

The instrument is the now rarely recorded Robert Morton organ built up from a 3/14 (with circa seven Wurlitzer ranks) by the former owner of the facility, Lorin Whitney, now retired.



Lorin Whitney.

(Stufoto)

The studio was once the Mecca for all major West Coast recording organists — Don Baker, Eddie Dunstetter, Jesse Crawford, Buddy Cole, Ann Leaf, George Wright (using an alias) and many others; it was then the only studio with a large organ and such extensive and refined recording facilities. In recent years it has been heard from less and less, with the Electric Lemon label's cadaverous "Erik" (actually Verne Langdon) being among the most recent to release solo records played on the instrument.

We'll make no attempt to list all 50 selections, beyond stating that there are more unfamiliar than recognizable ones. Fred's arrangements add greatly to the entertainment value. His registration variety is a delight.

The organ has a character all its own, falling into the "WurliMorton" classification, which, like the late Buddy Cole's studio organ, features the best voices of both brands in a lush blend.

It's a two-record set and at no time does the auditioner reach a saturation point, so varied are the arrangements, moods established and treatments. This set has no jacket notes beyond a few lines about organist Bock, who would have no trouble making it as a pop/theatre organist. Instead, the double jacket features inspirational photos which illustrate the theme of the set.

Recording is good. The review pressings were smooth and free of waver and pops. A good buy. □

**November 28, 29, 30, 1980**

## Chicago Weekender

The Chicago Weekender, hosted by CATOE on November 28, 29 and 30, 1980, will be a fun-filled and exciting Friday, Saturday and Sunday to be enjoyed and remembered.

The ATOS Regional Convention headquarters will be at the Bismarck Hotel in downtown Chicago, at Randolph and La Salle streets. Registration opens Friday, November 28th, at 12 noon.

After a get-acquainted afternoon, you will board buses at the hotel at 7:30 p.m. and depart for the Scottish Rite Cathedral, where the very able Chicago organist Devon Hollingsworth will open the weekend's activities.

Later in the evening you will visit the Oriental Theatre where the artistic Rob Calcaterra will take command of the big 4-manual Wurlitzer. This promises to be a night to remember for it will be the very last time you will see and hear the Oriental "as we know it." Starting in December, the theatre will be divided and the console will be moved to the balcony level. We therefore strongly urge you to join us for this LAST session to hear the Oriental Wurlitzer in all its glory.

Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, you will be bused to Maine Township North High School to hear and enjoy CATOE's talented Walter Strony perform at CATOE's own 3/10 Wurlitzer.

Saturday afternoon the buses will take you to St. Mary of the Lake Auditorium, in Mundelein, to hear the artistic Lance Luce play the 4-manual Wurlitzer.

Saturday evening we will be back at the Bismarck Hotel, a Chicago landmark in its own right. A cocktail party will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the banquet in the old Palace Theatre at 7:30 p.m. A surprise artist will furnish some excellent musical entertainment.

Sunday morning you will take a leisurely walk to the stately Chicago Theatre. Several members have contributed much time in dressing up the theatre as well as the organ. CATOE hopes everyone will enjoy and cherish this beautiful setting



when the exciting Dennis James will put the big Wurlitzer through her paces and entertain you with a 35 mm silent comedy.

All bus trips will return to the Bismarck Hotel in time for unhurried lunch and dinner occasions.

Room reservations should be made directly with the Bismarck Hotel, 171 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601. (312) 236-0123. Be sure to tell them you are coming for CATOE's Chicago Weekender so that you will be able to take advantage of the reduced rates which are: One person to a room, \$24 a night; two persons to a room, \$30 per night. Reasonable parking on nearby Wells and La Salle streets.

Convention registration, including bus transportation and banquet is \$75 per person. (There will be no single event tickets.)

Mail registrations to: CATOE, P.O. Box 25, Glenwood, IL 60425.

For further information write: CATOE, 6244 W. Eddy, Chicago, IL 60634, or phone: (312) 282-0037. □