

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



This time, Jason and I have unearthed some organists whose names were not as well known as the artists in the picture palaces who achieved nationwide popularity. References were *Local Press (LP)*, *Around the Town (ATT)*, *Exhibitors' Herald World (EHW)*, and *Motion Picture Almanac (MPA)*.

September 20, 1924 (LP) POLA NEGRI opens at Tacoma's Colonial Theatre in "Lily of the Dust," with ARNOLD LEVERENZ at the Wurlitzer.

November 22, 1926 (LP) Loew's Century Theatre in Baltimore features an organogue by JOHN ELTERMANN, playing "For My Sweetheart," a recession on the Wonder Wurlitzer. On the screen are Lillian Gish and John Gilbert in "La Boheme."

January 3, 1927 (LP Adv.) Gala Opening Week, starting Monday, January 10. The new Strand Theatre's organ will be demonstrated daily at every performance. After months of work, our new Marr & Colton, America's Finest Organ, is complete in every detail. It will reproduce in volume and variety of tone, every instrument of a huge symphony orchestra. So Rochesterians may have the finest musical accompaniment for our picture programs, we have secured the services of two brilliant organists: HERBERT HENDERSON, formerly chief organist of Warner's Theatre on Broadway in New York, and HARRY G. SULLIVAN, well-known Rochester organist.

March 1927 (LP) "The best organ music in Rochester by Rochester's best organist: TOM GRIERSON at the Riviera Theatre," is being advertised this week.

May 1928 (LP) MAY M. MILLS at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre is featuring "Diane" and "Back to Berlin."

December 1928 (ATT) EARL WEIDNER has won much prominence as solo organist at B.F. Keith's Memorial Theatre in Boston. He opened the theatre and is making a remarkable showing there. A teacher at the Del Castillo Theatre Organ School, he played at the Boston City Club for four years. He broadcasts over WBZ, and was recently guest organist at the Metropolitan Theatre.

December 1928 (ATT) The Marshall Square Theatre in Chicago is featuring LOUIS A. "DOC" WEBB as solo organist. Webb carries a personality and style to the organ which reaches every seat in the house, and his playing is wonderfully received by all patrons of the theatre.

December 1928 (ATT) STANLEY PINHERO, organist at Proctor's Palace Theatre in Newark, N.J., has played there three years. He features slides, novelty numbers and some singing. His style and personality always put over his feature numbers big, and the patrons are enthusiastic singers during community sing numbers. He formerly played the Mosque Theatre in Newark.

December 1928 (ATT) MERLE E. CLARK is organist at the Grand Riviera Theatre in Detroit and broadcasts over WJR and WCX. His feature solos are enthusiastically received by the Riviera patrons and he has created a large following. There are many theatre patrons who enjoy the organ solos as much as the pictures. Monk Watson directs the orchestra.

December 1928 (ATT) RICHARD BACH, solo organist at the Roosevelt Theatre in Philadelphia, is playing his second year at that house. Bach introduces many original and delightful novelties, and broadcasts over WELK. He has also filled successful engagements at the Stanley, Strand and Frankford theatres here.

December 1928 (ATT) The Tivoli Theatre in Gary, Indiana has an ingenious solo organist in ELLIS BUTLER who opened the house. Previously, he played at Gary's Grand Theatre three years. Very successful with screen presentations, solos and novelties, he also broadcasts over WJKS.

December 1928 (ATT) A solo organist with a scintillating personality is JACK MARTIN, now in his first year at the Uptown Theatre in Milwaukee. He has the unfailing ability to entertain, and features spotlight solos and community singing with much success. He opened the Garfield Theatre and has had engagements at the Modjeska and Tower theatres here.

December 1928 (ATT) CARL COLEMAN is solo organist at the Fox Great Lakes Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., and from all reports, is going over big.

March 16, 1929 (EHW) At New York's Fox Japanese Gardens, DON WILLIAMS' fine playing and perfect picture synchronization are two of the good features of the house. This week, Williams' fine selection of numbers, which he cued to the motion pictures "Beware of Bachelors" and "Power of the Press," was one of the highlights of the program. Don is William Fox' personal organist at his private theatre on Long Island during the summer.

September 1930 (MPA) ERNEST HARES has been organist for two years at Loew's State Theatre in St. Louis. Born in Wales and a graduate of the University of Cardiff, he also plays piano and sings.

September 1930 (MPA) MILTON E. HERTH is on tour as guest organist for Publix Theatres. His experience began as featured organist at the Orpheum and Burke theatres in Kenosha, Wisc. He played the Rialto in Racine in 1925 and 1926; the Lincoln in Decatur, Ill. in 1927 and 1928; and the Empress in Decatur in 1928 and 1929.

September 1930 (MPA) RUSS KERSHNER is completing his second year as solo organist at Comerford's Capitol Theatre in Pottsville, Pa. He is presenting spotlight solos, original novelties and community singing.

GOLD DUST: 4/28 PAUL SPOR at Omaha's Capitol; GEORGE BROCK, Brandt's Carlton in N.Y.; JOE GLOVER, Queen's Theatre Austin in Queen's Village, Long Island . . . 11/28 GEORGE EPSTEIN, Roxy and FRED FEIBEL, Paramount in New York . . . 12/28 New York City organists: BILLY BARNES, Loew's State; RAUL DE TOLEDO GALVAO (Paul Brass). KEITH ALBEE; JOHN GART teaching in his Brooklyn studio; WILL J. GILROY, Proctor's 86th St.

That should do it until next time. So long, sourdoughs!
Jason & The Old Prospector □