



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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All copy for Chapter Notes is to be typewritten, **double-spaced**, on 8½ x 11 white paper, with **1½" margins all around**. Photos should be black and white for best reproduction. Each photo caption should be typed on a separate sheet and attached to photo.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Progress continues in the work being done by CFTOS on the installation of the Wurlitzer in the Tampa Theatre. Throughout the summer months, work sessions under the direction of Crew Chief Seth Evers have slowly but steadily progressed in the re-leathering and other related tasks. At the same time, meetings have been held with the Mayor of Tampa and his advisors, the Tampa Arts Council, and with the management of the Tampa Theatre. Hopefully these meetings have resulted in clear-cut agreements on funding for the organ's installation, its upkeep, and use. A recent concert by well-known organist Larry Ferrari at the Tampa Theatre was well received, and proceeds from that concert will be used to defray costs for installation of the Wurlitzer. It is now hoped that actual installation can begin in late October. The City of Tampa is

now putting out bids for the lift for the console. A lot of work remains to be done, but it now looks like we will have a working theatre pipe organ in the Tampa Theatre within the next few months.

Recent meetings have been held at the stores of Central Music, one of the several fine music companies in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area. This has enabled us to see and hear many fine instruments. At our August meeting, organist-teacher Al Hermann illustrated some techniques for playing with a cleaner, unencumbered style, and Cathy Hoffman, who played a concert earlier in the year on the 3/25 Wurlitzer at J. Burns Pizza and Pipes, and who now demonstrates Rodgers organs for Central Music, showed us the new 3-manual "Olympic" theatre model by Rodgers.

We extend congratulations and good luck to the new officers of ATOS and look forward to a pleasant relationship in the future.

We also extend a warm invitation to anyone coming our way to please look us up. You are more than welcome. Our address is P.O. Box 24794, Tampa, Florida 33623.

JOHN P. OTTERSON

CENTRAL INDIANA

The setting for our June meeting was the Paramount Theatre in Anderson, Indiana, with 40 members and guests arriving at the theatre at 9:00 a.m. Sunday. The Paramount is used daily, and it was necessary to hold an early meeting to accommodate patrons later in the day.

Following a short business meeting, Kurt Von Schakel, Central Indiana Chapter member, presented a musical program on the fine organ at the Paramount. This organ has undergone a number of changes, according to Carlton Smith, one of the

owners of the Paramount.

Note: Mr. Gene Gladson, also a CIC member, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Theatre Historical Society of America. He will represent society members in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

For the July meeting it was a great pitch-in food, etc., in the home, garage, and barn area of the home of Phil and Betty Hedback. Following the repast, the group was entertained by member Dick Harold playing an electronic organ.

Phil and Betty had two pianos in the garage, and the group enjoyed some ragtime music presented first by James and Barbara Atkinson, and then by Charles and Eve Thomas. Tim Needler played ragtime, too, including one of his own compositions. Charles Thomas played one of his ragtime compositions. The rain ended and the day came to a beautiful close.

One more of Central Indiana Chapter's fine young organists is leaving the group. Rob Calcaterra will be playing as appointed organist for Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

MARY L. HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

The August meeting of COTOS followed the annual July intermission, during which President John Polesley and his wife, Betty, attended the ATOS National Convention in Seattle, Washington. Their high praise for the quality of the programs and for the host organization would seem much deserved. Information on significant hierarchical changes in ATOS was well received by the COTOS membership.

The August meeting was held on Sunday, August 16, at the farm of Karen and Marvin Boerger, near Irwin, Ohio. The occasion was the annual pot-luck picnic, which produced more delicious food than 25 people could possibly consume. The guest artist was Ted Guyson, whose expertise in the theatre organ style is currently being enhanced by preparations for a silent movie presentation. Ted shared some of his own compositions recently written to accompany *The Fighting King*, which will be presented in September at a local church.

The progress on the chapter's 3/17 Wurlitzer at Worthington High School has been significant, with major gains being seen in the recovering of the primaries as the current project. Crew members Bob Gallagher and Dr. John Polsley enthusiastically reported on the installation of the new pipes custom built by Bob Shopp of Alliance, Ohio. There is, as yet, no clear date for the total completion of the organ, but crew chief Willard Ebner claims that the end is at last in sight!

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

The demise of pipe organs is not new to most of us, but a vast majority of the "King of Instruments" are tough customers and refuse to re-



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Convention
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DETROIT
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lease the ghost easily. So it is with CATOE's Wurlitzer installation in Maine North High School in Des-Plaines, Illinois. The school closed in August 1981, but the organ refused to "shut up." This is partially due to some CATOE members and Jack Olander, former director of the school's music department. Once a week members go to the auditorium for organ maintenance, practice, music information, etc. The proper-

ty is hard-pressed for a buyer, but rumors occur that the situation is still kicking. Thus hope for the building and organ are not dead!

Even the Oriental Theatre organ gets a little use in spite of the sad theatre condition.

It is a rare treat for us to get into the Medinah Temple to hear their 5/80 Austin. In August we had a morning social with member Jim Gruber soloing. An added treat was some piano/organ duets with Fred Biederman and Gruber alternating keyboards, resulting in a beautiful program.

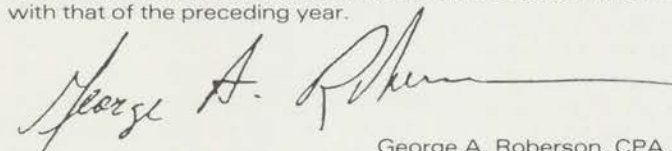
Rex Koury was our soloist at the Patio's 4/17 Barton in September. "Gunsmoke" Koury accompanied the silent *Riders of the Purple Sage*, plus his presentation of a superb pro-

GEORGE A. ROBERSON
Certified Public Accountant
65 Gibson Street • Leesburg, Virginia 22075
November 4, 1981

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.

We have examined the cash basis balance sheet of American Theatre Organ Society, Inc., as of June 30, 1981, and the related statement of income and net worth, prepared on the same basis, for the period then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly the assets, liabilities and net worth arising from cash transactions of American Theatre Organ Society, Inc., as of June 30, 1981, and the operations resulting from cash transactions for the period then ended, on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.


George A. Roberson, CPA

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC. BALANCE SHEET (Cash Basis) JUNE 30, 1981

ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$13,086.92	
Inventory	10,226.87	
Advance - Convention	1,000.00	\$24,313.79
Other Assets:		
Office Furniture	1,131.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25,444.79	
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH		
Liabilities:		-0-
Net Worth:		
Balance, June 30, 1981	25,444.79	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	\$25,444.79	

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND NET WORTH (Cash Basis) FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1981

OPERATING INCOME:		
Dues - 1981		\$48,847.76
Theatre Organ:		
Advertising	\$ 5,789.11	
Binders	295.00	
Back Issues	432.72	
First Class Mailing	850.22	7,367.05
Convention - Net (Advances)		(4,934.60)
Miscellaneous		137.16
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		\$51,417.37
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Printing	\$30,539.59	
Postage	6,756.68	
Contract Fees	6,551.00	
Transportation	3,728.51	
Telephone	3,063.48	
Mailing Service	1,537.62	
Supplies	563.44	
Board Meeting	1,705.95	
Insurance and Bond	585.00	
Accounting	450.00	
Storage	337.60	
Freight	86.00	
Miscellaneous	209.87	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE		56,114.74
OPERATING LOSS:		\$ (4,697.37)
OTHER INCOME:		
Interest		370.06
		\$ (4,327.31)
OTHER EXPENSES:		
Legal Service	2,478.98	
NET LOSS:		\$ (6,806.29)
NET WORTH:		
Balance - January 1, 1981		32,251.08
Balance - June 30, 1981		\$25,444.79

gram, a sing-along, and a tragic slide story of *Koury's Korny Klassics*. A tragedy? Maybe the audience took it wrong, judging by their howling laughter.

Our October show at the Chicago Theatre with Ron Rhode at the console ended in the black! (Rarely are we in the red, which is fortunate for us.) It was a Halloween affair, with *The Phantom of the Opera* cavorting on the screen and Ron equally cavorting on the famous Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer. Ron did an excellent accompaniment to the film. Also, the first half of the program was all organ, and Ron gave an exciting program of great variety. It was noted that film buffs turned out much above our expectations for the Phantom.

The Central Indiana Chapter spent a full weekend in Chicago, with CATOE hosting their visit. Their trip included St. Marys of the Lake (Mundelein College), an early morning stop at the Chicago Theatre with John Gendvilas at the console, late morning at the Patio, and early afternoon at the Oriental with Barbara Sellers at the console. Open console was devoted to the visitors, and a great time was experienced by the travelers.

Christmas will be as last year at Holy Name Cathedral, which is greatly appreciated by our members and friends.

Future plans are in the works for a spring show at the Chicago and all of our other available organs in the area, which should provide a very interesting 1982. The best New Year to all of you from all of us.

ALMER BROSTROM

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our August meeting took place on the eighth at the Thomaston Opera House. Originally we were scheduled to enjoy the hospitality of Stillman and Claire Rice; however, because of Stillman's sudden illness, a change in plans was necessary. We are pleased to report that Stillman is recuperating comfortably at home with his Allen digital organ.

At the Opera House early afternoon was given to open console, after which our own Allen Miller played for us.

Al drew from his repertoire favorites to please everybody, including his own distinctive arrangement of

"Trumpeter's Lullaby," often requested by listeners. On top of all his technical and other contributions to our chapter, Al's playing ability adds a nice cultural extension.

Our 1981-82 concert season resumed at the Thomaston Opera House on September 12, 13 with Rosa Rio, Ted Malone, and soprano Nancy Savin. On October 17, 18 Bill Thomson returned, and on December 4, 5, 6 Lyn Larsen and small orchestra appear for a Christmas program. Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Conn. 06483, telephone (203) 888-9696. For return by mail, tickets must be ordered at least two weeks prior to date of concert.

W. F. POWERS

EASTERN MASS.

July and August normally are inactive for EMCATOS, but not this year! Sunday, July 26, Tim Bjareby and his mother, Kaarina, again graciously hosted open house and a picnic at their Ipswich home. Each visit discloses some change and improvement to Tim's Robert Morton. This year his Tibias now have a separate regulator and tremors. Much good music was played by him and members on his fine 2/9 Wonder Morton, and much good home-cooked food disappeared during the break.

With so many present and the cream-and-gold console such a magnet, afternoon melded into evening before the pipes were silent. It was a fun day in all respects, and the happy faces reflected this feeling.

This 25th year of Chapter No. 1 is a real milestone in the chapter's history. William A. Hanson of Glendale, Wisconsin, is the reason. Bill is a nationally-known professional finisher of pipe organs, whom the chapter engaged to minister to our 235 Special Wurlitzer.

Bill began July 6 on a six-days-a-week basis, and along with a volunteer crew of as many as a dozen members, plus non-member Larry Peavey, has performed miracles. Between repairs, renewals, repositioning, cleaning, adjusting, and tonal finishing, our instrument has never sounded nor functioned better. Some long-silent traps and percussions are again operational, missing pipes replaced, noise from the twin blowers greatly muffled, wind pres-

ures corrected, wind leaks remedied, chambers cleaned; in short, we now have one fine Wurlitzer!

As this is being written, the final stages (8th week) of this transformation is under way, and Bill's able direction has been an inspiration and learning process for those of us on his "team." It is a privilege to know and work with him. He intends returning to Babson to hear our organ in concert with Lloyd del Castillo on October 24, and a warm welcome will await him!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

Results of the election of officers were announced by the nominating committee headed by Jinny Vanore, and including Wathina Hill and Leonard Lipman. For 1981-82, William Smith presides as Chairman, Michael Cipolletti continues as Vice Chairman, and Edward Baykowski will act as Secretary/Treasurer.

GSTOS'ers took advantage of beautiful weather and their seashore organ installations this summer. In a joint effort with neighboring New York Chapter, members had open console at the 4/55 Ballroom Kimball in the Atlantic City Convention Hall and topped it with an in-depth tour of the world's largest, the Midmer-Losh 7/455 in the main auditorium. Excited and curious members climbed into the turret-shaped console (about four at a time!) and saw the back of the manuals, the 1255 stop tabs, and assorted equipment. Others descended to the basement to see the blowers which total 365 horsepower, and the compressor which is used to raise the wind pressure to 100 inches for certain stops. Also included was a visit to the mechanical shop, chamber tours (the main is four stories high and contains about 100 ranks plus percussions), and a climb into the key relay which is serviced from inside! The dimension and scale is far beyond what any of us see in a typical installation, and left everyone in awe.

Later in the summer, we reconvened at Ocean Grove Auditorium to be entertained by David Messineo at the Hope-Jones (several times expanded in recent years), for a musical tour and performance of theatre and classical works which this organ handles equally well. Guests were invited to a hospitality suite where they

ate, relaxed, and changed for ocean swimming before moving on to the Asbury Park Convention Hall for an afternoon of open console at the 3/8 Kilgen. Sweet sounds were heard on the beach as members played to their hearts' content and entertained vacationers strolling by on the boardwalk.

Open console, picnic, and silent movie were all combined into a terrific meeting August 23 in Colonia, New Jersey, at the home of Ed Baykowski, newly-elected Secretary/Treasurer. The tree-shaded property was perfect for the picnic, and the in-ground pool was very inviting to many GSTOS'ers. One of Ed's three electronic organs was brought outside for the artists and open console. Lt. Col. Jack Moelmann, known ATOS-wide as a superb entertainer, accompanied soloists Ron Lee Savin of Broadway fame and Barbara Spitalnick, vocalist and choral director extraordinaire from New York. Ron sang many Broadway show tunes loved by all, and Barbara sang, among others, the very beautiful "Granada" in Spanish. Jack accompanied the Laurel & Hardy pie fight sequence, and closed with the very beautiful "Tribute to America." Ashley Miller, renowned organist at Radio City Music Hall for many years, entertained most of the afternoon to the delight of everyone. His stylings were reminiscent of his days at RCMH and for most, it was the first time that Ashley had been heard playing an electronic organ. Ashley was introduced to Ed's other three instruments, which include a player piano and a custom triple-decker. Many open console players played between the acts, displaying talents not seen before. After dark, what else? Dancing in the driveway to organ music, with Jim Acken on the drums.

ED BAYKOWSKI



Ashley Miller.

(Beutelfoto)



Lt. Col. Jack Moelmann.

(Beutelfoto)

LAND O' LAKES

April 26 found 100 members and guests attending a concert near Anoka, Minnesota, in the beautiful theatre organ environment newly-created by Steve and Carole Allen, with a Barton organ from Brookdale Cicero's installed on the original lift. The artist for this pleasant Sunday

afternoon was our own Paul-Wesley Bowen, who played a delightful program in his inimitable style.

An "organ crawl" with 22 participants, nine in a motor home, and others in their own cars, journeyed to Fargo, North Dakota, on May 15 to hear guest artist Lou Hurvitz play the 3/9 Wurlitzer maintained by members of the Red River Valley Chapter at the Fargo Theatre. Tours of the chambers and the theatre were conducted by Lance Johnson, who seems to be the inspiration behind this active chapter.

Following the early Saturday morning concert we took off for Bismarck, where Lou Hurvitz again entertained us at an evening concert in Reiny Delzer's huge home. Reiny owns the Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer instrument made famous by Eddie Dunstetter at the Minnesota Theatre. We were invited to visit the Welch's, across the street from Delzer's, who own the 2/9 Marr & Colton organ formerly belonging to Delzer. What a delightful weekend, filled with beautiful music, singing, visiting, and eating!

Another fun-filled four-day Memorial weekend found 28 members from LOL soaking up plenty of musical atmosphere at Bobby Schmidt's Indian Hills Resort at Stone Lake, Wisconsin. Rob Calcaterra conducted seminars and demonstrated his versatile talents, with most of us wildly taking notes and bombarding him with questions. The highlight of the weekend was a rendition of Mendelssohn's "Concerto in G," with the orchestral score performed by Rob on the 340 Rodgers, and Dr. Kerry Grippe, concert pianist from the University of Iowa, at the piano, the concerto lasting a full twenty minutes. We were spellbound! That was not all — Mike Erie and Paul-Wesley Bowen,

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Mike Erie.

our own talented organist members, 93-year-young Arma Neff with her violin, Bill Eden, organist-pianist from St. Paul, and Don Taft accompanying silent films and adding sparkly fun, were all part of this musical experience. A delegation from the CATOE Chapter was also in attendance.

A first for the Land O' Lakes Chapter occurred on June 20. Town Square Park in downtown St. Paul, a shopping plaza with back-to-nature live plants and trees, waterfalls tumbling here and there, under a huge canopy of steel framework and glass with blue sky overhead, was the scene of a theatre organ presentation. Paul-Wesley Bowen was guest artist, playing on the Eminent organ provided by Garrison's Music Store. The organ was placed on one of the many meandering walkways, with the audience sitting in interesting arrangements of spectator seats and parapets. It is a dream of a few theatre organ enthusiasts and of the City of St. Paul dignitaries to see a permanent installation of a theatre organ at Town Square Park, where it could be used as background for any type of program presented there and occasional formal organ concerts.

Our first annual pot-luck picnic on July 19 was hosted by genial Mike Erie and Roger Dalziel on the lawn at their newly-renovated theatre organ concert hall, formerly a church and chapel, located in Prescott, Wisconsin. They plan to make use of the spacious lower level for their living quarters. Mike played for us on his Hammond Regent.

VERNA MAE WILSON

LAND OF LINCOLN

On May 7 Gaylord Carter presented a silent film festival at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, featuring films with W. C. Fields, Laurel & Hardy, Harold Lloyd, and Charlie Chaplin. The Dean of Silent Film Organists did his usual fine job, and the 1200 people who attended really enjoyed themselves.

LOLTOS had its annual meeting and picnic at the Bob Tuttle home on August 3. The spirits of the crowd were not dampened by a solid afternoon of steady rain. Of course the Page theatre organ, the John Brown tracker organ, and numerous pianos and musical oddities at the Tuttle home helped to keep everyone's mind from the weather. A beautiful pot-luck dinner climaxed the day.

LOLTOS is making plans to install a Wurlitzer at the Rockford Woman's Club Theatre in Rockford. The 800-seat house is used for the Woman's Club programs, and various other events needing an auditorium of this size. When the theatre was built in the early '20s chambers for an organ were included, but none was ever installed.

LOLTOS is also considering installing an organ in the Midway Theatre in Rockford, severely damaged by fire last year, but now being restored under new ownership. The

new owner has expressed interest in having a theatre organ in the house.

BOB SCHMOOCK

LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Our "British Theatre Organ Event of 1981," featuring our incomparable chapter member Hector Olivera at the 3/10 Wurlitzer at the Granada Kingston-upon-Thames in July, was all that we had hoped and much more besides.

Attracting an audience of 750, our second largest to date, Hector's flawless performance was much appreciated, as were chapter members' efforts in the presentation, which notably included a most attractive floral arrangement around the distinctive console and all the ladies being in their "Convention Style" dresses. A particular highlight of Hector's characteristically varied programme was a most exhilarating version of "Root Beer Rag," which he had first heard in a children's television series in Manchester, and which he will doubtless feature in his future Stateside concerts.

Hector was also the guest at a Chapter Club Night at Wurlitzer Lodge a few days later, when around 60 members were able to enjoy his keyboard dexterity and humour at close quarters. This occasion also allowed several chapter officials to catch up on some items that they had inevitably missed while on "front-of-house" duty at Kingston.

Our forty chapter members who participated in the Seattle Convention have all been most complimentary of the programme organization and hospitality, which they all enjoyed immensely. Particular praise was accorded to the very high standard of maintenance and timing of all of the instruments featured. Well appreciating the tremendous efforts




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in arranging a convention, as well as the profuse thanks of those who actually attended Seattle, the whole of our chapter warmly congratulates Puget Sound on presenting such an evidently enjoyable and successful national event this year.

Our August Club Night at Wurlitzer Lodge was a most enthralling trip into the "Golden Years" of the British theatre organ with 76-year-old veteran Bobby Pagan at the console of the 3/19 Wurlitzer. The evening was also interspersed with a 20-minute interview with him by Len Rawle about some of the fascinating times and events in Bobby's long and varied organ career.

Meanwhile, our young organists, of whom we are so proud, are all doing well. Pauline Dixon, and her mother Audrey, have recently returned from a second visit to the US this year. This time they went to the West Coast where Pauline notably played the "Great American Wind Machine" and the Joe Koons Wurlitzer, meeting many top-name American organists on their way round.

Stephen Vincent, our very stylish second competition winner, is now demonstrating Baldwin electronic organs in a music store in Southeast London.

Janet Dowsett, runner-up to Stephen in the 1979 competition, recently played a live 20-minute solo interval spot to a full house on the Wurlitzer 3/10 at the Granada Kingston during the local premiere of the newest James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*. Now she has started work for Yamaha in the UK under the guidance of Musical Director Len Rawle.

With Lyn Larsen as the featured star at our next prime concert presentation, at the Granada Harrow 3/8

Wurlitzer in September, and our fourth "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" Competition also to be held there in November, as well as our continuing series of highly popular monthly Club Nights, we are certainly able to report sustained pleasure and activity in true ATOS style.

A. B. PARSONS

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles was the grateful recipient of the Barton 3/12 pipe organ originally from the National Theatre in Milwaukee! The Barton and numerous additional ranks of pipes, organ parts, and tools were donated to LATOS by Mr. Burton A. Burton, President of Baranger Studios. LATOS intends to install the instrument, which is completely rebuilt, in a public auditorium in the Glendale-Burbank area.

News of the possible donation reached Los Angeles officers in late August. Chairman Gene Davis immediately called an emergency board meeting and arranged to obtain two evaluations of the organ and to have our attorneys draw up the proposal. All this was accomplished within nine days! Baranger Studios notified LATOS of the donation October 3, and arrangements were made to store the organ and parts until a contract for its new installation is completed.

At the same time contracts were being drawn up for the installation of Tom B'hend's Style D Wurlitzer in the Vista Theatre in Hollywood. (The Vista was originally Bard's East Hollywood Theatre, and housed a Wurlitzer of similar size during the days of silent movies.)

Our fall '81 concert season started with Walt Strony playing San Gabriel's Wurlitzer on August 8. Walt's program was a delightful mix of

pops and classics, and included several selections from his outstanding "Mundelein 1980" record. On September 13 Maria Kumagai returned to San Gabriel to thrill a large audience with her fantastic artistry. Our third "Stars of Tomorrow" program featured the Scholarship Competition winners Dennis Derr and Chris Elliott at San Gabriel on October 18.

RALPH BEAUDRY

MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia Chapter lost a most valued member on August 27, 1981. Bob McRaney Sr. passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Bob will be missed by his many friends across this country, but more among those who were directly involved with him and his last project, the restoration and re-installation of the Robert Morton in the Saenger Center for the Performing Arts in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Bob helped Roy Gimple remove the organ from the old Strand Theatre, and install it in the new Saenger in that city.

Bob was the first organist when the Saenger was opened. After ABC Paramount gave the old theatre to the City of Hattiesburg, and plans began for its renovation, Bob went to city officials and told them that



Console of the Robert Morton in the lobby of the Saenger Theatre, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.



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the original theatre organ was available and could be returned to the theatre. Mayor Bobby Chain gave the "go ahead." On December 3, 1980, the Robert Morton was delivered to the City of Hattiesburg.

July 31 this year the Robert Morton was dedicated to Bob McRaney Sr. The reopening of the Saenger Center is scheduled for November 29, fifty-two years after its grand opening on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1929.

It is good news to hear that we will be receiving THEATRE ORGAN once again, and the Magnolia Chapter extends its best wishes to the staff that is publishing it.

And we would also wish the best of luck to the officers of ATOS as they guide us to new and better things to come for theatre organs.

TOMMY DARSEY

MOTOR CITY

Our eighth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 79-year-old excursion steamer Columbia was held on Sunday, July 19. In spite of less-than-favorable weather (it rained almost all night) nearly 600 members and friends enjoyed roaming the three covered decks of the 216-foot historic steamer (which will be featured in next year's ATOS Convention) or the continuous dance music in the ballroom.

Dance organists this year were Don Haller, Lionel LaMay, Tony O'Brien, Wilma Steslick and Ed Walsh. The Wurlitzer organ was furnished through the courtesy of Ed Walsh and the Wurlitzer store in Taylor.

Our annual picnic was held at Murray Lake Park, a private preserve, on Sunday, July 26. As is our custom, an electronic organ was provided, this year a Hammond, courtesy of Steve Balicki and Bill Wood

of the Birmingham Smiley Bros. store.

On September 26, a near-capacity audience heard Fr. Jim Miller in a public concert at the 3/16 Barton in the Royal Oak Theatre. Also on the program was the South Oakland Chapter of the Sweet Adelines.

Don Haller exhibited his warm wit and charm as he played a plethora of tunes from his repertoire of audience favorites for our First Sunday program at the Punch and Judy Theatre in July. Fourteen-year-old Melissa Ambrose, who began her musical studies on the accordion, displayed her dexterity at the pipe organ when she appeared at the Punch and Judy's 2/6 Wurlitzer for our First Sunday event in August.

No program was planned in September at the Punch and Judy, currently being refurbished under new management, which is operating the 51-year-old movie house as a classic film theatre. Prior to its installation in the theatre in late 1929, the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer (then a 2/5) had been installed on the fourth floor of the 13-story Wurlitzer Building (still

standing) in downtown Detroit, where it had served as a demonstration instrument for the Wurlitzer Company.

Rain did not dampen audience enthusiasm as young Melissa Ambrose performed, for the first time, at the Barton organ in the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor for the July Second Sunday program. Barry Rindhage, from Saginaw, was the featured Second Sunday artist in August at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton. As an added treat, Barry asked Bill Taber, a friend of his who had driven up from Akron, Ohio, to play several selections on the Barton.

In September, Tony O'Brien returned to Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre as the Second Sunday artist. Tony is continuing his musical studies at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Mark Smith, who just turned 19, made his first appearance for the chapter as the featured artist at the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in July. In August, George Krejci, currently one of the regulars at the Lamplighter Inn near



A rainbow suddenly appeared above the console as Mark Smith played "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," part of the musical antics planned by this 19-year-old during his first program at the Royal Oak Theatre in July. (Fred Page Photo)



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Don Haller at the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer during his First Sunday program there in July.
(Fred Page Photo)



George Krejci performed at the Royal Oak Barton in August.
(Fred Page Photo)



Greg Yassick was the featured artist at the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak in September.
(Fred Page Photo)

Cleveland, was the Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton in August.

Our September Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak Barton was Greg Yassick, now a third-year dental student at the University of Michigan.

Plan now to attend the 1982 ATOS Convention in Detroit, July 4-10. Details will be available soon.

DON LOCKWOOD

NOR-CAL

Sunday afternoon, August 9, the chapter met at Johnson's Alexander Valley Winery in Healdsburg, in the Sonoma County wine country north of San Francisco Bay. The Johnson brothers, Jay, Tom, and Will, have a 2/7 Marr & Colton theatre organ installed in the winery.

It was a lovely sunny day and members and friends from the Sierra Chapter enjoyed an afternoon of picnicing and "vintage" organ music. It was an open console event and many members and guests sampled the wines and purchased a bottle to enjoy with their picnic lunches.

One of our youngest members was too young to taste the wine but, at twelve years of age, very enthused about testing the pipes. Tyrone Begin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Begin of Half Moon Bay. He is a pupil of Bill Langford, and has taken lessons for over a year. Tyrone composes and arranges his own music and wants to be a theatre organist for his professional career. He will soon be "transcribing" music he composes on a 6502-based micro-computer linked to a Conn theatre organ. We should be hearing more from this very talented young man in the future.

Another talented member who played during the open console session was Bill Taylor. Bill, his father



12-year-old, Tyrone Begin (pronounced Beige-On) at his favorite organ, the 4/23 Wurlitzer at Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes, Redwood City. Tyrone is the youngest and most enthusiastic member of Nor-Cal Chapter.

Ray, Rudy Frey, Ed Stout, and others are helping brother Dick with the installation of a 4/26 Wurlitzer in the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Seven ranks were playing on Labor Day and, from the sound of them, this should be one of the most brilliant installations anywhere.

The chapter is grateful to the Johnson family for allowing us the opportunity to spend the afternoon in the winery. It was a real picnic. Their fine wines can boast of being the only label to feature a theatre



Bill Taylor at 2/7 Marr & Colton at Johnson's Alexander Valley Winery during Nor-Cal picnic.
(Jim McGuire Photo)

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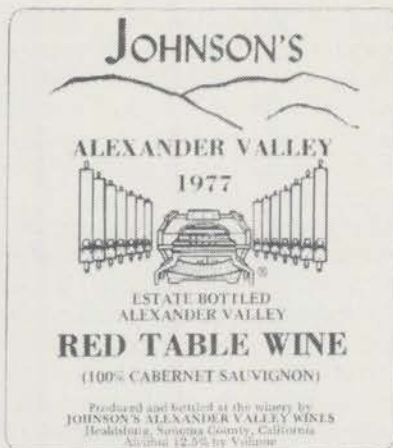
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organ console. Visitors to the Bay Area are invited to visit the winery, taste the various California wines, and try out the vintage organ. The winery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Telephone (707) 433-2319 for directions if needed. Theatre organ enthusiasts are welcome to visit and play whenever someone is home, evenings included.



On Sunday, September 13, we met at Redwood City, California, at the Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes. Our concert artist was Don Wallin (pronounced Wall-eeen) at the 4/23 Wurlitzer. Don started playing at eleven years of age, first with piano lessons, then organ and accordion. His organ teacher was Phil Raboin, who has been the official organist of the State of Washington for forty years.

Wallin has played at Big Bob's Pizzeria in Seattle, Steve's Gay 90's in Tacoma, and the Big Top Pizza in Carmichael. He played for three years at the Pizza Machine in Stockton, California, until they recently stopped using the organ and put it up for sale. Currently, Don is into pipe organ rebuilding and installing, and repairs electronic organs and pianos.

ED MULLINS



Don Wallin played September concert for Nor-Cal Theatre Organ Society on 4/23 Wurlitzer at Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, California. (Jim McGuire Photo)

OREGON

As customary, the ATOS National Convention replaced our July chapter meeting. On August 30 we were guests of Maurice and Nina Adamson at their beautiful home in Sheridan for our annual picnic.

Mr. and Mrs. Adamson have made tape recordings of several European organists not heard in this country. These fine musicians were heard by us on their super-super sound system while we enjoyed our lunch. This included an acre-size cake baked by Maurice, our host.

Inside, a huge studio/living room has a raised level with two organs and a Steinway grand piano. One of the organs, a Rodgers, has special speakers, producing a magnificent tone. The open console session included several duets with many members playing, including professionals Paul Quarino and Solveig Meeker, a new member from Corvallis.

While our annual picnics are always most enjoyable, this may have been the best yet, with perfect weather, fine food, friends, and music in this beautiful setting. Our chapter is grateful to Nina and



Oregon Chapter picnic on August 30, at Maurice Adamson's home. (L to R) — Mighty Joe Gray (chapter chairman), Nina Adamson, Maurice Adamson (who baked the cake), Paul Quarino. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

Royal Command Organist

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BUD ABEL

PIEDMONT

PTOS members met at the Elon College Memorial Gymnasium on May 29 for a combined business/open-console meeting. After a brief business session, the 3/11 Wurlitzer was turned over to PTOS members so that everyone could get their hands on the Mighty Wurlitzer (with a Kimball console). A gymnasium may be a strange home for a theatre organ, but the acoustics are very good for this type of location.

A search is underway for a new home for our "new" 2/8 Robert Morton (donated by Dr. Paul Abernethy). This organ, a 2/11 instrument, was originally located at the National Theatre in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was moved to the Center Theatre (then located in downtown Durham). Later three ranks were incorporated into another organ in Durham (probably when the Morton was being dismantled for removal from the Center Theatre). The organ then went to Campbell College (Buies Creek, NC) and eventually to Burlington, where it was at home in Dr. Abernethy's "Cathedral of Sound." The 2/8 is presently in storage, and PTOSers are looking for a home for it so that we, and others, can enjoy the beautiful sounds of this organ again.

Dr. Abernethy replaced the 2/8 Morton with a 3/8 (10 ranks when finished) Robert Morton. Work is in progress on the installation of this instrument. It sounds fine and should soon be 100% playable.

Prof. Dick Apperson's 2/5 Wurlitzer was reported in an earlier issue of THEATRE ORGAN to have undergone a fire. The damage was

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much less than expected and the organ is being worked on and should soon be in good playing condition again.

However, the Carolina Theatre was not so lucky. On July 1 the horror of horrors struck at the Carolina (Greensboro) — fire! Someone gained entrance to the theatre when it was closed and started a fire with some rugs with rubber-base backing. The resulting soot is really messy.

The fortunate part is that the damage was not nearly as bad as it could have been. Because of the nature of the construction of the theatre (they don't build them like that these days), the fire itself was contained in one area; however, smoke damage was extensive. The bright spot is that the organ was not touched by heat, fire, nor water. We are planning to go in and do a thorough clean-up. We hope the Carolina will re-open in late summer of 1982. PTOSer Larry Keesler had scheduled a recital for chapter members in August and two later shows for the Greensboro United Arts Council, and these were cancelled because of the fire.

In November Larry will present a program of music for our enjoyment at Elon College Gymnasium. We will also have our chapter elections that day, along with other business.

PTOS Chairman Buddy Boyd was transferred by his company to White Settlement, Texas; consequently, Vice-Chairman Bill Alexander has become Chairman until the end of this year. Buddy will have his hands full in Texas, as he will be helping with a three-manual Morton there. We wish him the best and thank him for his efforts on behalf of PTOS.

RISDEN H. HILL

PUGET SOUND

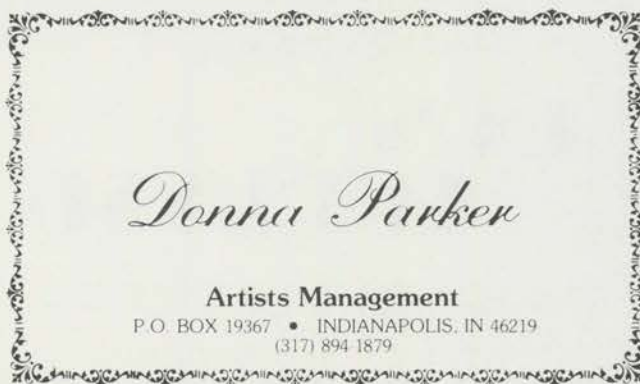
Usually there is a big letdown after as big and successful an affair as hosting an International Convention, but Puget Sound Chapter members, after taking a few wisps of our lovely clean and clear Northwest air, dug right in to enjoy their other summer activities.

Our annual August Potluck and Party was a great success. In addition to our party we held an auction. A punch bowl preceded the afternoon, and the open console started off with Diane Whipple, followed by



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Ken Gallwey, Dick Schrum, and Don Myers, and continued after the auction.

A report of the convention by Dick Schrum, Chairman, and Thelma Barclay, the Puget Sound Chairman, indicated to us that we had a registration of around 600 guests. Of these, 42 were from England and some eight from Australia.

With the help of the sunny and warm weather, the "Peace, Pipes and People" Convention will go down in ATOS history as one of the best. For some of you who were not fortunate enough to be able to attend, the lineup sounds like "Who's Who." Father James Miller, Billy Nalle, Jonas Nordwall, Tom Cotner, Lew Williams, Ed Galley, Ashley Miller, Ted Gillen, Jane McKee Johnson, Sherri Mael, and Andy Crow were among those who gave sterling performances. Tom Hazleton and Jonas Nordwall performed a smashing climax at the Paramount Theatre on the big 4/20 Wurlitzer and the Rodgers organ.

Members from other chapters told us that we were indeed fortunate to be able to have these grand organs in our own area, and that we have accessible for our use and practice our own chapter organ at our Haller Lake Club House.

As a result of the convention, and because we have been busy and active and have enjoyed such inspiring programs, our membership has now grown to 211 family members, and we feel that is really a triumph.

Perhaps some of you who did not attend the convention were unaware that the Paramount Theatre organ, presented three times during the convention, had stood in disrepair for many years. With extra special effort and additional expense, which our Puget Sound Chapter contributed, it was brought back to very good shape



Seated at the console of the Paramount Theatre 4/20 Wurlitzer is Terry Pennington, and gathered around are brothers Don Myers, Gene Myers, David Myers, and Frank Myers, and Mike Wallace. (John D. Sharp Photo)

and was one of the brightest "stars" of the convention. We also understand that it made such a good impression on the owners that the theatre is being rapidly renovated and redone from top to bottom, to present stage show performances by some of the biggest names in the entertainment field. We are hoping that this "Mighty Wurlitzer" will again shine in the eyes and be heard in the ears of the general public, not just organ buffs. It would be a "Giant Step for our Organ Music Mankind."

Let us take a moment here to give credit to those who were responsible for this Herculean rebuilding task. Seated here at the console for a try-out is Terry Pennington, and gathered around are brothers Don Myers, Gene Myers, David Myers, and Frank Myers, and Mike Wallace. Not shown, but in on every facet of the project were Walt Cook, Russ Evens, Ray Whelpley, Mary

Lou and Jack Beevar, and Genny Whitting. We thank you, one and all, not only for the great effort on this project, but knowing that we all will have a wonderful opportunity to keep it playing and heard.

Come to Seattle sometime and we'll show you the new "Beauty" in our town.

THELMA R. SMITH

QUAD CITIES

The Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, is open again after a two-year closing. It is leased by Luna Theatres, a Texas-based firm, and is used to show Spanish-language films on weekends. During the week the Capitol, which seats 1611 persons, is available for plays, stage shows, and theatre pipe organ concerts on the Wicks 3/12 organ with piano.

The Wicks organ was originally a 3/10, but the chapter purchased and installed an extra Vox Humana from

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the late Bob Beck, and added a Barton Clarinet loaned by Jim Adams. Bob Christiansen of Moline, Illinois, loaned and installed a harp operated from the organ console. Both piano and harp are exposed, to the right of the theatre stage.

The piano is a 1920 Gildemeester & Kroemer, and was rebuilt completely by Howard Adams of Aledo, Illinois. Howard also installed and wired the six relay switches used to play the piano from the organ console. The final hook-up was done by Bob Adams.

Since the reopening of the Capitol Bob Adams and ten others have spearheaded the formation of, and a charter for, the Quad Cities Chapter of the ATOS. The new chapter now has 51 members. The officers for 1981 are: Bob Adams, Chairman; Paul Clark, Vice Chairman; Dan Lindner, Secretary-Treasurer; and three board members, Bob Christiansen, Harry Kelly, and Howard Adams. The chapter meets twice a month on Friday evenings. The first meeting each month features a guest artist on the organ and a short business meeting. The second meeting consists of "open console" for two hours, so that all members who wish may have a chance to play.

This new charter group has been active for some time in restoring the organ, and in organizing and sponsoring theatre organ concerts. The first concert held on October 17, 1980, featured Rex Koury, who played many popular melodies and the accompaniment for the silent movie, *The Sawmill*, starring Larry Semon. We had an attendance of about 1000. Under the new chapter, the second concert was by Ron Rhode. Ron also gave a fine performance which included accompanying another silent film, *The Finishing Touch*, with Laurel and Hardy. Ron

was introduced by Paul Adams, KIIK radio announcer. On July 21, 1981, Harry Koenig played a Wednesday matinee concert for senior citizens and was much appreciated.

GEORGE A. WATSON

SIERRA

On May 17 the Golden Bear Playhouse at Cal Expo was the venue for seven young teen-age organists' concert presentations, which culminated Sierra's Theatre Organ Talent Showcase. Each of the seven finalists, out of an original 17 contestants, received a \$100 honorarium from Sierra's Clyde Derby Memorial Scholarship Fund. Clyde was a founding member, teacher, and 15 to 20 years ago was largely responsible for reviving enthusiasm for theatre organ in the Sacramento area. The entire project was an effort to plant and nurture interest in theatre pipes among young keyboardists. Finalists came from all over Northern California and one from Reno, Nevada. Many of our members contributed time and effort, with Gary Konas heading the project and putting in many hours. Chapter publicist Carroll Harris arranged TV coverage on the *Sunday Evening News*.

Sierra members gathered at the home of member and now National Vice President Dale Mendenhall for our annual picnic on June 14. Dale and wife Maryanne reside in a park-like setting, with a huge lawn surrounding a house overflowing with keyboards. The Mendenhalls were most gracious hosts, and members of Sierra thank them. Incidentally, the keyboard complement includes a 3/15 Wurlitzer/Smith and a Gulbransen Rialto.

August 21 to September 7 had Sierra once again conducting theatre pipe organ mini-concerts for the California State Fair at Cal Expo. The

chapter's 2/7 Wurlitzer and member organists got a workout, with 36 concerts in 18 days. Guest artists this year included Dave Hooper from the Bay Area, and Don Wallin from Stockton. Again many members contributed time and effort, but Stu Naschke and particularly Dave Moreno really came through to make it all work.

Work by several chapter members headed by Dave Moreno continues at reconditioning the big Marr & Colton theatre/concert hybrid at the Stockton First Christian Church. For all the Marr & Colton aficionados who read our last "Chapter Notes" and thought we had found the "Mother Marr," a correction is due. The persons who came up with 40 ranks must have been led astray by unification, because a closer inspection revealed "only" 25 ranks.

A quick tally of theatre pipe organs in our area and/or owned by Sierra members totals nine residence and four public installations. Of the total, six are Wurlitzer (at least the consoles), six are Morton, and one is a Moller. Of the six Wurlitzer, all but one have been extensively altered and expanded or combined with other Wurlitzers, Smiths, and assorted ranks, chests, etc. Coincidentally, five of the six Mortons started out as 2/3 Model 49 Fotoplayers, or close derivatives thereof (only one of which is still in the original 3-rank configuration).

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

The July meeting of Tulsa's Sooner State Chapter was a special treat. We met in Oral Roberts University's Christ Chapel to hear a concert played by Larry Jones. Larry, who hails from Greenville, North Carolina, started playing the piano at age 2½ (according to his family;

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he says he doesn't remember!), and "fell in love with the organ" at age 16 when he had a chance to play the instrument in the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia. He moved to Oklahoma a year ago to attend Rhema Bible Institute in Broken Arrow. He plays entirely by ear, fabulously!

Larry opened his program with "Easter Song — Christ Is Risen," which he played from the console of the over-100-rank Phelps tracker classical organ. ("The tracker is hard work to play," he commented.) He then moved to the Wurlitzer 4-manual console, from which he played all but one other selection (an "Improvisation," again on the tracker organ). The Wurlitzer console controls a 21-rank theatre organ, originally installed in 1925 in The Palms Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. The present console is a new one, built from Wurlitzer plans, because the original was not salvageable. The tracker organ can also be played from the Wurlitzer console.

After a short intermission the music continued, this time with the addition of songstress Melissa Gideon. The selections were nearly all spine-tingling gospel, with Melissa singing several of her own compositions.

In August we returned to Harvey Young's, but this time met in his house in air-conditioned comfort. Lee Smith, chairman, opened the meeting by reading the letter from new National President Lois Segur. We are looking forward to new and positive growth in ATOS! All of our various projects are "on hold" at the moment, but all are still very much alive. Harry Rasmussen announced the death of Howard Hamilton, one of the long-ago organists who had played the Robert Morton in Tulsa's now demolished Ritz Theatre. Open console on Harvey's Conn 652 followed the business meeting.

DOROTHY SMITH

WESTERN RESERVE

Western Reserve Chapter's activities this summer consisted of two main events. The first was a tour of Cleveland's Public Hall Auditorium to see the 5/176 E. M. Skinner organ and Steinway grand piano. Entertainment was provided by Lou Hegybeli.

The echo organ of the instrument is located the length of a full city block away, giving it a six-second delay. The organ operates on an average of ten inches of wind, with the Tuba Mirabilis on 48 inches.

This instrument also has an inter-

esting history. In the late '50s Public Auditorium Commissioner Paul Hurd was warned that the organ windchests were on the verge of exploding, and that someone might be killed. This resulted in the organ being shut down for twelve years. In 1971 the Commissioner of the Cleveland Home & Flower Show contacted members of Western Reserve Chapter and asked them to inspect the organ. They found that much malicious damage had been done — flanges loosened, pneumatics punctured, and reservoirs slit. Chapter members Claude Hawks, Howard Kast, and Charlie Powers worked nine months and had 75-80 ranks playing for the 1972 Home & Flower Show. Since then, restoration has been completed and a \$25,000 grant from the Kulas Foundation has allowed a new console, a duplication of the old, to be constructed.

Our second summer activity was a social at the home of Al and Rosemary Boehnlein. Beautiful weather accompanied our business meeting and election of the Nominating Committee. Along with a pot-luck dinner, we enjoyed console time at Al's new Baldwin Cinema II organ. Al's other love is model airplanes, and we thought those in his display case looked real enough to fly!

JIM SHEPHERD □



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