

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



February brings another salute to all the hard-working gals in the ATOS. Included are some thumbnail sketches of lady organists who made music in the first great era. Sources were *Around the Town (ATT)*, *Local Press (LP)*, *Motion Picture Almanac (MPA)*, and *Variety (V)*.

December 1928 (ATT) ELSIE ADDISON MABLEY is featured with her husband, WILLIAM MABLEY, at the new Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady. Mrs. Mabley has done some organ novelties as duets which have been highly successful. Carl Landau directs the theatre orchestra.

1928 (LP) MAY M. MILLS has created quite a following at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre during the past year with her spotlight solos. In June, she featured an Indian Medley: "If I Lost You," "I Must Be Dreaming," and "In My Bouquet of Memories." In August, the favorite was "Always the Same Sweet Pal." The October presentation included "Memories of France," and in November, "Armistice Day Specialties."

1930 (MPA) EDNA J. SELLERS. Born in Iowa. Height: 5 ft., 1 in. Blonde hair and blue eyes. Weight: 115. Parents were non-professionals. Education: Lincoln, Neb. Married Preston H. Sellers, Jr., a professional, and has one son 2½ years. Hobbies: golf and motoring. No stage or screen experience. Organist in Chicago for nine years, having featured for Balaban & Katz about three years.

1930 (MPA) CATHERINE CECILE CUSTER. Born in Frances, Wash., December 24, 1911. Height: 5 ft. Brown hair and blue eyes. Weight: 95. Parents: Elinor Georgia and Othmar Custer, non-professionals. Education: Sacred Heart Convent. Not married. Hobbies: golf, football, baseball, and music including symphony concerts. She has been an organist since 13. Organ work consists of five years and concert work three years. She was featured two years at the Portland (Ore.) Pantages, six months at the Radio-Keith Orpheum, and a year at Fox' Hollywood Theatre.

1930 (MPA) ANITA DE MARS. Born in Chicago, October 16, 1897. Height: 5 ft., 6½ in. Brown hair and hazel eyes. Weight: 156. Parents: Tres Strauch and Charles De Mars, non-professionals. Education: Parker High School and Columbia School of Music. Not married. Hobbies: tennis, motoring, books and animals. Member of Mu Phi Epsilon, honorary music sorority; Romany Club and the N.A.O. From 1925-26, secretary of the Chicago Society of Theatre Organists; 1927-28, president of same, and in 1929 again secretary. The last three years she has been chief organist of the Capitol Theatre in Chicago.

1930 (MPA) IRMA M. GUTHOERL. Born in Pittsburgh, December 18, 1906. Height: 4 ft., 11 in. Blonde hair, blue eyes. Weight: 120. Parents: Catherine and Charles Guthoerl were professionals. Education: St. Peters High School, Pittsburgh. Not married. Stage ex-

perience: played the leading role in *The Only Girl, Bimbo, That's That*, and *Princess Bonnie*. She was organist at Loew's Pennsylvania Theatre, Pittsburgh, for a year and then left to open the Warner Enright Theatre where she was featured for 40 weeks. Was transferred to Warner's Million Dollar Theatre in Pittsburgh where she is at present.

1930 (MPA) ELOISE ROWAN. Born in Winona, Minn., July 17, 1905. Height: 5 ft., 2 in. Black hair and blue eyes. Weight: 108. Education: Fargo, N.D. High School; Northwestern University; University of Minnesota. Not married. Does organ novelties and broadcasts over station WCCO in Minneapolis.

1930 (MPA) DOROTHY SABER. Born near Troy, Ohio, April 25, 1903. Height: 5 ft., 6 in. Dark brown hair and dark grey eyes. Weight: 138. Parents: Alice and John Elicker. Education: Troy High School. Hobbies: music, radio, designing, home decorating, and all sports. Employed by Majestic Theatre Co. of Athens, Ohio as solo and concert organist. Started playing pipe organ in theatre when 16. Was two years at the Jewel Theatre in Troy, three years at May's Theatre in Piqua and one season at the Sigma Theatre in Lima. Has directed orchestra and played piano for vaudeville. She has been successful in every position.

1930 (MPA) HELEN MASTERS SHAPLIN. Born in Pen Argyle, Pa., February 15, 1900. Height: 5 ft., 5 in. Medium brown hair and blue-grey eyes. Weight: 140. Parents: Minnie and Thomas Masters, non-professionals. Education: Pen Argyl High School, Beechwood College, Broad Street Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia. Married Walter B. Shaplin, a non-professional. Hobby: music in all branches and forms. At present being featured at the Ogontz Theatre in Philadelphia.

1930 (MPA) BETTY SHILTON. Born in Portland, Ore., February 17, 1892. Height: 5 ft., 5½ in. Blonde hair and blue eyes. Weight: 134. Parents: Eugenia Lona and David N. McQuitruff, non-professionals. Education: Salem High School, Willamette University and Fresno State College. Not married. Hobbies: golf, driving car, solitaire, music and bridge. Featured organist at Liberty Theatre, Spokane in 1925; Liberty Theatre, Olympia in 1926; and Fox Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle from 1926 to 1929.

1930 (V) A show-stopper (Chicago theatre unidentified) is THERESA MEYER, organist. Flooded in a spot, Miss Meyer opens with several numbers. Suddenly, she gets up, leaves the console, and the music continues. The effect is worked by the organist's pressing a console switch which starts a phonograph. The disc music is sent to the organ loft by mechanical devices while the organist is absent. The music heard from "the phantom organ" is from a Jesse Crawford record. This stunt went over big.

GOLD DUST: Chicago was a great town for lady organists as the following 1928 list proves: LILLIAN L. KAPLIN at the Congress; BELLIE MELROSE, Central Park; MABEL MEMERT, Jeffrey; MAUDE O'HARE, United Artists and Monroe; MAURENE POWERS, Monroe; HATTIE THOMA, Patio; NELLIE WILLIAMS, Piccadilly; MARGURITE HALL, Monroe; EDNA HILLBLOM, Stratford; HAZEL HIRSH, State-Lake; HATTIE HOYIT, Lawndale.

With a tip of the hat and a bow to the fair sex, that should do it for this time. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & the Old Prospector □