

CHICAGO WEEKENDER

by Joseph F. Sonntag

So few . . . did so much . . . for so many, is the story of approximately twenty dedicated and hard-working CATOE members who created the "Chicago Weekender." The "Weekender" began on a damp cold Friday evening with the attendees being bused to the Scottish Rite Cathedral to hear Devon Hollingsworth play the three-manual E & G Hook tracker organ of 46 ranks. Devon was ably assisted by his wife and a friend, who pushed and pulled the stops, allowing Devon free to concentrate on his performance. This organ was a bit unusual to be featured in a theatre organ convention.

About midnight, the organ enthusiasts braved the elements to walk several blocks to the Oriental Theatre to enjoy the distinctive organ styling of Rob Calcaterra. In spite of some problems in the theatre, Rob presented a diversified and entertaining program. This may have been the last concert of this magnificent organ at the Oriental Theatre as the theatre is to be closed at the end of 1980.

Early Saturday morning, the conventioners were bused to Maine North High School to hear an extraordinary happening. Walter Strony, CATOE's own prodigy, performed at CATOE's own three-manual Wurlitzer organ. Walter grew up in CATOE and we are justifiably proud of his accomplishments.

Traveling further north, we arrived at St. Marys of the Lake Seminary to be entertained and delighted with the youngest of our artists, Lance Luce. It was a hectic weekend for Lance. He flew in on Friday, practiced several hours and flew back to Michigan. He flew in Saturday morning for his performance and left immediately to fly home. In spite of the pressure, he thrilled and delighted his audience.

Then it was back to the hotel for a couple of hours of relaxation before the banquet. Following the delicious banquet, the charming and tiny

Maria Kumagai was introduced. She was barely able to reach the pedals of the beautiful Rogers Trio, and weighs so little that the bench had to be taped to the floor to keep it from sliding away from the organ. She admits she does not speak English too well, but she communicates fluently when she plays the organ, as attested to by the standing ovation she received at the end of her performance.

The organ enthusiasts began assembling Sunday morning before 7:30 at the Chicago Theatre to hear Dennis James play this famous organ. Typical of his innovative na-

ture, he presented slides of his recent trip to France and Belgium to the tune of "April in Paris."

Across town, fighting the blustery winds, we reached the Civic Opera House, where, in the setting of the final scene of the masked ball, Walter Strony again thrilled his audience with his versatility at the 3/50 E. M. Skinner Opera House Organ.

Then, back to the hotel for a bountiful and delicious brunch. There were oft-repeated expressions of pleasure and delight with the "Weekender" as we bid adieu to our guests. □



CHAPTER NOTES

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happening in YOUR Chapter!**

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ALABAMA

Cecil and Linda Whitmire have moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. They wrote this column, and I miss them already. We wish them the best of success at the new job and location.

The Cinema Unlimited Series came to an end December 10th at the Alabama Theatre. This was a showing of some of the old classic movies such as *Show Boat* and *Casablanca*. The organ was played for thirty minutes before every evening show and on Wednesday, Saturday and

Sunday matinees by Cecil Whitmire, Barry Norris and Billy Evans. A lot of interest was shown in the organ and many people were thrilled again by its playing. They also learned that the Alabama Theatre is still a beautiful place. The series may be repeated in the Spring.

The chapter had its regular meeting November 9th and was entertained by a very nice program by Barry Norris. Barry was on the way to being an all classical organist until he heard the Wurlitzer. He got hooked. He has caught on fast and now plays the theatre style very well.

December 7th was not our regular meeting time, however, we found that Walt Winn would come from Atlanta to play for us on that date so we moved the meeting date up a week. Walt and Larry Donaldson spent most of the night at the Alabama setting the presets and making some adjustments to the organ. Walt was still awake enough to give us a magnificent concert the next morning. His program was full of wit and humor as well as excellent organ playing. We found that Bob Van Camp was with the group from Atlanta and we persuaded him to play a

few numbers.

It was election time at this meeting and with the exception of the chairman, all officers were recycled. Linda got out of being reelected by leaving town. Sam Troutman, Jr., is now chairman; Sam Troutman, Sr., vice chairman; and Stella O'Neal, secretary/treasurer. Board members are Larry Donaldson, Ralph Ferguson, Lloyd Smith and Lee Aured.

SAM TROUTMAN, SR.

BEEHIVE

Chapter members working on the organ restoration crew at the Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City, Utah, took a few days off, as our regular days fell on Christmas and New Year's Day. Work on the 2/10 Wurlitzer (soon to be 11 ranks) installed in 1927 is progressing all too slowly, if you query the personnel involved.

Major projects include rewinding and reorganizing the crowded chamber to make room for the addition of a new Trumpet rank scheduled for delivery next September. The console has been refinished and magnetic reed switches have been installed in lieu of the original pneumatic switches. New tabs have been installed, as required, and the manuals recovered and rebuilt. Two additional tremulant units, copying the originals, have been constructed by chapter members.

Mountain Bell Telephone and Western Electric Company donated surplus cable and terminal blocks which have been installed and "rung-out" by members of the Telephone Pioneers Club. This will permit the removal, when required, of the console from the stage area to storage, when necessitated by stage productions requiring full use of the stage.

CLARENCE E. BRIGGS

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Because of the holiday season, work on the Wurlitzer for the Tampa Theatre eased off somewhat, but has now resumed its former activity.

A very pleasant Christmas party picnic was held on December 14th at the home of Ed and Winona Sullivan in Tampa. Winona is our secretary. A nice turn-out of members were present. A short business meeting was held, and as part of the business,

chapter officers were elected for the coming year. Because of the ongoing project concerning the organ for the Tampa Theatre, and a general feeling that the present group of officers have done a very fine job, it was felt that they should continue in their same capacities for 1981. Charles Stanford, chairman; Earl Wiltse, vice chairman; Winona Sullivan, secretary; and Jean Wiltse, treasurer. Also discussed were upcoming activities, such as the "Return to the 20s," scheduled for January at the Tampa Theatre, and an upcoming concert by Chairman Charles Stanford in February at the J. Burns Pizza and Pipes. Charles is the staff organist at this Tampa landmark pizzeria and a performance by him on this 3/25 Mighty Wurlitzer promises to indeed be a special treat. The restaurant is located on Fowler Avenue, just off I-75, and is the site for the recent concert by Cathy Hoffman.

Finally, it is with sadness we announce the death of Donald Cole, a member who resided at 308 Club Wildwood in Hudson, Florida, 33568. He and his wife Alleen, moved to Central Florida in November, 1979. Prior to coming to Florida, they had been active in the Alabama Chapter in Birmingham. Mr. and Mrs. Cole recently celebrated their 39th Wedding Anniversary.

We hope that the coming year brings happiness and peace of mind to our many friends in the many chapters around the country and to those involved in the ATOS.

JOHN OTTERSON

CENTRAL INDIANA

On a warm Sunday morning, November 9th, chapter members, guests, and friends rode northeast for about 30 miles to Anderson, Ind. Here they visited the Paramount Theatre and heard their Page organ. This is an original 1929 installation that was overhauled in 1964-65 and again restored in the early 1970's. It is presently six ranks.

Prior to our meeting, Dr. John Landon, educator and clergyman, presented a musical program of 1929 selections. Dr. Landon is also well known for his studies of theatre pipe organ through his books, articles, lectures, performances and record-

ings. He has been playing this particular instrument since 1955. This devotion to this organ is outstanding in that Dr. Landon's home is in Kentucky and he travels to Anderson each week to play the organ. Following his concert, the group held a sing-along to his accompaniment and to close his part of the program Dr. Landon played a sacred song. From the theatre, he went on to his church to care for his flock, being also a minister.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Carlton Smith played several numbers on the Page organ. This theatre is also in good shape and is continually being improved by Mr. Carlton Smith, Leives Hodson, and Bob Dunn. The chapter is indeed fortunate to have access to such an outstanding theatre and organ.

Members, friends and guests met at 9:00 a.m. on December 7th in the auditorium of Manual High School in Indianapolis. Here, following the business meeting, we were entertained by one of our members, Bee Butler, accompanied by her friend, Myrta Tilson. Their program started as a twin piano concert but developed into piano-organ duet with Bee Butler playing the Manual High organ, a Louisville Uniphone. This was an outstanding performance, featuring two accomplished musicians.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

November was a busy month with 4 out of 5 available weekends filled by organ activities. On Sunday, November 2nd, we were guests at an open house with Musical Offerings, Inc., hosted by owners and COTOS members Craig Jaynes and Steve Fenters. Musical Offerings, Inc. is the Columbus dealership for Rodgers Organs. A fine afternoon of prepared and spontaneous entertainment ably demonstrated the capability of our COTOS organists and of both classical and theatre style Rodgers organs. Craig Jaynes and Ruth Shaw presented a mini-concert of solos culminating in a duet of a theatre and a classical Rodgers organ. Of particular intrigue to many members was the Pipe Augmented Cabinet Organ which combines electronic stops with wind-driven pipes.

Activities continued with the regu-



Roger Garrett at the 3/10 Wurlitzer, Palace Theatre, Marion, Ohio during his public concert in November. (Photos by Bob Clark)

lar monthly meeting on Sunday, November 16th, at the Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio. A business meeting with about 30 members present preceded group attendance at a public theatre organ concert with Roger Garrett, Central Ohio's favorite theatre organist. Dr. John Polsley, COTOS President, announced a \$500.00 gift from Emcorp Foundation to the organ fund for continuation of restoration on the chapter's 4/22 Wurlitzer at Worthington High School. A small but enthusiastic audience greeted Mr. Garrett in his premier performance at the Palace. His sterling expertise at the 3/10 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ brought rounds of applause from an appreciative audience.

A special treat following the concert was the opportunity to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Yanatell and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wimple, of the Wurlitzer maintenance squad, and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Garrett. The majority of the membership in attendance stayed for dinner and had a most enjoyable time.

A very busy and pleasant weekend for members surrounded the talents of Keith Chapman on November 22nd and 23rd. On Saturday morning, Keith, his wife, Sally, and Dennis James were interviewed on WOSU-FM. The hour-long broadcast of discussion and music (portions of Mr. Chapman's albums) gave significant insight into Keith's musical background and philosophies.

Saturday evening saw Keith at the Ohio Theatre's 4/20 Robert Morton for a mixed concert of classical and popular selections. His vibrant repertee between numbers was nearly as enjoyable as his outstanding skill. A

well-populated auditorium rewarded his efforts with thunderous applause. A photo display and information table was on the mezzanine of the theatre to inform the audience about COTOS, ATOS and theatre organs in general. Through the efforts of Bob and Howard Shaw and Joanne Lougher we gained several new members as a result of this display.

Members had an additional opportunity to enjoy the versatility of Keith Chapman's repertoire when Musical Offerings again hosted an open house. Sunday, November 23rd, saw COTOS and American Guild of Organists members participating in a progressive open house presented by Craig Jaynes and Steve Fenters with Keith Chapman as mobile guest organist. The first stop was at the Seminarians' Chapel at Josephinum College where Musical Offerings had recently completed the installation of a Rodgers 205 Pipe Augmented Cabinet Organ. Keith demonstrated the versatility of the instrument which so ably fits the circumstance of desiring pipe organ

sound while dealing with limitation of space and/or money.

Step two of the progressive open house was St. Michael's Church in Worthington, Ohio, where Mr. Chapman tested the capacity of a Rodgers 850 all-electronic Classic Organ. The church has three seconds of reverb and with Mr. Chapman's skill, the quality of the installation and the sheer size of the facility, even a highly-trained ear would have been hard pressed to say that there were not pipes in those chambers.

The final stop was at the Musical Offerings studio where Craig Jaynes and Steve Fenters hosted a buffet. We were again entertained by Keith Chapman playing various organs in a variety of styles. For the approximately 60 COTOS and AGO members in attendance it was a wonderful day of beautiful organs, skillful musicianship and good fellowship.

Thanksgiving weekend found several members in the Windy City for the "Chicago Weekender" Regional Convention.

The finale of 1980 was the annual



Keith Chapman at the 4/20 Robert Morton.

(Photos by Bob Clark)



Lois Hays during her mini-concert for the Christmas Party at the Ohio Theatre. (Photos by Bob Clark)

Christmas party at the Ohio Theatre. Sunday evening, December 7th, found 60 members and guests gathered in the auditorium for a mini-concert by Lois Hays followed by open console that went on for over two hours. The use of the 4/20 Robert Morton was the kind gift of owners Carlos Parker and Tom Hamilton. The use of the Ohio Theatre was a gift of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts. Throughout the evening there was a plethora of delicious holiday goodies available in the Batelle Room on the mezzanine.

Thanks to an enthusiastic and growing membership, 1980 was a wonderful year with great hopes for bigger and better things in '81.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

The renewal of friendships and greetings of new and familiar faces was one of the highlights of our Thanksgiving Weekender. We of CATOE greatly appreciate the attendance of the 289 from 26 states and Canada who were present and the 302 at the banquet. (Editors Note: See complete report on page 36.)

We had a nice treat at our November social and business meeting at Des Plaines Maine North High School where Gary Hansen from Milwaukee was our soloist. All of us loved his program of many interesting melodies. We were honored by

the presence of several Dairyland friends.

Our Christmas social was at Christ Church in Oakbrook, Ill., with Devon Hollingsworth at the console of the 4/55 (plus) Austin. Devon is organist and choir director at the church and he presented a beautiful holiday program plus carols and hymn singing. Devon and wife Carol furnished refreshments to the over 100 present.

Harry Koenig gave a grand concert November 1st in Bella Vista, Ark., at their Riordan Hall. This was for several organ clubs of the area and arrangements were made by former CATOE Chairman Russ Joseph. Active Tom Hardman of Rogers, Ark., was very helpful with this concert and is also a CATOE member. Harry Koenig really gets around as he gave a concert for the Cedar Rapids Chapter in mid-December. His organ disc, wherein he soloed on DTOC's beautiful organ, is in its second "printing." Harry's performing is very well liked.

Regretfully, we tell you of the passing of Anne Barry, wife of Bill Barry. Bill has been crew chief of the Downers Grove High School organ since its installation. Anne was a busy and amiable person and very active in several groups. She will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Bill and family.

Many conventioners will remember Carl Anderson and his wife Geraldine. We are deeply sorry to inform you that Carl passed away suddenly. He was on hand at almost all CATOE functions with his camera. Through the years, Carl was a participant in many professional and civic groups in addition to his theatre organ interests. We extend our sympathy to Geraldine and family.

Our 1981 program is taking form and one event will be Gaylord Carter and "Son of the Shiek" at the Civic Opera House, May 1st. On June 13th, Jack Olander will preside at the console at Maine North High School in a grand finale program as this school is scheduled to close.

ALMER BROSTROM

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our last meeting of the year, on November 8th, was a fitting grand finale to 1980. We were hosted by

Dr. and Mrs. Noel Kerr at their Essex, Conn., home where a unique 4/17 Marr & Colton theatre pipe organ is installed. This fine installation was just recently completed and the result is pleasing in all respects.

Open console was the order of the afternoon and was followed by dinner.

The evening schedule began with the election of officers for 1981, which are: Norman Ray, chairman; Paul Plainer, vice chairman; Bert Rankin, treasurer; Lynn Price, secretary; and Joe Graif, program chairman.

Following business matters, Chairman Norman Ray turned the meeting over to Program Chairman Joe Graif. Joe introduced to us the featured artist for the concert portion of the evening — none other than Joe Graif. Joe proceeded to play a thoroughly planned program. His selections were ordered in groups — a "love group," a "Latin group," a "Gypsy group," a "motion picture group," plus miscellaneous numbers.

For an encore Joe played his own composition, "I Love the Theatre," a piece that has brought him competition awards.

On November 15th and 16th that grand statesman of the console, Lee Erwin, occupied the console bench at the Thomaston Opera House organ. We knew from Lee's previous concerts that we were in for a program from a rich store of music from all the musical arts. We heard selections from the Beatles, Scott Joplin, Broadway, and the silver screen, all enhanced with the arranging and rendition of Lee Erwin.

A special feature of the second half of the program was the silent movie short, *The Scarecrow*, with Buster Keaton, and organ accompaniment by Lee. Lee's film scores for silent pictures have won him distinctive acclaim, and this was a notable example.

It is a pleasure, indeed, to report that work on our organ installation at the Shelton (CT) high school has been accelerated and we now anticipate speaking pipes in 1981. This has been a long, arduous undertaking by a dedicated, but understaffed group and it is heartening to see their untiring effort augmented in good fashion.

Coming attractions at Thomaston

include Don Thompson, March 21st and 22nd, and Hector Olivera, May 16th and 17th. Information and tickets are available via stamped envelope from Concert Tickets, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483; telephone (203) 888-9696.

WALLACE F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

Our annual membership meeting was held on December 7th at Pipe Organ Pizza-North. Bylaw revisions and the election of officers highlighted the agenda. Newly-elected chapter officers are: Jeffrey Prod, chairman; George Larson, vice chairman; Gordon Schwache, secretary; and Bob Leutner, treasurer. Newly-elected members of the board of directors are Diane Jones and Gary Hanson. Returning to the board are Rick Johnson and Bill Campbell. John Scott, for many years our hard-working secretary, was forced to step down due to health problems. We would like to thank him and outgoing chairman Greg Filardo for all they have contributed to DTOS.

After the meeting, POP staff organist Don Springer played a short program which was followed by an open console session. The restaurant sports a new 3-manual Kimball console, and for many it was their first chance to see and play it. Many thanks to Jim DeLuca for opening his lovely pizzeria to us!

Our November concert at the Avalon Theatre was quite successful. We were especially heartened by the number of families able to attend because of the Sunday afternoon time slot.

The Theatre Guild in Racine was the sight of our December 21st social. Members of the Theatre Guild, as well as our own members, were invited to hear the recently-completed 2/7 Wurlitzer for the first time. Pipe Organ Pizza staff organist Gary Hanson played a lovely program despite having the lights turned out on him and electric company repairmen running around trying to correct power supply problems. We hope to have a dedication concert soon and that the organ will see a lot of use both by us and the Theatre Guild.

Work is progressing slowly, but steadily, on the Riverside Theatre Wurlitzer. Through the arrange-

ments of project chairman Fred Wolfram, the organ was recently used at a large Christmas party given by the Shriners. Gary Hanson again did the honors at the console. Many thanks to Fred and Gary for this extra effort at this busy time of year!

Chapter member Perry Petta is the featured organist at the newly-opened Pied Piper Restaurant in Green Bay, Wisconsin. We wish both Perry and the Pied Piper's management the best of everything, and hope they will bring enjoyable theatre organ music to the Green Bay area for a long time to come!

CARRIE NELSON PROD

EASTERN MASS.

Ashley Miller, a name which conjures up the magical sounds of the Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer, again made musical harmony at our Stoneham Town Hall Fall concert, November 15th. A few moments for announcements, a very short business meeting and then Chairman Royal Schweiger and Concert Chairman Tim Holloran introduced our guest. The always appealing sounds of this 2/14 Wurlitzer were first heard with an authoritative posthorn fanfare opening to a lively "On a Wonderful Day like Today." The response of the large audience signaled a wonderful evening ahead.

Ashley, veteran showman that he is, presented a good mix of show tunes which come off so well on a theatre organ. A sprinkling of light classics were programmed, also, lively Latin and rhythm numbers, some slow moody nostalgia and even one of his own whose tempo matched its title, "Jet Stream."

Our artist recalled by name some of the T.O. greats of the past, gave credit to those whose labor brought this Wurlitzer to such good voice and urged us all to support the instrument and the younger organists to keep it alive.

A Miller highlight was the always popular sing-along with expert accompaniment and an early silent comedy, *Muddled in Mud*.

With the final notes of Ashley's prepared concert came instant audience approval by standing enthusiastic applause. Our reward, a long medley ending with "'S' Wonderful," which so aptly described those great sounds!

EMCATOS received an early

Christmas present by a repeat gracious invitation to the spacious Groton home of Sarah and Garrett Shanklin on December 14th. Business before pleasure as Royal called the meeting to order presenting the chapter banner and a wooden stopper (badge of office) to incoming Chairman Bill Carpenter, then adjourned.

Our host welcomed all present then introduced our guest organist, M/Sgt. Lou Hurvitz, who came from Washington, D.C. for us. Lou, who studied under Ashley Miller and Lee Erwin, opened "With a Song in My Heart," of which he had many that afternoon. His affinity with T.O. came through immediately with his easy style and tonal colorations on this smooth 2/12 Wurlitzer.

Besides seasonal numbers, his 15 selection program included some Kern, Gershwin, a light semi-classical and a novelty to show off the tuned percussions. The Mason and Hamlin Ampico baby grand piano was also used most effectively and in memory of the late Conductor, Arthur Fiedler, of the Boston Pops, our guest played "Jalousie." This group's recording of this selection was the first by a symphony orchestra to sell over 1,000,000 copies.

Audience reaction was so appreciative throughout Hurvitz's flawless performance that an encore was a must. In true T.O. style, Lou concluded with a lively medley from *Showboat*.

Garrett gave us a demonstration of the Ampico piano roll player with an unknown, but pleasant "Ding Ding." Open console next with many keeping the pipes singing and unusually good music was made on both the organ and piano, some in duets. The blower was still going nonstop after over 5 hours as we reluctantly bid our hospitable hosts adieu. Theatre organ lives!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

The chapter was both privileged and proud to host another concert series at the Trenton War Memorial. The War Memorial houses the spectacular 3/17 Moller (formally of the Lincoln Theatre). Ashley Miller, assisted by trumpeter Joe Scanella, opened this year's concert season. Ashley and the Trenton Moller are old friends. Not only did Ashley re-

dedicate the Moller after it's restoration, but he also made the initial recording of the instrument.

Although not part of Garden State's planned programs, the chapter was pleased to hear Lowell Ayars at a Sunday morning concert in the "ill-fated" Rahway Theatre. Lowell, Organist of the Year, delighted the audience with a program of standards. The audience responded to Lowell's old favorites with a standing ovation. He was again the featured artist at the Trenton War Memorial Christmas Concert. Lowell's festive music was made more exciting by his use of unusual and interesting registrations.

Many of our members gathered at the Rahway Theatre for an "open to the public" Halloween "Spooktacular." Although this event was sponsored by Rahway Landmarks, Inc. and not the chapter, Don Kinnier and the 2/7 Wurlitzer were featured. Don skillfully accompanied *Nosferantu*, the original silent version of *Dracula*.

The annual Christmas party, a warm, festive and musical event, was held at Immaculate Conception Seminary which is the former Mac-Millan estate. Not only does this turn-of-the-century mansion house several ghosts, but also an enchanting 2/19 Aeolian organ. The Aeolian also boasts a roll playing device which has recently been restored by three of our members. While some chapter members enjoyed refreshments and the festive surroundings, others enjoyed playing the organ and registering the rolls. The Christmas party concluded with a short concert and a silent film accompanied by David Kopp.

RONNIE T. STOUT

GULF COAST

Work continues on our Wonder Morton reproduction. B.D. Rhea, M.D., our chief builder, is making giant strides in his progress on the console. It seems there is nothing beyond his capabilities. For instance, to adapt the 4 manuals we are using, he recut the "seating" in the key-desk, added or cut from the key cheek frames, so they fit to perfection, then refitted them into the key-desk. Incidentally, both sets of manuals are original Robert Morton. One is from our own Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola, Fla., the

other from a theatre in Selma, Ala. Of course they have been completely redone. Dr. Rhea then finished the key cheek frames in walnut to match the trim around his already completed pedal assembly. All of it beauty and perfection. Oh, to hear it play!

When the Saenger Theatre held a "bash" for donors to the campaign to restore the theatre, Walter Smith arranged a most effective display showing the organ, plans for expansion and a basket for donations. We netted about \$200.

Our chairman, Tom Helms, is studying at T.C.U. in Ft. Worth, as we continue to work here in Pensacola. We expect him home for the holidays and while he is here we will hold election of officers for the coming year.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

The intervening three months since the London Convention have brought a mixture of both bad and good news to our chapter.

The bad news was the closure, during September, of the main auditorium of the Gaumont State Kilburn in Northwest London, our prime concert venue for the past three years, and thus denying the continued use of the famous and much-loved 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer there.

However, with only three weeks in which to plan, we mounted a special final event entitled "A Tribute to the Gaumont State" not only as an appreciation of the long years of enjoyment of the Wurlitzer by the British organ fraternity as a whole, but also the entire 43-year heritage of this truly great London entertainment centre.

Beginning with John Sharp at the console (best known as our photographer par excellence, but also a very fine theatre organist and formerly with the Granada circuit), we then featured youngsters Janet Dowsett and Michael Wooldridge and the Peggy O'Farrell Childrens' Stage School dance troupe with their "Tribute to Hollywood in the 1930s" routine to recapture some of the great stage and screen spectacles presented at the Gaumont State over the years. After the usual busy interval in the circle lounge the

450-strong audience returned to enjoy the very fine singing of Welsh tenor Alun Davies accompanied at the Wurlitzer by Byron Jones.

Returning to the theme of youth that has permeated so much of the activities of our chapter brought Pauline Dixon (winner of our first Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition) to the console. She was then followed by the most welcome appearance of northern organ star Nigel Ogden who is now the highly-popular presenter of our famed weekly radio programme *The Organist Entertains* — initiated more than a decade ago by Robin Richmond. Thus was the great broadcasting heritage of the State Wurlitzer re-echoed. Back came the Peggy O'Farrell School to re-enact their colourful "London in the 1920s" song and dance presentation, which was rapturously received. Following this, Len Rawle came to the console to present a nostalgic sign-off with "full screech" slides made by John Sharp. This included the signature tunes of the original resident organists: Rudy Lewis (1940-45); Terence Casey (1945-47); Bobby Pagan (1948-51); Louis Mordish (1951-53); and a musical tribute to Mr. Bill Weir, manager and star showman at the Gaumont State between 1966 and 1980. Len ultimately took the console down to the turntable lift to the strains of the most famous musical signature of them all: "I've Got to Sing a Torch Song," in honour of the great Sidney Torch who was the opener and first resident organist at the Gaumont State from 1937-1940. Finally, with all the artistes on stage and the Childrens' School on the orchestra lift, Len played out the show with both lifts slowly descending to the full accompaniment of the famous Gracie Fields number, "Now is the Hour."

Our September Club Night at the much-loved 3/19 Wurlitzer at Wurlitzer Lodge, home of Edith and Les Rawle, featured Walter Morris of the Twickenham College (which until recently had for several years housed an ex-theatre Compton organ) with a most enjoyable programme, notably including some well-known British radio programme signature tunes.

The twentieth anniversary of this quite exceptional home reinstallation was celebrated in October with our well-known member Ralph Bart-



Warren Lubich. No pizza hangover.



Jerry Nagano at "San Gabe."

(Zimfoto)

lett, who has for more than 40 years been the general secretary and main-spring of the Theatre Organ Club, and numerous TOC members, commemorating the opening concert with Len Rawle and George Blackmore at the console.

Thirty-five club members also recently made a happy return trip to the Thursford Steam and Organ Museum in Norfolk where we were proud to present Pauline Dixon at the most distinctive 3/19 Wurlitzer theatre organ.

All of us in the London and South of England Chapter wish all other chapters every success in the New Year ahead.

LOS ANGELES

The chapter-owned 3/16 Wurlitzer in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium got quite a workout since the last issue. On November 1st, George Wright played a well-attended public concert on it. Back for a second stanza was radio voice Howard Culver for more readings of the long-ago late night organ-poetry broadcast variety which went over so well with attendees at a previous GW concert. Howard scored again.

On November 16th, Northern California's Warren Lubich, who plays in pizzerias in addition to other musical activities, played a chapter-sponsored concert on the 3/16. His program read like a history of U.S. pop music from the early days of the century ("Cubanola Glide," 1909) to the present ("Music Box Dancer") with musical notice of the historic 1927 Lindberg solo flight to Paris ("Lucky Lindy"), the intrusion of "talkies" ("Sonny Boy")

and 1915 comedy ("Auntie Skinner's Chicken Dinner"). Warren attracted a sizeable audience for a Sunday afternoon with gorgeous summery weather. As one reviewer put it, there was no scent of atrophied pizza in any of Warren's selections.

On December 6th, our own Jerry Nagano played a public concert on the Wurlitzer, one in tune with the approaching holidays. Jerry raised the gaily packaged console after "Santa" Bob Hill removed the Christmas wrappings around it. Jerry's program was like a vaudeville show, with a chorus singing timely carols, a leather-lunged baritone soloist, a magic act and a silent movie short, Buster Keaton's disastrous attempt to assemble a prefabricated home in *One Week*, accompanied by Jerry. His selections included a stylish "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," Mozart's "Mar-

riage of Figaro" overture, "Blaze Away" march, "Brazilian Sleighbells," "After the Lovin'," a football medley, appropriate Christmas music and a frenetic "Tiger Rag." Jerry attracted a satisfying audience to his evening concert.

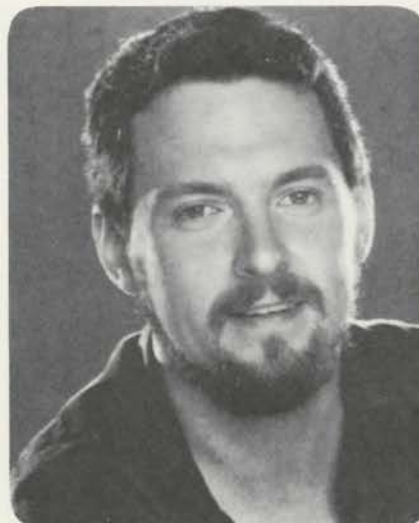
Scheduled for January 9th was Richard Bradley, New York music publisher and one-time protégé of Millie Alexander. Richard enjoyed some publicity never before awarded a pop organist playing at "San Gabe." On the night of his concert, KNXT-TV 11:00 p.m. News presented a brief video reportage showing Bradley at the console, mostly in long shots and with a generous portion of the tune being played. The commentary was somewhat "Gee Whiz," as though T.O. concerts were a brand new concept.

The chapter's annual meeting was held on December 14th with a potluck dinner and election of officers at the Culver City Baptist Church. The nominated candidates were elected unanimously and Gene Davis moved up to the chairmanship. Entertainment was supplied by Dennis Derr, Del Castillo, Ann Leaf and Candi Carley playing the 3/12 Leet/Wurlitzer in the church auditorium.

GUANOVERO BANDINI

MOTOR CITY

The annual membership meeting was held on November 2nd at the Redford Theatre and was preceded by a catered dinner in the lobby. John Lauter and Ed Walsh entertained at the 3/10 Barton during a before-dinner get-together and Lou Behm provided the dinner music.



Richard Bradley.



Fred Fahrner at the Punch & Judy Wurlitzer. After 25 years, a wedding processional with new choreography. (Bob Becker Photo)



Motor City members try to identify the 67 "young pictures" of members during the Christmas party. (Bob Duerr Photo)

The evening's program, during which incumbents Harold Bellamy, Penny Francis and David Lau were re-elected to the board, was co-chaired by Marge Muethel and Jo Phillips.

West Coast artist Carol Jones appeared at the Redford Theatre, on November 8th, in a program that also featured comedian Harry Jarkey. This was Carol's first program for Motor City and her reception was warm, indeed.

Our annual three-day Christmas bazaar, in mid-November, contributed over \$1,500 to our Buy the Redford fund. Three happy winners of the bazaar raffle went home with an afghan, a hand-painted lamp and a spiral-cut ham.

The fall series of workshops, organized by Gil and Penny Francis and held at the Redford Theatre, was entertaining as well as informative. Instructors Paul Kline, Lionel La-

May, John Lauter, Tony O'Brien, Ed Walsh and Stan Zimmerman presented a variety of material which included an introduction to the 3/10 Barton, organ registration and differences in technique between electronic and pipe organs.

On December 3rd, members were invited to attend the Michigan Railroad Club's Christmas program at the Detroit Theater Organ Club, which featured Don Jenks at the 4/34 Wurlitzer.

Our Christmas show, on December 6th, attracted a large audience to hear John Muri at the Barton and the Rackham Symphony Choir on stage at the Redford Theatre. Organized in Detroit over thirty years ago as a class in the University of Michigan Extension Service, the choir has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well as community orchestras. John and the choir joined forces for "Christmas Day," a fan-

tasia on old English carols by Gustav Holst, and the program concluded with a visit from Santa Claus (Fred Page).

The following day the chapter Christmas party was held at the Redford Theatre and featured a holiday program by John Lauter at the Barton, with a guest appearance by Harry Koenig, from Chicago, who performed at both the Barton console and the grand piano. Following the concert the stage became a dance floor as members were invited to dance to the music of Lionel LaMay, Stan Zimmerman and Herb Head at the console of the pipe organ.

On display in the lobby, as members arrived for the Christmas party, was a display of "young pictures" of members and spouses which Virginia Duerr had assembled over a three-month period. At the end of the evening the 67 identities were revealed, as, one by one, each person claimed his or her snapshot. Cochaired by Virginia Duerr and Marge Muethel, well over 150 members turned out to enjoy the holiday music, fun and refreshments.

Member Fred Fahrner, for 25 years the organist at the Martha Mary Chapel at Greenfield Village, played the usual wedding processional, on December 21st, as he had done hundreds of times before. As the bride arrived at the front of the church, however, Fred left the organ bench and went to her side. This was *his* wedding. A gala reception was held at the Redford Theatre, where Fred and his bride, the former Anne Custance, had met at a chapter organ workshop ten months earlier.



The Rackham Symphony Choir on the Redford stage at the Christmas show, which featured John Muri at the Barton. (Fred Page Photo)

While still a bachelor, Fred Fahrner was the artist at our December First Sunday event at the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms (which, incidentally, was designed by the same architect that did Greenfield Village). He was joined on that occasion by Edward Parrine on the trumpet. Stan Zimmerman was the organist at the 2/6 Wurlitzer for our November get-together at the Punch.

Our Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in November featured John Lauter at the 3/13 Barton. A trio of organists, Henry Aldridge, Bud Bates and Don Haller, offered a potpourri of Christmas and nonseasonal music at the Michigan in December.

The November artist for our Fourth Sunday presentation at the Royal Oak Theatre was Don Haller. Lou Behm's program at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton in December featured a visit from Santa Claus (again, Fred Page).

Members were invited to spend New Year's Eve at Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes, in Pontiac, for a buffet dinner and the music of the regular staff organists as well as several guest organists performing at the 3/21 hybrid.

An estimated 60,000 people attended the Redford Theatre, the home of our chapter, during 1980.

DON LOCKWOOD

NOR-CAL

The November monthly concert meeting was held at the Redwood City Cap'n's Galley, owned and operated by Bob Patterson. A staunch crowd of loyal Larry Embury fans came 45 minutes early — a tribute to the warm personality of the artist for the day. Since coming to the Bay Area from Canada, he has built up a large following by teaching, playing



Larry Embury at Redwood City. (Jim McGuire Photo)

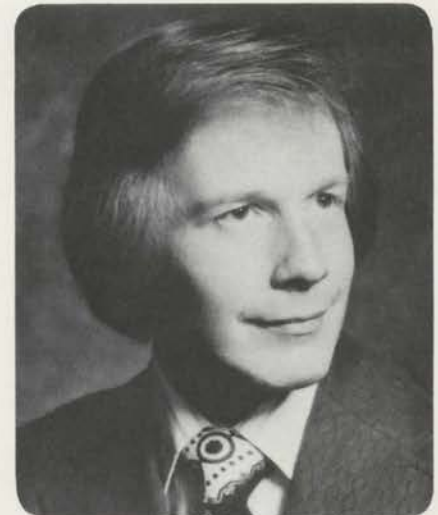
on the staff of the Cap'n's Galley Pizza and Pipes restaurants on the Peninsula, and holding the position of organist at the Los Altos First Baptist Church.

Larry opened at the 4/23 Wurlitzer with, what is becoming a trademark for him, the national anthem on pedal only. This never fails to bring the audience to its feet and bring expressions of envy to the faces of those not having access to full pedal boards. Another Embury characteristic, the long, fast well-fingered glissandos, were in evidence throughout the program, which featured music by Gershwin and Stephen Foster.

Our annual chapter business meeting was held in December, also at the Cap'n's Galley in Redwood City. Our featured artist for the day was Dave Hegarty. A busy, young Bay Area musician, Dave is pianist at the Naval Officers' Club at NAS Alameda. He composes church music which is published by Lorenz Publishing Co., and writes theatre organ arrangements for *Sheet Music Magazine*. Those of us who had not heard

Dave Hegarty previously on pipes got a very pleasant surprise. His program included the music of Broadway, a Christmas medley; Jerome Kern and Sigmund Romberg. Dave acknowledged the influence of John Gart, a New York City theatre organist, now retired in Florida. He played several of Gart's arrangements in tribute to him.

The business portion of the December meeting was conducted by Chairman Jim Dunbar. We have now completed the process of electing directors for varying length terms. This was done (1) so that each director hereafter will serve a three year term in compliance with state requirements and (2) the terms of the nine directors will be staggered so that three will be elected each year to provide continuity for the operation of the chapter. Retiring board member Duke Wellington was thanked for his work on the chapter bylaws. The three board members elected this year were Marian Ritchie, Art Woodworth and Rudy Frey (the writer).



Dave Hegarty played at the Cap'n's Galley in Redwood City in December.

(Norton Pearl copy of Easterling portrait)



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Dick and Bill Taylor have been working on the installation of their 4/26 Wurlitzer in San Francisco's Castro Theatre for the past several years. The 1800-seat Castro is the only theatre in the Bay Area which has live organ music before the feature film and during intermission every day. Until the pipe organ begins to play in 1981, the theatre is using a Conn 651, with external speakers. Dave Hegarty playing Monday and Tuesday, and Elbert LeChelle Wednesday through Sunday.

RUDY FREY

NORTH TEXAS

The October meeting proved to be another successful one. We are most pleased when several of our out-state members are able to be with us, and it is especially rewarding to the officers to see such a fine attendance when a lot of Cowboy enthusiasts were missing the Sunday afternoon game — a hard decision, but theatre organ music won out. Our program artist, Bob Goodwin, called to say that he would be unable to play our program, so our resourceful program chairman opened the program with some very lovely and exciting music and then announced open console. Several of our member-pros were on hand and thoroughly delighted members. Dale then suggested that some of the members who had never played a pipe organ for the chapter, volunteer to play. These timid souls at first were not quick to respond, but Dale coaxed a few and finally presented several not heard before — Grace Larner, Jeanette Frazier, Lorena McKee, Loretta Wolf and Woody Coffey. What a thrill it was for them.

Immediately after the October meeting, Denece Powell and Lorena McKee got busy with the organizational plans for our Fourth Annual

Organ Marathon. Plans quickly fell into place and we were on our way to another successful fund-raising event. Our annual Marathons are our only effort to raise funds, and with an evaluation of the results of four events, we find that they are well worth the effort. Much of the success can be attributed to the wonderful cooperation we receive from the Metroplex professional organists who donate their programs. Their artistry brought in crowds from 8 a.m. to midnight. Many who attended remained all day just to hear their favorite performers. The Marathon was held at Gene Powell's Organ World Concert Hall, Garland, and Piano-Organ World, John Kochiss' Kimball-Conn Music House. Les Thornberg opened the Marathon on Friday evening, November 20th, presenting a brilliant program on the chapter's Conn 652, to a full house. Saturday morning promptly at 8 a.m., Gene Powell opened the day-long fun playing an exciting program to a large crowd. The women of our chapter served breakfast, lunch and a full-course dinner with all kinds of snacks and goodies for those who cared to sip or munch while listening. It was hard work but everyone pitched in, and, when it was over, all concurred that a new closeness had been attained as well as a new dedication to the growth and goals of our chapter.

The highlight of the year for the chapter is our Christmas party and this year Sylvia and Gil Swift hosted the party at John Beck Hall. Another record-breaking attendance made this a festive event. Gil spent long hours bringing the Wurlitzer up to tip-top condition, and it shown brightly in a beautifully decorated room. Many of our most talented members were on hand, and each took his turn playing.

A very short business meeting was held to elect a nominating committee for 1981 officers. A very impressive and pleasing financial report was given by our treasurer, Bob McGilivray.

We were pleased to have several out-state members at our Christmas event, and we wished that many more could have been with us to enjoy a beautiful party, the glorious sound of the John Beck Hall Wurlitzer, and the gracious hospitality of Sylvia and Gil Swift who made us so welcome.

LORENA MCKEE

OHIO VALLEY

Last year, Cliff Radel, pop music critic for The Cincinnati Enquirer, wrote of the saving of the Albee Theatre Wurlitzer, now ensconced in the Emery Theatre, in an article titled, "Mighty Voice of The Albee Soars Again," which appeared in the July 24, 1980 edition of the Enquirer. It was brought to the attention of THEATRE ORGAN Magazine by Gordon Cornell, chairman of the Ohio Valley Chapter, and is reprinted here with permission.

The Albee Theatre collapsed in a heap of disrespect. Those who demolished it never heard of the phrase "death with dignity."

For months the Albee lingered, playing its last show before Fountain Square's brown baggers. It was a simple morality tale. The theatre was the good guy. A wrecking ball played the villain.

Brick by brick the Albee was razed. After its roof and foyer vanished, its battered proscenium arch rose from the rubble like a great, gaping mouth.

"What did I ever do to deserve this?" it cried.

The city had no answer. The



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brown baggers could not say. The city fathers did not care. They mumbled something about preservation not being progress and went on their way. They figured they had heard the last of the Albee.

They were wrong. Even as they mumbled, the theatre's voice, its pipe organ, was being revitalized at a new home, a safe house, the Emery Theatre.

Every weekend, under the auspices of the instrument's angel, the Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, the Albee speaks. Those who listen hear from another age. They learn what it is like to be riveted to a seat by music not produced by electric guitars.

To experience the Albee-Emery organ at its fullest, follow these 10 easy rules:

1. Come early. The organ plays before any film illuminates the screen.
2. Stay late. The organ pipes everyone out of the theatre after the last "The End."
3. Do not hurry. A theatre organ does not belong to the fast-food age. It must be savored, not gulped.
4. Listen. You will be shushed if you don't.
5. Have fun. That's what this and every other theatre organ is all about. They weren't put in pleasure palaces like the Albee and the Emery to play for wakes.
6. Breathe deep. Let the sound waves hit each lung. This music, with its grandiose swells, triumphant fanfares and rousing crescendos is meant to be felt as well as heard.
7. Expect the ornate (see number six). The Albee's alabaster marble, glowing brass and ruby curtains speak through this instrument. That's only natural. This is the theatre's voice.
8. Take nothing for granted. The



Paul Quarino at the Sherwood Oriental, helping a member with registration at open console after the Christmas concert. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

organ, sans its backstage pipes and chambers, is impressive. Standing at stage left, it's ebony presence is massive. Yet, it is only a speck compared to the music it produces.

9. Remember. During its heyday, this organ was the only sound in the theatre, save for an occasional cough. The film was silent as was the audience — except for that guy with the cough.

10. Be astounded. It's okay. The lights are low. No one will notice. Besides, you won't be alone. Everyone else in the theatre will feel the same way.

OREGON

Once a year we have the honor of hosting the chapter at our home in Milwaukie, near Portland. This came on November 15th, a beautiful Saturday afternoon, with a fine turnout. As previously reported, the organ is a three-manual Conn with extensive revoicing. The multi-channel speaker system is located in a balcony over the living room.

Our chapter is fortunate in having several local members who are competent musicians. One we had not heard before, John Olsen, was our artist for this meeting. John uses full

registration, with tasteful use of the reed voices. His theatre organ background shows in his fine countermelody. John's lively program was played in medley groups of old standards. Several arrangements featured very effective four-beat walking bass. After this, it was open console, with the bench never unoccupied.

Thanks to John Olsen for his most



Member John Olsen played for the Oregon Chapter meeting in November. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

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enjoyable music and to Marie Briody for the refreshments.

Our annual Christmas potluck dinner was held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Sherwood, near Portland. As usual this was a fine social opportunity. After election of 1981 chapter officers, we moved around the corner to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre to hear Paul Quarino at the 5/24 Marr & Colton. An aggressive ticket sales effort, plus Paul's popularity, resulted in a record attendance.

Paul Quarino is now music director and on the playing staff of the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland. His generous program included many selections appropriate to the holiday season and included a novel and most beautiful arrangement of "Londonery Air." We know for a fact that Paul has only two hands. Even allowing two manuals for each hand, he can still somehow operate the fifth manual and three rows of tabs, seemingly all at the same time! Without opportunity to set combinations and little time to study this huge console, registration of this big organ is a real challenge.

We were treated to an extended sleigh ride while Paul searched for and found the jingle bells.

We are grateful to Glen and Marie Briody and staff for the smooth organization of the dinner and decorations, and thank Bill Blunk for the organ, and Bob Roschild and Gene Stoller for the theatre.

Special commendation is due Paul Quarino for this outstanding concert.

BUD ABEL

PIEDMONT

The "ranks" of Piedmont's organ installations keep on growing! Richard T. Apperson has a new beast in his basement. Dick is head of the organ department here in Elon College. What makes his installation even more unique is its location. Three blocks away is the newly-installed 3/12 Wurlitzer from Charlottesville, Virginia, and nearly in sight from his front porch are the National Archives for ATOS.

Originally installed in a Baptist church, the little instrument was bound for a music show shop when

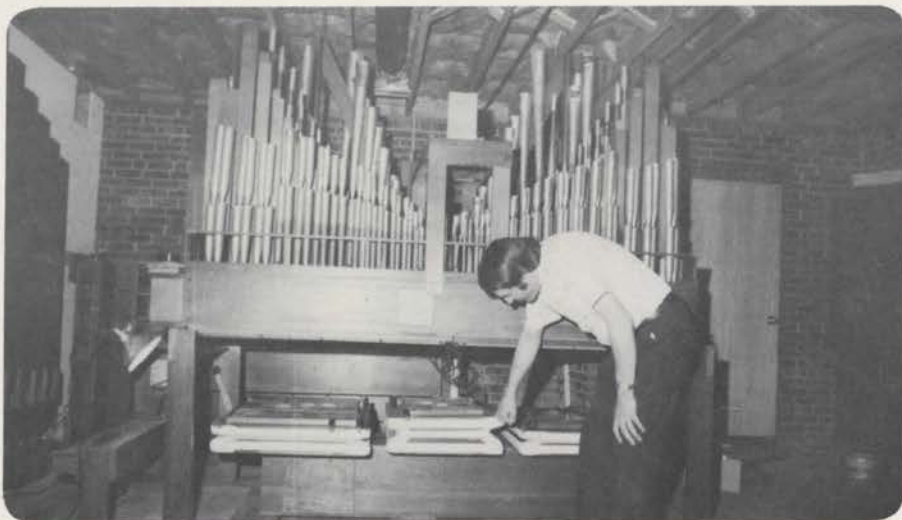
decreased sales necessitated its sale to a local church. Formally reinstalled in "Doc" Abernethy's basement, the 2/5 B special has been in storage awaiting its new home. Excluding freshly-releathered reservoirs, the organ required no refurbishing other than the usual wash and wipe. Contained in an open basement, the organ will speak through a grille in the foyer floor allowing a suitable mixing effect. Piedmont, you've done it again!

MAC ABERNETHY

POTOMAC VALLEY

The University of Maryland Adult Education Center was the site of Potomac Valley Chapter's Christmas Party held on December 14th. The day started with Doug Bailey playing the Hammond B to accompany a Laurel and Hardy silent film. This was followed by three color/sound films supplied by outgoing Chairman Lee Prater. These films were photographed by Lee himself while working with the U.S. Forest Service, and the music for them was composed and arranged by PVC member Floyd Werle. Immediately following the movies the nearly-completed 3/10 Kimball was rolled out on stage and gave forth with the first sounds it has made in public in more than 40 years. This was a thrilling event especially for the crew that has been working on it for so long. Completion of this project should occur early in 1981. George Johnson, crew chief and outgoing vice chairman presented Lee Prater with a plaque recognizing Lee's two-year stint as chapter chairman.

After the festivities in the auditorium, the party moved across the hall to a banquet room for a sit-down meal. The Hammond was moved into the banquet hall, and, during the meal, several members provided



Professor Apperson examines his newly-recovered reservoirs.

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good organ music. Ardis Sneddon, Earl Sharitz, Charlie Affelter, Charles Kokowski, and Lee Prater provided the talent. Andy Andrus, our outgoing treasurer, showed us a little toy counter consisting of a boat whistle and a train whistle that he had built from plans taken from THEATRE ORGAN magazine. It worked. The day was made complete by the raffle of a set of George Wright records, donated by Dow and Edith Evelyn, from which the chapter benefited. Dow and Edith are the donors of a 2/8 Wurlitzer which PVC is installing at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, and if that weren't enough, they also made a large cash donation. Another large cash donation was made by chapter member, and organ crew member, Bruce Ricker. This money will be used to help install the Evelyn Wurlitzer. In all it was a great day for the Potomac Valley Chapter of ATOS.

DICK HAIGHT

PUGET SOUND

Our yuletide dinner was held in conjunction with a fine musical program at the Haller Lake Clubhouse where our chapter organ, a 3/7 Marr and Colton/Wurlitzer is installed.

A punchbowl, set up and operated by our master of ceremonies, Dick Schrum, was the gathering spot



Ten-year-old Travis Wise showed them "how" at Haller Lake Clubhouse.

while organ music was continuous. Ken Gallwey, was first, Diane Whipple followed with her selections, and then Travis Wise, a 10-year-old "wonder" from Puyallup, Wn. (who came with his grandparents) surprised us all. This youngster, a student of Lillian Houston, began his lessons at age 6. He has played the organ at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes, and wants to play the Bellevue Pizza and Pipes. His real grown-up style was noted in his *Fiddler on the Roof* number.

Ivan Wick, Chris Pride, Eddie Zollman and Dan Raven then took their turn at the big gold and white console.

New officers of our chapter were

installed by Dick Dickerson, a member of the outgoing board: Thelma Barclay, chairman; Mel Retzlaff, vice chairman; Bill Browning, treasurer; and Gennie Whitting, secretary. Two new members, George Frances of Vancouver, Canada, and Mark Cockrell will join Merv Vaught and Russ Evans on the board.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the appearance of the Bellevue Community College Jazz Ensemble. Fifteen of their 30-member group sang some American tunes, a few spirited and lively spirituals, then into "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy" with a beautiful trumpet accompaniment by their outstanding director, Harley Brumbaugh. This group is anticipating a return trip to Mexico, at the invitation of the Mexican government. They sang at the Shrine of Guadalupe before 20,000 worshipers, were on TV, coast to coast, with a Mexican program showing that American music is all inspiring, and they were invited to sing at the University of Mexico for 250,000 students. Jack and Betty Laffaw were instrumental in obtaining this wonderful group for our program. Then came Jane McKee Johnson, who plays intermissions at the Temple Theatre in Tacoma. Dick Schrum then took over the console for danc-



Puget Sound officers for 1981 are (l to r): Bill Browning, treasurer; Gennie Whitting, secretary; Mel Retzlaff, vice chairman; and Thelma Barclay, chairman.



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ing. Wendell DeLaw and Mahon Tullis followed Dick. Merv Vaught at the pipe organ and Bernice Campbell at the piano duo-ed. Harvey Rossiter was then joined by Thelma Barclay in another piano-organ duo. To climax the duets, Don Myers, at the organ, and Margaret Hill of Bremerton, at the piano, showed us that talent was plentiful.

Along with this wonderful music, the decorating committee of June Schumacher, Bert and Georgia Lobberget, Gennie Whitting and Don Myers truly made it a "Holiday Hall."

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

We have had some real laughs working on our typing project — cataloging old sheet music. While making cards for the Ts, we came across a real gem from the 1920s, "Take Your Finger Out of Your Mouth, I Want a Kiss From You," by Duke Yellman. The covers on the 30s and 40s movie musicals, with pictures of the stars, are fun to see and would even look great in picture frames.

Another dressing room at the Far-

go Theatre has been painted, as well as the floor in the one we use for our lunch room. One dressing room is full of tools and paint supplies, and we plan to make it a regular workshop. There are eight dressing rooms in all.

New stop tabs are on order for our 3-manual console, to keep up with our recent and anticipated additions, so that what you see on the stop rail will be what you get. The Xylophone has been wired in, at last, and the second touch is now operational. New cables are being prepared for the future pipe additions and a player piano.

For the second year, we provided free noon Christmas concerts at the Fargo for the shoppers, and whoever else cared to walk in and listen. The mighty Wurlitzer was played by Lloyd Collins, Lance Johnson and Pat Kelly. (See cover story.) Using mostly donated Christmas trimmings, we decorated the lobby and the orchestra pit area. Organ music continues for movie intermissions each weekend and is well received.

Another project was completed in December. Permanent microphone cables were hung from the auditori-

um ceiling, which can be raised or lowered for any recording.

We have a dirty job ahead of us this winter. We will be cleaning out the old rope gallery and painting the floor to prepare for a Wood Diaphone. By the way, the chapter is looking for a 16' Wood Diaphone, of 12 or 18 notes, preferably large scale. Contact Lance Johnson.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The December 6th concert at the Paramount Theatre was a grand success as evidenced by an attendance of 1,200 enthusiastic music lovers. Bob Cavarra and Ed Benoit were in full command as the twin consoles rose to stage level. Mr. Cavarra, professor of organ and harpsichord at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, played selections with such feeling that the audience soon realized why he is listed in the *International Who's Who in Music*. After intermission, Ed Benoit played several selections and then accompanied the movie *Matrimaniac* starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. We enjoy Ed's beautiful music and



Bob Cavarra at one of the twin Wurlitzer consoles at the Paramount Theatre, Denver.



Ed Benoit played for the silent movie at the December Christmas concert at the Paramount Theatre, Denver.

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appreciate the many hours that he gives to the group. The delightful evening came to a close with a sing-along of Christmas medleys. Jerry Cutshall, Ivan Duff and Don Wick spent hundreds of hours working on the 4/20 Wurlitzer and everyone could certainly hear the results of their efforts. Special thanks to Cochairmen Ed and Ginny Wielgot and all who worked on the committees to make this concert a success in every way.

The November business meeting was held in the Wurlitzer storage rooms on East Colfax and the following officers were elected for 1981: Ed Wielgot, chairman; Guy Powell, vice chairman; and Alice Cutshall, secretary-treasurer.

On December 18th, the head of the Denver Historical Association met with groups that have given support in the efforts to save the Paramount Theatre as a landmark. Friends of the Paramount, Colorado Historical Theatre Society and several ATOS members enjoyed a short concert and silent film played by Ed Benoit.

MARGARET ANN FOY

ST. LOUIS

Our annual election was held in November and the following officers were elected: Dennis Smith, chairman; Ed Plitt, vice chairman; Betty Tyler, secretary; Erwin Oehlert, treasurer. Paul Coates and Jim Grebe were reelected to the board to serve with incumbents Bill Boal and Gorman Selbert. Roy Fechter will assume the duties of newsletter editor, Delores Boal will assist the secretary and Marlin Mackley, chairman in 1979 and 1980, will assist or direct the organ installation crews, so you can see we have an organization that is eager to move on into 1981.

The traditional Christmas party at the Coates' residence was again a huge success. Everyone brought a covered dish and also chipped in for the meat and beverages. The musical portion of the party started out with a great program by Norm Kramer, who is well known as a stadium organist and now manager of Taylor Music Store in St. Louis County. Norm was in fine form and he played something for everybody's taste plus some intricate Christmas specials. Rick Oberle set up his closed circuit television system so no one missed seeing Norm's extraordinary fingerwork. Norm also demonstrated how Paul Coates' statue of Arthur Fiedler works with the organ. Paul had a four-foot statue of Fiedler carved out of wood at Silver Dollar City, Missouri, and then hooked up its solenoid operated arm to the pedal section of the organ, so that it waves its baton to the beat of the foot pedals. Another addition to Paul's installation is an accordion, mounted on the outside wall of one of the pipe chambers.



Paul Coates and his Arthur Fiedler statue. The baton waves to the beat of the foot pedals.

The final portion of the evening was reserved for open console and again this year we were given a great thrill by a guest. Father Joseph Somos, pastor of St. Mary of Victories Church and professor of music at Kenrick Seminary, sat down at the console and, within moments, had the entire gathering spellbound with his brilliant interpretations of the classics and his unique registrations that produced a mixture of the most beautiful voices. All of this was done without practice on that organ or sheet music. Father Somos came to America in 1976 from Hungary and has been a resident of this area for only a year, but in that short time he has endeared himself to the whole community as a musician, composer and person.

Betty Tyler, our secretary for a long, long time was the proud recipient of the "Outstanding Missouri Musician" award given by the Missouri Federation of Music Clubs for 1980. Betty plays organ, piano and violin and performs with many musical organizations locally includ-



Norm Kramer at the Coates' 4/15 hybrid organ.

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BILL ANTHONY

SAN DIEGO

The chapter presented its last program of 1980 December 6th at the California Theatre with Dennis James in concert and silent film, featuring Harold Lloyd in the 1923 film *Safety Last*. With the continued leasing of the California Theatre by the Old Globe Theatrical group pending the rebuilding of the Old Globe Theatre destroyed by fire, the chapter plans to use the California Theatre under present sub-lease arrangement for our monthly concerts throughout 1981. Our program chairman, Connie Reardon, plans to present a talented array of artists during the year, beginning with Rex Koury on February 7th, Dan Bellomy March 21st, Gaylord Carter May 9th, and others to follow.

The annual membership meeting of the chapter was held December 28th at the home of publicity chairman for 1980, Bob Brooks. Following the election of officers and general announcements, holiday goodies and beverages were served. Chapter members enjoyed open console on the host's Conn 641, a fine sounding and beautifully kept organ dating back 17 years to the tube days. The chapter presented plaques to the 1980 retiring officers, thanking them for their valiant service. Those retiring: Daphne Hoskins, secretary; Ray LaNew, treasurer; Bob Brooks, publicity chairman; and Ada Forand, membership chairman. Officers elected for 1981: Coulter Cunningham, chairman; Vern Bickel, vice chairman; Roger Smith, secretary; George Smith, treasurer; Connie Reardon, program; Russ Peck, publicity; and Robert Eddy, membership.

Restoration work continues on the three manual Wurlitzer replacement console, and a contract has been signed with Gorsuch Enterprises of San Diego for a solid state multiplex relay system. Target date for completion — late 1981.

COULTER CUNNINGHAM

SIERRA

Members and their guests were welcomed to Larry Weid's Big Top Pizza in the Sacramento suburb of Carmichael for a most enjoyable November 16th afternoon of theatre pipe music played by member and part time Big Top organist, Jim Brown. This was Jim's first formal concert and a real contrast to the many nights he has spent at the pizza routine. Jim's program at the now 3/19 former "Moon River" broadcast organ was a real treat with carefully prepared and executed pop and theatrical arrangements as well as some "big sound" classical material. A thirty-two foot resultant was wired up so that climactic pedal passages were spoken with true authority. In fact, the thirty-two foot pedal stop, wired at Jim's behest, is labeled on the stop tab as "Jim Brown 32'."

On December 14th the annual Christmas party was scheduled at Cal Expo immediately following our public presentation of Dennis James at the George Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer accompanying Charlie Chaplin's *Gold Rush*. Hearing and seeing is the only way you can believe what Dennis James did with seven ranks, two manuals and ten pistons. Efforts of our persistent publicist Carroll Harris were rewarded with two television stations showing up to tape later-aired news features on Dennis James' artistry.

After Dennis' superb performance, the incoming chapter officers were installed. New board

members include Dave Moreno, Art Phelan and Betty Wilmunder, Cindy Carleton, secretary; John Carleton, treasurer; Les Wilmunder, vice chairman; and Randy Warwick, chairman. Outgoing Chairman Jim Hodges and his officers were commended as having done a great job over the past two years.

The party, put together by Harry and Bernice Cline with help from the board members, was staged right on the Golden Bear Playhouse stage. Dennis James kicked off the festivities at the Wurlitzer, then open console followed.

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

Chapter members traveled some thirty-five miles northwest of Tulsa to Cleveland, Oklahoma, for our November meeting. John and Pauline Price were our hosts for the gathering, which was centered around their 2/10 Hillgreen-Lane. A short business session was held.

Our December meeting was held thirty miles in the *other* direction. Bruce and Martha Wilson's rural home in Claremore, Oklahoma, was the scene of our annual Christmas potluck supper. This group can certainly put on a feast!

The star attraction, however, was the Wilson's newly-installed 3/14 Kilgen. This organ had been removed, with the help of the chapter's "Pipe Packin' Platoon," from the Presbyterian Church in Bristow, Oklahoma, in April, 1979. Those of us brave enough to climb the ladder to the loft in the garage were treated to the sight of a beautiful organ installation — we were truly impressed with Bruce's tightly-packed arrangement of chests and pipes, some placed horizontally.

Music for the afternoon was pro-

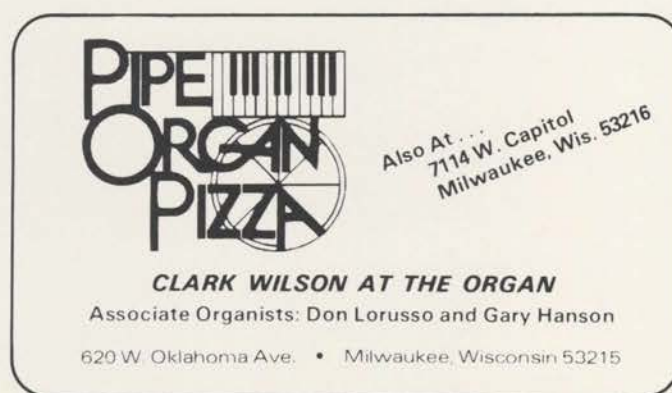


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vided by Lyle Thurman, Joe Crutchfield, Larry Jones and Phil Judkins, along with several others during open console.

Frank B. Frank, Harry Rasmussen, Bob Busby, Phil Judkins and Lee Smith were elected as a nominating committee to select candidates for officers for the next two years.

Progress on the home for our chapter-owned 3/10 Robert Morton has been slow, especially during the Christmas holidays. However, committee members have finally met with the architect for Tulsa's Evangelistic Temple, and have explained what the instrument needs for optimum installation. We are now waiting for drawings.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTH EAST TEXAS

John Steele, who usually plays at Scooby's Fun Factory in Greenspoint Mall in Houston, was guest artist for the first annual fall concert at the Beaumont's Jefferson Theatre in November. His arrangements were well received by an audience of about 150. His accompaniment to a Laurel and Hardy reel seemed especially authentic. The South East Texas Arts Council underwrote the loss on the concert. Nevertheless, we expect to sponsor another concert on March 26th.

The chapter had its third Christmas party at the home of Nick and Thelma Debes in Groves, Texas. The Baldwin electronic organ stood-in for the theatre organ sound.

The Jefferson Theatre's Robert Morton played a new role when Richard Crafts played the organ part of the Saint-Saens "Organ Symphony No. 3" with the Beaumont Symphony Orchestra at one of its subscription concerts, now being presented at the Jefferson. Acknowledgement was made to the chapter



John Steele played the Robert Morton at the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont, Texas, in November. (George R. Hockmeyer Photo)

chairman, Floyd Broussard, for his assistance in getting the organ in shape for the event.

IRA M. WILLIAMSON

SOUTH FLORIDA

Ever popular keyboard wizard Lyn Larsen made his Florida debut on Halloween night at the 3/15 Wurlitzer in Miami's downtown Gusman Cultural Center (nee Olympia Theatre). To the screaming, clapping and whistling of over 1000 festive party-minded fans, Larsen was introduced after a host of ghouls and goblins greeted the crowd from the stage.

Lyn played "That's Entertainment" as an opener, then went into great themes of horror from the past as an entree to the evening's movie fare — *The Phantom of the Opera*, with Lon Chaney, Sr. in the role he created in 1925. It was a specially-tinted and fresh print of the classic which ironically was made the same

year the old Ebersson atmospheric theatre was constructed. The organ, too, was built that same year. The film never looked better and many members felt the organ never sounded better.

For one thing, the long-silent original 32-foot Diaphones were played publicly for the first time in decades. They added just the right touch to the dramatic moments of the film. Many of the reed voices had been carefully reworked before the film under Lyn's tonal guidance.

Most of the improvements in the organ can be credited to long-time Ohio theatre organ buff Robert Ridgeway. He recently opened his own firm, Ridgeway & Associates, in Cincinnati. The board wasted no time in inviting Bob to come down and work on the old Wurlitzer in Gusman. He supervised the restoration of the 32-foot Diaphones as well as tonal work in the organ, too numerous to list. His work impressed most of our members who swore the organ never sounded so good.

Of course, part of the credit for that must go to Maestro Larsen who does know how to carry a tune and score a film. The crowd was spellbound throughout the film and cheered enthusiastically at the end as Lyn played a final number to send the revellers into the haunted streets. Over 100 persons showed up in costume and became eligible to enter the costume pageant which took place at intermission.

The production is an annual event which SFTOS cosponsors with *The Miami Herald*. The newspaper provides production assistance as well as thousands of dollars worth of free advertisements. The *Herald* donates the space and time in an effort to draw crowds back downtown into Gusman Cultural Center. That night, it worked.

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As Lyn flew off to vacation in Europe, chapter officials put their heads together to see how they would continue a fall concert season which had started so incredibly well.

The chapter plans to present noted composer and organist Searle Wright in January in a double-header concert pair which will feature him in his theatre organ stylings at the 3/15 Wurlitzer at Miami's Andre Hall, then at the vintage E.M. Skinner organ in Miami's Trinity Cathedral two days later.

Rob Calcaterra, talented Hoosier-state organist, will return to the console at Andre Hall in March.

The chapter wrapped up 1980 with the December meeting at Andre Hall, featuring talented California organist Ty Woodward. It was Ty's first appearance in Florida, although many members heard him in his feature spot at the 1979 Los Angeles convention.

P.M. KINURA

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

December 7th was the big day for our Christmas party which was held,

as before, in the club room of Bea and Rudy Kotaseks', El Dorado Town Homes. Our chairman, Ray Chase, along with his many other accomplishments, is also a gourmet cook. Therefore, dinner was prepared by him, with the assistance of our new chapter treasurer, Bess Kerley. The above were assisted by several ladies of the chapter in furnishing some of the food and their help in the preparation was much appreciated.

As a special treat for open console we had the pleasure of hearing a few numbers by Jim Conners, staff organist at the new Organ Stop Pizza Parlor No. 3 of Tucson. Several of our members played to complete a very nice party.

After a long wait, with delays in construction, the newest in the Bill Brown chain of organ stop pizza parlors with Wurlitzer theatre organs opened in Tucson on Wednesday night, the 10th of December, with a large crowd attending. The organists are Jim Conners, lately of Houston, Texas, and David Wickerham of Tucson. Dave is also a member of our local chapter and a young

man we are proud of in his endeavors with music. The grand opening was held on Saturday night the 13th of December, and among those playing were Jim, David and Santa Claus ala Jim Conners. It was a real treat for this writer, especially, and his other friends in the audience to hear the owner of the parlor, Bill Brown, playing the organ for Santa's entrance. It's not often when the owner of an establishment of any kind is an expert in the same line. Bill plays a really nice organ . . . very clean and if one is a pizza fan, Bill's parlor puts out a delicious pizza. Several attending the grand opening were from the Valley of the Sun Chapter. Thank you, Bill Brown, for opening a pizza parlor with organ music for us in Tucson.

BOB HIGH

VALLEY OF THE SUN

The annual business meeting and elections were held at the Phoenix Organ Stop on November 9th. Chosen as officers for 1981 were Adrian Phillips, chairman; Clarence Creighton, vice chairman; Madeline



November artist at Phoenix Organ Stop was Walt Strony.



1981 Valley of the Sun officers are: J. Sheak, J. Howard, C. Creighton, C. Creighton, J. Baker, M. LiVolsi, A. Phillips.

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Don Watson at the Creightons' pipe organ during the Christmas party.



Keith Chapman and Ed Fisher combine talents for "Peter and the Wolf."

(Jim Shepherd Photo)

LiVolsi, secretary; Jerry Howard, treasurer; Charles Creighton, program chairman; Julie Baker, statutory agent; and Jack Sheak, member-at-large. After the business portion was concluded, we enjoyed a musical treat from Walt Strony at the restaurant's Wurlitzer.

Our holiday raffle was a huge success, with most of our members really involved in this fund raising project. The drawing was held at the Mesa Organ Stop the evening of December 5th, with organist Ron Rhode drawing the winning tickets.

The second weekend of December was very busy for VOTS members. Some took a trip south to visit Bill Brown's newly-opened Organ Stop Pizza in Tucson. Several attended Walt Strony's Christmas concert at the Phoenix restaurant. One of the highlights of Walt's program was his musical accompaniment to a slide presentation which proved that it *does* snow in Arizona!

December 14th, nearly seventy members and guests enjoyed a buffet-style Christmas party at the home of Cora and Clarence Creighton. Seated at the Creightons' pipe

organ, member Don Watson accompanied his wife as she sang a few hymns, then we all joined in on a Christmas sing-along. Later, a few courageous souls participated in open console.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WESTERN RESERVE

Our Keith Chapman concert was held on Saturday, October 25th. Along with his astounding performance, which included "Kitten on the Keys," "Ritual Fire Dance," and Bach's "Air From the Suite in G," we had two bonuses. Keith provided a slide presentation of the John Wanamaker organ in Philadelphia, showing not only the fabulous console, but also the pipe chambers and other interesting, but rarely seen facets of the instrument. We were also pleased to have Ed Fisher, of WQAL-FM radio, to narrate *Peter and the Wolf* with Keith's accompaniment. Mr. Fisher was gracious enough to donate his time not only for the performance, but for rehearsals in Philadelphia. Many of Ed's fans were introduced to the beauty of the theatre organ and the skill of

Keith Chapman that evening.

At our November 16th business meeting, we elected the following officers: Ernest Racic, chairman; Al Boehnlein, vice chairman; Phyllis Merhar, secretary; Jack Alling, treasurer; Florence Webster, program director; and Claude B. Hawks, concert chairman. Following the meeting we were entertained by member Eric Rossin, also an accomplished pianist, at the Mighty Wurlitzer. His program included such favorites as "Once In Love With Amy," "S Wonderful," and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

December 7th saw the decoration of a 26-foot tree and the concert hall in preparation for our Christmas party. A potluck and open console followed.

Our Christmas party, consisting of a buffet meal and dancing, was a big success, lasting until 1 a.m. Artists at the console during the happy hour, meal and intermission included John Lane, Bill Taber, Charles Merhar, Steve Jablonski and Eric Rossin. Music for dancing was provided by Jack Lynne and his five piece band.

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WOLVERINE

In November, the chapter was hosted by our co-treasurers, Lawrie and Rosemary Mallett, at their home in Rochester, Michigan. They have a 3-manual, low pressure, Wicks organ installation with a history worthy of note. It began in the 1800s as a 2/4 tubular pneumatic, installed in a church. In the early 1900s it was electrified by Wicks.

Lawrie Mallett purchased the organ in the 1960s and installed it in their Lansing home by converting a spacious garage into a chamber and listening area. A Gottfried keyhole Oboe and a Vox Humana were added to the original Diapason, Flute, String and Celeste.

When the Malletts transferred to the Rochester, Michigan area, the instrument was removed and placed in storage until a new home with suitable space for chambers could be found.

The new home selected has a large, unused basement area directly below the living room which became the chamber housing the pipework with two tone chutes leading up to the living room.

With the addition of a Tuba and Tibia, it was decided that the instrument had now reached a sufficient size to justify the addition of a third



Wolverine chairman Ed Corey presenting 10-year award of Appreciation to David Voydanoff (left) and Glenn Rank (right).
(Fred Page Photo)

keyboard. This low-pressure instrument is well suited to a home environment, having sufficient presence to be heard without being deafening.

In December, the Wolverine's annual business meeting and potluck dinner was called to order by the chairman (the writer) at Wurlitzer House, the Detroit home of members David Voydanoff and Glenn Rank and their excellent 3/6 Wurlitzer installation.

Recognition was given to Coraline Stringer for her efforts as social chairman and coordinating the din-

ner this year. Glenn Rank and David Voydanoff were also honored and were given a plaque in recognition of the ten consecutive years they have hosted this very popular event.

Officers elected for the year 1981 were: Ed Corey, chairman; Don Jenks, vice chairman; Rosemary & Lawrie Mallett, treasurers; Barry Rindhage, secretary and newsletter editor.

The writer restated the continuing goal to maintain the Wolverine Chapter as a strictly social organization as it always has been.

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