



CHAPTER NOTES

**Let us know what's
happening in YOUR Chapter!**

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Deadlines

Dec. 1st for Jan./Feb.
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ALABAMA

Robert E. Lee was our guest artist for the June meeting. Mr. Lee played a varied and entertaining program for us.

Our July meeting will be an evening affair in conjunction with the AGO Regional Convention. This meeting will be July 22nd at 8:30 p.m. at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. Tom Helms will be our guest artist. We are looking forward to having Tom show off the Wurlitzer to the AGO members. Following Tom's program there will be open console for the AGO members who wish to try the organ. This meeting is open to all AGO members and all ATOS members and their friends. There is no admission charge.

SAM TROUTMAN, SR.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Our May 10th meeting was held at the home of Everett and Eleanor

Bassett in Ridge Manor. The good news was announced that the long awaited IRS nonprofit status was received. After the general business meeting, the members enjoyed playing on the Bassett's 2/4 Robert Morton pipe organ. It was a delightful afternoon, and we appreciate the Bassetts sharing their home and their beautiful pipe organ.

On June 12th, the very popular Larry Ferrari gave a benefit organ concert at the Tampa Theatre. There were about 500 persons in attendance. The event was sponsored by Al Havener's Musiland and WJYW Radio, with proceeds going to the fund to restore the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer. Larry played a medley of pop tunes along with patriotic and favorite hymns. As usual, he left the audience in standing ovation.

Work is progressing on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer installation. We appreciate the donations which are still coming in to help with the project.

We also wish to announce that CFTOS Chairman Charles Stanford and wife, Debbie, have a new "Piper," a son, born June 6th.

SANDRA SHOOK

CENTRAL INDIANA

A regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Chapter was held in the auditorium of Manual High School, Indianapolis, on Sunday, May 17th. Carl Wright, who helps maintain the organ at the school, advised us that work is constantly being done on this instrument. Eventually he and his co-workers plan to enlarge it to 22 or 23 ranks.

Mr. Tim Needler, chapter member and very fine organist, presented the music for the program. This was followed by a period of open console.

Plans were made to hold a future

meeting in the Hedback Theatre, presently undergoing a face lift, to hear the Page organ located there. The Page is also being enlarged by a group of dedicated workmen. The group rushed to get the instrument ready for a Footlight Production in May of *Fiddler on the Roof*. ATOS members played the organ preceding each of the performances of the show.

As mentioned previously, our chapter is going to have a history book. Several members are diligently working on the task, and we are sure it will be of interest to all.

We are planning ahead for summer meetings, several of which will be in the homes of members where organ installations help keep the society purposes alive.

Jim and Barbara Atkinson, two of our active members, recently entertained a group of ragtime enthusiasts at their home.

Warmer weather, vacations, and other attractions limit attendance during summer months and tend to reduce club involvement. Our group looks forward to increased activities in the fall.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

The Central Ohio Theatre Organ Society met on Sunday, May 17th, at the Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio. The center of attention was member Harold Denzer, playing the 3/10 Wurlitzer. This instrument provided Harold with the means for a most enjoyable one hour concert of highly-varied musical literature. Though a limited number of COTOS members were available for the drive to Marion, the concert audience was enlarged by many from the choir of the Presbyterian Church, who came to listen to their organist. Mr. Tom Yanitell and the organ crew can indeed be proud of the instrument they provide for such programs at the Palace.

A large portion of the COTOS membership was at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus on Saturday night, May 23rd, for a concert by Lyn Larsen. A large and enthusiastic audience greeted the organist for his first return to the Ohio Theatre in several years. The broadly varied program demonstrated the great ability and versatility of both Lyn Larsen and the Robert Morton 4/20 theatre pipe

organ. At the close of the concert, the audience came to its feet as the resounding strains of "God Bless America" rose from the organ and hundreds of proud voices.

Bob and Betsy Richard hosted COTOS for the June meeting. Many members and guests met on Saturday evening, June 20th, at the Richards' Upper Arlington home to hear Betsy perform on her Conn 650. Additional speakers and pipes flanking the organ helped to produce a sound quality very similar to true theatre pipe organ.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

Gaylord Carter told us he was genuinely pleased to play the Chicago Civic Opera House organ. This was on the occasion of CATOE's silent film show, *The Son of the Shiek*, with Rudolph Valentino and Vilma Banky. Mr. Carter presented a warm, friendly repartee. In addition to superbly accompanying this film, he provided extras: "Pale Hands I Love," selections from the contemporary film, *Evita*, and a good sing-along. Attendance was good, but not enough to fill the cavernous opera house. The lack of greater audience participation was partly due to competition from the showing of *Napoleon* at the Chicago Theatre.

Dennis James was at the Chicago Wurlitzer for the first four days of the showing of *Napoleon*. CATOE had an information booth at the Chicago Theatre during the program and was able to promote pipe organs and our local chapter. There was good interest shown as flyers were kept and not discarded by the audience.

For our February social at Maine North High School, Des Plaines, Ill., Jerry Kinsella of the local Rodgers Studio was our soloist. Jerry presented a good program which was well received. One of his students, Phillip Silberhorn, participated in open console. His talented playing "stopped 'em in their tracks" with the question, "Who is that chap?" We plan to present Phillip in a future social.

June 13th will find many of us attending the final concert at Maine North High School. Unfortunately, the school is scheduled to close in August. The fate of the building and

CATOE's Wurlitzer is, at present, very questionable. Jack Olander, music director for the school, will be our soloist for the concert. We anticipate an excellent program because we have heard Jack perform several times, but this will also be a sad occasion because it will be the farewell to this beautiful setting and fine organ. Time is changing many things too quickly. Oh, that it would slow down just a bit!

ALMER BROSTROM

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

On May 16th and 17th, our concert series reaped high marks for featuring Hector Olivera in concert at the Thomaston Opera House. Hector has played here before, so ticket selling was easy. This young man of music combines exceptional talents in arranging, organ registration, and playing, which insures a most enjoyable concert.

On this occasion the choice of selections played was unusually gratifying, including well-chosen popular numbers, a bit of sacred music, and the mighty "Toccata" from Widor's *Fifth Symphony*. For this listener, the high point of the program was the magnificent arrangement and rendition of J. S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," a performance of high artistry, indeed. Some nice arrangements of several of Leroy Anderson's compositions lent balance between the lighter and the more serious portions of the program.

On the 13th of June, we enjoyed an excellent meeting at the lovely home of Jim and Diana Morris in Madison, Connecticut. There, located in a fine studio, is a three-manual Rodgers electronic organ, much modified and finely tuned by members Allen Miller and Don Hyde. With the aid of speakers, all sounds created in the studio organ were heard out-of-doors. Some very pleasant music was heard as various members took a turn at open console.

Following the dinner hour, Chairman Norm Ray called the business meeting to order. We were advised once again that work on the organ installation at Shelton High School is proceeding well; this was gratifying news, indeed.

After the business meeting, Joe Graif introduced our artist of the

evening, David Senak. David gave us a performance at the console which demonstrated how he had won two of our past competitions. For this listener, the highlights of his program were Don Quixote's song from *Man of La Mancha*, a choral prelude by J. S. Bach, and his final number, Ravel's "Bolero."

We were pleasantly surprised when we learned that Rosa Rio, Bill Yoeman, and Ted Malone had arrived during the concert hour. Ted will appear with Rosa and singer Nancy Savin at the Thomaston Opera House in September. Ted and Norm Ray had some interesting commentary about the recording of "Why the Chimes Rang" made by Dick Leibert and Ted Malone in 1965.

We are looking forward to coming attractions at the Thomaston Opera House in the next few months. They include the following: September 12, 13 — Rosa Rio with Ted Malone, radio personality, and Nancy Savin, soprano; October 17, 18 — Bill Thomson; December 4, 5, 6 — Lyn Larsen and small orchestra.

Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483. Tel. (203) 888-9696. Tickets must be ordered at least two weeks prior to date of concert for return by mail.

W. F. POWERS

EASTERN MASS.

Chairman William Carpenter announced at our April 26th meeting that the board had chosen Patsey Fucci to fill the vacated Vice Chairman's office and Mrs. Lucile M. Weston to serve as Alternate Director for one year. The Organ Committee, Dick Linder, chairman, recommended that EMCATOS engage organ finisher William Hansen, from the Chicago area, to appraise our Wurlitzer.

Program Chairman Tim Bjareby then introduced his friend and fellow organist, James Stewart, as guest organist. Jim is a teacher and church organist in Amesbury, Massachusetts. His lively opener, "Colonel Bogey March," indicated he had already become well acquainted with our theatre organ. With music from Dave Brubeck, John Williams, Flor Peeters, and Rimsky-Korsakov included in his well-chosen program, Mr. Stewart managed to please all.

Listener response was so spontaneous that Jim chose as his encore "Everything's Coming Up Roses." It was a most successful chapter debut.

Long-time member and professional organist, John Kiley, was our May 30th spring concert artist at Babson. Because this was the 25th anniversary of ATOS Chapter No. 1, this widely-known Bostonian was chosen for the milestone occasion. The only item of business for the combined meeting/concert was the announcement by Chairman Carpenter that Bill Hansen was present to inspect our 235 Special.

Once the business portion of the meeting was completed, our featured artist was introduced. The veteran theatre organist stated that his program would consist of familiar, nostalgic music with a nice medley from *Sound of Music* as an opening. John then spoke of the music heard in the golden days of the theatre organ which he played even on our own organ when in Loew's State Theatre, Boston. A long group of easy-listening numbers was next, including "Alice Blue Gown," "Kiss Me," "As Time Goes By," and an *Oklahoma* medley.

At intermission, in honor of the chapter's anniversary, Gordon Creamer brought in a large, nicely-decorated cake he made with frosted lettering reading "ATOS Happy 25th Anniversary."

The second half of the concert had

John reminiscing about his introduction to the theatre organ at age 11. His teachers were Lloyd George, Del Castillo, and Earl Wiedner. He also talked about some of the instruments in the area which he had played. Several tunes from *My Fair Lady* followed. John gave an interesting demonstration of his radio broadcasting days involving s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g "September Song" for the five to six minutes needed to fill time gaps. More good show tunes from *South Pacific* were played next. In another group was the particularly adaptable "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Kiley's final contribution were *Show Boat* selections, concluding with the mighty "Old Man River." John stepped out of the white spotlight once again in his long career with the resounding applause of the audience ringing in his ears.

Sunday afternoon, June 14th, found the club on another of the yearly field trips to Rosalie and Pat Fucci's home in Waltham. Their hospitality, spacious home and grounds always insure good food, picnic style, good sociability and good music, the last on their 4/20 Robert Morton. Bob Wambolt was the artist of the day, with many others also trying their hands (and feet).

The last regular meeting of the season was held on the 27th of June in Babson. Chapter Chairman Carpenter announced that the board had unanimously voted to retain the services of Bill Hansen to work on our Wurlitzer and that the job would begin on July 6th.

After the business session was completed, the program was turned over to Tim Bjareby who enthusiastically introduced Cheryl Linder, our guest artist. Cheryl, a Lowell University organ major, certainly did not disappoint the group, and she brought a satisfied smile to father, Dick. This 19-year-old has become a most competent organist, in both the classical and popular fields. Her teacher is Jack Skelton. Cheryl opened the concert with one of her own compositions, "Happy Face," which involved much double pedaling. Her other composition, "Bean Pot Rag," was heard later in her program; both original pieces were delightful.

Miss Linder's offerings included a wide variety which showed both her

ability and the organ's adaptability. Selections from *Annie* were tuneful, as was Anderson's "Trumpeter's Lullaby." Cheryl played a piece written for use in the Jewish temples at Halloween services which involved rapid fingering. A crisp Sousa march, "The Liberty Bell," had the organ's band resources utilized to the full. A quiet, beautiful "Air on the G String," by J. S. Bach, together with her finale, the inspiring, demanding "Symphony No. 5" by Widor, displayed Cheryl's more serious renditions to advantage. She deserved recognition for her efforts and received it by a long, standing ovation. Her encore, "Maple Leaf Rag," was our bonus. There were many who accepted the open console invitation after the concert to round off a fine evening.

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GULF COAST

The construction of our Robert Morton reproduction console is progressing! The manuals, toe studs, and pedalboard are now installed. The elaborate, intricate carvings on the console sides and top have been molded, and many are in place. Our thanks go to B. D. Rhea, M.D., who is doing this magnificent work himself. Oh, it is beautiful!

Barry Henry, M.D., from New Orleans, came to Pensacola recently for a first-hand look at our project. He has maintained and kept the Robert Morton going in the Saenger Theatre there for many years. We were proud to show him our Robert Morton.

Tom Helms, our chapter chairman, was home long enough this summer to take care of some of the political aspects of installing our organ in the being-restored Saenger Theatre here. With the help of Bob Sidebottom and Curt Goldhill, he installed the blower at the theatre. This was no mean job when you think of the size and weight of the thing. An antique 25 hp motor is heavy!

After doing what he could to help us here, Tom dashed back to Fort Worth for an AGO convention. Tom is also to be a featured artist at the Regional AGO Convention in Birmingham this summer. He will play the Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre for classical organists to show the "other" organists how a theatre organ looks, sounds, and plays.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

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LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

If the special objectives of our chapter be the fostering of the trans-Atlantic dimension of theatre organ fraternity, fellowship, and enjoyment, how appropriate it was that at the very moment we were introducing John Ledwon to launch our 1981 concert season, the Space Shuttle, Columbia, was making *its* spectacular launch. In a characteristically bright and dexterous performance, John's concert climaxed an exciting week at the Granada Kingston's 3/10 Wurlitzer.

Our chapter sponsored a 15-minute live organ interlude during each of the six evening film shows. These brief programmes featured fine performances by our young organists, Janet Dowsett (twice), Michael Wooldridge, David Williams, and Richard Cole, with Len Rawle providing a sparkling Saturday night show. Only a few days earlier, Janet had taken second place in the "Home Organist of the Year" competition, sponsored by the popular *Home Organist and Leisure Music* magazine. She outplayed seasoned contestants much senior to her 18 years. Janet was also featured on national television. Michael (our current "Young Theatre Organist of the Year"), Janet, and David had previously appeared in a holiday concert at the beautiful ex-theatre Compton organ at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hornchurch.

Local popular and classical organ enthusiast, Peter Godwin, provided a thoroughly enjoyable chapter club night at "Wurlitzer Lodge." The following day our hard-working and much loved members, Pauline Dixon



Poster outside of the Theatre.

and her mother, Audrey, started Pauline's concert tour in the Chicago area with a club night at Fred Hermes' residence organ. Pauline went on to play numerous electronic instruments and 14 pipe organs, notably the vintage 4/29 Wurlitzer in the Chicago Theatre. The trip was arranged with the much-appreciated help and hospitality of numerous local ATOS members. One of the highlights of this most exciting State-side visit was a day in New York City where Ashley Miller was their host.

Our April club night featured a very welcome visit to "Wurlitzer Lodge" by David Hamilton, who presented a highly-enjoyable evening of silent films. David accompanied the films very proficiently at the 3/19 Wurlitzer. Our popular members, John and Noreen Foskett, acted as

"itinerant lanternists" in screening the films and authentic period slides.

We mourned the passing of two outstanding stalwarts of the British theatre organ scene. Ted Lawrence led the team that installed an ex-theatre Compton organ at the Memorial Hall Old Windsor, and did such a fine job on coach marshalling during the Silver Jubilee Convention last year. Ian Sutherland had edited the superb monthly newsletter of the Cinema Organ Society for 20 years.

A brighter note was struck when a coach visit was made to the re-opening of the Compton organ, formerly in Twickenham College, at Gosport, near Portsmouth on the south coast. Originally the organ was in the Gaiety Cinema, Wood Green in North London. Later this fine 3/10 instrument had given excellent service for several years at Twickenham until building alterations required its removal at short notice; the work was done by a team from our chapter during the run-up period to the convention. The inauguration in Thorngate Hall, Gosport, was presented by the local club's president, universally popular John Mann. Before an audience of around 600, the organ gave a most creditable expression of the massive efforts to get it operational in such a short time. Appropriately and deservedly, Edith and Les Rawle were afforded Honorary Life Membership of the club for their central roles in the success of this most satisfying event.

We look forward to presenting Hector Olivera and Lyn Larsen in prime concerts later in the year, to more exposure for our highly talented youngsters, and to more than 30 chapter members attending the Seattle Convention.

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles has had a busy — and musical — spring season, starting with Ashley Miller in a program of "Radio City Music Hall" sounds at San Gabriel on February 6th. In March, LATOS member Dave Junchen conducted his second voicing and tuning workshop in our continuing program of giving accurate technical information to our members. In our first "Pipe Organ PLUS" program on April 11th, LATOS won a host of new friends



M.C. Norman Barfield with Janet Dowsett, one of our competitors who recently won second place in the "Home Organist of the Year" contest. (John Sharp Photo)

for theatre organ with the fantastic console artistry of Past Chairman Mike Ohman and the magnificent voices of the 30-plus members of the San Fernando Valley Male Chorus. In a wide variety of numbers, principally from the '40s, the chorus, accompanied by Mike, proved how perfectly the San Gabriel Wurlitzer can blend with human voices. And long-time LATOS members Harold Huttner and Bob Smith proved their vocal skills are as great as their love for theatre organ!

On May 30th Bob Ralston demonstrated his complete mastery of the 5/28 Moller to the delight of 1,500 people in LATOS' second successful show at the Pasadena Auditorium. In addition to his solos of music from the 1700s to the 1980s, Bob presented vocalists Marcia Gehris and Tony Richards who thrilled the audience while Bob accompanied them on piano and organ. As a result of Bob's appearance with Program Director Don Wallace on the two outstanding radio talk shows on LA stations, our membership and "Friends" roster was swelled by over a hundred who signed up at the Pasadena show. Our total members and "Friends" now number well over 800!

Also in May LATOS had its first Scholarship Competition with Chris Elliott, Dennis Derr and Deborah Campbell taking the top prizes. Marguerite Hendricksen's "Rosemary" Wurlitzer was the instrument used, and the three winners will be presented in a formal concert this fall.

The Los Angeles Board and members salute the new National Board members and officers and, with the other ATOS chapters across the country and around the world, pledges its complete support and cooperation.

MOTOR CITY

Our biweekly film series regularly attracts large crowds for each two-night run at the 1661-seat Redford Theatre. But, both performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*, on the first weekend in May, were sold out, with an estimated 300 people turned away each night.

Motor City members were invited to hear Burt Castle at the 3/10 Barton at a Wolverine Chapter meeting held at the Redford Theatre on Sunday, May 3rd.

Gaylord Carter, who played his first of many programs for our chapter nearly 14 years ago, returned to the console of the Redford Barton once again on May 9th to accompany the Janet Gaynor silent film *Sunrise*. The audience enthusiastically applauded Gaylord's scoring of the film, after which the artist drew the winning name in a raffle designed to help raise money to buy the theatre. The prize was a miniature organ console made by member Lou Orlicki. Sales of raffle tickets netted over \$400 for our Buy the Redford Fund.

Our very successful two-day Garage Sale at the Redford Theatre in June was co-chaired this year by Jeannette Duncan and Helen Lucas. Organists who played the 3/10 Barton for the 16-hour event were: Melissa Ambrose, Lou Behm, Greg Bellamy, Jim Boutell, Virginia Duerr, Janice Fields, Gil Francis, Pat Hunter, John Lauter, Bob Mills, Bob Nagy, Nancy Pennington, Lorraine Robinson, Susan Schy, Dorothy Van Steenkiste, and Jack Wimmer.

Tours of the theatre included a visit to an organ chamber, the projection booth, and all four floors of dressing rooms, and were conducted by Roberta Duerr, Jim Markey, Norwood Martin, and George Winters. Proceeds of over \$2,255



Wilma Steslick at the Royal Oak Barton. She finally made it. (Fred Page Photo)

will go towards the purchase of the Redford.

We are pleased to have as one of our frequent renters at the Redford Theatre the world-famous Detroit Concert Band, which presented a musical tribute to Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore and Victor Herbert there on June 19. The following evening the Racine Municipal Band was heard in a free concert at the Redford. Both programs were in conjunction with the Association of Concert Bands of America meeting in Detroit that week.

Tony O'Brien, currently attending Wayne State University on a musical scholarship, played for our First Sunday presentation at the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms in May. Appearing in our June program at the Punch and Judy's 2/6 Wurlitzer was Barry Rindhage, whose intended debut at the Punch in February was cancelled



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Barry Rindhage at the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer.



Tony O'Brien at the console of the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer. (Bob Becker Photo)

because of snow-clogged roads.

The artist at our Second Sunday program in May at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor was Greg Yassick, a student in the University of Michigan Dental School there. Scott Smith, from Lansing, filled in for Bob Cowley, on short notice, for our June Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre's 3/13 Barton.

The Fourth Sunday event at the Royal Oak Theatre in May featured Tom Edwards at the 3/16 Barton in his first program for our chapter. After three unexpected cancellations, Wilma Steslick, who plays for skating at the Dearborn Roller-drome, finally appeared as the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in June.

DON LOCKWOOD

NEW YORK

A dynamic concert was presented by Andy Kasparian at the old Brooklyn Paramount's 4/26 Wurlitzer for our April program. The first half of the concert included "Here's That Rainy Day," "If I Love Again," and many standards such as "Liza," and

"How Long Has This Been Going On?"

Both "Our Day Will Come" and "Exactly Like You" displayed Andy's admirable pedal technique, which is one of the reasons he is so popular in resorts and on the pizza-organ circuit. It's "console-choreography" with sounds to match!

After intermission, his formal attire was replaced by a Panamanian *guayaberra* shirt. This was Mr. Kasparian's way of introducing a very interesting segment of melodies garnered during his residence in Panama. Music like this, with its unusual rhythms and tonal idioms of another culture, is refreshing in the midst of the more familiar standard theatre organ repertoire.

Befitting the locale of our June get-together at the Beacon Theatre, "Lullaby of Broadway" was chosen by Ralph Ringstead as his opener. Music ranging from the first song to win an Oscar, "The Continental," to works by Billy Joel and Chuck Mangione followed on this 4/19 Wurlitzer.

In his playing of "You Are the

Sunshine of My Life," Ralph made a clever, effective use of the identifying whole-tone phrase. The interpolation of the melodic verses to many of the songs in his Porter medleys helped this young organist capture some of the sophistication of the Cole Porter songbook.

MARLIN SWING

NOR-CAL

Nor-Cal's May and June meetings were held at the Bella Roma Pizza No. 2 pizzeria in Concord, California. A magnificent 3/18 Wurlitzer theatre organ, with a lovely phantom baby grand piano, is installed there. The piano is under expression and has a roll player. The piano sustains through the pedal trap relay.

On Sunday morning, May 17th, there was an unusually large turnout for a delicious champagne brunch. Ken Simmons, an up-and-coming organist with a modern repertoire, was the concert artist. Ken is a virtuoso of the phantom piano; his left hand embellishments were technically correct and artistically beautiful. He played music of George Gershwin, Kenny Rogers, Johann Strauss,

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Ken Simmons at keydesk of 3/18 Wurlitzer, Bella Roma Pizza No. 2, Concord, California. (Jim McGuire Photo)



Harvey Blanchard, Bella Roma Pizza No. 1 organist, at No. 2 console in Concord, California. (Jim McGuire Photo)

and Harold Arlen.

Percy Faith's "Brazilian Sleighbells," a bright samba (138 on your metronome) was Simmons' best percussion number. Ken put everything he had into "Touch of the Wind," his feet playing the melody while his hands played a toccata improvisation. He ended the first portion of the program with the main title and love theme from *Superman*.

During the second half, Ken played "In the Garden." His final number was Jim Webb's "MacArthur Park." For an encore we heard a jazzy arrangement of Gershwin's "Summertime."

Simmons is a professional music arranger whose work is published in *Sheet Music* magazine. One of his numbers for the program, "Londonderry Air," was recently published in the magazine. Ken's musical career began at the age of twelve in Pennsylvania. He now is staff organist at the Bella Roma in Concord, and also teaches at Chaney's Pianos and Organs in Walnut Creek.

On Sunday afternoon, June 14th, Harvey Blanchard, staff organist at the Bella Roma Pizza No. 1 in Martinez, California, was guest artist. Harvey plays the 3/16 Wurlitzer there Monday and Tuesday evenings. He has also played in various

Bay Area establishments and was organist at the Pizza Junction in Rheem, California, until the organ was removed.

Harvey opened his concert with a rousing "España Cani." Jesse Crawford buffs were treated to his arrangement of "I'm Confessin' That I Love You." The program consisted of show tunes, oldies, Strauss music, and even George Wright's radio theme (circa 1973), "Give Me a Moment Please."

During intermission Harvey played on the player mechanism of the phantom piano a piano roll he had recently cut. The last half of the program concluded with "Los Altos Train" using the real locomotive steam whistle for riffs. Our guest then asked for requests. The audience called out many of the "dirty dozen," of which Blanchard played "Doctor Chicago," (sic) as well as several others. His encore piece was "I Know That You Know."

There was open console after the concert, and both accomplished and fledgling members and guests took turns at the console.

There will be no July meeting because of the ATOS convention. A large contingent of delegates from Nor-Cal is expected to make the trip to Seattle.

ED MULLINS

OK CITY

During May and June our chapter organ, a 4/14 Kilgen, got quite a workout from a large number of high school and university graduation classes. All of them used the large auditorium and organ at the Civic Center Music Hall.

At our June 21st meeting we were entertained by member Ben Bailey with an extensive program which featured many entertaining pieces covering three centuries of theatre music. Ben dedicated "Here's That Rainy Day" to David Bridges, civic leader and past vice chairman of our chapter who had recently passed away.

During May, our Kilgen was featured along with Paul Haggard, our chapter founder, in a spot on a local TV show. Paul was shown playing the organ and taking a short tour of the chambers.

This past season, the Oklahoma City Symphony scheduled the Saint-Saëns *Third Symphony*. Maestro Herrera used a Rodgers organ rather than the Kilgen, but during the installation of the electronic instrument a conversation with the soloist, John Wright, revealed that he had played theatre organs in Kansas theatres while doing undergraduate work.

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OREGON

On June 28th we crossed the Columbia River to Vancouver, Washington, where we were guests at Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza Restaurant. Our last meeting there was in April, 1980, when we enjoyed Marti Lynch at the 3/18 Wurlitzer. The console is on a lift and the pipework has an unusually fine tonal balance and blend of voices.

Our artist this time was a popular radio and theatre organist from England, Stan Whittington, here for the ATOS 1981 Convention in Seattle. It was a rare opportunity to hear first hand the contrast between the British and American organ stylings.

Stan's playing has been accurately described as "relaxed, competent, and experienced." He mows through fast, difficult numbers with smooth, professional assurance. His program included a medley from the 1920s — "Five Foot Two," "Somebody Stole My Gal," and "Charleston." He introduced a "vegetable" group with a swinging "In A Persian Market," "Yes, We Have No Bananas," "Tangerine," "Coconuts," etc. His styling features full, fast numbers with clear, crisp accompaniment and extensive use of the piano. As an example of real musical competence, he was able to play most of the concert reading directly from sheet music! While this is rather unusual here, it may be customary in England.

Stan Whittington is a charming showman, announcing his numbers with good humor and in true English. Who has the accent, they or we? Our thanks to Stan for a generous full two-hour program, and to our host, Milt Kieffer.

Although we were treated to free coffee and doughnuts during this Sunday morning concert, Milt's piz-



Stan Whittington at Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza in Vancouver, Washington. June 28, 1981, Oregon Chapter concert. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

za is so good that several stayed on for lunch and to hear Wendy Kieffer continue at the organ.

Thursday, July 2nd, was Portland Day for the 1981 ATOS Convention, based in Seattle. Several members, unable to attend the full convention,

acted as hosts to welcome conventioners at Benson High School and were able to hear Tom Cotner at the 3/18 Kimball. This was while half the crowd went to hear Jonas Nordwall at the Organ Grinder 4/44 Wurlitzer. Then the group from the

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Organ Grinder came to Benson High, and the Benson folks went to the "Grinder." The two programs at each location were made necessary by seating limitations at the Organ Grinder.

We are happy to report that Portland now has a theatre with a pipe organ for silent picture accompaniment. On June 24th the Roseway Theatre began showing *The Gold Rush*, with Gerry Gregorius playing on Terry Robson's 3/8 Robert Morton.

BUD ABEL

POTOMAC VALLEY

On April 26th, in what has become an annual event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Utica, Maryland, Earl Sharits was the featured artist at the 2/6 Robert Morton.

Earl started out with some oldies dating from 1921 up through 1969 including "April Showers," "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," "Valencia," "76 Trombones," and "So Help Me." An old novelty, "Polly," was played against "Nola," both having the same harmonies and progressions. He then went on to "Sophisticated Lady" and "Sop Tim Bon," both quite popular in their time. A demonstration of the organ was given in which Earl showed many of the tonal capabilities of the instrument.

The program continued with the musical part of an old silent movie, *The Headless Horseman*, which Earl had accompanied on TV for WMAL. This was followed by a group of three played in the British theatre organist style, "Jeepers Creepers," "Baby Face," and "Ain't Nobody's Sweetheart Now." Also included was a Jesse Crawford arrangement of "Over the Rainbow," and a Sharits arrangement of tunes from *Chorus Line*. The pro-



Lou Hurvitz at the Richard Kline 4/28 Wurlitzer.
(Photo by Harold R. Richman)

gram came to a close with a medley of Gershwin *Porgy and Bess* tunes including "Bess, You Is My Woman," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "I'm on My Way." The program closed with "America the Beautiful," which was quite appropriate as the day was, indeed, beautiful.

The Ladies of St. Paul's really outdid themselves with the smorgasbord which followed the concert. The event was very well attended, and it is certain that this joint venture of the Parish of St. Paul and the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ATOS will be looked forward to every year.

Our May 17th meeting was at Richard Kline's residence adjacent to Spahr's Quarry (now water-filled and complete with ducks and Catoc-tin Mountain scenery). The meeting was held in two sessions so all members could be seated inside the music room to see and hear the magnificent 4/28 Wurlitzer. The instrumental ensemble included a grand piano playable expressively from the antique gold console.

Lou Hurvitz, our artist for the day, arrived following concerts on the Fargo Theatre 3/9 Wurlitzer and

the former Minnesota Theatre 4/21 Special, often called Eddie Dunstedter's Wurlitzer. Lou gave us a memorable program of fine theatre organ music. The opening number was "With a Song in My Heart." This was followed by Eddie Dunstedter's theme, "Open Your Eyes," and a 1920s "When I Take My Sugar to Tea." Lou presented a 1930s medley of Gershwin music including George's parody on a Viennese waltz and the beautiful "Love Is Here to Stay." Youman's "Hallelujah" was followed by a medley of Jerome Kern favorites, then a selection of Broadway tunes from the revived musical, *42nd Street*, such as "You're Young and Healthy," and the title song. He closed appropriately with "I'll Be Seeing You" but was enthusiastically called back for a request encore.

This fall M/Sgt. Lou Hurvitz will become Enlisted Bandleader of the 298th Army Band stationed near Berlin. We will miss him, both as an active member of ATOS and as an all-round, capable musician.

After Lou's program, open console time permitted a number of PVC members to play the Kline Wurlitzer and fully appreciate its versatility and balanced sound. Our sincere thanks to both Dick and Lou for giving us such a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

BOB STRATTON
EARL SHARITS

PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound Chapter has had a busy two months starting with a combined program of the ATOS and the Bremerton Pipe Organ Society in Bremerton in March. A 2/10 Wurlitzer, located in the Bremerton Community Center, is used continuously and is supported by the residents of Bremerton through their Park De-



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partment. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays there are special shows. For our special program John Nafie took over the console. Everyone sat back and relaxed knowing there was a treat in store. He opened the concert with "That's Entertainment" and followed with "Hunk of Tin." We hummed along with the "Destiny Waltz" from that old radio drama *One Man's Family*. "Bridal Rose" was followed by "Keep Your Sunny Side Up." The organ lacks a crash cymbal, but Bob Montgomery came to the rescue with cymbal in hand, dashed up to the stage in full view, and really gave it a final "crash." It brought the house down!

During the intermission the hosts served coffee and cookies. Later, guests assembled at the Bremerton Elk's Club to hear Eric Leibman play the organ there, and as it was St. Patrick's Day, what else but strictly Irish music.

The ferry trip across Puget Sound and the delightful musical day was nothing short of spectacular.

At our April meeting, held at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes, Chairman

Thelma Barclay presided at a short business meeting. Next she introduced Jane McKee Johnson, who took over the 3/17 Wurlitzer. *Just Playin' Jane*, as her album is titled, is anything but "plain." Her music was tingling, and her "March Militaire" had us all tapping. From this she went into "Walking My Baby Back Home." Jane mentioned that she had been working with Jonas Nordwall and with a new rhythm unit. The disco beat gave us something new and different. "Do That to Me" and "Do, Do, Do," by Gershwin, were exciting. Proving that she knows her way around the console, Jane bounded into "The Trolley Song" and "Bad, Bad LeRoy Brown." One selection that was particularly enjoyed was "The Primitive Organ," a baroque type of classical music composed by Pietro Yon.

After several encores, Jane expressed gratitude for her being able to enjoy and play organ music. She told of encouragement given by her husband, Homer Johnson. Homer, incidentally, keeps the Temple Theatre 2/9 Kimball in perfect shape



John Nafie at the Bremerton Community Theatre 2/10 Wurlitzer. (Photo by Jay Mossman)

for her playing there. Jane invited Homer, who never plays in public, to be the first up for open console. He described the event as "Just One of Those Things," and then explained that he played the organ "My Way." (Incidentally, he was very good.) Jane and Homer make a great couple, each helping the other to enjoy



Organ tech, Homer Johnson, a "very good" organist in his own right! (Photo by Thelma Smith)



Tacoma Pizza and Pipes' organist, Jane McKee Johnson, at the 3/17 Wurlitzer. (Photo by Thelma Smith)

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Land O'Lakes members, open console, Fargo Theatre. New player piano in foreground; original 2/7 Wurlitzer console in background.



Lou Hurvitz, Hildegard Kraus, flanked by Mr. and Mrs. Hurvitz in the Fargo theatre.

pipe organ music. Each is very supportive of the other.

At our pizzeria meeting place, Jane plays on Sundays. Sherrie Mael and Andy Crowe, both staff members, gave a preview of the type of performance we can expect at the convention. It was excellent.

Our chapter now numbers 203 families, and that means that over 400 persons will be having a part in the convention. We hope to see you.

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

We ended our spring social activities at the Fargo Theatre with a delightful finish. A group of Land O' Lakes Chapter members from the Minneapolis area came to Fargo Saturday morning, May 16th; this was a stop-over on their way to Bismarck. Also in attendance were some local AGO members and organ students.

For our enjoyment, our visitors provided a guest artist, Lou Hurvitz. Lou played the mighty 3/9 Wurlitzer

for an hour, and it was a real treat. Our chapter had never heard him play before; we made sure he knew Fargo could be his second home. Following the concert, tours of the organ chambers, backstage, and dressing rooms were conducted during open console time.

We have taken on another project. Among all the used organ parts we have accumulated, there is enough available to begin assembling a 2/6 theatre organ. The plan is to install this instrument in Weld Hall Auditorium on the campus of Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota. It will be used in conjunction with their film studies for movie prologues, for film scoring, and for our own use. The university is assuming the cost and construction of the chambers this summer; we expect to do the installation over the campus Christmas break.

Of course, we're never through with our work at the Fargo Theatre. There's always something that needs attention. A hard rain recently

caused some water damage in the solo chamber. The organ is played every weekend for movie intermissions.

SONIA CARLSON

ST. LOUIS

Bill and Donna Newton hosted chapter members in their home for our April 26th meeting. Their organ is a 2/7 hybrid with a Wurlitzer Style D console. Bill and Marlin Mackley have spent about 800 man-hours working on the organ, and expect to have the installation completed by year's end. Only days before the meeting, a new toy counter arrived and was installed. Marlin played a fine concert to a delighted audience, and the organ sounded beautiful.

In May, members were the guests of Bernie and Betty Nordmann. Their pipe organ is a 3/13 hybrid (mostly Wurlitzer), with a Reuter console. The organ chambers are situated in the basement and speak through floor grilles to the upstairs, where the console is located.



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Everyone enjoyed Bernie's playing as he demonstrated the range and versatility of the instrument.

A large number of members and guests attended our June meeting at the home of Fred and Anne Pillsbury. In their living room sits a large 3-manual, 7-system custom Allen digital computer organ. Adjacent to it is a grand piano, which can be played from the organ console.

Fred introduced our guest artist, Dwight Beacham. Dwight captivated his audience as he played the organ with lots of style and flair. His varied tune list included "Don't Blame Me," "True Love," and "The King Cotton March" by Sousa. Dwight is a former student of Lloyd del Castillo and a representative of the Allen Organ Company.

Among the out-of-town friends attending the meeting was Bill Oberg of West Memphis, Arkansas. Bill has become one of our favorite organists, as evidenced by the fact that he was the first person enticed into playing for us during open console.

ROY FECHTER

SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Chapter continues to hold regular concerts at the California Theatre on our 2/13 Wurlitzer. Since last report, Del Castillo, Gary Konas, and Gaylord Carter have presented exciting programs, backed up with interesting stage effects and lighting by our volunteer stage crew. Bob Ralston is scheduled to appear August 8th and 9th, followed by Chris Elliott in his second appearance at our theatre on September 5th.

Plans call for the organ to be out of service for a short period in October to install a new multiplex relay system being built by Gorsuch Enterprises of San Diego, and to replace the present two-manual with the

three-manual console being restored and rebuilt by chapter members.

Our chapter holds bimonthly membership meetings attended usually by approximately 50 members. In April we met at the home of Charlie Porter and enjoyed his Devtronix organ with added Glockenspiel and band box. In June we celebrated with John and Jane Dapolito the premiere of the 3/18 Wurlitzer installed in their home after three years of effort. Three of our local chapter artist members presented 20-minute concerts in varied registrations and styles. Ray Krebs led off, followed by Cheryl and Wayne Seppala. Open console was then enjoyed for several hours.

Eleven of our chapter members attended the National Convention in Seattle. All were much impressed with the good spirit manifested there, and, of course, really enjoyed the organs and artists presented. Seattle and Portland chapters are to be congratulated for a well-run and interesting convention.

Anyone visiting San Diego is welcome to join members of our chapter at the California Theatre Saturday mornings from 10 o'clock on to visit and play the organ. Occasionally special projects will keep the organ silent for a few hours, but it can usually be played and enjoyed.

COULTER CUNNINGHAM

SOONER STATE

Our chapter news for the June/July issue of THEATRE ORGAN simply did not get written! Rest assured, however, that Sooner State Chapter is alive and well in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. Under the able leadership of new Chairman Lee Smith, we are definitely making progress on several projects to promote theatre organ in Tulsa.

We have had to abandon plans for

installing our club-owned Robert Morton in the Evangelistic Temple. Major alterations in the church building proved to be too big a stumbling block. However, there's another "very good possibility" for a more public location, again with details to be worked out.

We've also stirred up considerable interest in theatre organ installations in at least two other civic locations, and have almost reached the point where it's a case of "we've got some space, now all we have to do is find them a pipe organ!"

Meanwhile we've enjoyed our regular monthly meetings in homes of various individuals. March found us at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Mills, where we saw video tapes of Larry Jones performing at a recent session of the Tulsa Organ Club. Other tapes taken at the February meeting around Phil and Laura Judkin's 3/8 Wicks were shown. The tapes were made by Joe Crutchfield. Open console at the Mills' Baldwin Cinema II followed the program.

The April meeting was held at the home of John and Charlene Roberts. Two "surprise tape recordings" comprised the formal program, one a long-ago radio broadcast made from the console of the 4/16 Robert Morton housed in the now-demolished downtown Tulsa Ritz Theatre.

Harry and Beth Rasmussen hosted our May meeting in their backyard patio. Their patio is always a delight, especially now that we have gone back to Friday night meetings during the hot-weather months. Music on Harry's Artisan is better and better as demonstrated during open console by our playing members.

In June we gathered at Harvey Young's "Island" for a picnic pot-

RON RHODE

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luck supper. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Ray and Joan Maquire, members for the past several years who haven't been able to attend many meetings. Their three boys, Raymond, Daniel, and Girard, joined Derek and DeShayne Wilson in pulling fish out of Harvey's lake! Afterwards, music was available on the Conn 652 for those who wanted to stay.

Two concerts in Wichita on the mighty Wurlitzer in their Century II Auditorium were enjoyed by several Sooner State Chapter members. In March we heard Tom Hazleton; in May we heard Billy Nalle with Wichita Symphony percussionist J. C. Combs. Both concerts were real treats and well worth the three-hour drive to our neighbor state.

DOROTHY SMITH

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Our May social was a Mother's Day luncheon held at Ferguson's Cafeteria on May 10th. In addition to the good food, every lady present received a small gift. Organ music was provided by talented VOTS



Karl Warner played for VOTS members at a Mother's Day luncheon.

member Karl Warner, who is the featured organist at the restaurant.

On June 14th, we decided to beat the heat with a pool party and potluck buffet at the home of member Lucille Hughes.

The chapter hopes to complete work on the Phoenix College Wurlitzer soon. Plans are being laid for a fall concert schedule.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WESTERN RESERVE

The highlight of Western Reserve Chapter's recent activities was our bus trip to the Cincinnati-Dayton area the weekend of May 23-24. Accented by gorgeous weather, the first event was lunch. Not just an ordinary lunch, however. This one was held at Reiger's "Barn" which contained an Estey player organ and piano installed in a 52' x 24' chamber. The three levels of the organ were connected by a staircase. In the basement were several vintage cars and a machine shop equipped with a computer.

Saturday's second event was dinner at Dennis Werkmeister's Shady Nook Steakhouse. In addition to outstanding food and service, we were entertained by Carl Creager at the Wurlitzer.

A trip to the Emery Theatre, owned by the University of Cincinnati, provided an evening of entertainment with two movies. The organist, Van Jones, did a superb job of accompanying Rudolph Valentino in *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. A period of open console followed the movies.

Sunday morning found us in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio, at the home of John and Mickey Gogle to see their 3/8 Kimball. The installation was unique because of the owners' desire to conserve space.

The second event Sunday was a

tour of the Moraine Farm 50-room mansion. Since the death of its owner, Edward A. Deeds, in 1969, the mansion has been used for housing and entertaining the VIP's of the NCR Corporation. The Aeolian organ and music room were truly works of art. With six hidden chambers housing 49 ranks, the organ produced an almost ethereal sound. Along with a game room, telescope, and countless antiques, there was a Steinway concert grand piano at which WRTOS member John Lane entertained us.

The final stop of the trip was the Werkmeister residence where Van Jones performed at the console. The fadeout of sound was a unique feature.

WRTOS thanks all of its Cincinnati-Dayton hosts, and especially members Rodney Elliott, Bill Taber, Harold Wright, Vernon Webster, and Program Chairperson Flo Webster, for an exciting weekend.

After a month's rest, we met again at the Medina County Administration Building to hear a 3/6 Austin, one of the ten theatre organs built by Austin. Entertainment was provided by George Krejci, who is resident organist at the Lamplighter Inn in Olmstead Falls, Ohio. George captivated us with a fabulous program including "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Love is Blue" (played in a classical style!), and the seldom-heard "Caretaker's Daughter." George then introduced this newly-released cassette "Is That the Tonawanda Choo Choo?", an entertaining collection of tunes recorded at the Riviera Theatre Wurlitzer in North Tonawanda.

JIM SHEPHERD

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Wolverine member Burt Castle at the 3/10 Barton in the Redford Theatre.
(Ed Corey photo)



The Hohner family, Fred, Bethel, and Lee at their Robert Morton, the former Grand Riviera Theatre pipe organ.
(Ed Corey photo)

Wolverine Chapter with their own Burt Castle at the console. Once again the fine 3/10 Barton was made available to us by the Motor City Chapter.

The program was opened with a rousing "Say It with Music," and that's just what our artist did. Included was a lovely Romberg medley from the operetta *New Moon*, which brought favorable remarks from members and guests. How lucky we all were that Burt had found several pieces of old sheet music of his mother's. One of those played was "A Beautiful Lady in Blue." This was followed by a really pleasant medley of tunes about rain: "Soon It's Gonna Rain," "I Get the Blues

when It Rains," and "Here's That Rainy Day." We were awakened from our rain fantasy with Burt's rendition of "A Bird in a Gilded Cage." Our artist closed this part of the program by giving grand treatment to Eddie Cantor's 1928 theme, "When the Movies Started to Talk."

A nice array of refreshments and a period of open console rounded out a pleasing afternoon. We extend our thanks to Burt and to the Motor City Theatre Organ Society for a lovely time.

The former Grand Riviera Theatre (Detroit) Robert Morton organ provided the nucleus for our June meeting. The 3/10 beauty, now in the Lee Hohner home, was put

through its paces by several chapter members and guests. Lee played many solos for us and topped those with piano/organ duets featuring his mother, Bethel, at the piano. What musicianship, what fun!

The installation is very comfortable to listen to, with the pipes speaking into a mixing chamber before the sound enters the music room with its 16-foot cathedral ceiling. And what gorgeous sound it is!

We are very grateful to friends like the Hohners who, though not members of our Wolverine Chapter, graciously open their home and pipe organ to us. Hohner family, we thank you!

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