New Hall of Famers

Three artists were enrolled in the Theatre Organists Hall of Fame during the Seattle Convention. They are:

Francis J. Cronin

He was an organist in Boston area theatres. He reached the peak of his fame through his radio broadcasts over station WNAC, where he served for over 15 years. His specialty was light classical music. The Wurlitzer used in his first broadcasts is now in active use at Stoneham Town Hall, and the four-manual Aeolian-Skinner, in which he incorporated many of his ideas for a broadcast instrument, is now in use in a church.

Jean Wiener

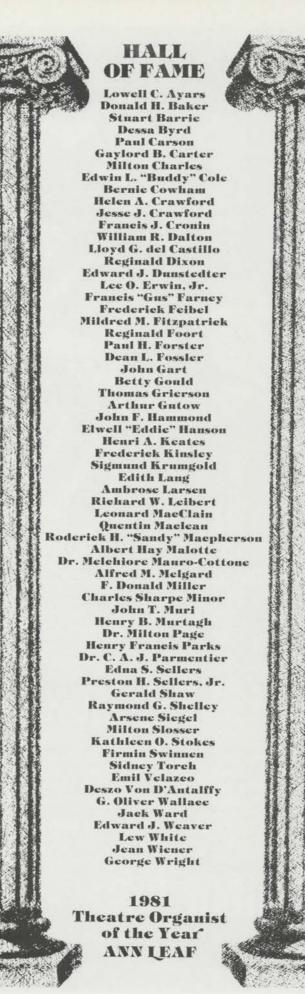
She was one of radio's earliest broadcast organists. In the late twenties, playing at the famous Atlantic City Steel Pier, she was heard from WPG nightly from 10 to 11 p.m. and received fan mail from the entire Atlantic coast. Her tenure at the Steel Pier ended in 1938. During WW II she served in the Women's Army Corps, reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel. After her retirement she was comptroller of the Philadelphia Ordnance District of the U.S. Civil Service.

Theatre Organist of the Year ANN LEAF

Our active artist was born in Omaha, Nebraska. She attended the Damrosch Institute of Musical Art in New York, majoring in piano, and made her debut playing a Mozart concerto with the Omaha Symphony.

Her career in the organ world began on the West Coast, where, at the age of 17, she performed at Sid Grauman's prestigious Million Dollar Theatre in Los Angeles. She continued as featured organist for Paramount-Publix theatres.

In 1929 she became nationally famous almost overnight as broadcasting organist for the Columbia Broadcasting System. To qualify for this position she had to pass an audition for the famous Jesse Crawford. She soon became one of CBS' stars, opening and closing the network daily. She was part of *Three Consoles*, a novel radio show with Milton Charles and Eddie Dunstedter, each in a different city. She was also featured with other star personalities. In recent years she has composed, recorded, and performed for organ clubs and ATOS chapters from coast to coast.



THEATRE ORGAN

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