

With the  
**Unaffiliated**  
Clubs

Lloyd E. Klos

Beginning shortly, THEATRE ORGAN will introduce this new feature. It was suggested by Associate Editor Lloyd Klos, and is intended to serve those groups not a part of ATOS, but who share our aims of promoting the cause of the theatre pipe organ and the enjoyment of its music. We hope the idea will be successful.

Two things we are asking from all such groups who care to participate:

1. The logo of your club, with which we'd like to set off your regular contributions, should be sent with your initial copy.
2. DO NOT send a copy of your newsletter. Lloyd will act solely as editor, blue-penciling and polishing your *typewritten, double-spaced* copy. Items should be clear and concise, and include material of interest to the world-wide readership. Social items, such as who brought the buns and cold cuts, will not be used. We want news on your concerts, bus trips, organ restorations, etc., but keep it as concise as possible. Pictures are welcome.

The deadlines for getting the material to Lloyd are the *15th of March, May, July, September, and November*. This will allow time to edit copy, get it to the THEATRE ORGAN office, and then on to the typesetter. The address for sending your material is: Lloyd E. Klos, 104 Long Acre Road, Rochester, New York 14621.

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## CHAPTER NOTES

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**Deadlines**

Dec. 1st for Jan./Feb.  
Feb. 1st for Mar./Apr.  
Apr. 1st for May/June  
June 1st for July/Aug.  
Aug. 1st for Sept./Oct.  
Oct. 1st for Nov./Dec.

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

Our January meeting was held at the home of Judith Koutsos in New Port Richey. It was announced that CFTOS now has a signed agreement with the city of Tampa and the Tampa Arts Council which means that

the city will provide funding through a grant and CFTOS will be responsible for maintenance, so we are now moving more rapidly on the Tampa Theatre 3/12 Wurlitzer installation. The blower is installed and the air ducts blown out and cleaned. The grille cloth has been replaced in both chambers; the swell shades in both chambers are up and motors will be installed later when the chests are in. We are near completion of chest work. Also, the lift is to be installed shortly. Work still remains on the relays and, while it is difficult to set a date for completion, hopefully within the next few months we can say our task of installing the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer is completed.

On January 6, Channel 44's *PM Magazine* presented the "Tampa Theatre Story," including the Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, which featured members of our work crew and the console. Even though coverage was short we feel the publicity was beneficial.

New members we would like to welcome are Jim and Janis Brennan, formerly of Connecticut Valley, and Robert and Michelle Rusczyk from the Chicago chapter. We were also honored to have at our meeting Tam-



The Tampa Theatre, home of the 3/12 Wurlitzer being installed.

(John Torell Photo)

pa Theatre Director Vernita Batchelder who has been most cooperative in our efforts to have the organ installed.

SANDRA SHOOK

### CENTRAL INDIANA

On December 13, Central Indiana Chapter held its meeting at the Hedback Theatre with 102 members and guests attending. This theatre is the home of Footlite Musicals, a local theatre group, and also of the Page organ which is almost always available for use by Chapter organists. This organ has been extensively renovated and rebuilt in the past year and, while not completely finished, gives a great sound. It is a two-manual, formerly six- to seven-rank organ being enlarged to 10 or 11 ranks. When the mechanical work is completed the tuning will be done by Lyn Larsen. John Ferguson of the Paramount Pizza Parlor gave the program following a trip through the organ.

Some ATOS members play the organ preceding performances of the Footlite Musical shows. Other spots for our organists are the annual Christmas events at the Indianapolis Zoo.

Dick Harold, a member organist, presented a concert on the Manual High School organ January 17. The proceeds from this concert are to be applied to the maintenance of the Manual organ which is also available for use by Chapter organists.

The Footlite Musical show, *Fiorello*, started January 22 to run for three weekends, and our members will perform on the organ prior to each show. This means a total of nine concerts of excellent music.

There were some pretty fancy shenanigans at the Paramount Music Palace on New Year's Eve. Guest artists Tom and Mimi Hazleton along with house organists Bill Vlasak and Donna Parker, and John Ferguson played the Mighty Wurlitzer. There was food and dancing and music! music! MARY LOU HARRELL

### CENTRAL OHIO

The COTOS Christmas party/meeting was scuttled by bad weather and an ailing instrument. The chapter's Wurlitzer at Worthington High School was suffering from an acute case of ciphers and power supply failure. Thanks to the ministrations of the organ crew the patient is re-

covering nicely with hopes of a meeting at the high school in the spring.

Our January meeting was a rousing success when Graves' Piano and Organ in Columbus opened their doors on January 23 for about 35 COTOS members and guests. The evening's entertainment, provided by Chuck Yannerella and John Riddell, included a variety of Baldwin organs and numerous styles of music. The closing medley of the "Battle Hymn of The Republic" and "Dixie," played in duet on the Cinema III and the chapel organ, gave the open console session a rousing send-off.

The center of attention at the end of the business meeting was the recently purchased brass Saxophone "G" pipe for the chapter Wurlitzer. The report on the Wurlitzer console from Bob Shaw revealed that the cancerous Perflex is still confounding the progress of restoring the instrument. The console is now completely torn apart to replace the stop rail pneumatics.

BOB AND PATTI  
CLARK

### CHICAGO AREA

CATOE's show on February 28 at the Chicago Theatre is the big happening for us this spring. This show will feature Mary Pickford in the silent, *My Best Girl*, with Buddy Rogers also live on stage. Dennis James will accompany the movie. Mayor Jane Byrne has declared the day "Theatre Organ Day," and has sent us a letter of commendation for our assistance in promoting the Downtown Loop. It is encouraging to be recognized by the city's executive office. Yes, we are proud.

City Hall has a promotional for the downtown area to take place February 11-15 entitled "Chicago Alive," and will have many attractions in the area's theatres with well-known people taking part, Victor Borge, Bob Hope, and CATOE! We will present two old-time movie shows with silent films, organ music and sing-alongs. Bob Chaney is the organist for these shows. For the evening attractions CATOE will supply five organists who will perform at intermissions and before and after the shows. So CATOE is in the act!

We had an exhilarating social January 16 at Sally's Stage II in Lombard. In spite of the arctic weather 74 "Eskimos" appeared to be greeted with on-the-house coffee by the

Bortz brothers, owners of Sally's. The organ was in good shape as was Bill Tandy, our soloist. Bill gave forth with an excellent and varied program which included some Jesse Crawford stylings.

Orchestra Hall's new Moller was dedicated December 7 to a full house. It was a classical program and those attending were greatly impressed with the organ installation.

We are having a special social at the now-defunct Maine North High School on February 11 with Bob Roppolo at the console. Bob performs at his "19th Hole" Lounge in Lyons. He has a lively style and a personable presentation which make his lounge a successful entertainment spot. Lucky for us he is a local member.

This is CATOE's 20th Anniversary and we plan to have nostalgic episodes in each *Vox* issue this year. There is a lot of organ history to share.

We have completed plans for a show at Mundelein College Auditorium on May 2 at 2:30 p.m. Our organist will be Dwight Beecham. He is new to many of us and we are eager to hear this highly-recommended musician.

Cheer up. Soon the buds will appear and the swell shades will be swinging again in the warm spring air.

ALMER BROSTROM

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our October meeting was held at the Thomaston Opera House which houses our Marr & Colton 3/15. It is to these October gatherings that we extend a special invitation to our neighboring chapters who always bring many talented performers. Following open console our concert artist, Robert Maidof, was introduced. Bob, who has played for us before, has also performed at Radio City Music Hall. Some good motion picture music and a bit of Scott Joplin preceded Grieg's "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen," arranged for the organ by the artist.

On October 17 and 18 the same Marr & Colton spoke to the tunes of Bill Thompson. Bill is noted for his good programming, excellent arrangements and skillful playing. His program included both popular and classical numbers which he arranged for the organ and which were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Our November meeting took place in Plymouth at the home of Genevieve Roberg where there is a fine pipe organ built by her husband, Jack, before his death in 1976. Open console, fresh doughnuts and cider, and socializing filled the afternoon. Guest artist for the evening was Raymond Corey, an organist with both theatre and church credentials which were clearly evident during his program, which included popular melodies and Bach's "Saviour of The Nations, Come." Our sincere thanks to Gen Roberg for her warm hospitality.

Concerts at the Thomaston Opera House on December 4, 5, 6 were by Lyn Larsen and seven instrumentalists from the Hartt School in Hartford: Sally Walstrum, harp; Michael McNerny, tympani; Keith Berry, Jon Noyes, and Dominic Talaotta, trumpets; and Bob Casola and Mike Rodney, trombones. The program was designed to be appropriate for the season and included solo numbers by Lyn in the first half with Christmas music by the entire ensemble for the second part. All eight musicians received unrestrained applause from a most appreciative audience.

On December 13 we had our annual Christmas party at Dileo's Grove in Torrington. Socializing and dinner were followed by dancing to the music of Bob Logan at the Conn organ. A great time was had by all.

Coming attractions at the Thomaston Opera House are Walt Strony on March 27, 28, and Jonas Nordwall on May 22, 23. Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, CT 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

#### DAIRYLAND

DTOS has been successful in its bid to hold concerts at the Riverside Theatre in downtown Milwaukee and our 1981 spring and fall concerts were held there, with another scheduled for April. The Riverside was badly in need of painting and relamping. Now the theatre is beginning to regain its former loveliness. The main lobby glistens with new paint, and much of the original decorative plaster work has been uncovered and restored. When we

started, none of the chandeliers had working bulbs. About 1000 bulbs later we had made a dent in the relamping, so you could see your hand in front of your face in the auditorium. The organ, a 3/13 Wurlitzer, needed an overhaul and a small group of dedicated people put in many all-night sessions on Fridays and Saturdays to get the job done. The experience of Bill Hanson made our job much easier.

The spring concert featured Walt Strony and the Menoharmonee Chorus plus the Happiness Emporium, two barbershop groups. The show, "Down by the Riverside," featured a mixture of organ music and barbershop singing.

The fall concert featured Dennis James, the North Water Street Tavern Band, and Ron Fable, Houdini look-alike. Dennis James accompanied the silent classic, *Safety Last*, starring Harold Lloyd.

Unfortunately, the Riverside closed its doors as a regular movie house in October, 1981. Although this gave us the advantage of working at the theatre almost any time we wanted, it clouds the future of the theatre; however, DTOS plans to use the theatre as long as it is available.

Our Christmas concert at the Avalon featured Father Jim Miller, whose show was a tremendous success. He did a fine job on the Laurel and Hardy film, *Big Business*, and his humor came across igniting the

audience with laughter. There was also a Christmas party and reception for members only at the Riverside following the concert.

DTOS furnished help and an organist for other events at the Riverside, such as a children's Christmas program and a free lunch-time Christmas concert.

The December meeting was held at Atonement Lutheran Church in Racine followed by a lovely program by Gary McWithey on the church's mostly Barton.

February will see the long-awaited dedication concert of the McNeill Memorial Wurlitzer in the Racine Theatre Guild. Unfortunately, Mr. Lowell McNeill, who donated the organ, passed away before he was able to hear the instrument in its new home, but DTOS and the city of Racine will gratefully remember him for this fine theatre pipe organ.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL  
CARRIE NELSON

#### EASTERN MASS.

Those attending our November 29 Babson meeting were pleasantly surprised to step into the Richard Knight Auditorium transformed into a sidewalk cafe with white cloth-covered tables, netting draped from the balcony, plants, and potted palms in the lobby all contributing to a festive setting. In this friendly atmosphere President Bill Carpenter quickly disposed of business, but not

## IT'S READY

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before announcing that Hector Olivera will again play for EMCATOS at our spring concerts on May 29-30. Al Winslow read his treasurer's report and then tendered his resignation effective at year's end. The club's appreciation for his efforts was shown by enthusiastic applause.

The evening's artist, Dick Hashim, was introduced by Tim Bjareby. Mr. Hashim is well known in the Boston area for his organ playing and teaching. A lively "Alexander's Ragtime Band" opened his program followed by a good mix of light pops and he ended with "God Bless America." Some tunes were quiet, some lively, and they utilized most of the Wurlitzer's resources. The long parade at open console led off with Bill Forbush playing an unexpected "Happy Birthday" to President Carpenter.

At our day-after-Christmas meeting, Bill again presided with Secretary Parson and Treasurer Winslow each reading their final reports. The program chairman then explained that our guest artist, Milt Kimel, was unavoidably absent and that our pinch-hitting organist was club member Mark Renwick. No stranger to our instrument, Mark turned in a tasteful, colorful program from his fast-moving opener to his final appropriate "White Christmas." His delighted audience required an encore and Mark obliged with one of his favorites, "Swanee."

Two of our ex-theatre organist members, Al Winslow and Len Winter, entertained during open console. Another magnet was the lobby with tables gaily decorated and filled with homemade sandwiches and pastries. This last meeting of the year was particularly rewarding because our revitalized Wurlitzer was in great voice, our taste buds were titillated and our mood one of fine sociability.

Our first winter concert on January 9 by Clark Wilson from Pipe Organ Pizza in Milwaukee, was a big success despite snow and slippery roads. A gifted musician, Clark felt right a home in this setting. He opened his program with an interesting "Deadwood Stage," and highlighted it with "Rondo in G" played with unusual cross-legged pedaling. Clark brought several slides for a sing-along, some with humorous parodies, and his audience pulled out all stops in response. Wilson also accompanied a Mack Sennett Keystone comedy with Barney Oldfield called *Race for A Life*. A rousing "Granada" made a fine encore to an evening with the Wurlitzer long to be remembered. STANLEY C. GARNISS

### LAND O'LAKES

Following a memorable concert by Tom Hazleton at the Powderhorn Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis on August 18, another event was sponsored by the LOL Chapter; this was a concert at the Cedarhurst Mansion in Cottage Grove where Claude Newman played nostalgic selections on "Goldie," the Mighty Wurlitzer, and recalled some of his boyhood experiences. We were also thrilled to listen to Chuck Beasley and his eighteen-piece band playing some unforgettable tunes dating back to the '30s and '40s.

Through the efforts of one of our members, Dwight Haberman, our membership was treated to a concert by Maureen Dudley and Carl Eilers playing the largest known Kimball in the United States, the one in the Minneapolis Auditorium.

Our annual election meeting was held November 15 at Hafner's Restaurant in St. Paul with entertainment by Harvey Gustafson, who demonstrated his versatility on a two-manual digital Allen. Barbara

Danielson from Schmitt Music Centers invited us to a special concert by Hector Olivera on December 2 at Schmitt's Auditorium in Minneapolis. What a wonderful treat to hear this amazing artist.

No Christmas season is complete without our beloved Ramona Gerhard Sutton who played for us at Cedarhurst on December 20. She certainly set the stage for a joyous musical holiday and we thoroughly enjoyed her beautiful arrangements, dramatic style and whimsical anecdotes. VERNA MAE WILSON

### LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

With his characteristic verve, dexterity and interpretation, Lyn Larsen provided a truly memorable introduction to our Chapter concert series at the Granada Harrow, Northwest of London, in October 1981, just as he did in our inaugural concert at the Gaumont State Kilburn in May 1977. The only difference was in his application to the much smaller, yet powerful and distinctive Granada Wurlitzer 3/8. However, the combination of his superb stylings and repertoire, and the excellent condition of the 43-year-old instrument after extensive work by Chapter members, resulted in an enchanted audience and a wholly enjoyable musical experience.

In a carefully structured programme, ranging from a "low-down" rendering of "St. Louis Blues," to a most thrilling "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," a meticulous trio of Chopin favourites, and a superb "Dance of the Hours," Lyn's performance exemplified precisely what we regard the particular objective of our Chapter to be — to bring the best of the trans-Atlantic dimension to the established British theatre organ enthusiasts fraternity. Thanks a mil-



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lion, Lyn. Come back soon.

Emulated in various parts of the UK, and creating considerable interest in the USA, our "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" Competition was also presented at the Granada Harrow for the first time in November 1981. The fourth event in this highly-successful and popular series, this well-patronized event attracted eleven finalists ranging from 12 to 16 years of age, from various parts of the country.

With a dazzling performance of that classic keyboard finger-buster "Dizzy Fingers," this year's title was clinched and the inscribed silver "Chain of Office" won by 14-year-old Rodney Pooley of Welling, Kent, with 15-year-old Corrine Jane McClean of Droylsden, Manchester, in second place, and last year's runner-up Lloyd Maidment of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, winning third place.

The impressive range of talent exhibited by all the competitors resulted in a tough but enjoyable task for the Adjudicating Team. Under the Chairmanship of John Norris (Principal of the Southern Music Training Centre at Bromley in Kent), this included Nigel Ogden, the popular Northern organ star and well-known presenter of the famed BBC Radio programme *The Organist Entertains*, widely-accomplished and enthusiastic Alec Leader, and Frank Fowler, well-known head of the Hill, Norman and Beard organ-building company (who earlier made the famous Christie theatre organs).

A particularly welcome Stateside guest in our audience was Rolly Miller of Salem, Oregon, to whom we have been exceptionally grateful for his generous contribution to the prize rewards to our competitors.

This very happy and satisfying day was even further significant for our Chapter. This was because (apart

only from the time zone separations involved) we also had Pauline Dixon, our first competition winner, playing in concert at the Hinsdale Theatre in Illinois, and our Vice Chairman Len Rawle appearing in concert in Perth, Australia, all on the same day.

Building on the undoubted success of the Competition so far, our first in-theatre concert in 1982 is entitled "Winners All" and will feature our first four winners: Pauline Dixon, 1978-79; Stephen Vincent, 1979-80; Michael Wooldridge, 1980-81; and Rodney Pooley, 1981-82. This is also being promoted at the Granada Harrow.

Each having a distinctive style and making impressive progress, this promises to be an exceptionally enjoyable musical occasion. We therefore make it a top priority to support these worthy young people being fostered by our Chapter for the future of the theatre organ enthusiasts movement.

As well as her busy concert and teaching schedule at home, Pauline Dixon made three concert tours in the USA in 1981 and will soon be returning again.

Also visiting the USA shortly, Stephen Vincent especially caught the imagination of the 300 American visitors to this country in July 1980 with his outstanding performance at the Granada Harrow Wurlitzer during the ATOS Silver Anniversary Convention held in the UK at that time. Stephen is now busy teaching and demonstrating Baldwin electronic organs for a large organ store in Lewisham in Southeast London.

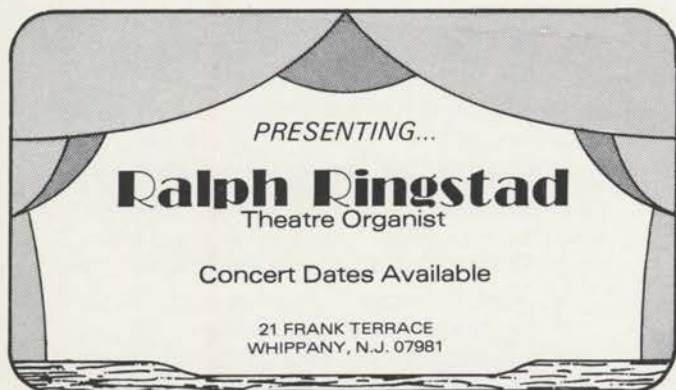
Trained by the well-known and much-loved veteran theatre organist Bobby Pagan from Brighton, Michael Wooldridge already has numerous public and enthusiast club concert performances to his credit,

notably at the Granada Kingston Wurlitzer, and is soon to play in concert at the famous Compton dual-purpose organ at the Guildhall Southampton.

Newest member of this fine quartet, 14-year-old Rodney Pooley is already well-remembered for his sparkling performance before the Competition audience at the Granada Harrow.

In addition to these four outright winners, the Chapter is also particularly pleased that several other competitors in the four events to date have recently achieved notable success. Nicholas Martin is now a very popular member of the famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom organ team. Janet Dowsett has joined the British demonstrating team of Yamaha Organs, and has given a superb recital at the Compton theatre organ at Royal Windsor. Competition runner-up in the past two years, Lloyd Maidment is teaching and appearing weekly in public performance at the Compton theatre organ in the Regal Cinema Henley-on-Thames. Karen Yeomans is in popular demand in the Midlands area with her bright and accomplished style. These and numerous other youngsters identified by our Chapter are also frequently in our concert audiences.

The Granada Harrow was opened on October 25, 1937, with Harry Farmer (today resident in Canada) at the Wurlitzer console. Jessie Matthews and Sonny Hale were featured in the opening film *The Show Goes On*. Through the years all the famous Granada organists visited the theatre and played the organ, Opus 2216. Its chambers are on the right side of the auditorium, with the eight ranks comprising Diaphonic Diapason, Tuba, Tibia Clausa, English Horn, Gamba, Gamba Celeste,

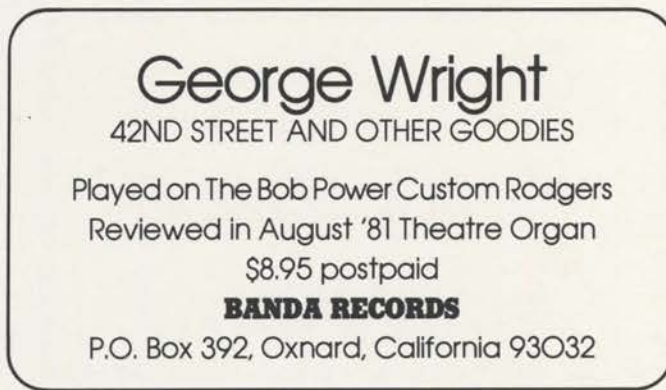


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Our monthly Club Nights held at "Wurlitzer Lodge," the ever-hospitable home of Edith and Les Rawle at Northolt, Middlesex, continue to be as enjoyable as they are varied. Recent guests have included Paul and Hazel Kirner (owners of a fine Compton organ in their native Leicestershire), diminutive Joyce Aldred (popular resident at the Davenport, Stockport Compton, and with her husband David, owners of two Comptons in preservation), and Michael Wooldridge at the completion of his year of office. An exciting guest list for 1982 is already nearly complete, following our Annual General Meeting in January.

Our next main event is to be a "Weekend Special" on April 23/24/25, 1982 (Friday evening/Saturday/Sunday), to celebrate the Chapter's fifth birthday and taking in notable London and South coast venues with Walt Strony as a principal guest. Details have already been circulated direct to all Chapter Chairmen.

## LOS ANGELES

November brought us a change of pace, Rosemary Bailey. She is an electric jazz-style organist with considerable classical technique. Truly different.

*Showtime 1924* at the San Gabriel Wurlitzer had "Mr. Theatre Organ," Gaylord Carter, an artist we all admire, in shows on December 11, 12. These were three-part shows including five acts of vaudeville, a sing-along and a silent film plus great music for the Christmas season.

We wrapped up the year with our Christmas party at the Bell Friends Church. Our artist for this program was Jay Rosenthal at the 2/9 Wurlitzer with reflections of Buddy Cole and several Christmas selections.



Jack Moelman announcing number to be played on the Universal Player Piano.

Then Santa arrived for some jingling holiday music and a sing-along. Santa's magic was by Dave Parks of Orange County Organ Society. Open console followed.

Sunday, January 17 at San Gabriel "Mr. RKO," Rex Koury, was our organist. He opened by telling us that he had played the San Gabriel Wurlitzer when it was in the Albee Theatre in Brooklyn, New York. Rex's program was a variety of well-presented selections ranging from a "Sugar Babies" medley to Victor Young's "My Foolish Heart."

A call to (213) 792-7084 will give our 24-hour concert calendar information and referral numbers.

ROBERT DAVID JACKSON

## MAGNOLIA

Mississippi now has its second in-theatre installation! The Hattiesburg Saenger Center's 3/8 Robert-Morton was presented in a public concert December 26 for the first time in over forty years. Lt. Col. Jack Moelman, USAF, presented the instrument to an enthusiastic standing room only

crowd of approximately 1100 people in the newly-renovated Saenger Theatre.

Jack chose a varied program of music, and Mark Smith, a former member of the Keesler AFB Chorus, sang "O Holy Night." The second half of the show consisted of a sing-along with slides and two silent movies, *Pie Fight of The Century* and *Soup to Nuts*, both starring Laurel and Hardy. The young people in the audience furnished the laughter that had not been heard in the theatre in a long time. "Bless This House" was so moving that the audience stood in ovation long before the song ended. In closing, Jack presented his "Tribute to America," a collection of patriotic songs and film.

The city of Hattiesburg and the people involved in this project are to be commended, Mayor Bobby Chain, Web Heidleberg, David Duke, and most of all, Bob McRaney Sr. who was responsible for the Robert-Morton being returned to its original home.

*Donna Parker*

Artists Management

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Jack Moelman spent a busy two weeks in Mississippi. First he journeyed to Laurel to play a Robert-Morton home installation, then he was guest of honor at the December meeting of the Magnolia Chapter at the home of Sam and Doris Feltenstein where he presented an informal concert on Sam's Lowrey. It was then organ/piano duet time with Jack at Sam's newly acquired Universal Player and Frank at the organ. Then newcomer Bill Pippen took over the piano and Jack moved to the organ. Everyone enjoyed these impromptu duets.

New Year's Eve a fairly large crowd gathered at the home of Frank and Gene Evans in Meridian. Adam Jensen, Clyde Lummus, Frank and Jack kept Frank's Hammond X-66 going into 1982. There was plenty of food and all diets were put on hold for the evening.

The Temple Theatre's Robert-Morton in Meridian has been silent since June 1980 because of water damage. The cause of the problem has been corrected but no work has been done on the organ because the crew that takes care of the Robert-Morton is the same one that rebuilt and installed the Hattiesburg instrument and they have not had time to work on the Temple organ. Our efforts will now turn to getting that Robert-Morton playing again in 1982.

TOMMY DARSEY

## MOTOR CITY

John Steele did a magnificent job as the artist for our Christmas show at the Redford Theatre in December, which also featured excerpts from the *Nutcracker Suite* performed by the Fairlane Ballet Company accompanied by John at the Redford's 3/10 Barton. But things hadn't been planned quite that way.



The Fairlane Ballet Company performed excerpts from the *Nutcracker Suite* for the Christmas show at the Redford Theatre. (Ray Van Steenkiste Photo)

The organist was to have been Tom Gnaster, who was taken ill just two days before his scheduled appearance. Through the generosity of Gary Montgomery, of Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes, John Steele was able to step in at the last minute, leaving the pizza parlor with one staff organist for the evening. John's



He came to the rescue. With only two days notice, John Steele filled in for the indisposed artist for Motor City's Christmas show at the Redford.

(Ray Van Steenkiste Photo)

efforts were rewarded by an enthusiastic response from the appreciative audience.

Our Christmas party was held at the Redford Theatre on Saturday evening, December 19. Chaired by Janice Fields, over 100 people attended the annual event, which featured Evelyn Markey and Lou Behm at the Barton organ, Ethel O'Leary at the grand piano and Loraine Robinson on accordion. Fred Page (as Santa Claus) led a sing-along and Bob Mills was master of ceremonies.

On Sunday, January 3, chapter members were invited to a wine and cheese Christmas party presented by the American Guild of Organists at the Redford Theatre, which featured Searle Wright at the 3/10 Barton.

Don Haller played winter songs and traditional carols for the First Sunday program at the Punch and Judy Theatre in December. Appearing for the first time at the Punch and Judy's 2/6 Wurlitzer as the artist for our January First Sunday event was John Steele.

"Home for the Holidays" was the theme of the Second Sunday concert

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John Steele played the 2/6 Punch and Judy Wurlitzer for Motor City's First Sunday program in January. (Bob Becker Photo)

at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, and featured Rupert Otto, Newton Bates and Henry Aldridge at the Barton organ. John Lauter performed at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton for those who braved the cold to attend his Second Sunday program in January.

Our December Fourth Sunday get-together at the Royal Oak Theatre brought Lou Behm to the console of the 3/16 Barton. Gregg Smith appeared in January as the Fourth Sunday organist at the Royal Oak Barton.

Register now for the 27th Annual ATOS Meeting and Convention in Detroit, July 4-10. Complete information is in this issue.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NOR-CAL

Nor-Cal Theatre Organ Society held its first meeting of the new year Sunday, January 17, at San Francisco's Avenue Theatre. New Chairman Rudy Frey had some words of welcome before Program Chairman Ray Taylor introduced Jim Riggs, our concert artist.

Riggs and Avenue manager Geoff Hansen planned a very special program for the afternoon. The first Wurlitzer Jim heard was Mrs. Aura Edwards' 3/19 in Lafayette, and he has been getting a big kick out of them ever since. He plays a Friday night concert at the Avenue's 3/15 Wurlitzer about once a month, before the silent films are accompanied by Bob Vaughn. The organ was originally installed in the State Lake Theatre in Chicago.

Riggs kicked off 1982 with a peppy piece "Fun to be Fooled," followed by a quasi-Sidney Torch arrangement of "You're a Sweetheart." His "Moonlight in Vermont" was remarkable for its chord changes and harmonies. He accompanied a sing-along which used some rare glass slide positives from the collection of Steve Levin. The pièce de résistance was a duet, "Turn on the Heat," with Jim Roseveare at the grand piano.

During intermission there was a wine-tasting party in the lobby, with wines from the cellars of Johnson's Alexander Valley Winery in Healdsburg. There were also hors d'oeuvres served.

Following intermission we saw a cartoon from the thirties, *Bosko's Picture Show*, a satire on organs with the "Mighty Fertilizer" and Bosko at the console; one of the stops on the organ was a chain pull with toilet flush. It was a real rib-tickler.

The second half of the musical program Jim Riggs played his "Mickey Spillane" arrangement of "Blue Moon" with some way-out registrations and tone colorings. He dedicated "You Started Me Dreaming" to Aura Edwards, who is an interpreter of dreams as well as an accomplished organist.

Roseveare returned to the keyboard for a second duet, "Zing Went



Nor-Cal's two Jims, Roseveare, left, and Riggs, right, before January 17 concert at the Avenue Theatre, San Francisco.

the Strings of My Heart." The chimes accented the first note of the phrases while the piano played the melody the first time around; the organ played the lead and the piano played embellishments on the second chorus; finally the piano played the lead with some fancy keyboard cross-overs. It was obvious that the two Jims had put a lot of work into the arrangement.

Riggs' final piece on the program was "Wishing," and the printed program read "... you a Happy and Prosperous 1982." The audience wouldn't let Riggs get away without an encore, and he played the definitive Sidney Torch tune "Hot Dog," which was note perfect. It was a fun meeting all the way around and a delight to hear an organ in a theatre. We hope we'll have the two Jims back again soon.

ED MULLINS

## OREGON

The last time our chapter heard the Kimball theatre pipe organ at the Benson High School was in May of 1978. It has since been enlarged to a 3/24 and the chambers modified to



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Chairman Joe Gray losing his head over ATOS! Oregon Chapter member Roy Fritz and his wife, Janet, put on a fine show of magic at the Christmas dinner. Fortunately, Joe kept his head in this situation. (Photo by Claude V. Neuffer)



Members of the Pikes Peak Area Theatre Organ Society at the Denver Paramount. Front row: Bob Boyer, John Grunow, Mike Gregorich, Don Wick, Martin Meier, Lee Destefan. Back row: Bob Grunow, Karen Weesner, Jack Hall, Maryann Grunow, Stan Destefan. (David Weesner Photo)

permit better sound egress. Also, the piano has been moved out of chamber and located down near the console where it can now be clearly heard. The overall sound is magnificent with plenty of pedal to fill the large and reverberant auditorium.

For our reunion with this instrument on November 24 we scheduled none other than Mr. Flicker Fingers himself, Gaylord Carter. A heavy windstorm had caused extensive power failures, including Benson, and it was only within a few hours of concert time that electricity was restored and we knew we would not have to cancel.

Gaylord's program alternated between brilliant solo numbers and music to early comedies, some very rare. He is as great a musician and showman as ever and it is easy to see why he is regarded as the master of silent film accompaniment. Our thanks to the Benson High organ maintenance staff and to Gaylord for such a fine evening.

Our Christmas party was held at the Steamers restaurant in Portland and, in addition to fine music and socializing, we learned of some special talents of two of our members. Each event of the program was called by bugle sounds, blown by Garry Zenk, with appropriate melodies, and after dinner Roy and Janet Fritz staged a truly mystifying magic show. This was a smooth professional performance with many elaborate props and competent assistance by Janet. Fortunately, Roy did not make the large Allen theatre organ disappear. All of this was followed by open console led off by Paul Quarino and Jack Coxon of Organ Grinder fame and continued by those brave enough to follow.

Our chapter is grateful to Roy and Janet Fritz for this fine show. We also wish to thank Garry Zenk whose bugle was so effective in the large dining hall, and Day Music Company for the Allen organ.

## PIKES PEAK

The Pikes Peak Area Theatre Organ Society is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year and is planning a large ensemble of activities and concerts for 1982. Several concerts will be for the general public and will include Roy Hanson on March 12, Father Jim Miller on May 9, and Bob



BUD ABEL

Jack Hall at the Denver Paramount's 4/20 Wurlitzer.

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Ralston on October 15. These concerts will be held at the Colorado Springs City Auditorium on the 3/8 Wurlitzer our chapter restored from the old Chief Theatre here in town. At our February meeting at Penrose Hospital we will have Ray Young playing for us. In case you are ever in our neighborhood, our meetings are held the first Sunday of even-numbered months.

On January 30 we visited the Denver Paramount 4/20 Wurlitzer and the Aladdin Theatre 2/15 Wicks in Denver. Everyone had a great time and, as usual, the Rocky Mountain Chapter proved to be excellent hosts.

Our Chapter has just begun building organ chambers to house a club organ in the auditorium at the Mount St. Francis Convent. The auditorium was built at the turn of the century and has great acoustics, 24-hour access, and a beautiful setting in a quiet valley next to the mountains north of Colorado Springs. The sisters have been enthusiastic about our club's activities and are anxious to have us install an organ in their auditorium, so we will all be quite busy working on that project this year.

Many of our members are also working on their own theatre organ projects. Stan Destefan has amazed us all by building his own three-manual Wurlitzer console replica; he even built the keyboards and pedals and plans to build his own chests, regulators and relays. Bob Boyer has pipes playing now; he has eight ranks of his Kimball playing in one chamber and is starting on his second chamber and percussions. Don Wick owns a 2/8 Wurlitzer and is working out the best way to install this organ in his new home. Martin Meier is gathering miscellaneous parts for his 4/20 Barton theatre organ while he is building his own house.

Fred Wiser, who is assembling a 26-rank Wurlitzer at his farm near Henderson, had a fire on January 31; it is believed to have been started by a cat that brushed up against an electric stove turning on a burner with a pot left on it. The organ suffered heavy smoke and heat damage but only a few parts were totally destroyed in the blaze.

We are all looking forward to a productive and exciting year and we welcome any of you who might be taking a Colorado vacation this year

to drop in on us for a visit.

MARTIN G. MEIER

## PUGET SOUND

In November Walt Strony played for us at the Seattle Paramount Theatre with some concertizing before accompanying the silent film *Phantom of The Opera*. Walt is well known, having performed for several ATOS conventions; he is presently the staff organist at the Organ Stop in Phoenix and has been a staff organist at the Pipe Organ Pizza in Milwaukee. This event was sponsored by our Chapter and proceeds went to a fund to restore and enhance the Paramount organ.

Also in November the Pizza and Pipes in Seattle was the scene of the "Battle of The Organs," when Dick Schrum on the 3/17 Wurlitzer and Robert McRae on a Lowrey MX-1 played solo numbers and then joined in a grand finale. Very entertaining and a different medium than we usually experience.

Some of our members who live across Puget Sound are active in the Bremerton Pipe Organ Society which has a ten-rank instrument of



Walt Strony at the console of the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer. (Ken Gallwey Photo)



New officers and directors, Puget Sound Chapter. L to R, Bernice Campbell, Thelma Barclay, Mary Lou Becvar, Marilyn Schrum, Diane Whipple, June Shoemaker, Pearl Nelson. Seated, Jack Becvar, Mark Cockriel.

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miscellaneous Wurlitzer, Morton, and Kimball pipes. They work closely with the Bremerton Community Theatre and recently staged a production of *Count Dracula*, with the organ furnishing background music and sound effects. Joann Gillis, their organist, put together the music from old movie mood-music scores and classical selections. Along with screams in the dark, bats flying overhead, smoke, fog and gunpowder flashes, it was quite a work of art.

Our Christmas potluck was a huge success. The committee worked hard on the unusual decorations and no one went hungry or thirsty. It was a big day for us. Thelma Barclay thanked everyone for their help and faith in our Chapter and members who years ago purchased bonds to help buy this Chapter's organ. So this day became "Mortgage Burning Day," the day for which we had been waiting. Russ Evans of the original inspired group gave an interesting history of the organ, and members who had worked hard to bring it to this moment were introduced. It is now all ours! Dick Schrum expressed his gratitude for the help and work that members did for the National Convention. It was working together that accomplished all we had hoped. To entertain us following the ceremony, George Francis, a member from Vancouver, B.C., sang to recorded music of old-time dance bands and pipe organ which was something unusual and most enjoyable. Open console then prevailed with eight-year-old Travis Wise first up on the bench. We also enjoyed hearing Doris Miller of the Vancouver group. Everyone then enjoyed the dancing that followed with Dick Schrum on the chapter organ, Pete Carrabba on the clarinet and trombone, and Todd Carlson on drums. It was indeed a very good

year-ending, with more good music and events to come in 1982.

THELMA R. SMITH

### RED RIVER

On an extremely cold and windy Saturday morning, December 19, a group of us banded together for a moving party. Our second chapter organ, a 2/6, was finally ready to be moved to its home in Weld Hall on the campus of Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minnesota. We managed to fit everything neatly into one van load. There were two flights of stairs to be negotiated at the audi-



The organ for Weld Hall, all in one van load. (S. Carlson Photo)



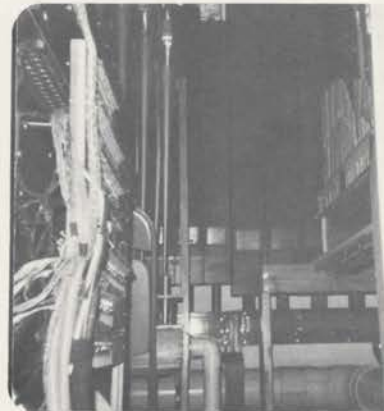
Carrying the console up the stairs, Weld Hall. (S. Carlson Photo)

torium but all went smoothly. Because the chambers were not completed the various parts were placed across seats and in the center aisle. We had done the job in record time, only two hours. The installation began a few days later and the organ was first used on January 12 for a film class. A special premiere is being planned for this spring but the instrument will be getting quite a bit of use before that.

As of this writing we are waiting the arrival of our newly purchased wood Diaphones from New York state. They are to be installed in the Fargo Theatre.



Weld Hall, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota. (S. Carlson Photo)



Relay, Trumpet, Tibia, and Vox — Weld Hall Solo chamber. (S. Carlson Photo)

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Father James Miller, to play the Denver Paramount.



Patti Simon, to be featured with Father Miller in Denver concert.

In January, chapter member Lance Johnson had an exciting week in New York City working on the Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer with head technician Ron Bishop. He also saw their lavish Christmas show.

SONIA CARLSON

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

For you organ enthusiasts who are looking for a reason to come to Denver, here is a good one. Saturday, May 8, Father James Miller of Fenton, Michigan, and Patti Simon of the Organ Grinder will be featured at the twin consoles of the historic Denver Paramount Theatre's 4/20 Wurlitzer.

Father Miller is a Ukrainian Orthodox priest, but don't let the collar mislead you. He leads one of the best Dixieland bands in the country, plays in a pizza restaurant, has played theatre organs for twenty-five years, and was an instant hit at the Seattle Convention last summer.

Patti Simon's extensive training in classical piano and her varied professional experience enable her to handle the Denver Organ Grinder's 4/39 Wurlitzer with ease and conviction. A native of Seattle, Patti has been featured on the major organs in that area, including the 4/30 Wurlitzer in Burien's Pipe Dream Restaurant. She has captivated her Denver audiences and has a large following of devoted fans.

Teaming colorful Fr. Miller with petite Patti Simon promises to provide an evening of exciting music and fun. Why not come early and have lunch or dinner at the Organ Grinder? Stay over Sunday and drive to Colorado Springs where Fr. Miller will play a concert on the 3/8 Wurlitzer in the auditorium of that city at 2 p.m.

For ticket information write: Jay Jehorek, 7432 Dale Court, Westminster, CO 80030, or call Guy Powell, (303) 343-3930. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance.

### ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis Fox Theatre is scheduled to reopen this fall after undergoing a complete facelift. The theatre, closed since 1978, has been purchased by local urban redeveloper Leon Strauss. Included in the restoration plans is the theatre's 4/36 Wurlitzer. Chapter member Marlin Mackley has been hired to restore the organ to its original playing condition. Over the years the organ has suffered from water damage and old age and only about half of it is playable now. The Strauss organization intends to use the 4500-seat Fox for films, opera, dance and, of course, organ concerts.

Once again our annual Christmas party was hosted by Paul and Billie Coates in their home. Members enjoyed the good food and fine entertainment. Jack Jenkins at the Coates' 4/13 hybrid demonstrated the newest addition to the organ, an accordion.

ROY FECHTER



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## SAN DIEGO

The October meeting was held at the home of Coulter and Mildred Cunningham in El Cajon. Following the business meeting it was open console on the combination pipe/electronic organ, eight ranks of pipes added to a Rodgers classic organ. Coulter's piano, trumpet, accordion, and drums also came into play in a lively jam session which lasted the balance of the afternoon.

The December membership meeting was at the California Theatre in San Diego. The business part of the meeting included election and installation of new officers, and was followed by a potluck supper on stage amid elaborate and festive holiday decorations. During supper we were entertained with an informal concert by Galen Pipenberg, a thoroughly competent professional organist who recently moved to the San Diego area. This was followed by open console on the chapter's 2/13, soon to be 3/14, Wurlitzer.

The concert at which our new three-manual console makes its debut will be held on March 6, starring Chris Gorsuch who designed our new multiplex switching system. Also being heard for the first time on our Wurlitzer at the California Theatre will be the 16' rank of 32 open Tibia pipes donated by Bob Cochrane.

DEKE WARNER

## SIERRA

December brings Christmas parties and Sierra Chapter had a great one at the Devtronix factory in Sacramento. In addition to the expected and well-supplied food there were some surprises. Rex Koury delighted everyone with a holiday medley at the Devtronix three-manual pipe sound-alike. Tim Rickman, an employee of Devtronix, entertained with a humorous monologue using a drafting table articulated-arm lamp

as a prop. Also featured was a film of Christmas music made by a local TV station twelve years ago at our members' home installations and featuring "Santa" George Seaver as narrator and artist at one of the instruments.

A big new four-manual Wurlitzer-replica horseshoe console received much attention. It contained 317 stop keys arranged in three and a half rows. This monster is a test bed for the development of a new pipe or electronic organ control system being developed jointly by Devtronix and Dick Wilcox. Keying, stop and combination actions, as well as player functions are all handled by this amazing system using home video cassettes and a VCR as the storage medium. Several Sierra members took turns at the big console then listened to the organ play it all back. Sierra thanks Dick Wilcox and Ray DeVault for the use of the facility and all who contributed to a fine party.

Sierra's organ relocation project is proceeding toward a targeted March completion with more than 27 members regularly chipping in. The chapter's 2/7 Style E that has been at Cal Expo for the last seven years will be a 2/11 two-chamber installation at the Fair Oaks Community Club House. Dale Mendenhall and Dave Moreno have spearheaded an effort that will have the instrument moved, enlarged and rebuilt, including rewiring and re-leathering, all in little more than five months. Member Bob Wright has generously donated a piano with magnetics and pneumatics that will allow it to be played from the Wurlitzer.

February 7 Sierra Chapter met at Arden Pizza & Pipes in Sacramento with various chapter members playing ten- to fifteen-minute cameo concerts on the 4/20 Wurlitzer. Mem-

bers who confidently or nervously or otherwise played were Jim Brown, Fred Dajas, Sue Lang, Herb Dunkley, Dave Moreno, Scott Reiger and Randy Warwick. The owner of Pizza & Pipes made this program work by allowing everyone hours of practice on the big Wurlitzer.

RANDY WARWICK

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Our December meeting was held at the home of Nick and Thelma Debes. This was a joint meeting and Christmas party with the Golden Triangle Organ Club. The Baldwin Cinema console stood in good stead for the Jefferson Theatre's 3/8 Robert-Morton. ATOS members were extended an invitation to attend the AOA February meeting at which there will be a demonstration of the Lowrey MX-1.

January saw us back in the Jefferson Theatre where guest artist Steve Schlesing thrilled us with his virtuosity on the Robert-Morton. Young Steve is already a veteran of the pizza circuit and has played at several pizza parlors in Houston. He said it was a pleasure to play an instrument that has been so lovingly cared for. His program opened with the console-raising *Sound of Music* overture, and finished with a medley of classics which were quite unlike anything Messrs. Bach and Beethoven had in mind when they wrote them. Don't fail to hear this young artist if he should play a concert in your area.

Work continues on the restoration of the Robert-Morton with the re-leathering of the Violin Celeste and all the tremors. We are now ambitiously planning to re-leather several ranks at once under the direction of Floyd Broussard and the technical assistance of Buddy Boyd of Fort Worth. Buddy's knowledge of theatre pipe organs is extensive, as he helped maintain the magnificent organ in

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JACK DOYLE

### WESTERN RESERVE

A number of loyal members were present on November 28 to load a large 26-foot tree onto a flatbed and move it to the Grays' Armory Concert Hall in preparation for the Christmas party. A potluck and open console followed the decorating of the tree and the concert hall.

Our thirteenth annual Christmas party was held on December 5. The Armory had been transformed into a beautiful setting; the tables were set with red tablecloths and the organ console was flanked by white trees twinkling with tiny colorful lights. On top of the console was a choir of dolls. Program Chairman Flo Webster had prepared cheese and crackers for the Happy Hour, and dinner consisted of a buffet of excellent quality.

Our program followed as closely as possible the one presented ten years ago when we first heard our Wurlitzer played. Marge Lentz, WRTOS member and staff organist for the Cleveland Grays, opened with the National Anthem and continued with a medley of nostalgic tunes. Mrs. Lentz was honored by

Cleveland Magazine as "one of the most interesting people in town," and the Cleveland Plain Dealer called her "the busiest volunteer musician in town." The St. Mark Lutheran Church Choir of forty voices, under the direction of Mr. W. Arnholt, sang a collection of carols. Following intermission, slides of our 1971 Christmas party were shown by Denny Richards. Dr. Robert Bray, organist at the Parma South Presbyterian Church and official staff organist at the Masonic Temple, continued the program with variations on the "Adeste Fideles" theme. The finale was Lou Hegybeli playing a Christmas pops concert. Lou has been a church organist for 22 years and is currently the organist at a Mentor church.

On January 3 a group of members assembled to take down the Christmas tree and participate in open console.

JIM SHEPHERD

### WOLVERINE

In December Wolverine members came out in record number to attend our Christmas potluck and business meeting, graciously hosted by members David Voydanoff and Glenn Rank in their Detroit home. The Voydanoff/Rank residence contains a fine 3/6 Wurlitzer and a player

Steinway grand piano. Throughout the afternoon we were entertained by various members taking turns playing the organ and organ/piano duets. This festive occasion gave us a great opportunity to socialize while enjoying good music and food.

Our January meeting was held at the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler in Warren, hosted by owners Henry Hunt and Ken Saliba. The 3/22 Wurlitzer, formerly in the United Artists Theatre in Detroit, is both visually and tonally beautiful. It was installed by Ken Crome and voiced by Lyn Larsen. Lance Luce and Karl Cole, featured artists at Pied Piper, entertained us with a delightful selection of music which appealed to the tastes of organ buffs, being somewhat quieter than much regular pizza fare. Karl introduced us to Miss "Anna Chovy," who came up singing on his shoulder as the organ rose on its lift. While not quite as sexy as Miss Piggy, Miss "Anna Chovy" is certainly quite a gal! Karl took the console down playing "New York, New York," and it rose again with Lance Luce still playing "New York, New York." It was an amazingly smooth transition. This was a most enjoyable program and Pied Piper Pizza Peddler is fortunate to have artists of such fine calibre.

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