

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



This time we publicize lesser known organists, but still accomplished musicians. Sources were *Local Press (LP)*, *Around the Town (ATT)*, *Exhibitors' Herald World (EHW)*, *Motion Picture Almanac (MPA)*, and *Motion Picture Herald (MPH)*.

May 1926 (LP) Credit should be given ARNOLD LEVERENZ, Tacoma Pantages organist for the clever stunt he presents, using three girls singing "School Days" atop the organ console. It is one of the best features of the current bill.

October 24, 1927 (LP) At Loew's Parkway Theatre in Baltimore, AL HORNIG is at the Wurlitzer and Henry Es-sers conducts the Loew's Parkway Concert Orchestra. Feature film is *The Way of All Flesh* with Emil Jannings, that inimitable tragedian of the screen.

December 1928 (ATT) W. REMINGTON WELCH, one of the best of Chicago favorites, is at the Tiffin Theatre where he has played for a long time. He is a fine organist and is well liked by the Tiffin patrons.

December 1928 (ATT) Featured at the Ferry Field Theatre in Detroit, RUSS THAYER, "The Singing Organist," is making a tremendous hit. He has sung in opera companies of note and prior to his present engagement, was featured at the Palace Theatre in Gary, Indiana.

December 1928 (ATT) JOHN DE PALMA does not lack applause for his very fine organ playing at the Frankford Theatre in Philadelphia where he has been for a year. His unflinching ability to catch the different moods of his audiences makes his work very interesting. Previously, he had been featured at the Strand Theatre in York, Pa., and was with the Stanley Theatres Co. four years.

December 1928 (ATT) Instructor at the St. Francis School and one of the leading organists at Nixon's Grand Opera House in Philadelphia the last four years, can be laid to the credit of EDWARD J. MAGUIRE. Mr. Maguire has been very successful in featuring community singing and spotlight numbers. He has been with the Stanley Co. four years.

December 1928 (ATT) ROY SCHNEIDER is the solo organist at the Tower Theatre in Milwaukee. This is his first year there, but already he has made a definite hit. Formerly at the Strand and Modjeska theatres, he features community singing and spotlight solos. Dave Miller is the orchestra leader.

December 1928 (ATT) BILL BENNETT is master of ceremonies and solo organist at the Allen Theatre in Racine, Wis. He features solos prior to the presentation work, and has been voted a success by the Allen patrons who always greet him enthusiastically.

January 1929 (LP Adv.) Organist WILLIAM HENNEBRY has played in all the leading movie theatres of

Chicago (sic). His home address is 642½ Cornelia Avenue, Chicago.

March 16, 1929 (EHW) WALTER WILD at the New York Hippodrome, presents a good "Fred Kinsley Organ Presentation," called "Summer and Moonlight." Wild played a fine number called "When Summer Is Gone," and the other was "All By Myself in the Moonlight." Intermingled with these songs, he used clever slides with special lyrics which aroused much enthusiasm. The reception accorded him was big.

September 1930 (MPA) ELMER "HAPPY" JOHNSON has been presenting original organ presentation ideas while alternating between the Roseland and State theatres in Chicago.

September 1930 (MPA) JOHNNY DEVINE, who played theatre organs in New York, St. Paul and Minneapolis, has for the past six years been in Chicago, where he has played the Biograph and Patio theatres. His hobbies are cigars and music.

September 26, 1931 (MPH) BOB DEMMING, widely known Buffalo organist, is presiding at the console in Shea's Century Theatre there.

November 28, 1931 (MPH) Organist BILLY MUTH, formerly at the Worth Theatre in Ft. Worth, Texas, opens next week at the Paramount in Des Moines, while EDDIE FORD, formerly of New York, and lately of Australia, is now at the Tampa (Fla.) Theatre.

November 28, 1931 (MPH) WILLIAM "BILL" MEEDER is back at the console of the RKO Albee Theatre in Richmond Hill, L.I. after a six-week illness. Bill looks fine and it's a tossup who is happier, Bill or the audience.

November 28, 1931 (MPH) Organist DAN DANIELS is one of the regular writers for Quality Slide Co. of Chicago. He is at the Fox Theatre in Green Bay, Wis. and is also on the staff of WHBY there.

September 24, 1932 (MPH) RUSSELL BICE at Detroit's Downtown Theatre, appeals to his listeners' civic pride to secure vocal support of his organ solo, "My Friend From Chicago." His friend, according to Bice's introduction slides, boasted a number of Chicago's virtues, including the lusty and melodious voices of the populace. This preliminary plug to the tune of "When Day Is Done" is followed by "Three's a Crowd," "A Shanty In Old Shanty Town," "Lullaby of the Leaves," and "In My Hideaway." Although all numbers were well received, by far the best response was given "Lullaby of the Leaves."

September 1936 (LP) The Drama Department of Syracuse University will present a stage production of the controversial political satire, *Power* at the Civic Theatre next week. Original music will be performed by students "Sox" Tiffault on piano and W. STUART GREEN on the organ. (Sox and Green: What a team!)

July 1955 (LP) REGINALD STONE, whose winter broadcasts over the BBC are well known, plays host to Billy Graham's organist, PAUL MICHELSON at the Davis Theatre in Croydon, South London. The instrument is a 22-rank Compton.

We've spanned the spectrum from one era to the present. For the next column, Jason and I have unearthed some nuggets relative to the big names in the theatre organ business.

So until December, have a nice Thanksgiving. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & The Old Prospector □