

and "On Broadway" attest to his ability and dedication.

It was little known that he had suffered from a heart condition for several years. He died at 52.

Harold Turner, long-time staff organist at WGN radio and TV in Chicago, died of cancer in his Long Grove, Ill., home on December 10th, 1980. He was 72.

Born in Nebraska, Turner received his music degree from the University of Nebraska. He later studied with Marcel Dupre in Paris and with Stanley Chappell in London.



Harold Turner. Chicago organist.

Mr. Turner was hired as staff pianist at WGN in 1934. Following service in the Navy band in World War II, he returned to WGN as staff organist in 1945. By that time the original Wurlitzer organ had been rebuilt by Kimball into a 3/10. Turner followed the tenures of Preston Sellers, Len Salvo, and Edna Sellers at the WGN console. He remained as staff organist until his retirement was forced by a management shakeup in the WGN "family" in 1976. He broadcast a 30-minute program called *Pipe Dreams* every Sunday morning until his retirement. Turner's musical signature, Johnny Mercer's "Dream," played on rolling tibias, opened each show, along with a bedroom-baritone-voiced announcer who named the musical selections.

In addition to his radio and TV work, Mr. Turner was for more than 25 years, the organist and choir

director at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette.

Mr. Turner is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son; a daughter; three grandchildren; and two sisters. A memorial service was held at the Long Grove United Church of Christ on December 12th. □

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

by Douglas T. Smith

The ears of Australian theatre organ concert-goers are still ringing from the exciting sounds presented by Jonas Nordwall during his recent concert tour during September-October 1980.

Down here in Australia, the organ world definitely received an injection of exuberance, as Jonas went from city to city, playing mostly on the local chapters' theatre pipe organs with one or two electronic presentations where pipes weren't available.

One "extra" concert, a dusk recital at the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ, brought forth sounds that we

have not heard for many a long year. Apart from a major cipher during the Bach D Major, the organ responded magnificently to such items as "Pomp & Circumstance No. 4," "War March of the Priests," "Tocatta" by Gigout and an outstanding arrangement from *Star Wars*.

Jonas' final Australian concert at the Marrickville Town Hall 2/11 Wurlitzer can only be described in a word . . . superb. The condition of the organ can also be described with the same word. Following a day of concerted tuning, balancing and finishing, the organ sounded like 25 ranks instead of 11, and behaved itself perfectly.

Jonas was obviously completely at ease with the instrument, its condition being due in no small measure to his advice and efforts. The programme content was again superb, something for everybody. Oldies, an Irving Berlin selection, current pops, classics, "Mephisto Waltz" and "Sabre Dance" to name a few.

The arrangements, registrations and presentations were without peer, with one of our well known senior organists commenting that he had never heard such a range of tone colours from this organ before.

Words can't express how much we have appreciated all the help and advice Jonas has given us in many ways, and how good it is to have such a great guy to get along with. I sincerely hope that it won't be too long before we can get him down here again to help weave a little magic for us all. □

Jonas Nordwall at the Marrickville Town Hall 2/11 Wurlitzer in Sydney during his Australian tour.

