



CHAPTER NOTES

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ALABAMA

A good time was had by all in Birmingham in August when we had the fall concert a little early. Our artist, Bob Ralston, could not appear at our regular fall concert in October, so we decided to go ahead with the concert in August, despite vacations and back-to-school disadvantages. With a minimum of advertising, we filled almost every seat in the beautiful Alabama Theatre . . . attendance was right at 1,900 happy people . . . the largest and most successful concert this chapter has ever held.

Our 4/20 Wurlitzer held the audience spellbound for two hours as the talented Bob Ralston used his ten fingers to weave a magic spell over the mass of people. Tony Richards, a young singer, sang several numbers with the organ. His smooth voice, coupled with the huge Altec back-stage speaker, and the mighty Wurlitzer proved to be a real crowd pleaser. Bob Ralston is a fine organist and has proved to us that the people will turn out in great numbers to see and hear him.

We are diligently seeking a new home in which to install the 4/46 Moller pipe organ presently stored in

the basement of one of our members. The organ once graced the Temple Theatre in Birmingham and was removed in the '50s before the theatre was torn down. Restoration will begin as soon as a permanent location is found.

Chapter members enjoyed our September meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Orian Truss and had an opportunity to prowl through the mountains of pipes and chests down in the basement. This really gave the members a first-hand look at what was in store for us. Also in the Truss home is the large Rodgers Trio organ that Mrs. Lillian Truss played for the delight of so many before her death. Mrs. Truss, the mother of Dr. Truss, was organist for many years at the Alabama Theatre, as well as many other theatres in the Birmingham area, and played the big Wurlitzer on the opening day of the Alabama in

December, 1927. Several members, including Dr. Truss, took a turn at playing the Rodgers.

On October 26th, the writer journeyed to Marietta to play for the Atlanta Chapter at Ruby Red's (formerly the Music Grinder Pizza Emporium). The 3/24 Wurlitzer was in excellent shape and the members of the Atlanta Chapter were very gracious hosts. Even though the Sunday concert was the purpose of the trip, an impromptu visit to Walt Winn's warehouse on Saturday night proved to be one of the high points.

October brought another type of entertainment (and exposure) for the Alabama ATOS. The Alabama Theatre and Cinema Unlimited began showing a series of classic motion pictures that will run through early December. The organ is played every night and for matinees on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The writer, resident organist for the Alabama, plays a 30-minute show prior to the start of the movie. Billy Evans is filling in two nights a week and Barry Norris is playing for matinees. The theatre opens an hour before the movie starts so that people can take tours of the gorgeous building. Linda Whitmire is present to answer questions about the organ and the theatre, as well as to arrange special tours for school groups that wish to come back to the theatre at a later date.



Tony Richards and Bob Ralston capture the hearts of the people of Birmingham, Alabama.

The people of Birmingham are proving that the theatre organ is very much in demand and has certainly not been forgotten, at least not here in Alabama. We are appreciative to Plitt Theatres for giving us the opportunity to show the people of Alabama just how beautiful our mighty Wurlitzer is.

CECIL WHITMIRE

ATLANTA

Hector Olivera, an adopted Georgia Cracker, was one of the Atlanta Chapter's Highlights of 1980. He gave us two brilliant concerts in March at Dick Weber's Music Grinder in Marietta. Winifred (a 3/24 Wurlitzer) and Hector seemed to be made for each other, particularly during the Sunday concert. Also, in March, Dennis James came to Atlanta to inaugurate Dick Weber's 4/17 Page at Walt Wynn's Warehouse. At this concert, members became aware of a brand new installation in a unique setting. An empty warehouse makes for superb acoustics. What is surely becoming a custom are the Saturday night Musicales presented by Bob Van Camp at Walt's Warehouse. The welcome mat is out to all members of National. When in Atlanta over a weekend, come by and join us.

And in April — another Inaugural Concert! This time on the 3/26 Frump (Moller/Standaart) at the Brookhaven United Methodist Church by Sue Walker Goddard. The name Frump was coined by its three owners: John Tanner, James Thrower and James Jobson. Included in the program were "Suite in C" by William Russell, "A Trumpet Minuet" by Alfred Hollins and Diane Bish's adaptation of Beethoven's "Joyful, Joyful" from the *Ninth Symphony*.

In May, Trevor Bolshaw arrived from England and a whirlwind of activities surrounded him! The Fox Theatre was the first occasion we had to hear Trevor and Ruth McDonald of Georgia State University play their program of solos and duets at the Mighty Moller and a grand piano. It's hard to pick one favorite. These two gifted artists' talents were made for each other. A lot of the credit must go to Joe Patten as the organ never sounded better than it did on May 4th. Basically the same

program was presented in Laurel, Mississippi, the following Saturday at the 3/13 Robert Morton and a Steinway grand at the Jeff Seale Studio. There never were, nor will there ever be again, hosts like the Laurel hosts: Tuddy Soley, Senton Granberry and Sam Lindsay. Ruth McDonald was due back in Atlanta early and could not stop at Birmingham, Alabama, on the way home from Laurel. But, Trevor Bolshaw presented a perfect solo concert at Bertha in the Alabama Theatre. In spite of the late arrival, the members of the Alabama Chapter gave us a warm, neighborly welcome.

For those who made the trip to hear the 2/9 Pilcher tracker in Griffin, Georgia, in June, the "up close" experience with a tracker-action instrument was an education. July brought Ruth and Dolton McAlpin to Atlanta from Starkville, Mississippi, accompanied by his Laurel compatriots: Msrs. Soley, Granberry and Lindsay. This lawyer cum organist put Winifred through her paces and his "Old Black Magic" sent chills up and down my spine.

Linda and Cecil Whitmire traveled to Atlanta in October from Birmingham. Cecil played Dick Weber's Winifred at what was The Music

Grinder. It is now Ruby Red's and the accent is on Dixie music, like its namesake in Underground Atlanta. No matter the name, Winifred's the same!!

The Atlanta Chapter wants to say Happy New Year to all its friends in ATOS.

JANE TORELL

BEEHIVE

Members and their guests were hosted by Cal and Annette Christensen in their beautiful Emigration Canyon home on Sunday evening, September 7th. Joann Harmon, Krehl King, Lowell Boberg and Bill Hagey are professional members that displayed their talents at the 2/6 Wurlitzer organ. Refreshments were served and open console was enjoyed by all so desiring. It was announced that the 2/7 Robert Morton that had been removed from the Colonial Theatre, Idaho Falls, Idaho, in 1957 and was installed in Jack Reynold's residence, was for sale. Two of our guests, Jim and Don Clark of Ogden, Utah, immediately purchased the organ and are in the process of installing it in their home.

Sunday evening, October 26th, was the date for our annual business meeting held at the home of Lowell Boberg in Draper, Utah. Gene Brein-



Beehive Chapter officers (L to R): Clare Briggs, secretary/treasurer; Wayne Russell, 1980 chairman; Gene Breinholt, 1981 chairman and Mack King, 1981 vice chairman, at Lowell Boberg's Conn 652. (Clare Briggs Photo)

holt was elected to the office of chairman, Mack King as vice chairman, and Clare Briggs was reelected secretary/treasurer for the year 1981.

After the business portion was adjourned, open console was enjoyed at Lowell Boberg's Conn 652 organ.

CLARENCE E. BRIGGS

CENTRAL FLORIDA

On October 18th and 19th, the Hillsborough County Amateur Radio Society held its annual "Hamfest," which attracted radio hams from throughout the State of Florida. One of the members of this group is the secretary of the CFTOS, and arrangements were made for CFTOS members to play during the two-day meet, using the Conn 643 theatre organ belonging to our CFTOS secretary, Winona Sullivan. The CFTOS also set up a booth featuring a 12-note demonstration chest with a variety of pipes. Society members were on hand to demonstrate the pipes and to answer any questions that the radio hams might have. Considerable interest was shown in our booth and in the organ music supplied by our members. Those playing during the two day stint were: Bill Couch, Charles Coston, Don Rouse, Charles Stanford (chairman of CFTOS), Ewell Stanford (Charles' father and theatre organist), Bob Foody, Everett Bassett, Lin Phelps and John Otterson.

Work continues on the Wurlitzer to be installed in the city-owned Tampa Theatre, with installation planned for mid-1981. Weekly sessions have completed work on the relay, with work now proceeding on the remaining five-rank chest. As many members of ATOS know, this work is painstaking and time-consuming, but it is the reason for our very existence.

In an effort to improve CFTOS' hard-pressed financial situation (and to help in our work on the Tampa Theatre organ) we have instituted a series of concerts and shows. On October 26th, a young organist, Cathy Hoffman, played a concert of popular theatre organ favorites at the 3/25 "Mighty Wurlitzer" at the J. Burns Pizza and Pipes, located in Tampa. Among her selections were: "That's Entertainment," "Hard Hearted Hannah" (wonderfully

raunchy) and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." An audience of some 350 happy souls enthusiastically received her offerings, with a standing ovation at the end of the concert. Cathy responded with a beautiful hymn (it was a Sunday).



Cathy Hoffman, young organist who recently appeared at CFTOS concert at J. Burns Pizza and Pipes in Tampa.

On Sunday, January 11th of next year, our society will present "Return to the 20s," an afternoon of silent films with organ accompaniment at the Tampa Theatre. Charles Stanford and his father will accompany at a theatre Conn. Proceeds again will help defray costs for the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer. Tickets will be available by writing CFTOS, P.O. Box 24794, Tampa, Florida, 33623, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets will cost \$2.00. The CFTOS hopes that anyone heading down toward Tampa way will contact us to say hello.

JOHN P. OTTERSON

CENTRAL INDIANA

Organ enthusiasts and club members spent a lovely September afternoon enjoying the music of Ron Rhode at the Paramount Pizza Parlor. The chapter, in lieu of a meeting, attended this concert. Ron's music is more fascinating every time we hear him and this program was a great choice of old and new favorites.

The chapter is on the go constant-

ly, and Sunday, October 5th, found a nice group of members and friends at the home of Maurice and Carol Finkel in Shelbyville, Indiana. Here we were entertained with piano and organ music. Their home was outfitted with several musical instruments in the organ and piano line. Kurt Schackel and Carol Finkel gave us a duo concert on twin baby grands in the living room. The next room back, with a skylight, housed a Louisville Uniphone. This organ had been removed from the Dream Theatre in Brightwood and placed in the Lawrence Methodist Church, Lawrence, Indiana, for nine years. The organ was installed with all original pipe work. Adjacent to this organ was a Hammond electronic. In the next room, a den, we found more music, another organ.

Finally, at the back of the house in a room recently added, we found another "baby." Carol refers to their instruments as their "children." This one was the project of son, David. It was a 2/3 Morton pit organ. It had been installed in 1926 at Columbus, Indiana, with everything installed in the pit. The Finkel's had acquired this organ in the spring of 1979, and it was installed with all pipes in a gigantic box. Another feature of this old organ, it played player piano rolls. Kurt Schackel, a very talented young organist, also gave us a concert on this organ.

The members, guests and a few members of A.G.O., to the tune of approximately 200, met Monday, October 13th at the Paramount Pizza. Following a business meeting, John Ferguson, on the music staff of the Paramount, made familiar to the group the many facets of this fantastic instrument.

John Catherwood, organist from Detroit and Kalamazoo, Michigan, was our entertainment for the evening.

Looking ahead into 1981, our group is considering regular organ concerts at the Hedbeck Theatre, on the recently refurbished Page, using our local talent and talents of our own club members.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

The autumn months marked the resumption of major activities for the members of COTOS. The Sep-



Fred Rieger introduces his 3/42 Moller-Estey player organ. (Bob Clark Photo)

tember 21st meeting, at the home of Lee and Norman Smith, featured Dave Love at the Hammond 2307. Dave presented a variety of popular, classical and religious music which effectively demonstrated the versatility of the instrument. The major item of the business meeting was the annual election for the board of directors. Willard Ebner and Bob Shaw were reelected to positions they had held previously. The membership was informed that Bob Gallagher has volunteered as chapter librarian for the fledgling sheet music library.

The month's entertainment continued with Bob Ralston's theatre organ concert at the Ohio Theatre. Sunday, September 28th, brought a near-capacity crowd to the Ohio for an afternoon of musical excellence on the 4/20 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ. The second half of Mr. Ralston's program was a one-hour prearranged medley taken from the request lists from his Ohio Theatre concert two years ago.

The October meeting, held amidst snow clouds and fading autumn splendor on October 26th, was a treat par excellence. The site was Fred and Kay Rieger's "Barn" near Waynesville, Ohio. Following a potluck feast for about fifty members, friends and guests, Dr. John Polsley, COTOS chairman, directed a brief business meeting. It was announced that the board of directors, in their organizational meeting following the September election, had voted to retain the same slate of officers as last

year. The officers are Dr. John Polsley, chairman; Ed Lougher, vice chairman; Bob Shaw, secretary; and Dave Love, treasurer. This decision was greeted enthusiastically by the membership, expressing a uniform gratitude for the fine job these dedicated men have done in the past and will, no doubt, continue over the course of the next year. The major issue for consideration by the membership was the bylaws revision recently received from a committee of ATOS. Due to some considerable confusion over the validity of the re-

Phillips, Ralph Schluttenhoffer and numerous other talents entertained the group as many explored the facility. The building includes flawlessly-maintained organ chambers, a cupola with an incomparable view of the Miami River Valley at sunset, an antique auto collection in the lower level, an incredible machine shop and wood shop that make restoration of organs and classic cars considerably simpler, a projection booth and ceiling-concealed screen, and a main room which very handily accommodated fifty people for a ma-



Ralph Schluttenhoffer at the Moller-Estey in Fred Rieger's "barn" during open console. (Bob Clark Photo)

visions, the issue was tabled until the November meeting by which time it is hoped that considerable clarity will have replaced the confusion.

Following the business meeting, Fred Rieger spoke to the assemblage about his marvelous 3/42 Moller/Estey (player) pipe organ. The "Barn," built in 1969, houses this magnificent instrument which is a hybrid of numerous organs. Mr. Rieger played one selection and followed with a demonstration of the player unit with one of his more than 400 player rolls. Open console followed, led by the expertise of Dennis James playing the "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" by Bach. Chris

major meal with plenty of space to spare. The exquisite character of Fred Rieger's "Barn" and organ makes it worth the drive to Waynesville from anywhere!

One other significant activity was available to the chapter membership during the fall. The Ron Rhode concert at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, on September 14th, attracted a good representation from the chapter. Reactions were uniformly enthusiastic about the Wurplitzer and Mr. Rhode's skill.

October closed with the 6th Annual "Spook Out" at the Ohio Theatre on Halloween. Dennis James and the Robert Morton 4/20 theatre pipe

organ grandly embellished the screening of the silent classic, *The Phantom of the Opera*, at midnight of October 31st. Dennis could make anyone believe in vampires and things that go bump in the night!

BOB & PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

Our variety show at the Chicago Theatre occurred October 12th. The four acts were well-presented and well-received, as was Frankie Masters and orchestra. Lin Lunde from Richmond, Va., did the organ part of the program and also accompanied the silent comedy. Lin is an excellent musician and the only complaint was that his section of the program was too brief. We hope to have Lin for a full concert soon.

This may be the last of this type of show as vaudeville talent is getting to be too costly and in short supply. Time will tell.

Our annual banquet, held in September at the Baker Hotel, St. Charles, Ill., was interesting and enjoyable. Les Hickory from St. Charles played the Geneva pipes in the banquet hall and also a Kimball on the boat ride afterward. This boat plied the waters of the Fox River with Les at the console. It seems that all of the 65 attending the banquet also were on the boat.

Sadly we report that William H. Barnes is no longer with us. See Closing Chord on page 17. Mr. Barnes lived in our area for many years and his contribution to the field of pipe organs will be beneficial for all time. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. He passed on after some time of illness.

News tells us that the Genessee Theatre, Waukegan, is kept going by a group named Friends of The Genessee. This group will be giving varied presentations occasionally, thus only time will tell the theatre's future.

By the time you read this our Thanksgiving Weekender will be over. Interest in this affair is excellent as reservations are near the set goal and may go over the mark. A report will be made later. Walter Strony will have his new disc recorded on the Mundelein organ ready for the gathering and it will be a good album.

Our next show is December 14th at Downers Grove High School with



Lin Lunde at the Chicago Wurlitzer console. Some 2,100 people attended the CATOE All Star Revue celebrating the 59th birthday of the landmark movie palace in October. (Barnett Photo)

Ron Rhode and his brother, Chuck, the singer. We are looking forward to this concert as we have heard excellent reports concerning Chuck. We have had Ron in concert before and know he always gives a beautiful performance.

Happy Holidays and a Healthy and Peaceful 1981 from all of us to all of you. Keep smiling.

ALMER BROSTROM

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

The end of the summer season brought us two of the better events of the year.

On September 6th, Bill Hastings and Joe Calliano were hosts to about 75 organ enthusiasts at their place on Cape Cod. They are the owners and loving caretakers of the fine 2/8 Wurlitzer they acquired from its original home, a theatre in Waterbury, CT.

Mark Dwyer, chapter member, was the featured artist of the afternoon concert. A fine, varied program met with a rousing reception by the audience who obviously appreciated Mark's generous efforts.

In the evening, hosts Bill and Joe presented a program featuring Bill at the console and Joe at the grand piano.

We sincerely thank Bill and Joe for a marvelous time.

On September 13th and 14th, our good friend Ashley Miller returned

to the Thomaston Opera House Marr & Colton for a pair of concerts — programs of high musical content and virtuosity that we have come to expect from this dean of theatre organists. A nice mixture of discerning selections, talented arranging, and skillful playing distinguished these concerts as the work of a fine musical artist. As a diversion, Ashley introduced a highly-talented cellist, Thirzah Bendokas, who, with her lovely choice of numbers, added much to the well-selected program. As always, after Ashley's concerts, we look forward to the next one.

Our regular October meeting took place on the 12th of the month at the Thomaston Opera House. Invited were guests from neighboring chapters in New York, New Jersey, eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We were pleased that many came.

To leave as much time as possible for organ playing, chairman Norm Ray scheduled our chapter business session for 2 p.m. and managed, as he usually does, to conclude business in minimum time.

There followed open console during the afternoon until concert time at 5 p.m. when Lon Hanagan, already familiar to chapter members, was introduced by program chairman, Joe Graif as our concert time artist. Lon reinforced our recollections of him as a talented organist and he played a most welcome program for us.

October 17th and 19th were the autumn dates of Lyn Larsen's most recent appearances at the Thomaston Opera House. Lyn has always been popular and this latest engagement maintained his popularity here. We always expect, and do receive from Lyn, sure technique, pleasing programming, and a smiling countenance. At the conclusion of the evening comments heard from departing patrons indicated that the concert committee members have been doing their work well.

Forthcoming organ concerts at the Opera House include Lew Williams on December 6th and 7th with Bob Ralston scheduled for January 31st and February 1st.

Information and tickets are available via stamped envelope from Concert Tickets, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483. Phone (203) 888-9696.

WALLACE F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

We started out the fall season in a great way: as the guests of the Land of Lincoln Chapter. Twenty-one Wisconsinites journeyed to Rockford, Illinois, on September 27th and enjoyed an interesting and fun-filled day. We spent the morning at the Coronado Theatre where LOLTOS members gave us guided tours of the magnificent house. But the golden-voiced Barton was always the center of attention with many of our members gratefully taking advantage of the open console opportunity.

From there we went to the home of Don and Marilyn Rublee for a lovely picnic lunch. The weather was just lovely, and people only moved inside when some lively piano and organ duets started with Bob Leutner at the piano and Perry Petta at the electronic organ.

Then a drive through Illinois farm country took us to the home of Bob and Marsha Tuttle. What a surprise their farmstead held! The old grainery is now a small theatre complete with a 2/4 Page theatre organ. And if that wasn't enough, inside the house we found a 2-manual tracker action instrument. Besides the two organs there were countless other things for members to play: a player piano, a reed organ, music boxes and old record players and everything was usually going at once! LOLTOS members really outdid themselves, as there followed a fantastic potluck supper.

We of Dairyland cannot thank LOLTOS enough for their hospitality. We hope to have them come up our way again soon. We encourage other chapters to get together with their neighbors. It's very rewarding to share dreams and goals, and perhaps to learn new ideas on how to achieve them!

Speaking of dreams and goals, DTOS has finally been granted access to the Riverside Theatre Wurlitzer. A repair crew under the direction of crew chief Gary Hanson has started work sessions, and so far the results are very encouraging. The temporary stage over the console has been removed, the chambers cleaned out and water damaged chests inspected. Project chairman, Fred Wolfgram got us a story in *The Milwaukee Journal*. Members have also been having week night releathering

parties at Pipe Organ Pizza-North. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and have set a goal for a spring concert on this 3/13 Wurlitzer.

Our October social was held at the home of Fred Hermes, Sr. Fred accompanied *The Phantom of the Opera* at his 5-manual Wurlitzer for the enjoyment of a capacity audience in his basement theatre. This is an annual event that is always enjoyed, and we thank Fred for this Halloween celebration.

We are switching from a week night to a Sunday afternoon format as many other groups have found this to be successful. We hope it will be for us also.

CARRIE NELSON PROD

EASTERN MASS.

Another opening, another season at Babson, September 27th, as chairman Royal Schweiger got the show on the road. Stuart Hinchliffe, of the nominating committee, read the 1981 slate of nominees for office, which was accepted as read. William Carpenter will be our new chairman; George Brunzell, vice president; Gerald Parsons, secretary; Alvah Winslow, treasurer; Timothy Holoran and Richard Smith, directors (3 years); Dr. Jonathan Kleefeld and Stanley Garniss, alternates (1 year). Edward Stanley was appointed a full 4-year replacement member of the organ committee after having served an abbreviated first term.

Our guest organist for the evening, Dr. Alan Goodnow, introduced by Program Chairman Tim Holloran, lost no time with an upbeat "Fine and Dandy." His program had a nice balance of lush, quiet ballad numbers contrasting with those bright and brassy. When concluded, hearty applause rewarded us with a smooth "Nevertheless" encore.

Open console period, always an interesting time to hear various talents, had as a highlight, Leonard Winter, a former theatre organist and long-time member. For months on the disabled list, Len appeared at the console and then at the Steinway grand piano in an impromptu duet with Tim Bjareby at the Wurlitzer. This was Lenny's first EMCATOS appearance at the console since before hospitalization — welcome back! The sound of music lingered long into the evening and the vibra-

tions were nice.

Member Marvin Horovitz, Winchester, Mass., graciously hosted the chapter on October 25th for a regular meeting/field trip excursion. A fine Marr & Colton was the star attraction, which was also enjoyed by members of the AMICA — Automated Musical Instrument Collectors Association, Boston Area Chapter. The former "home" of the little gem was the Thompson Square Theatre, Charlestown, Mass.

After a brief business meeting, Tim Bjareby, among others, put the Marr & Colton through its paces. As one of his crowd pleasers, when he was seated on the bench playing, the lights were extinguished, then switched on and he was gone, but the organ was still playing. Marvin's roll player was the invisible organist without anyone realizing the transition. A Chickering grand piano in the main floor foyer can also be played from the console, so this little 2/5 has versatility.

The warm, friendly atmosphere within was not matched by Mother Nature outside as a howling gale with torrents of rain, flooded streets, downed trees, branches and power lines deterred many from venturing out in the elements. We hope for a future return engagement under more friendly skies and a united attendance!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

Chapter members culminated the July 4th weekend with an open console session and a picnic at the Trenton War Memorial. Our members enjoyed a day filled with good food and fine music. Feasting members gathered on the stage while others played the very responsive 3/14 Moller.

August proved to be an exciting month for the chapter. Early one Sunday morning, over seventy of our members and their friends journeyed to the "Big Apple" and gathered in the lobby of Radio City Music Hall. Garden Staters were treated to an incredible two-hour tour of the Music Hall. We went "behind the scenes" to view the Rockettes rehearsal rooms, sound studios, the wardrobe department and the projection booth. Our members explored the

catwalks high above the auditorium, stood on the Great Stage and viewed the organ chambers. After experiencing the magnificent "Manhattan Showboat" stage show, the famous Wurlitzer was demonstrated for us by organists Dave Messineo and Bob Maidhof. We owe many thanks to Mike Cipolletti for organizing such a "wonder-full" day.

Autumn was greeted in the grand style under a starlit Mediterranean sky at the Casa Italiana. Our annual banquet was a huge success as members enjoyed delicious food and great music. All who attended were delighted by Don Kinnier's concert and skillful accompaniment of a Buster Keaton film at the 3/11 Wurlitzer. We thank Walter Froehlich for arranging a most enjoyable evening.

We congratulate and welcome our officers for the coming year: Peter Panos, chairman; Mike Cipolletti, vice chairman; and Marjorie Vitikas, secretary-treasurer.

RONNIE T. STOUT

GULF COAST

If a picture is worth a thousand words then just look at the accompanying picture and I won't have to write a thousand words.

Our chapter is small, but mighty, so work continues in our workshop, thanks to Dr. B. D. Rhea. He is doing a beautiful job on the reproduction of our Wonder Morton. His innovative and original plan for the pedal assembly is a work of art in itself, besides being extremely practical. It is assembled where the pedals can be brought forward for any necessary adjustments or repair.

The woodwork on the console is of the finest craftsmanship; the brass fittings are artistic perfection. He turned the posts on the side and top



Dr. B. D. Rhea turned the posts for his reproduction of a Wonder Morton console on his workshop lathe.

of the console on his workshop lathe. Here again — perfection.

While our chairman, Tom Helms, is on sabbatical at T.C.U. in Fort Worth, Texas, completing work on his degree, Walter Smith has stepped in and makes a great effort to fill his shoes. There is more to do and much to be done in the "step-and-fetch" department that falls to us who want to help.

Restoration on our Saenger Theatre is coming along nicely. Early in November the powers-that-be held a "bash" in the being-restored theatre for all who contributed to the Saenger fund. Much work has been done on the restoration; much is yet to be done, including restoring and reinstalling all the seats. Right now the theatre is empty of seats and all carpeting. What a good time to record the organ! The acoustics are unbelievable.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

LAND O' LAKES

It was a bright, sunny Sunday following a couple of gloomy, rainy days, and LOL member/artist Bob Arndt celebrated the occasion at Cedarhurst, August 17th, with a concert featuring bright, bouncy tunes. "You Light Up My Life" might have been an ode to the returning sun. Such numbers as "Downtown," "Ten Cents a Dance," "Alley Cat," and a girl friend medley were refreshingly entertaining and danceable. His interpretation of "Nola," by Felix Arndt, was brisk and original. While Bob made good use of the new capture combination action on Goldie, he also added plenty of exciting and enhancing stops from the tab rail. All in all, he played the pipes as they were meant to be played — to entertain . . . please . . . excite, and lift the spirit.

The picnic on the bluff in Red Wing, September 14th, could have

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Jay Mitchell

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Bob Arndt plays the Wurlitzer at Cedarhurst for the Land O' Lakes August meeting.

(Ed Hirschhoff Photo)

been a cold, somewhat dismal affair, but for Carl Eiler's concert later at the Kilgen in the Auditorium Theatre and his movie accompaniment which made the difference, Carl gave "My Old Flame" a slow, sassy interpretation. What came forth under Carl's special talent was an interpretation that surely would have pleased Johnston and Coslow. That's the way that ballad ought to be played on pipes. And that's Carl's forte: a style that gives meaning and expression to the music and the words. He also persuaded everybody to put another nickel in (the nickelodeon) with his "Music Music Music!" It was typical Eiler fare — entertaining and creative.

Member and artist, Lonnie Roach, played his second concert for the chapter and guests at Cedarhurst on Sunday, October 26th. Lonnie's skill as an arranger and music educator, as well as a performer, were amply demonstrated in his *Porgy and Bess* medley and ballads a la Jesse Crawford. The organ and Kimball grand piano are again in tune as fall has arrived, so Lon was able to make good use of it, too. A wonderful October get-together.

ROGER R. DALZIEL

LOS ANGELES

The chapter's September 28th concert starred youthful Lew Williams, organist at Bill Brown's Organ



Lew Williams at the "San Gabe" 3/16 Los Angeles Chapter Wurlitzer. (Zimfoto)

Stop restaurant in Phoenix. Lew brought the San Gabriel 3/16 Wurlitzer console up to a lively "Varsity Drag" (1927). He leans toward programming music from the '20s and '30s, but also included a current tune, "The Rose," for the kids. The '20s tunes included a smooth bit of Ellingtonia, "The Mooch" and as close a recreation of Crawford's

"Little White Lies" recording as we've yet heard.

Acting as his own MC, Lew won his audience over quickly. He's all business, no nonsense, until he turns on his infectious smile.

His classical offering was a very polished "Scherzo" from Vierne's *Second Symphony*. He managed very classical combinations for this selection, which includes lots of pedal melody, and breezed through it with subtlety and authority. In tribute to the late film director, Alfred Hitchcock, Lew offered "Hitch's" TV theme, "Funeral March for a Marionette," with humorous touches. His big production number was an excerpt (6½ minutes) from Gershwin's 15-minute "Rhapsody in Blue," but announced he



Warren Lubich.

wouldn't play all of it, which is more than most organists who play the excerpt do.

His encore was a comedy number, Robert Elmore's "Rhumba," a selection which appeals as much to the eye as to the ear, because the organist's physical efforts required to perform it look comical to the observer. As music it isn't much, but

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those frequent full pedalboard glissandos sure amuse sight gag-oriented customers. Lew didn't miss a visual trick and his audience ate it up.

His clean, accurate style of playing, imaginative arrangements and his youthful enthusiasm provided solid entertainment.

Our November concert scheduled Warren Lubich, well known in the San Francisco Bay Area and a recording artist. Warren's concert was set for Sunday afternoon, November 16 at "San Gabe." At the same location, the 3/16 Wurlitzer was set for an independent concert by Jerry Nagano on December 6. Jerry had just returned from a triumphant eastern tour.

The chapter was looking for a new challenge and found it at the Los Angeles Orpheum Theatre. It has its original 3/11 Wurlitzer, which 1979 Conventioneers missed hearing by a hair's breadth; we got it playing, but old leather and other diseases of neglect and age made it unreliable.

Now the chapter is making arrangements to give the Wurlitzer the overhaul it deserves.

GUANOVERO BANDINI

MOTOR CITY

Jonas Nordwall began our fall concert series at the 3/10 Barton in the Redford Theatre on September 13th. His delightful arrangements and choice of numbers was well received by the audience, many of whom were hearing this West Coast artist for the first time. Sharing the spotlight with Jonas was Chet Bogan and the Wolverine Jass Band, a local group known for their jazz renditions and big band selections.

Much in demand, both as a teacher and as a performer, is Bill Thomson, who made his first appearance at the Redford Theatre Barton on October 11th. Bill presented a well-rounded program that included several of his own arrangements.

Dennis James returned to our area

for two programs in October. On Friday, the 24th, Dennis accompanied the Lon Chaney film *The Phantom of the Opera* at the 3/13 Barton in the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. The audience was enthusiastic about Dennis and his pre-Halloween program.

The very next night found him at the Royal Oak Theatre, where he accompanied four Laurel and Hardy silent comedies at the console of the 3/16 Barton. The evening's entertainment also included a sing-along as well as concert selections.

Our organ activities at the Punch and Judy Theatre, in Grosse Pointe Farms, are once again filling our calendar after a summer recess. Member Bob Mills has designed and fitted a heavy waterproof black vinyl cover



The sixth rank was working when Herb Head presented his October program at the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer. (Fred Page Photo)



Fr. Jim Miller at the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer in September. (Bob Becker Photo)

for the Wurlitzer console. It extends from the stage over the entire pit area occupied by the console and will protect it. Bob stitched the cover by hand, then had it machine-finished at a local shop.

Work on the Punch and Judy organ, by Herb Head and Dave Voy-

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danoff, is progressing. The sixth rank was readied in time for the October program there.

Artists for the First Sunday programs at the Punch and Judy 2/6 Wurlitzer were Fr. Jim Miller in September and Herb Head in October.

Bud Bates performed for the Second Sunday event at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in September. Evelyn Markey was the artist there in October.

Burt Castle and Barry Rindhage put on a joint program at the Royal Oak Theatre Fourth Sunday event in September, which included several vocals by Jan Scharrweber. Paul Havenstein played the October program.

DON LOCKWOOD

NEW YORK

Sophia Loren, charismatically beautiful, listened as sounds from the on-stage pipes behind caressed her with "Sophia," a song written for the movie idol by Lee Erwin and played by him at the 2/12 Wurlitzer.

The ATOS Ben Hall Memorial Organ, now in New York's Carnegie Hall Cinema, was used as Coty Perfumes honored Miss Loren there early in October. This theatre organ association with a current movie star is an encouraging indication that the theatre organ is still alive and in the present.

The orchestra section of the former Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, now a gymnasium for Long Island University, still houses the 4/26 Wurlitzer shipped there June 30, 1928. The console rises anachronistically from the edge of a basketball court. Nevertheless it remains a reigning monarch, perfectly maintained by Bob Walker's crew. This was the organ heard on October 12th when the N.Y. chapter presented

another in its continuing series of noteworthy concerts. The artist on that date was a former Radio City Music Hall staffer, James Paulin, Jr. Paulin plays with much gusto, letting the listener know there's power behind the shutters and imagination in his fingers. He brought out the orchestral capabilities of the instrument although occasional over-arranging overpowered delicate melodies whose beauty lies in their simplicity. Playing for a "moving" audience between film showings requires heavier registrations whereas a listening audience can appreciate the more subtle blending of the organ's tonal palette.

Paulin, with technical prowess, is an audience pleasing showman. His selections were well balanced for an interesting program, the first four of which were in the same key — does he carry a torch for C major?

Attendance for the James Paulin, Jr. recital indicated that the chapter is growing and that chairman Bob Godfrey must be doing something right. Thank you Bob.

MARLIN SWING

NOR-CAL

In July, over a dozen members attended the national convention in London. A good time was had by all who attended that wonderful convention. Reminiscing continued long after the actual event.

Our first chapter meeting after the convention was our annual picnic, held this year at the home of Bob Chaney in Lafayette, California, August 18th. Bob has a lovely residence complete with 3-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ, Conn electronic organ and grand piano, plus a pool in a beautiful setting, which was available for members use. Attendance was good and near capacity for the

residence. The organ activities opened with Don Cresswell followed by nearly all playing members. The five-hour plus open console enabled all who wished, to play the three-decker. Jim Riggs gave an impromptu concert and again we enjoyed the professional at work and play. Our thanks are extended to our host Bob Chaney for a fine afternoon.

The September meeting was held at the Cinema 21 Theatre in San Francisco. The artist for the morning was the well-known Bay Area organist Larry Vannucci. The Cinema 21 (formerly Marina Theatre) has the last remaining original installation in the city of San Francisco. The organ is a divided 2/6 Robert Morton that was installed in 1928. The organ consists of a Tibia, Vox, Diapason and Trumpet in the left chamber and a Violin, Kremone and percussions in the right chamber. Larry, who has been taking care of this organ since 1947, showed his audience that he is a master of registration and phrasing. Larry gets so much music out of this organ that it is hard to believe that it only has 6 ranks of pipes. The Nor-Cal chapter is indeed honored to have such a devoted musician as Larry Vannucci perform for us and is grateful for all the effort Larry has given to preserve this beautiful instrument in absolutely original condition.

October 19th, Jim Riggs was to have played for us at the Avenue Theatre. Unfortunately, he was hospitalized, and on short notice, our past chapter chairman, Warren Lubich, presented a program for us. We hope to hear Jim in the near future.

The Avenue Theatre, home of the Avenue Photoplay Society, continues to present silent movies with pipe organ accompaniment by Bob Vaughn, every Friday night. In addition to his numerous other organ

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Larry Vannucci at the Cinema 21 2/6 Robert Morton.

(Jim McGuire Photo)



Bob Chaney, Isaleen Nadalet and Etta Nivens at Bob's residence 3-manual Wurlitzer.

(Jim McGuire Photo)

commitments, including staff organist for the Bay Area Pizza and Pipes restaurants, concert and recording work, and calliope playing for special occasions, Warren opens the movie on Friday nights with a half-hour organ program including a sing-along. He is therefore very familiar with the 3/15 Wurlitzer. Many of us often enjoy the Avenue Theatre Friday night programs, but we infrequently hear a concert there. During part of the program, chamber lights were turned on so that the audience could see where the chambers were and identify the locations of the various ranks. Lighting and staging for Warren's program was handled by photoplayer Steve Denis, who is also a member of Nor-Cal. Warren Lubich provided a delightful afternoon program on short notice. Our thanks to Jeff Hanson, Alex Santos and all the friendly photo enthusiasts for their hospitality.

It has been an event-filled year for Nor-Cal. Our enthusiasm was stimulated actually in December, 1979, when our *Windsheet* editor, Bob Gil-

bert, sent out a call for volunteers to aid in the swift removal of a 3/24 Estey from the Castilleja School in Palo Alto, California, before the portion of the building in which it was housed was razed to make way for new construction. A crew of 12 of our members removed and saved the entire organ in one week, sometimes working into the early hours of the morning after a normal day's job. Headmaster Donald R. Westmoreland, who initially had doubts about the operation, was moved to write letters of thanks to the chapter members involved stating, "It was a masterful job, and we thank you!"

In July, the board accepted our bid for the 1985 National Convention in San Francisco. We are looking forward to the convention here and hope and expect to host an entertaining convention as we did in 1975. There will be two new 4/26 Wurlitzers on the scene!

This past year we indicated our willingness to install an organ in the 3,500-seat Berkeley Community Theatre, and communicated this to

the Berkeley Board of Education, owner of the theatre, through Judson Owens, one of our board members who is the manager of the theatre. Our one great disappointment of the year was being outbid on the purchase of the San Francisco Orpheum 4/22 Morton which we had hoped to preserve for the area by installing in the Berkeley Community Theatre.

I would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the help of Jim Dunbar and Dick Taylor in preparing this column.

RUDY FREY

OREGON

Our September meeting was held at the Oriental Theatre in Sherwood, near Portland, and featured Jack Coxon at the 5/24 Marr & Colton. This organ first came from Rochester, N.Y., and is the largest ever produced by that firm. Its present situation can best be described as a giant organ in a tiny, but beautiful theatre. The two huge chambers are located backstage and the massive console is on a lift.

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Jack Coxon is a popular Oregon musician and is currently on the staff at the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland. His generous program provided an opportunity to extend his styling beyond pizza music to include show tunes, ballads and old favorites. Jack's registration developed some very exotic solo combinations and also made good ac-

and Gene Stoller and Bob Roschild for the theatre.

On October 26th, thanks to excellent directions, we were able to find the beautiful home of Jerry and Nickie Gaylord, located in the rolling hills southeast of Portland. This was our first visit to hear their just-installed 2/7 Wicks.

In 1940, this organ was removed as

directly off a huge downstairs recreation room. It now has a Tuba, Sax, Tibia, Vox, Flute and two Strings. The console has magnetic stop tabs and the chests are direct electric action, with all solid-state switching.

The launching of this organ in it's new home opened with a program by our ever popular Gerry Gregorius. This was followed by open console.



Jack Coxon in the lobby of the Sherwood Oriental Theatre. The artifacts in the background are from the now-defunct Portland Oriental Theatre. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

companiment use of the beautiful second Tibia in the foundation chamber. Jack always plays with great enthusiasm which communicates to his audiences, making him a joy to hear.

Thanks to Jack Coxon for a fine program, Bill Blunk for the organ,

a 2/4 from a theatre in LeGrand, Oregon, by Bob Rickett, northwest pioneer of the theatre organ revival. This was Bob's first organ and was installed in his Portland home, where he built a new console for it. The new location in the Gaylord home is in an uncrowded chamber,



Gerry Gregorius in the chamber of Jerry Gaylord's "Heinz 57." (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

Thanks to Gerry for a fine program and to Jerry and Nickie Gaylord for their hospitality. The afternoon was made all the more enjoyable by the drive through the beautiful countryside to their house.

BUD ABEL

POTOMAC VALLEY

On Sunday, September 28th, about 100 early risers traveled to the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, to hear Eddie Weaver spin his musical magic from the big 3/28 Wurlitzer with grand piano. Eddie put on his usual and talented performance with a varied selection of pieces. One very enjoyable segment of the program was his arrangement

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of a set of country music melodies that worked out well on the theatre organ, beginning and ending with John Denver's "Thank God, I'm a Country Boy." Another group of tunes he called, "handle with care" with, of all things, selections by Handel.

The Byrd Theatre is well known and is a true movie palace with a crystal chandelier hanging over the orchestra section. The theatre has been placed on the Register of Historic places as a historic landmark by the City of Richmond.

"Sweet Georgia Brown," first in a straight style and then in syncopation, brought loud applause from the audience. Mr. Weaver doesn't just play organ, he plays to entertain, including a corny joke or two such as, "How do two preachers call each other long distance? . . . Parson to Parson!" Well, he said it, I didn't.



Eddie Weaver. (Ray Brubacher Photo)

Getting up at 5 or 6 on a Sunday morning was very worthwhile, and enjoyable. The City of Richmond and the Potomac Valley Chapter are very fortunate to have this talent and

this marvelous instrument, which by the way, is maintained by former National President, Tommy Landrum, and his good friend Dick Barlow. The organ was in great shape and Eddie used everything on it to produce an outstanding show.



Bob Stratton at the 3/12 Austin in his home. (Harold Richman Photo)

Progress with the Earle Theatre Kimball at the University of Maryland is moving along well. The console is now in place on stage, and when not in use has a very nice "garage" in which to park, secure from harm. The chapter's other organ, at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, is being worked on by members as well, but fast progress cannot be made on this 2-manual Wurlitzer until completion of the Kimball.

The October meeting was held at the home of Past Chapter Chairman Bob Stratton. A fine turnout of members gave Bob a big lift in his recovery from a broken right hip. His 3/12 Austin sounded great and the master can still beat out some very fine organ music. After Bob played a

few pieces, open console was in order. Some very fine musicians responded. Lou Hurvitz, Floyd Werle, Charles Kokowski, Ron Kragler, Ken LaCapria and Dick Price provided the music after which Bob himself returned to the console to finish up what appeared to be the end of the day, but how wrong we were. With about half the group still present, Floyd Werle sat down at the organ console, and big Bob sat at the grand piano, and what glorious music they made together, from "Poet and Peasant" to Victor Herbert, and a half-dozen rousing Sousa marches including a foot stompin' "Under the Double Eagle." This was an old-fashioned jam session, and both the audience and the players had a good time. This is the *fun* that ATOS is all about.

DICK HAIGHT

PUGET SOUND

We are having an organ concert every month and are indeed fortunate to have not only the organs available but the artists who are so talented and willing to accommodate us.

On Sunday morning, September 21st, we were invited to Bellevue Pizza and Pipes by Jack and Betty Lafaw, members of our chapter who are very gracious in allowing us to hear their fine organ so often in concert. We were also very fortunate to have Tom Cotner as the artist. (We understand that he will be with us, as a representative of the Conn Company, in the northwest, soon.) Tom is very familiar with this 3/16 Wurlitzer, having been a staff organist here in the past. He brought out some of the delightful tones and embellishments of the organ that went along with his presentation. He is a fine organ technician and was one of



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the designers of the Saville church organ. We will be happy when he is permanently in our area again.

Tom enjoys pop tunes, and his program was grouped to include some concert arrangements of the turn of the century tunes followed by 1890 tunes. Up to date selections of showtunes from *Chorus Line* were interesting and tuneful. Chairman Thelma Barclay held a short meeting and open console followed.

In October, we were privileged to hear a Seattle artist, Renaldo Baggott, play a concert in the sanctuary of the Church of the Ascension. We are indebted to the Rev. H. Frederick McLaughlin, the Rector of the Episcopal Church, and to Ron who has been organist for this church for 27 years. Ron was a member of the nationally famous theatre organ duo of "Ron & Don" with the late Don Moore. They played twin consoles at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle. In



Tom Cotner. (George E. Belston Photo)

addition, they played the Portland Paramount, the Brooklyn Fox, the Washington D.C. Fox, the Philadelphia Fox, Holly Warner and the Chicago Oriental.

This organ which intrigued us, was



Ron Baggott at the Church of the Ascension in Seattle.

(Ken Gallwey Photo)

a Balcom and Vaughan installation with added theatrical voices, namely: Brass Sax with the sound of the Kinura, Trumpet and theatre tremolo. Ron worked with Balcom and Vaughan on the installation and voicing. Mary and Sandy Balcom, who have been associated with every big pipe organ installation in this area, were in the audience. Russ Evans of the program committee mentioned that on the chest of the Paramount Theatre organ is an inscription in pencil, the signature of Sandy Balcom dated 1928.

Ron showed the organ in its liturgical splendor then came the lush tones of a theatre organ featuring the above pipes that came out so clearly. We had been looking forward to this Ron Baggott concert for some time and it will be a long time before we forget it.

Chairman Thelma Barclay was interviewed on radio station KVI regarding the restoration of the organ in the Seattle Paramount. A clear explanation of ATOS and its functions was given, stating the international scope and the efforts of restoration of an "endangered species," the theatre organ. As a result of this radio

interview, we have had many inquiries about ATOS and we have acquired a few new members.

We, of the Puget Sound Chapter, would like to extend our best Holiday Wishes to you and yours, and hope that we will see you in Seattle in 1981 for the international convention.

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

On August 3rd, the 1926 classic film, *Sparrows*, with Mary Pickford, was shown again, as last year, on our local ABC affiliate TV station. The original organ scoring by Lance Johnson, taped on the Fargo Theatre Wurlitzer, was included.

In the Monday night summer series of free classic films at Moorhead State University (Moorhead, Mn.), the August 4th offering featured two silents, *The Hills of Kentucky* starring Rin-Tin-Tin, and *Convict 13*, a rare Buster Keaton film, scored live by Lance on a borrowed Baldwin organ.

One Saturday in September, the new offices and studios of WDAY radio and TV (NBC affiliate) were having their open house, with past

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and present employees on hand to participate. Our member Hildegard Kraus was at the grand piano in the main studio, to entertain and reminisce with the 4,000 people who toured the facilities. Hildegard was a staff musician from 1924-1952.

A great supply of donated sheet music has come into our hands from various sources and we are preparing a card file now, with the music to be kept in one of the restored dressing rooms at the Fargo Theatre. It will take many Saturday mornings of typing to get through this project. Work continues on restoring the stage area, where we have cleaned the red velvet swag curtain under the proscenium and have been tracing some of the mysterious old wiring, cleaning receptacles, replacing outlets and more.

On October 21st, a free afternoon at the Fargo Theatre for senior citizens was sponsored by Gate City Savings and Loan Association, with Lance accompanying the Harold Lloyd movie, *For Heaven's Sake*. Then Hildegard played a concert segment, joined by our chairman, Dave Knudtson, at the chapter's baby grand, for two duets.

Our big show October 30th was a success in every way. The weather cooperated and the house was full for our production on a Halloween theme. Our "Monster of Ceremonies," Doug Hamilton, came out of his coffin to introduce each part of the program. Igor, his assistant, (Joe Johnson) "hunched" out to help him and also was our doorman in front of the theatre before the show. Instructor of organ studies at Concordia College (Moorhead) and head organist at First Lutheran Church in Fargo, Peter Nygaard, was our opening artist, and played the "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor" by Bach to set the mood.

Next was James Rasmussen, who performed two acts of illusion. Lance accompanied a series of slides showing the many faces of Lon Chaney, and then the always popular sing-along. Following intermission, it was time for the feature, the original 1925 version of Lon Chaney in *The Phantom of the Opera*, for which Lance provided an outstanding score. As for past shows, Hildegard played our chapter grand piano in the lobby for preshow entertainment and also during intermission. Lunch was served on the mezzanine for members and guests.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

On September 21st, forty-five members and guests met at the Paramount Theatre with the Mighty Wurlitzer as the center of attention. Ed Benoit, a talented member, played a short concert, followed by open console. For some it was a second time around at the keys, but for others, it was a thrill to have their first chance at playing a big theatre organ. Many hours of hard work have gone into getting the Wurlitzer in top shape. Don Wick drives down from Loveland, Colorado, at least once a week, and is joined by Jerry Cutshall and Ivan Duff. The organ is sounding great. At this same gathering the membership present voted to sponsor a concert at the Paramount Theatre on Saturday, December 6th. Bob Cavarra, Professor of Music at Colorado State University, will be the featured organist, and Ed Benoit has consented to play for a silent movie after intermission. Vice Chairman Ed Wielgot has all of his committees in full action.

Work continues each Saturday morning on the Wicks at the Aladdin Theatre. Frank Gandy, Charlie Her-

man and Guy Powell have just completed the pneumatics on the Marimba Harp and will start on the Xylophone, followed by the Orchestra Bells. The intricate work takes time and patience but they are most pleased and encouraged with their success on the harp. The management at the Aladdin had some much needed cleaning and repair work done just recently. The ceiling lights were removed and the glass scrubbed. Blue, amber and white bulbs replaced, where needed, and the dimmer board in the projection booth was overhauled so that now all the "stars" in the ceiling shine.

It was a sad day for all members when we were notified that the Iliff School of Theology could not make the necessary modifications to their new multi-purpose building to accommodate the installation of our own Wurlitzer. We will continue to look for another location after the December concert at the Paramount, when there should be more time to concentrate efforts on our organ.

Summer passed all too quickly, but we did gather on Sunday, June 29th, at Ed and Ginny Wielgot's home to hear Ron Graham play their Hammond. The annual picnic was held on August 10th at Jack and Nancy Walden's home overlooking the lake in Loveland. As usual, a large crowd enjoyed a delicious potluck picnic, followed by a concert, on their 2/12 Kimball, by Pete Ole.

Efforts continue to try to save the Paramount, the only theatre remaining in the downtown area. The Denver Historical Association hopes that, by the end of the year, the grand old building will be recognized, and saved, as a historical landmark. The 50th anniversary was celebrated with entertainment each night during the last week of August. Bob Castle played a concert on Wednes-



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day night and Ed Benoit played before the movies, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Tom Jones* and both performances of *The Wizard of Oz*. The twin Wurlitzer consoles are the original ones, installed in 1930. Any artists who are traveling through Denver are welcome to stop and play the instrument.

MARGARET ANN FOY

SAN DIEGO

The chapter has continued to present monthly concerts throughout the summer and fall on our 2/13 Wurlitzer located in the California Theatre. Some pipe revoicing has recently been done, and wind pressures changed, so the sounds produced by the organ are quite exciting.

Artists performing at our console since our last report: Wayne and Cheryl Seppala in an organ-piano duo; Chris Elliott in concert and silent movie (his professional debut); and Gaylord Carter, back by popular demand with silent movies. Dennis James is scheduled to appear December 6th.

Chapter membership meetings are held every other month. In August, we met for a potluck dinner at the home of Jan White in Rancho Santa Fe. Two grand pianos and a Conn 652 organ shared the center of interest with tables full of food. Our October meeting was held at the home of the writer, and my wife, Mildred, and featured the unveiling of their just-completed Rodgers 330 Classic joined with six ranks of Robert Morton theatre pipes. Open console followed a mini concert performed by Chris Gorsuch, president of Gorsuch Enterprises, which furnished the solid-state circuitry for joining electronics to pipes.

COLTLER CUNNINGHAM

SIERRA

The ninth annual picnic was held at the beautiful Sierra foothills home of Jim and Janice Welch. Always most gracious hosts, the Welchs, along with son Jim and his wife Alice, outdid themselves with theatre organ styled cakes that, along with member contributed potluck items, made for a fine summer Sunday of food and music. The Welch families' keyboard compliment includes an 18-rank Murray Harris classic organ, Hammond C-3, grand piano and a yet-to-be-installed 37-rank Wurlitzer.

August 18th through September 1st, Sierra members played 54 mini-concerts at the chapter 2/7 Wurlitzer at Cal Expo during the run of the California State Fair. The tired little Wurlitzer held up well with only occasional glitches and ciphers. Of the sixteen members who either played or tended the lobby and answered questions, Dave Moreno would have to win the "most original presentation" award. Dave had a bunch of tambourines, castanets, maracas, etc. which he used to entice kids up onto the stage. Then, from the console, Dave conducted his impromptu "toy counter" orchestra of kids and Wurlitzer percussions through some rattle-bang novelty arrangements that was kind of a youngsters version of a sing-along.

September 21st, the chapter enlisted Bay Area silent movie accompanist Bob Vaughn to play for a public showing of Buster Keaton's *Steamboat Bill Jr.* Filmed in 1928 on the Sacramento River just outside of Sacramento this picture has special significance in a community that is now working to recapture its riverboat heritage. Bob Vaughn's accompaniment was absolutely expert and showed his skill as a real trouper having never played the instrument until

an hour before showtime. His performance was also an example of these small Wurlitzers, like the 2/7 at Cal Expo, in their best role — accompanying silent films.

October brought members to hear local organist Emil Martin at the Grant High 4/22 Wurlitzer. Emil has been on the theatre organ scene in Sacramento as long as they have been here to play and he has done it all: theatres (nearly all that ever had organs), radio stations, churches, schools, and now pizza parlors. Emil is in retirement from a broadcast career and playing three nights a week at Arden Pizza & Pipes. It was a golden fall afternoon on Sunday, October 12th at Grant High, perfect for a theatre organ concert featuring many of the fine golden age tunes that go so well on theatre pipes. It was the kind of music we wanted to hear and Emil has wanted to play again, since it is not usually in the pizza parlor repertoire.

In late October, Harry Cline and Chairman, Jim Hodges completed the chapter's application for funds from the Sacramento County Arts Commission for restoration of the 4/46 Estey in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. It's a real crap shoot — there are many more demands for funds than can possibly be awarded and there are so many endeavors that fall under the "arts" category that we just don't know how much importance the "judges" will attach to our preservation of a rare, early twentieth century example of the art of organbuilding.

RANDY WARWICK

ST. LOUIS

Betty and Bernard Nordmann hosted our September meeting in their home just outside of St. Louis in Kirkwood. The refreshments were delicious and a tour of the organ pipe



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chambers was unusual since they are located in the basement and the music is transmitted through floor grilles to the upstairs where the console is. The organ has eleven playable ranks, ten of which are Wurlitzer, and future plans for thirteen. The Reuter console was purchased from a church and looks like a Kilgen roll-top church console of light oak until you roll the top back and see underneath a horseshoe type ebony 3-manual theatre organ console. There is a drawer on the left side under the lower manual for the special effects that are not connected to toe studs. Berny started the organ installation in 1967 and should be quite proud of his work. Since he was working on the organ as late as the day of the meeting and had no time for practice, Ken Iborg played the musical portion of the evening. Ken, as always, did a great program of show tunes in true theatre organ style. One tune was a 1920 hit entitled "I'm Miss'n Mommies' Kissin'" after which Ken persuaded Berny to sit down at the console for one number, "Kansas City." Open console was spirited as it included many duets of organ and grand piano.

In October, our meeting was hosted by Frieda Oehlert, Maryan Harrison and Alice Bauer at the residence of Sue and Bob Chandler in suburban Webster Groves. Due to the hospitality of the Chandlers, this is our second visit to their home which has a 3/13 Wurlitzer that was formerly the WENR's studio organ in Chicago. Bill Oberg, a mathematics teacher, classical and theatre organist from West Memphis, Arkansas, played the musical portion of the meeting. Bill, who has a 3/12 Wurlitzer of his own, performed brilliantly and received a standing ovation. Open console afterwards was quite

competitive as so many tried their hand at imitating the style of hall of famer Dean Fossler, who played this organ for so many years in Chicago.

On October 15th, member Bob Ault presented an hour program of theatre organ music over radio station KFYO-FM in St. Louis. The music was all recorded and featured the resident organist of the Wichita, Kansas Century II Civic Center, Billy Nalle. (Pronounced Nawl.) Bob hosted another one-hour program of theatre organ music back in November 1979. Both programs were well-received and we're all hoping that more of the same will be aired in the near future over this classical music station.

BILL ANTHONY

SOONER STATE

Tulsa's Evangelistic Temple is interested in our 3/10 Robert Morton — and our chapter member-owners have agreed that the offer should be pursued. This very progressive church has indicated that they are prepared to make any changes in the church building that the organ needs, short of taking down the rock wall that holds up the roof (which we really think won't be necessary)! We were interested to read in the October/November 1980 issue of THEATRE ORGAN that the First Baptist Church in Salinas, California, was also a church that definitely wanted a genuine theatre pipe organ — as this one in Tulsa does.

Our September meeting at the church was very productive. Though the turnout was small, Bill Roberts brought his scale cutouts of the Robert Morton, and his tape measure, and we had a chance to actually see the inside of the church building. There was much discussion

and measuring of the north end of the sanctuary, where the organ would have to be installed. We have decided to suggest that the balconies on either side of the sanctuary be removed so that the organ chambers can be built there. Our Robert Morton is a "loud beast" and needs to be up high to be appreciated. The next step is to discuss plans with the church architect.

For October, Oral Roberts University very graciously opened their Christ Chapel to us on the 19th for a Sunday afternoon concert on their 4/21 Wurlitzer. Our artist was British-born John Hickman, who moved to Tulsa by way of Australia where he was a salesman and teacher for the Hammond Organ dealer in Sydney. A self-taught organist, he studied theatre organ technique with Australian organist Jean Penhall.

John's concert was varied and delightful. Since he plays for the New Life Center church in Tulsa, his program included several gospel music numbers. He also included, among others, a "Tribute to Bing Crosby," a medley of American patriotic music, three selections from *The Desert Song*, "Night and Day," "The Man I Love" and closed with a rousing rendition of "Seventy-Six Trombones."

We more than enjoyed John's handling of the big Wurlitzer — we hope to hear from him more often!

DOROTHY SMITH

TOLEDO AREA

The home of the Toledo Chapter is taking on a new look. The Ohio Theatre is now owned by St. Hedwigs Parish, who has just recently painted the entire theatre, added a lot of new electric wiring and is in the process of enlarging the stage. The new paint makes the theatre look quite elegant.

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Because the theatre is being re-done, we have not been able to continue with the restoration of our Marr & Colton, so some of the members have taken home chest and other relay boards to be wired while others are making some of the parts needed to complete the restoration.

The Robert Morton that once graced the stage of the Strand Theatre in New Orleans has found its way to Toledo. From New Orleans the organ was shipped to a church in Michigan where it remained until recently. Two TATOS members, Joe Cantu and Charles Bradley, bought the organ and will install it in Toledo's newest Pipes and Pizzas. The installation will be supervised by our own restoration chairman, Dave Ring. Upon the completion of the organ, Dave will be house organist. Good luck fellows. All of us are most anxious for another pipe organ in Toledo.

ANN MOXLEY

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Our September 14th social was held at Richard and Evelyn Keith's residence in the beautiful cool pines of Prescott. For some, it was a return trip, as we enjoyed the Keiths' hospitality about the same time last year. After a picnic lunch, members participated in open console at the Conn 652 and Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Homework continues on the Phoenix College Wurlitzer. We are anxiously awaiting the time when we can resume working on the organ in the college auditorium.

A business meeting was held at Ferguson's Cafeteria on October 12th. Nominations for our forthcoming chapter elections were made, and we decided to have a holiday season raffle. Some members remained after the meeting to have din-

ner while listening to Karl Warner at the Conn.

We held another Flea Market October 18th-19th to raise funds for chapter projects.

Midnight, Halloween Eve, found Walt Strony accompanying *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Phoenix Organ Stop. Though *not* a chapter sponsored event, several VOTS members attended and participated in a costume contest held during intermission. Walt played an excellent program, even to striking up some appropriate "fill-in" music during technical difficulties in the second reel.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WESTERN RESERVE

The late summer months seemed to bring an increased amount of musical activity to the lands of Western Reserve, or so our members have recently discovered.

A business meeting at the home of Joe and Lanette Kurpan on August 17th, turned out to be a pleasant social as well. Open console time at their 2/6 Page followed a delightful performance by member Bill Taber.

The 23rd of August found many of our members aboard the Goodtime II for an enjoyable and educational cruise down the Cuyahoga River and a view of the skyline of Cleveland from Lake Erie to the accompaniment of Mickey Chambers at the ships' Eminent "2000" grand theatre organ. Starting with "Cruising Down the River," Mickey provided an excellent enhancement to the peaceful cruise.

A social at the home of Al and Rosemary Boehnlein on September 21st, turned out to be a pleasurable afternoon for all who attended. The style was that of an informal potluck. Open console was provided at

Al's Lowrey and a Lowrey furnished by Chuck Haag from Zamer Music.

The remainder of our activities centered around member Bill Taber, who recently recorded *The Civic Sound* on the Akron Civic Auditorium's 3/13 Wurlitzer. Many of our members attended a concert at the Lorain Place Theatre when Bill Taber was at the console of their 3/10 Wurlitzer. This is one of the northeastern Ohio organs that our members maintain. Bill had temporarily donated his Post Horn to the organ and really made some music that night. His program included old and new. He also performed two duets with Chuck Blair at the "88" which were included in the *Civic Sound* album.

Our October 19th meeting was at the home of Bill Taber and Harold Wright. After demonstrating the unique installation of his 2/9 Wurlitzer and intriguing us with "Cryin' for the Crocodiles" and "Me and the Man in the Moon," Bill turned the console over to Barry Rindhage of Saginaw, Michigan. Barry proved to be a talented artist with delightful charm. His selections included "Just a Bird's Eye View of My Old Kentucky Home" and "What Are You Waiting For, Mary?," performed with first-class artistry.

Season's Greetings from WRTOS!

JIM SHEPHERD

WOLVERINE

In September and October, the Wolverine chapter was hosted by a father-son combination, each having their own Wurlitzer installation.

In September, we went to the Royal Oak home of member Chuck Harris where many experienced a reunion with an old and much loved friend, the Style 235 Wurlitzer



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formerly installed in the Six Mile Uptown Theatre in Detroit. This instrument was felt by some to be the best theatre installation in the city. Fortunately, the sound of this installation was preserved in the form of many informal recordings and also on an album by the "Dean" of Detroit theatre organists, John Muri.

Chuck built a special addition on his home with an extra high ceiling to house the pipework.

Our October meeting was hosted by Mert Harris, Chuck's father, and his wife Rita.

Mert and Rita have a Wurlitzer with an interesting history. The 3/11 Balaban 1A, Opus 2171, was the last of its type built. The instrument was shipped from the North Tonawanda factory in December, 1931, to the Paramount Theatre in Glens Falls, New York. The organ is now a 3/15, plus piano.

This instrument has several interesting departures from the usual Wurlitzer with which we are familiar.

First, the manual chests have no primaries. The magnet cap exhaust ports are twice the size of the normal cap.

Second, for those who have suffered with the problem of broken



Chuck Harris at console of his Style 235 Wurlitzer, formerly in the Six Mile Uptown Theatre. (Ed Corey Photo)

solder joints on the key relay shorting bars and the resulting ciphers and/or dead notes, Wurlitzer, on this instrument, realized the "error" of their ways and replaced the round pins with two flat pieces of brass which are screwed to the top of the pneumatic, and the shorting bar is soldered to these — a definite improvement.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many fine installations, such as those

of Mert and Chuck Harris, available to us.

Michigan now has four "pizza-pipe" restaurants, the latest being the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler in Warren. The restaurant is owned by Henry Hunt and Ken Slaiba and contains the former Detroit United Artists Theatre Wurlitzer.

Staff organists are Lance Luce, Karl Cole and Virginia Gedz.

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