



## CHAPTER NOTES

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### CENTRAL FLORIDA

The February 15th performance by CFTOS Chairman Charles Stanford at the J. Burns Pizza & Pipes in Tampa was another success. Charles is a staff organist at this pizzeria and performed admirably at the 3/25 Wurlitzer installed there. Some 250 organics attended the hour-long concert and heard selections such as "No Business Like Show Business" and "Another Openin'" and variations on "Flight of the Bumblebee."

As a belated valentine, Charles dedicated "Secret Love" and "I Honestly Love You" to his wife Debbie and to their first child, who is due in the next few months. Several door prizes were awarded, including an album by Ashley Miller.

Another concert is set for Sunday, April 5th, at the J. Burns Pizza & Pipes. Featured this time around will be Hal Freede. Now residing in Dunedin, Florida, Hal is well known and respected as an outstanding performer and personality, was chief organist for 35 years with NBC and was featured at the famous organ at the Paramount Theatre in New York City.

We have noticed in the last year a

general increase in interest in theatre organ in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area. We believe this interest can be traced, in part, to concerts at the J. Burns Pizza & Pipes, to Terry Charles' activities at the Kirk of Dunedin and to recent publicity regarding the work being done to restore and install the Wurlitzer in the city-owned Tampa Theatre. We will do our best to see that this interest continues and hopefully increases.

Recently, we have been holding our monthly meetings in the homes of various members. This has been most enjoyable as it gives us a welcome change of scenery and allows us to play the fine instruments these members have in their homes.

It has come to our attention that the Hillsborough High School is contemplating the installation of a theatre pipe organ in its 1500-seat auditorium. This high school has a student

body of approximately 2000. Since they need an organ, the chapter would welcome any suggestions or donations (such as an organ). We may make this our next project after the installation in the Tampa Theatre.

JOHN OTTERSON

### CENTRAL INDIANA

Sunday, January 11th, the chapter met in the Anderson Auditorium of Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis. In addition to members, faculty and music students from the school were also present.

The writer attended this high school, and it was thrilling then to be able to hear this same organ, now installed in Anderson Auditorium, being played in a big gym. The organ was dedicated on October 4, 1929 and was a gift of the student body at that time. Chapter member and accomplished organist Tim Needler played a delightful variety of selections including numbers played at the original dedication of this Pilcher organ made in Louisville, Kentucky.

The chapter has a number of members who are excellent organists and are now recording, touring and playing concerts all over the country. Among them are Rod Calcaterra and Rick Moore. Rick, a very talented young man, is now a substitute staff organist for the Roaring Twenties Pizza Parlors in Grand Rapids and Lansing, Michigan. About mid-year

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he will move on to London, Ontario, where a new Roaring Twenties is being constructed, to perform as staff organist.

On February 15th, approximately 140 members, friends and guests met at the Hedback Theatre. This little theatre is being renovated presently, along with the Page organ housed here which is being refurbished. It is the home of Footlight Musicals, an organization that has been most accommodating to the chapter. We are very fortunate to have access to the theatre and organ.

Starting in April, a series of Sunday afternoon concerts will begin at the Hedback, using the many talents of our excellent organist members. The renovation of the Hedback Theatre has become such a worthy civic project that it has received two \$100,000 endowments.

Central Indiana Chapter also likes to work along with the Paramount Pizza Parlor, which has the fantastic organ from the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, California. This spring Tom Hazleton will be back in Indianapolis to play the Wurlitzer at the Paramount Music Palace. Our chapter is looking forward to concerts, bus trips and lots of other good times when spring makes her appearance.

MRS. MARY L. HARRELL

## CENTRAL OHIO

The first meeting of the new year brought a good turnout of members and guests to the Worthington High School auditorium on Sunday, January 18th. Craig Jaynes ably demonstrated the 3/16 Wurlitzer as the main artist for the afternoon. The progress made by the organ crew was highly evident in the increased list of playable stops and a much improved sound. Releathering and a change to solid-state switching are the big projects currently. There are also some wind line problems which leave the instrument sounding somewhat asthmatic, but crew chief Willard Ebner assures us that all is progressing well. It is estimated that the work is about 80% finished and no major clinkers are anticipated as work continues. The entire chapter anxiously anticipates the day when we will have a fully-operational concert-quality instrument to share with the community.

Saturday evening, January 24th,



Professor Robert Griffith explains the Johannes Klais organ at Ohio Wesleyan University. (Photos by Bob Clark)

found Dennis James on his familiar seat at the Ohio Theatre's 4/20 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ as he presented a concert to a near-capacity audience. Dennis celebrated his sixth anniversary as resident organist for the Ohio Theatre by presenting a selection of favorite tunes dedicated to the various people who are integral in making the Ohio Theatre a continuing success. He also demonstrated the organ's capacity for classical music by playing a classical selection from his new album. The evening provided a well-rounded program which was rewarded with a standing ovation.

There was a most pleasant side effect of Dennis James' concert. COTOS had a table and display on the mezzanine in hopes of attracting interest in the organization from among the throng of organ enthusiasts in attendance. Through the efforts of Karen Boerger and Bob Shaw nearly a dozen interested parties were added to the mailing list of prospective members.

The February meeting of COTOS was held on Sunday, February 15th, at Gray Auditorium on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. A one-hour program on the Klais 4/82 pipe organ was presented by Dr. Robert A. Griffith, Professor of Organ, and two of his students, both university sophomores, Gail Mertz and Paul Burnside. The organ was built by the Johannes Klais Orgelbau of Bonn, West Germany, with installation in Gray Chapel in 1980. While this instrument is a baroque organ it was found to be highly versatile when exercised by COTOS members during an open console session. The most singularly impressive aspect of this instrument is that it is totally self-contained. There are no separate pipe chambers or air chests under the floor — the entire organ sits center stage like a GIANT piece of furniture. The operation is mechanical (i.e., tracker) but seems quite responsive when compared to many other mechanical instruments. Pro-

fessor Griffith originally wondered why COTOS would be interested in the baroque Klais organ. Upon further reflection he realized that he, a classical organist, enjoys theatre pipe organ so why wouldn't theatre pipe organ fans also be interested in his side of the street?

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

### CHICAGO AREA

For most of us, spring is a welcome season and a time for looking forward and an occasional look at the past. On December 5th, we had the Rhode Brothers at Downers Grove High School giving us a delightful program. It was our first opportunity to hear Chuck's voice and we were pleasantly surprised. And Ron did a super job with his part of the program.

CATOE was on one of our local radio stations for a half hour during which time Barbara Meisner and John Gendvilas (board members) were interviewed by the station's programmer Frank Dawson. Naturally, the time was devoted to theatre organ, CATOE's activities and promoting our Rhode Brothers show.

Our February 13th social featured Jerry Kinsella who is music director and instructor for Rodgers Elmhurst Studio. Jerry gave a varied and interesting program at CATOE's Wurlitzer at Maine North High School, Des Plaines, Ill.

Walter Strony's new record *Mundelein 1980* was available and it is an excellent and satisfying disc.

February 22nd was a cool, moist day, but over 100 organ buffs visited the Oriental Theatre for the last time to hear that grand old organ. Tim Needler, from Indianapolis, Ind., gave a very good program and finished with a symphonic arrangement of "Auld Lang Syne." Then about 20 of us had a last chance at the keys

during open console. And, Edna Sellers did us the honor of a few tunes when she was assisted to the bench. In the good old days, she played this organ often. George Wright is a long-time admirer of Edna's, saying she is one of his favorite gal friends. The theatre space will be a shopping mall and the organ will stay for a while (as a place of storage) but the when, where, why???

On April 4th we will be hearing Pauline Dixon from England give a special concert at the WGN studio



Pauline Dixon, scheduled for April concert in Chicago.

organ. Pauline comes to us well heralded as an excellent musician. She is also scheduled to give several programs in our area during her visit.

The Pickwick Theatre, in Park Ridge, Ill., is getting attention after much neglect. The local Jaycees and business people are working toward renovation of this excellent theatre. It is a good house and possesses a super Wurlitzer.

May 1st we are to have Gaylord Carter accompanying *The Son of*

*The Shiek*, a Valentino silent, at the Civic Opera House at 8 p.m. A special dinner will precede the show in the building's Tower Club. You are welcome if you can make it.

ALMER BROSTROM

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY

The Connecticut Valley Chapter completed its twentieth year on February 14th. Appropriate observance took place in a most appropriate setting, the Thomaston Opera House, scene of much chapter activity over the years. A few front rows of seats were temporarily removed to make room for tables and chairs. A fine cocktail hour helped produce a congenial atmosphere for our specially-catered dinner. Through all of this, organist Dean Robinson played lovely music at the Marr & Colton — hard to beat. Following dinner, Dean continued to play for dancing on the stage. It turns out that we have some unique térsichorean talent!

Allen Miller, one of the founders, recounted for us some of the early events in the history of the chapter, using some authentic recordings to highlight particular episodes. A number of sturdy souls put a lot of work into preparations for this most enjoyable celebration and we are duly grateful to program chairman Joe Graif and his helpers for their efforts — efforts which paid off handsomely in terms of membership enjoyment of the occasion.

Hector Olivera will play at the Thomaston Opera House on May 16th and 17th. Information and tickets are available via stamped, addressed envelope from Concert Tickets, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483; telephone (203) 888-9696. Tickets should be ordered at least two weeks ahead of time.

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## DAIRYLAND

There was no postholiday season letdown for DTOS'ers this year. Every Saturday has seen enthusiastic members "Down by the Riverside" (theatre, that is!) and work on the Wurlitzer is progressing nicely. The main chamber is about complete, and the next big project is the combination action. Members have also become involved in doing a bit of cleaning and relamping of the house. Though threadbare, the Riverside is the only downtown Milwaukee house still intact. We hope to bring back at least a little of the former glamour for our April show featuring Walter Strony.

We did take some time out for a social in January. Gary McWithey played a lovely classical program at Greenfield Park Lutheran Church. The organ is only a 2/4 Wicks, but Gary showed that a small instrument can have a lot of variety, too. Included in the program was a salute to the hostages who returned to the U.S. that day. Thanks, Gary, for a lovely afternoon.

DTOS'er Perry Petta recently accompanied two silent films at the Oriental Landmark Theatre. Featured were *A Dogs Life* with Charlie Chaplin and Lillian Gish in *Intolerance*. Unfortunately, Milwaukee was hit with a huge snowstorm that day and attendance was very low. Hopefully the theatre will have the films and Perry back again soon.

CARRIE NELSON PROD

## GULF COAST

Usually when you move away or leave town you get out of holding office. Not so with Tom Helms. He was re-elected chairman "in absentia" despite living 750 miles away in Ft. Worth, Texas. With jet travel and telephones he keeps in close touch with us here in Pensacola and

maintains constant interest in the reconstruction of our Wonder Morton. It is coming along beautifully thanks to the diligence and skill of Dr. B.D. Rhea, who is doing this wonderful job for our chapter and Tom. How many organists can say they have their own organ built just for them to their specifications?

While Tom was home for the Christmas holidays, we held our annual elections of officers. To serve along with him as chairman, Dr. Rhea agreed to accept the post of vice chairman and treasurer; the writer was tapped as secretary; and Bob Sidebottom and Walter Smith were elected to the board of directors.

Also while Tom was home from his studies at T.C.U. our chapter representatives were interviewed by the local newspapers for a full page article on our organ project. They did a bang-up job on the coverage. Now the whole town and surrounding area are familiar with our work.

Our business was brief at our election meeting so all could adjourn to the workshop and view the progress on the console.

Oh! How anxious we are to hear it play!

DOROTHY STANDLEY

## LOS ANGELES

The 3/16 Wurlitzer in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium is owned by the City of San Gabriel. Only the maintenance of the instrument is the responsibility of the Los Angeles Chapter. THEATRE ORGAN regrets the error that appeared in the February/March issue. (*Editor*)

## MOTOR CITY

As an added attraction to our concert season this year we presented Charlie Balogh in a program at the



John Lauter performed at the Punch and Judy's 2/6 Wurlitzer in January. (Bob Becker Photo)

Royal Oak Theatre on January 31st. Charlie accompanied two Buster Keaton silent films, *The Balloonatic* and *One Week*, at the console of the 3/16 Barton, in addition to playing for an audience sing-along and several pop selections. Currently staff organist at the Roaring Twenties Pizza Parlor in Grand Rapids, this was Charlie's first program at the Royal Oak.

As a Valentine's Day treat for our concertgoers we presented the internationally-acclaimed Detroit Concert Band, under conductor Leonard B. Smith, at the Redford Theatre on February 14th. The only band ever to have recorded all of the marches of John Philip Sousa, the Detroit Concert Band was chosen to provide the film score for the recent BBC documentary *The March King*.

Leonard B. Smith led the Detroit Concert Band through a stirring program that included a cornet solo, a mezzo-soprano and two selections featuring chapter member Tony O'Brien at the Barton pipe organ. "The Stars and Stripes Forever," with first three piccolos and then the entire brass section performing at the stage apron, brought the near-capacity house to their feet for this rousing encore.

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Our workshops are continuing at the Redford Theatre and are held the second Sunday afternoon of each month. In January, Sig Ross discussed adapting piano scores to the organ and gave several examples. Instructor Steve Stephanie demonstrated the use of chords, fingering and variations at the February session.

Our First Sunday artist at the 2/6 Wurlitzer at the Punch and Judy Theatre in January was John Lauter. The February program at the Punch was to have featured Barry Rindhage and Burt Castle, along with a vocalist. Unfortunately, a winter storm stranded the trio in Saginaw and the program had to be cancelled.

Rupert Otto was the artist for the January Second Sunday event at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. In February, Stan Zimmerman delighted the audience in his first program at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton.

Our Fourth Sunday concert at the Royal Oak Theatre in January was presented by Lionel LaMay at the

3/16 Barton. And John Lauter was the featured performer at the Royal Oak Barton for the February Fourth Sunday program.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NEW YORK

Lon Hanagan's career has spanned a great period in American popular music and he culled from these glorious years a diverse offering of beautiful songs when he played for the New York Chapter's February meeting at the Carnegie Hall Cinema.

The joy which music brings to this man abounds in his playing. Also, his enthusiasm for helping young organists was evidenced midway through his program when he shared his solo spotlight with Miss Jeanette Samarelli. His student had never played real pipes before but her talent, several current tunes and the Wurlitzer combined forces most pleasurably.

Mr. Hanagan honored the memory of two treasured chapter members

who have died recently: Dr. C.A.J. Parmentier and Peter Schaeble. For Pete Schaeble, he played Fritz Kreisler's "Liebesfreud," an appropriately titled melody as we remember Pete — an energetic, life-loving friend working tirelessly for the cause to which the society is dedicated. The installation and good working condition of many theatre organs in this area stand as testimony to the tremendous ability and generosity Peter gave of so readily. We miss him.

Dr. Parmentier, whose death was announced during the meeting was honored by a vibrant performance of Sibelius' "Finlandia," a work Lon Hanagan stated that he associated with the late organist.

At our previous meeting, not reported here, our artist-in-residence, Lee Erwin revealed a completely new repertoire of Broadway and popular music during a concert played for us in his always easy to listen to style.

Plans for hosting the '84 Convention in New York are formulating in Chairman Robert Godfrey's mind. He and the board of directors haven't told us too much yet, but I know they have many plans brewing. The BIG APPLE becomes ORGAN TOWN in '84.

MARLIN SWING

## NOR-CAL

Nor-Cal's first two meetings of 1981 were held at the Cap'n's Galley Pizza and Pipes in Redwood City, California, where a mighty 4/23 Wurlitzer can be heard nightly. On January 18th, outgoing Chairman Jim Dunbar introduced new Chairman Dan Lovett who presided at the meeting.

Guest artist was Ty Woodward, making his theatre organ concert debut in Northern California. He opened with a rousing fanfare using



(Left to Right) Bob Maidhoff, new organist at Radio City Music Hall, Lon Hanagan, who played the February program and Bob Godfrey, chairman of the New York Chapter, at the Carnegie Hall Cinema console. (Stan Lee Photo)



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the 16-foot pedal pipes in "Another Opening, Another Show." His program consisted of popular tunes interspersed with semi-classical and classical pieces, the most memorable of which was Louis Vierne's "First Symphony Finale." Woodward's two-foot pedalling was remarkable.

During intermission, organ maintenance man Phil Freeman was introduced and received appreciative applause.

The second half consisted of show tunes and concert numbers, including Richard Purvis' arrangement of "Greensleeves." Best percussion use was heard in Leroy Anderson's "The Typewriter."

Ty's encore number, Charles Marie Widor's "Toccata" from the *Fifth Symphony*, brought the audience to their feet. It was a remarkable performance. Ty's hands and feet are heard Friday nights at the same organ. He is also organist at the Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City.

On Sunday, February 15th, program chairman Ray Taylor introduced Frank Olsen, guest organist from Toronto, Ontario, as an organist who plays with a "Scottish accent." Olsen moved from Glasgow, Scotland, to Canada in 1967. Frank is well known to organ buffs on both sides of the Atlantic through his concert engagements in the U.S., the United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium and France. Others may have heard him on many of his phonograph records.

Olsen is a showman as well as a topflight organist. His technique is flawless, in the British style. Medleys included a musical Valentine, marches, traditional old English and Cockney melodies much reminiscent of the 1980 London Convention. The theatre organist's tricks of the trade were demonstrated during a



Ty Woodward making his theatre organ concert debut at the 4/23 Wurlitzer in Redwood City for Nor-Cal Chapter. (Jim McGuire Photo)

medley of pop tunes. Frank played "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise" with his left hand, using second touch, while his right hand casually rested on the bench; ending with "Bye Bye Blackbird" using rapid two-foot pedalling that was a show stopper.

The second half of the program included a bagpipe effect leading into a medley of Scottish songs. Olsen's registrations were not overpowering



Frank Olsen, "Dean of British Organists" on Canadian side of the Atlantic, at the 4/23 Wurlitzer at Redwood City. (Jim McGuire Photo)

making excellent use of the string ranks not often heard on pizza organs. He played tributes to Victor Herbert, Jesse Crawford, Strauss and Sousa including the famous piccolo obbligato in the "The Stars and Stripes Forever." His encores received a standing ovation.

Nor-Cal was indeed fortunate to have Frank Olsen perform for us. After seeing and hearing him play, it is easy to see how he acquired the nickname Tricky Fingers. He holds many musical degrees and diplomas and truly is the Dean of British Organists outside of the United Kingdom.

The "Mystery Couple" (see *Letters to the Editor*, THEATRE ORGAN, Dec. 1980-Jan. 1981, page 19) have been identified as Nor-Cal members Jean and Larry Irvin of Novato. They have contacted A.B. Parsons.

ED MULLINS

## OREGON

Our first 1981 meeting was held February 15th at the Scottish Rite Temple in downtown Portland. Our guest artist was none other than Ashley Miller of Radio City Music Hall and recording fame.

The original Scottish Rite organ was a little four ranker which was later combined with a 2/9 Wurlitzer. The console has been enlarged to three manuals, making the instrument a very respectable 3/13. Although the entire organ is located on one side of the building, the excellent acoustics reverberate the sound throughout the large auditorium. The ornamental grille in front of the shutters is illuminated with colored lights, which, together with an elaborate stage setting of King Solomon's Temple, add a dream-like feeling to the organ music.

Ashley Miller's continuing popu-

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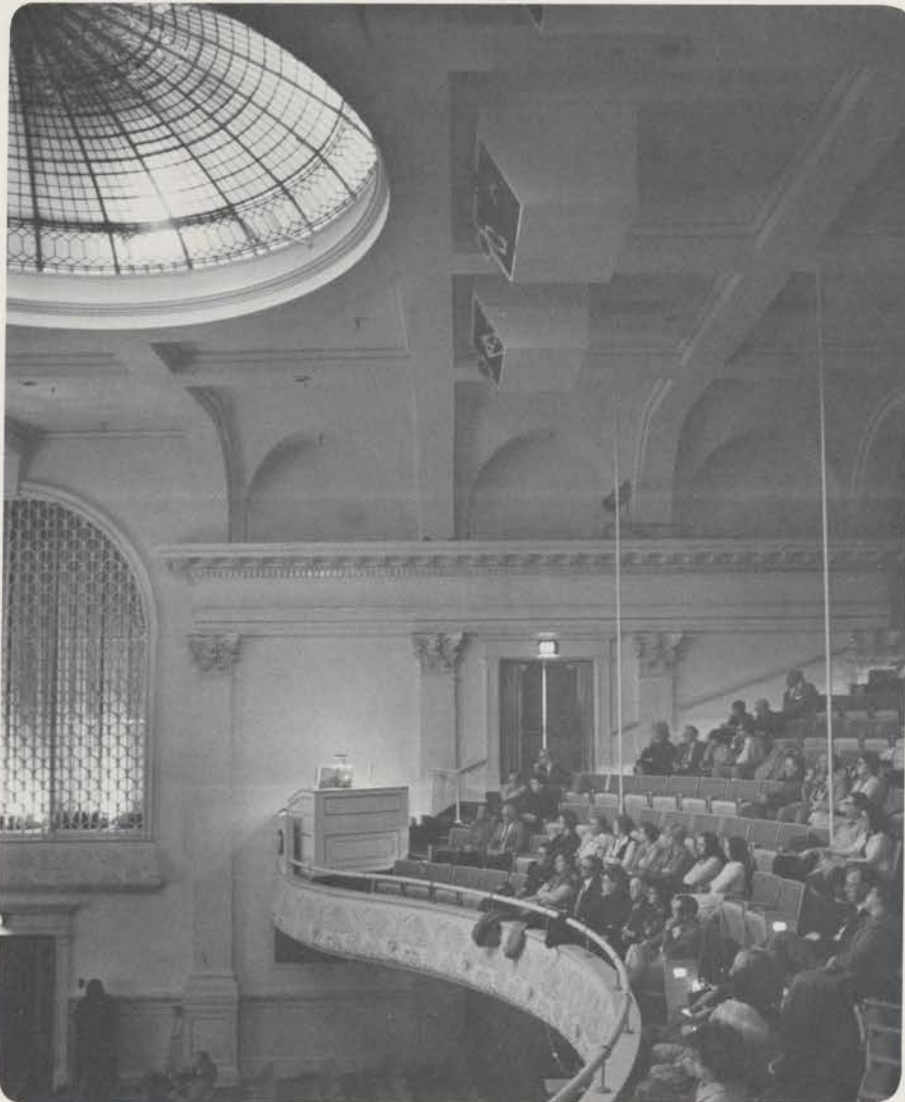
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Ashley Miller at the 3/13 Wurlitzer in the Scottish Rite Temple in Portland.

(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

larity is reenforced after hearing him in person. His superb playing is evident in recordings, of course, but he also has a friendly conversational way of announcing his numbers that endears him to the audience. He is the master of unusual and artistic registration, bringing out new and beautiful sounds from any organ, large or small.

Ashley's program ranged from the very modern to a few old standards. We also heard many little known but beautiful selections and magnificent Tuba solos. "A Flute Tune" and a 17th century "Trio" rounded out the classical part of the program. This last used three solo melodies played as a trio with different voices for each hand and pedal.

We wish to congratulate Ashley Miller on this unforgettable concert. Our chapter is also grateful to the Scottish Rite Temple and staff organist Walter Miesen and crew for making this organ available to us.

BUD ABEL

### POTOMAC VALLEY

Potomac Valley's February meeting at Doug Bailey's studio had to be called off because of water damage to his 2/11 Moller which could not be repaired in time for the meeting. Apparently construction work outside his studio allowed water to get into the chambers with disastrous effects. We hope his Moller will be repaired and playing soon.

To fill the void for our February meeting, Olean and George Johnson graciously volunteered their home and their 2/7 Wurlitzer. This turned into a joyous occasion for chapter members. George's Wurlitzer never sounded better and many played their favorite tunes at this open console meeting.

Among those who played were: George Johnson, Bob Stratton, Lou Hurvitz, Dick Haight and Lee



George Johnson, at his 2/7 Wurlitzer, saved the day when water flooded the chambers of the Doug Bailey 2/11 Moller.

(Harold R. Richman Photo)

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Prater. At least twelve others took advantage of the open console session.

As you can see, the membership took this opportunity to practice so as to be ready when our Wurlitzer, now being installed at George Mason University, is playable.

FRANK FORDHAM

**PUGET SOUND**

The chapter was honored to have Ashley Miller as our guest artist in February. To the many of you who have had the pleasure of hearing him perform, you know of his highly-creative arrangements. Our afternoon was warm and sunny as Ashley Miller broke into "It's a Lovely Day Today" at the Bellevue Pizza and Pipes on a 3/16 Wurlitzer. His program was varied and much enjoyed. His harmony was great, and he explained some of his arrangements. His versatility was noted in his arrangements of music from *Okla-homa, Porgy and Bess*, and *Gigi*. His "Emblem of Liberty March" we understand has been performed twice on coast to coast radio, by Paul Lavallo and his Band of America. In addition, he has performed at both the organ and the piano with many leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the American Symphony, under the late Leopold Stokowski, and has just finished an acclaimed 1980 European Tour. He is the official organist at Madison Square Garden.

We all enjoyed the afternoon, and with more than a houseful of intent and quiet audience, we are grateful to chapter members Jack and Betty Laffaw, for hosting our chapter at their Bellevue Pizza and Pipes, a place that is on your tour agenda in July during the national convention.

Following a short business meeting, Chairman Thelma Barclay in-



Ashley Miller during his West Coast tour, at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes.



Jack and Betty Laffaw, owners of Bellevue Pizza and Pipes, hosted the chapter in February.

roduced George Francis, one of our Canadian members, who spoke about the Canadian link of our convention. *As we went to press, notice was received that the Vancouver activities had to be cancelled — Editor.*

A tentative schedule for the convention was given. Open console then prevailed with Jane McKee of Tacoma, Eddie Zollman of Seattle, Doris Miller of Vancouver, B.C., and Lillian Houston of Puyallup. Lillian's student, Travis Weiss, a young master of the pipes, was followed by David Stratkauskas, another of the younger set. Don Meyers, Warren DeLau and Merv Vaught, ended the afternoon. Chapter members are now hard at work with their committees, to get things in gear for the Convention July 1st to July 6th and it will be "the Best ever."

You won't want to miss this convention. We have had inquiries from Thailand, Australia and England. We hope to see you, too.

THELMA R. SMITH

**RED RIVER**

Our music card library continues to grow with typing sessions each Saturday morning at the Fargo Theatre. We will probably have close to 5500 cards when we finally get through all the donated sheet music. We have two, three and four copies of many pieces. We are in the process of doing another typing project also, changing our concert mailing list to computer cards.

January 31st was a happy day when we moved our player piano into the theatre orchestra pit, after many months of refurbishing and re-finishing. It plays regular piano rolls besides being playable from our 3-manual console. There are still adjustments to be made, but we are all



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Sonia Carlson, wiring piano switch at the relay, Fargo Theatre.

pleased with the results.

On one of his many climbs to the "attic" of the theatre, Lance Johnson discovered something he never expected to see — the 1926 neo-Grecian decorations of the original walls, not seen by the public since 1937! A major remodeling job in 1937 had the auditorium gutted and made over in art deco, and the ceiling was lowered 4 feet. It's this 4-foot span that he saw, with its ornamental plaster, gilt work, and hand-done stenciling. It looked amazingly clean and fresh, so he lost no time taking



Dorothy Armstrong, working on chapter music library, Fargo Theatre.

pictures of it. We've seen the 1926 carpeting also, just a small piece of it, which is in the usher's dressing room off the mezzanine. The theatre has been nominated for historic landmark status, along with 50 other buildings in and around Fargo, but it is a very long process before anything is finalized.

April 23rd is the tentative date for our spring show. At this writing, negotiations are still pending, but we hope to have a silent screen actress here to share highlights of her career. We will also show one of her better known films. The evening will be patterned after the program we developed around Lillian Gish, when she appeared here in November of 1978.

SONIA CARLSON

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The new year started off with much excitement for the chapter. On January 14th, a public press party was held at the Paramount Theatre to make the announcement that Historic Denver would take an option for six months for the theatre lease. This six-month period will enable Historic Denver to learn about the theatre and its operation. This will also give them time to get more community support to save downtown Denver's only remaining theatre. The Historic Paramount has been placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Thus, if the theatre is saved, the twin console 4/20 Wurlitzer will also be saved for the people of Denver and all of Colorado to enjoy. The chapter will continue to maintain the organ and work is continuing on its restoration.

During the holidays, another of Denver's theatres, the Aladdin, presented a series of musical classic movies, which opened with the beautiful *My Fair Lady*. Our own Frank

Gandy was on hand opening night, and every weekend thereafter to play the 3/13 Wicks. This organ is also being restored and members of the chapter are diligently working on this project. Those who especially worked very hard to get the organ ready for the holiday classic movies were Frank Gandy, Charlie Herman and Guy Powell. The organ was featured Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and Sunday afternoon for eight weekends. This series and the organ were well received by Denver, and everyone is looking forward to the next holiday season.

The 1981 officers for the Rocky Mountain Chapter are: Ed Wielgot, chairman; Guy Powell, vice chairman; and Alice Cutshall, secretary-treasurer.

We are looking forward to a very exciting year in this chapter. With the projects that are now in progress: the restoration of the Paramount and Aladdin organs, our club organ and the upcoming programs, this promises to be a very busy year. Our membership is growing and new ideas are coming in.

OWANAH N. WICK

### SIERRA

January 18th, a mild, sunny Sacramento Sunday, marked the appearance of Ken Simmons at Sierra's 2/7 Wurlitzer in Cal Expo's Golden Bear Playhouse. The organist at Bella Roma Pizza in Concord, Ken surprised everyone by announcing that this was his first concert on a pipe organ in a theatre style setting. His performance was a delight with all those hours of pizza playing allowing him to be at ease with pipes.

Our chapter maintenance crew, headed by Rod Dagget, Dave Moreno and John Carleton, has recently completed rebuilding and rewiring the manuals on the Cal Expo

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At Grant High School, on February 8th, Sierra joined with J. Nelson Piano & Organ Co. to present Tom Hazleton at two instruments, the Grant High 4/21 Wurlitzer and the Allen 920 with Wurlitzer replica console, nine amplification channels and many, many speakers. Sierra member Vern Betourne had recently purchased the Allen which, after another concert by Tom Hazleton at the Oakland Civic Auditorium, was installed in his home. At the Grant High concert Tom alternated back and forth, a few numbers at a time at each instrument, which provided interesting contrasts between pipes and a large and very rare electronic. Tom's easygoing, casual demeanor provided another contrast with his seemingly total mastery of the organ and of all styles of music.

The Sacramento-Stockton public television station aired *Arts In Action* on February 19th and again on the 21st featuring a seven-minute segment about the theatre organ. Taped a week earlier at Grant High and Cal Expo, the program featured Sierra member Gary Konas playing the Grant Wurlitzer as well as talking about theatre organ history, design and why we love it. Interior chamber shots were taken at Cal Expo's floor level, walk-around chamber. For someone who knew very little about theatre organ, KVIE's Chris Cochran put together an excellent presentation, through his editing and narrating, of the best of the nearly one hour of taped material shot at both locations.

Sierra's "Theatre Organ Talent Showcase" is proceeding towards the May 17th performance date when the six selected teenage organists will each play a short program on the Cal Expo Wurlitzer and receive a \$100 honorarium from the chapter's

Clyde Derby Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contestants are being chosen by the performance quality demonstrated on three-and-a-half-minute tapes recorded during March and April on the Wurlitzer.

Dave Moreno, an accomplished pipe organ technician and voicer with a great knack for being able to communicate his knowledge, is holding monthly maintenance and rebuilding classes for all interested ATOS members. Most of the sessions are at Cal Expo with emphasis put on class attendees actually accomplishing tasks and projects.

Through the help of Brother Andrew Corsini of the Theatre Historical Society, Sierra recently found and purchased four of the last reprint copies of Ben Hall's *Best Remaining Seats* for donation to the libraries of the four campuses of the Sacramento area's Los Rios community colleges. When preparing to pay for the hard back binding of the four copies at Cal-Na Bindery, chapter jack-of-all-trades and publicist Carroll Harris was surprised to see "no charge" on the bindery invoice.

RANDY WARWICK

### SOONER STATE

The first chapter meeting of 1981 was held at Roberts' Piano Store, Tulsa, hosted by owner Bill Roberts. Since January has been designated for our annual business meeting, the main activity of the session was election of new officers. Vice chairman Harry Rasmussen presided. Elected to serve for two-year terms were Lee Smith, chairman; Bruce Wilson and Bob Busby, vice chairmen; Jack Beindorf, secretary; and Bob Weddle, treasurer. Appointed officers are Phil Judkins, program committee chairman; Betty Weddle, membership roster; Harry Rasmussen

and John Roberts, public relations; and immediate past chairman Dorothy Smith, newsletter (*The Windline*) editor and THEATRE ORGAN Magazine reporter.

February found us at the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. Lee Smith, our new chairman, presided. We are looking forward to a great future! Lee talked about his ideas for our continued growth: we need to increase our membership, and we especially need to get our 3/10 Robert Morton installed and playing. He also wants to establish not only an active public relations committee, but also an educational committee to work with the public and private schools in Tulsa for the promotion of theatre organ. Our vice chairmen have been given some specific duties: Bruce Wilson has been asked to compile a folder on where to find information about theatre pipe organs, as well as to think about putting together a technical demonstration for the use of our educational committee. Bob Busby will work on an organ-moving kit for our "Pipe Packers Platoon": he will find out "who" has "what" tools and equipment we can borrow for organ dismantling and moving, or see about assembling the actual items themselves for ownership by the chapter. He will also collect and maintain current information on where to find available organ ranks and other parts, especially among our own members.

The meeting was preceded by a technical session conducted by Phil Judkins. Phil talked about the standard design of theatre organs as assembled by the Wurlitzer company. He told us that Wurlitzer started with a basic 4-rank instrument consisting of a Diapason, Flute, String, and Vox Humana, and then told us which ranks would be

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added as the size of the organ was expanded. The Tibia wasn't included until the organ was manufactured as a 6-rank instrument — the "Style D."

Progress on our chapter-owned Robert Morton is slow: the man-to-see about the installation in the Evangelistic Temple has been out of the country, but there are architect's plans drawn and waiting for approval.

Bob and Betty Weddle's Robert Morton is coming along nicely. Cold weather forced the work crew indoors for a few weeks (but the console needed some work done on it anyway); now the insulation is going up in their garage. Dorothy and Lee Smith have an estimate on the cost of concrete and lumber for their home addition — which includes the chamber for their 2/6 Wurlitzer. And Tom Seaton has purchased a little 2/4 Wurlitzer (with plans to add to it) and, with the help of Hervey Barbour, it is about ready to play!

We were saddened by the death of long-time member Frank B. Frank

early in January. Frank was a quiet man but a music lover of many years and we shall miss him.

DOROTHY SMITH

### SOUTH EAST TEXAS

The artist scheduled for the spring concert at the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont on Sunday afternoon, March 15th, was Jim Doleman. Jim, a member of the chapter, has played at Radio City Music Hall. He is thoroughly familiar with the Jefferson's 3/8 Robert Morton organ and can bring out its best. His presentation, "A Walk Down Memory Lane," is an experience to remember for all lovers of the theatre organ sound.

IRA M. WILLIAMSON

### SOUTH FLORIDA

South Florida was treated recently to two stellar performances by world-famous organist and composer Searle Wright. On Monday, January 26th, Searle packed 'em in at Miami's Andre Hall, where Searle played a full theatre organ concert

plus accompanying a Gloria Swanson silent, *Teddy at the Throttle*.

The following Wednesday, Searle performed a superb classical program at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Miami. The cathedral has an E.M. Skinner instrument which was rebuilt and augmented in the 1960s by Aeloian-Skinner. At the cathedral Searle did everything from Bach to Maessian, with Liszt thrown in for good measure.

His theatre program was more heavily tilted toward Gershwin and Kern, however. The two programs were jointly promoted by the Miami Chapter of American Guild of Organists (AGO) and South Florida Chapter (SFTOS). There were many "new" faces at both programs, due to this cross-over publicity. Our chapter gained several new members as a result of this program. It was the first time in recent history that SFTOS and the AGO have worked together on joint programs. It was a great success from all perspectives.

At the Andre Hall program, on the mighty Wurlitzer, Searle opened with "Roller Coaster" — always a crowd pleaser, especially when played by someone with the technique and musicianship of this man, a past-AGO National President and a respected member of the AGO Examination Committee . . . he doesn't miss a note.

After the opener, Searle proceeded to reel off tune after tune before introducing the silent film.

The second half opened with "How Long Has This Been Going On," followed by a very short silent subject, *Ghosts Before Breakfast*, a surrealistic study by German film maker Hans Richter.

The crowd was brought back to reality with a musical valentine (anticipating February's popular holi-



Jim Doleman at the console of the 3/8 Robert Morton organ in the Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont, Texas.  
(George R. Hockmeyer Photo)

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day), featuring "My Funny Valentine," and other typical valentine numbers.

Searle also performed "Dizzy Fingers," some Eddie Cantorera tunes, plus Jerome Kern tunes.

It was quite a tour-de-force from a man who only plays theatre organ for fun. Searle confided to several chapter members that he enjoys the theatre organ work the most. "It's the icing on the cake," he said, smiling. A special guest for the program that night was Ed Link, inventor of the Link Organ and a myriad of other devices unrelated to the organ, such as the Link Trainer for plane pilots. Link winters with his family in South Florida and the whole family made a trip to Miami to hear Searle. Both are long-time residents of the Binghamton, NY, area.

P.M. KINURA

### SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Our February chapter meeting was held at the Tucson Organ Stop Pizza Parlor. Our first meeting to be held there was very interesting and educational as well. Ray Chase, our chairman, held this meeting with no business, just the program which was a rundown of the different ranks and stops played individually and in certain combinations by the assistant staff organist, Dave Wickerham. Afterward Dave played several numbers for us. Jim Connors, the staff organist, played a few numbers followed by open console in which several of our members participated.

At 5 p.m. the restaurant opened for the general public and the evening program began at 5:30 with David Wickerham at the console.

Members and guests numbered 50. We all thank Jim Guanci, the manager for his hospitality.

BOB HIGH

### VALLEY OF THE SUN

Saturday, January 10th, several Valley of the Sun chapter members were among the guests at the grand opening celebration of Bill Brown's new Tucson Organ Stop restaurant. We enjoyed hearing organists Jim Connors and Dave Wickerham play alternating sets at the Wurlitzer.

Our February 15th meeting was held at the Phoenix College Auditorium. Now that the building has been refurbished, we are working towards getting the college organ into condition again for concerts.

Our goals for this year include commencing work on the chapter's Marr & Colton, and increasing membership.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

### WESTERN RESERVE

The members of WRTOS welcomed 1981 with a meeting at Lukas Music Store on January 18th. Member Bill Taber, eager to present aspiring young organists, introduced one of his students, 11-year-old Sharon Geil, who played "Midnight Cowboy" and "Under the Double

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SEATTLE  
FOR  
FUN  
IN  
JULY

SEE PAGES 29-34

Eagle." Bill Taber, George Lukas and Jim Cutler used the balance of the program to demonstrate the new Hammond Elegante.

Our February 15th gathering took a more formal atmosphere as members met at the Lakewood Christian Church. John Lane, talented at popular, classical and church music, demonstrated the 1953 2/16 Schantz pipe organ. Open console time followed along with a tour of the two pipe chambers, both located on one side of the church. Some favorite hymns took a new twist when members found out what happens when you turn on the tremulants.

Members and friends are helping Dick Geyser disassemble and move a 4/40 Austin to augment his 3/13 Moller which he hopes to build up to a 4/20. He has a 25' x 40' auditorium with an orchestra pit and a hydraulic lift.

The president and the board of trustees of the Cleveland Grays thanked WRTOS members John Lane, Marge Lentz, Eric Rossin, Dick Geyser, Bill Taber and Bob Moran for the donation of their talents playing the mighty Wurlitzer at Cleveland Grays' programs during 1980.

The Tuesday night work group is working on the Wurlitzer at the Cleveland Grays' Armory. The portion of the organ that is receiving present attention is the piano, with the wiring almost complete and the winding due to start soon. They hope to have it playing for the April concert by Larry Ferrari.

JIM SHEPHERD

### WOLVERINE

On January 18th, at the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler in Warren, we were in for the proverbial "good news and bad news." The bad news: Lance

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Jack Dommer at the Detroit Theater Organ Club 4/34 Wurlitzer. (Ed Corey Photo)



Lyn Larsen played and Karl Cole sang at the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler's beautifully scenic Wurlitzer console. (Ed Corey Photo)

Luce, music director, was on vacation and unable to play for us. The good news: we were to be treated to the artistry of none other than Lyn Larsen. Added to this was the artistry of Pied Piper organist Karl Cole who came in just to play for us (he usually has Sunday afternoons off). Now, that's some program! Both Karl and Lyn presented many theatre organ selections just for us, mixed in with their pizza musical fare. Karl sang a few selections with his own accompaniment; and very well done, too. Midway through the afternoon we were treated to an unrehearsed duet (only the titles had been prear-

ranged). Lyn played and Karl sang. Only two artists of this calibre could pull this off with such finesse! We are very grateful to Pied Piper owners Henry Hunt and Ken Saliba for their hospitality, and to Karl Cole and Lyn Larsen for their artistry.

Another grand afternoon was spent by our members at the Senate Theater as the Detroit Theater Organ Club opened their facility and organ to Wolverine members. Wolverine member Jack Dommer gave a "farewell" performance at the mighty Wurlitzer. He and his wife, Delores, are moving to New Jersey. The pro-

gram was well varied from a *West Side Story* medley to the "Anchors Aweigh" encore. Jack brought out some of the infrequently heard sounds of this Wurlitzer. His use of minor keys and the use of piano as an accompaniment were much appreciated. His familiarity with the organ in the Fisher Theatre, where it was originally installed, showed in his registrations and their efficient changes. Jack's concert was followed by an open console session featuring members and guests. It was a great afternoon.

BARRY M. RINDHAGE AND  
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