On Monday night, February 25th, members joined the pizza patrons to hear Jonas Nordwall demonstrate his musical ability and expertise during a two-hour classical concert at the 4/37 Wurlitzer at the Organ Grinder Pizza.

Negotiations are continuing on the possible installation of the chapter organ at the Iliff School of Theology on the University of Denver campus. A new multi-purpose auditorium is under construction and members are excited and hopeful about this location.

Another closing curtain is at the Denver Theatre where, in the past, members enjoyed concerts on the 3/15 Wurlitzer, which is now in Phoenix. On April 29th, everything in the theatre went up for auction and the beautiful building will soon be razed. The only downtown theatre remaining will be the Paramount and we hope that it will be saved.

On Sunday, April 27th, over sixty members and guests spent a most entertaining afternoon at the Dick Lewis home, as Patty Simon exhibited her talent at the Marr & Colton console. This attractive young lady is a featured organist at our local Organ Grinder Pizza, so our chapter was most anxious to hear her play varied selections of her choice. The hour passed all too swiftly and was followed by refreshments and a short business meeting, at which it was voted to make a sizeable payment on our Wurlitzer organ.

MARGARET ANN FOY

SIERRA

Before getting to chapter events, there is an overdue note of gratitude owed from Sierra Chapter to Bob "Keyzanpedals" Longfield. The Chapter Notes in the February/March issue were Bob's last, as uneven health is forcing him to scale down his chapter activities, which have been numerous. Bob's interest in theatre organ dates back to the "Golden Days" when his career as a puppeteer working in vaudeville put him in contact with theatre organs on a daily basis. His skills at puppeteering, which include making his own puppets, stages and props, led Bob to start building an exact one-quarter size incredibly detailed replica of the RCMH Wurlitzer console. He has not yet finished and readily admits to some procrastina-

tion. Over the years Bob has collected an enormous amount of newspaper articles, letters and other printed memorabilia about theatre organ that fill large scrap books. His lifelong interest in theatre organ continues and he is now working on compiling a written history of the theatres in California's State Capitol, focusing on the silent era, the organs and the organists.

The month of March brought the Sacramento area's Sierra Chapter trekking to the Golden Bear Playhouse at Cal Expo, site of the California State Fair and home of the chapter's 2/7 Wurlitzer, to hear a recent transplant from the Bay Area, Dave Moreno. The meeting proved to be special for two reasons: Dave's surprise elements in his show and the extraordinary preparation work done to the Wurlitzer. Dave's show included a surprise, unannounced vaudeville-style act appearing on the Golden Bear stage. The antics of clown-juggler High Tops and his wonder dog, Toby, were accompanied by Dave at the organ. Another surprise was his accompaniment of the premiere showing of a silent movie titled *Wilmunder's Ark*. This 1980 film depicts the real life drama that occurred on January 20th of this year when Sierra member, and ex-San Francisco Fox-foyer 3/12 Moller-owner Hal Wilmunder trucked his 140-foot-long paddle-wheeler riverboat hull from its birthplace in a land locked construction yard through the suburbs of Sacramento to its launching point on the Sacramento River. The sum total was an entertaining Sunday afternoon with the Wurlitzer doing yeoman duty accompanying and soloing as it may have served fifty years ago in its original Leandro Theatre, San Leandro, California, location.

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the Wurlitzer for this event ended up being an overhaul of sorts. Dave Moreno, in addition to being a fine theatre organist, currently appearing at the Big Top Pizza in Carmichael, is an organ technician extraordinaire. Teamed up with the chapter's dedicated organ crew, Dave brought the Wurlitzer to a sound and condition that makes it downright spunky to play.

April's meeting at Big Top Pizza was billed in the monthly newsletter as seeing and hearing the "keyboard pyrotechnics of Jerry Nagano." He absolutely lived up to that billing. This young man played with speed and rhythm, while having to make registration changes without any combination pistons. The organ crew, headed by Dave Moreno, worked day and night before the concert, but, could not finish the new 58-piston solid-state combination action in time. The Big Top organ, formerly the famous WLW *Moon River* Wurlitzer is being overhauled and is now up to 18 ranks.

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

Lyle Thurman and Bill Dierker provided organ duets for the chapter's March meeting at Tulsa's Conn Keyboards. Lyle, who manages the sheet music department and is staff organist for the company, played the Gulbrandsen. Bill manages the organ and piano department and played the Conn. They are both very talented and their mostly-all-request program was thoroughly enjoyed. Later, members had an opportunity to sample the Eminent electronic instruments set up in a van in the store's parking lot. Manufactured in Holland, these organs reproduce amazingly real orchestral tones.

Afterwards, several members had the opportunity of hearing Lyle play an impromptu concert at the Rodgers Extended 990 in his church. It was very impressive.

For the April meeting, members journeyed to Hervey and Janice Barbour's in Pryor, Oklahoma. Hervey has installed a Wurlitzer Viole de Orchestra in place of his Aeoline, and the 2/11 Kimball sounded very lovely indeed. Entertainment was open console. The business meeting included a short report on the status of chapter bylaws and suggestions for national bylaw revisions. It was also voted to change the meeting time (beginning in September) from Friday night to Sunday afternoon, except for the summer months. This will enable the chapter to have its technical sessions on the same day, at a considerable saving of gasoline, and will also be more convenient for out of town members.

The Weddles have instituted a delightful newsletter exchange among a number of other ATOS chapters around the country. We really enjoy sharing ideas and experiences with other chapters, and would like to invite other chapters to join us.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

The February meeting of the chapter was held at the home of Ray, Helen and Lynn Staininger. The chapter's new officers were welcomed. They are: Ray Chase, chairman; Estelle Weiss, vice chairman; Patricia Chase, secretary; Lois Seamands, treasurer; and Helen Staininger, statutory agent. An oil painting, donated by the artist, Louise Townsend, was won by member Ida Mae Morrow. The funds received are for the benefit of the chap-

ter's pipe organ fund. Entertainment for the meeting was provided by Bob High, Bea Kotasek, Lois Seamands and David Wickerham. Open console was followed by a delicious meal.

The April meeting was cohosted by Allen Guirl and Richard Woodworth. During the business meeting, it was announced that the chapter now has an organ being rebuilt and assembled, and that it should arrive in Tucson in about twenty months. After the business meeting, members were entertained with the music of David Albert, a 16-year-old student at Palo Verde High School. He is an organ student of Bob Barbara, who, in addition to teaching, plays at Paulos on Speedway. Following David, cohost Allen Guirl played several numbers at the new Conn 652. Open console concluded the meeting. Many thanks are in order for a fine meeting.

BOB HIGH

WOLVERINE

The March meeting of the chapter was hosted by the Bob Burk family at their Taylor, Michigan, home. Bob has a fine 3/13 installation which is mostly Wurlitzer. The console and relay are from the New Rochelle Theatre in New Rochelle, New York. This is a veteran installation, approximately 20 years old, and was featured on the home tours during the 1967 and 1974 Detroit conventions.

One interesting feature noted in this organ was the relay, which Bob says is still done in the original zephyr skin. Bob said he has yet to recover any pneumatics — which speaks well for the durability of this type of covering.

In April, the Wolverines once again visited Michigan's finest home

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Roger and Sue Mumbroe with English cinema organist Arnold Loxam. His selections at their 3/21 Marr & Colton hybrid will be heard over the BBC. (Fred Page Photo)



Robert Burk at the console of his 3/13 Wurlitzer in Taylor, Mich. (Ed Corey Photo)

installation; which is, of course, the 3/21 Marr & Colton hybrid of Roger and Sue Mumbroe in Bloomfield Hills. The pipework is installed in one large, very spacious chamber with the shutters at either end. Off-set chests are set into a pit at the rear of the chamber, which avoided any extra mitring.

Due to the large chamber and listening area, the instrument has a good deal of natural reverberation which alleviates the raw, "beast in the basement" sound so characteristic of home, high-pressure, installations.

A special highlight of the afternoon was a visit by veteran English cinema organist, Arnold Loxam and his wife, Audrey. Arnold's delightful

personality and excellent playing ability soon captivated the group. We also were witness to the taping of several selections which Arnold will use on one of his weekly broadcasts over the BBC. Arnold has been on a concert tour of several North American locations, including the Riviera, Casa Loma and the Detroit Theater Organ Club.

Arnold told us that *Cinema Organ* is very popular in the United Kingdom, and the broadcasts have a very large listening audience. The decision, last summer, to remove the program from the air for a few weeks, after 12 years of continuous broadcasts, resulted in the largest flood of protest mail in the history of BBC programming — over 3000 letters.

Following the afternoon at the Mumbroe's, the majority of those in attendance visited the Detroit area's first pizza-pipe organ restaurant, the Organ Grinder's Pizza and Pipes, in Pontiac. There, we were entertained by staff organist Dennis Minear at the console of the 3/21 Barton hybrid. This instrument was originally a 3/10 Barton, when it was in the Birmingham Theatre, and is one of a trio of such Bartons installed in the Detroit area (the other two are still in the Redford and Royal Oak theatres). Roger and Sue Mumbroe are coowners of this very pleasant restaurant, along with Wolverine members Gary Montgomery and H. C. Scott.

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