



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

BEEHIVE

The Salt Lake City area Beehive Chapter held its first meeting of the year in the nationally famous Organ Loft. Owner Larry Bray graciously offered the Loft's facilities for a Sunday morning brunch on January 31. Chapter Secretary Wayne Russell went right to the heart by way of the stomach by preparing a superb brunch. A brief business meeting was held with Chairman Clarence E. Briggs presiding. He reported on general chapter activities, and that Lowell Boberg would assume responsibility for chapter publicity to ATOS and to other media devoted to theatre organ. Harry Weirauch gave a report on the chapter's greatest undertaking, the restoration of the organ in the Capitol Theatre, now a part of the city and county's Civic Center Complex. He reported that 4697 man hours had been donated by ATOS members to the project up to January 31. He also stated that the project is now in the home stretch with completion only weeks away.

After the meeting, open console was enjoyed with many members playing at the huge console, some for the first time. The chapter expressed great appreciation to Larry Bray for his generosity, to Chairman Briggs for arranging the meeting, and to Secretary Russell for the brunch.

LOWELL J. BOBERG

CEDAR RAPIDS

Spring finds the CRATOS chapter busily involved in a number of activities. We rebounded from a slow start in January when we were hampered by a severe weather cancellation at Kirkwood Community College, site of the chapter's Style E Wurlitzer ballroom installation. Our new members were greeted at an unusual

February social consisting of a Wurlitzer-accompanied slide "voyage" to warmer climates, presented by Kirkwood liaison Mike Vancoura. The program was a warm-up for a videotaped appearance of our fall artist, Ashley Miller. Many members had not seen Ashley's local TV interview, and the replay also served to demonstrate the school's modern video system as a medium for theatre organ.

Our member organists are regular participants in community affairs at two of our local theatres; Howard Burton presents concerts for senior citizen groups at the Garden Theatre in Marion, and George Baldwin plays for many community productions at the Paramount in Cedar Rapids.

Our March social kicked off the season with a guest appearance by Joe Roost at the Cedar Rapids Paramount 3/11 Wurlitzer. A fine musician, hailing from Keokuk, Iowa, Joe's good humor and sprightly pedalwork made this one of our best socials ever. It was also the prelude to CRATOS's charter bus trip to the DeKalb, Illinois, site of the Mightiest Wurlitzer, which took place March 21 with an early morning departure from the Paramount Theatre.

Bus conversation centered around members' expectations for the spring season, the opening of the CRATOS library in the Paramount Theatre, the May 8 appearance of concert

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS

Let us know what's happening in YOUR chapter. Our goal is to make this section as interesting and useful as possible for all of our readers. Here is how YOU can help:

- DO** remember you have an international audience;
pay attention to deadlines—we have to meet them, too;
check the spelling of artists' names;
tell us about theatre organs in your area, public and private;
tell us about theatre restorations in your area;
tell us about your community involvement, new artists, scholarships, promotional programs involving your chapter;
tell us about coming events and how visitors to your area may obtain tickets;
tell us who is playing what organs and where;
include photos whenever possible; and
send your chapter bulletins to the editor—they are very helpful.
- DON'T** include the program each of your artists plays—mention, perhaps, an outstanding arrangement;
include news that is only of interest to your local chapter, or gossip, menus or other trivia.

SEND news, photos and chapter bulletins to:
Editor, THEATRE ORGAN
3448 Cowper Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306

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. Type each photo caption on a separate sheet and attach to the photo.

DEADLINES

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

favorite Hector Olivera at the Cedar Rapids Paramount, and the approaching completion of the CRATOS Barton in the Englert, Iowa, City Theatre.

The miles passed quickly and soon our members arrived at Wurlitzer Hall where the assembled audience was greeted by an amicable and talented Bill Milligan, who ably demonstrated the awesome resources of the instrument. Aware of the CRATOS entourage, he interjected some observations especially for theatre organ buffs. Having played a substantial role in the building of the organ, he was well qualified to showcase such stops as the Cor Anglais and Diapason Celeste. Bill's clever cueing of a Laurel and Hardy silent was a surprise treat in a well-planned variety presentation. Unaccustomed to the spectacle of brass trumpets and saxes, CRATOS members relished the sight one more time before boarding the bus.

After a stop for a delightful smorgasbord dinner, the CRATOS bus rolled into a midwest sunset. Trip organizer Leonard Santon thanked driver Paul Werning and gave the mike to Chairman Al Erickson for announcements. CRATOS' plans include an April meeting at the lush Cedar Rapids Iowa Theatre, home of the beautiful 3/14 Barton boasting a black velvet and rhinestone console. Also in store is a joint meeting with CRATOS and the AGO at the Paramount. CRATOS member Jo Zacheis, also Dean of the River Valley AGO chapter, coordinated this meeting to give AGO members exposure to a fine Wurlitzer and to promote camaraderie in pipes.

As CRATOS members reached their destination under the Paramount marquee, the feeling was that although one adventure had ended, many more had just begun.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Forty members and two guests were present at our February Valentine's Day meeting at Central Music in Clearwater. A progress report was given on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer installation. The theatre was leased for three weeks, so work was not able to be done; however, several percussions were set up, and it was announced that the relays had ar-



Leaving bus upon arrival at Wurlitzer Hall.

(Paul Montague Photo)



On bus enroute to DeKalb with trip coordinator Leonard Santon standing.

(Paul Montague Photo)



Viewing pipes in glass-windowed chamber at Wurlitzer Hall.

(Paul Montague Photo)

rived. The relay committee was then organized to begin work. Following the business meeting, members were treated to a short concert by Dave Ashby, a staff organist at Central Music, who is also the designer and builder of the largest Wurlitzer theatre organ in DeKalb, Illinois. Dave's fine program on the electronic Wurlitzer included pop tunes and a medley from *The Sound of Music*.

In March, we again met at Central Music which is large enough to accommodate our growing membership, and we appreciate being allowed to meet there. The Tampa Theatre installation is progressing nicely; the reservoirs are set, and the rewiring needs to be started in the main chest. Within the next few weeks it will be ready to start setting in pipes. We hope to move the console shortly.

Members were entertained this month by Marlon Scott, another staff organist at Central Music. Marlon's program ranged from "Sentimental Journey," with a train effect, to a variety of big band tunes, after which he switched to the Rodgers 810 and played two classical numbers. He concluded with a few Irish songs and a sing-along, making this a very enjoyable afternoon.

SANDRA SHOOK

CENTRAL INDIANA

A happy Valentine's Day was spent with the Central Indiana Chapter meeting at Zion Evangelical Church of Christ, Indianapolis. Following the business meeting, Dr. Mallory Bransford was in charge of our program which opened with a young organist, Brian Holland, followed by Mary Drake and Linda Clark. All of these organists, who are chapter members, did themselves proud. Dr. Bransford then presented a program which included the hymn played at the royal English wedding.

Another chapter member organist, Dick Harold, performed during the intermission of a student stage production at the Manual High School. This was also a Valentine's Day event.

With Manual High School in mind, the March chapter meeting was held March 22, in the auditorium of the high school. After a short business meeting, we were delighted

with a presentation on the school's Louisville Uniphone by Jonas Nordwall. Mr. Nordwall gave an excellent performance although he was late getting into Indianapolis because his luggage was lost on arrival and he had to file a claim for it. He had never seen or touched the organ before show time, but with all this behind him, he really put on a show. Jonas resides in Portland, Oregon, and plays at the Organ Grinder restaurant there. He was in Indianapo-

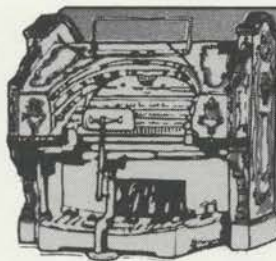
lis to play at the Paramount Music Palace for two nights, March 23 and 24, and graciously played for the Central Indiana Chapter as well.

Jonas opened his program with "Back Home Again in Indiana," which brought a great response from the Hoosier group, and he followed with a variety of selections which were enthusiastically received, especially his closing, "Bridge on the River Kwai." He is a stranger to this part of the country, but I am sure we

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all look forward to his return at any time.

Central Indiana Chapter historians are still in the process of compiling this work. As usual, the group that is working on this is really reaping the benefits of digging into the archives to find the tidbits that will be of interest to the older members who will remember, and the newer members who want to know how it all came about.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO

The February meeting of COTOS was held at the Upper Arlington home of Bob and Betsy Richard. COTOS member Jay Pontius was the featured artist on the Richards' Conn 651 with pipe speakers. Money-making projects which would provide funds for the continuing restoration of the chapter's Wurlitzer at Worthington High School were the main topic of discussion during the business meeting.

March brought the first signs of spring and a flurry of organ activities available to COTOS members. Williams Music of Columbus hosted a program featuring Dennis Monte on March 10, for all organ enthusiasts. The silent movie classic, *Don Juan*, accompanied by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Dennis James at the Ohio Theatre's Robert-Morton theatre organ, was a March 20 presentation of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts as an extra program added to the regular schedule of theatre organ concerts. A personal appearance by Myrna Loy, one of the stars of the picture, was a great thrill after the exciting screening of this famous picture. For the classically minded, the organ dedication at the Broad Street Methodist Church gave another opportunity to hear a great organ played by William P. Haller on March 21.

The March meeting of COTOS found about twenty-five members at the home of Ed and Joann Lougher. The guest performer for the afternoon was COTOS member Larry Smith playing a lovely Studio II Baldwin with Leslie speaker. Larry, who boasts a background of playing with dance bands in the 1940s, was well prepared to present a winning program of popular tunes. The re-

port from the organ crew told of continuing progress on the rebuilding of the combination action and the elimination of another dead note when an undetected clog of dead birds was removed from a pipe. Discussion of encouraging student participation in the organ project and fund-raising were the main topics of business. The organ crew welcomes the help of the newest and youngest crew member, Ollie Williams, Jr., an eight-year-old with small hands that can prove to be very useful in small places where adults can't function easily.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

We had fine concerts by Lew Williams at the Thomaston Opera House on January 30 and 31, our first concert event this year. Lew was with us last year and, having enjoyed his classical and theatre organ music then, we knew we were in for another treat this year and we were not disappointed. The concert was an auspicious first of our 1982 schedule.

February 13, our first chapter meeting of the year took place, most appropriately, at the Thomaston Opera House as the occasion marked the birthday of our twenty-first year. After the first business session, conducted by new Chairman Paul Plainer, Allen Miller gave us an excellent demonstrated talk on organ registration using the Marr & Colton which he and others have spent many hours building, modifying and maintaining.

Following Allen's well-received presentation, the birthday aspect of the occasion was observed with the

help of a giant cake made in the shape of an organ. This painstaking effort was accomplished by members of our group and duly admired, then consumed, by all present.

On March 27 and 28 the Thomaston Opera House welcomed Walt Strony for our second concert event of the year. Walt is an accomplished organist. He entertained us with a carefully-planned program that included some pieces seldom heard on an organ, as well as some readily-recognized numbers. The audience obviously approved of this artist.

Our next concerts at the Thomaston Opera House will be by Jonas Nordwall on May 22 and 23. Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483. All are welcome.

W. F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

On February 21, Mr. John Muri played the dedication concert of the McNeill Memorial Wurlitzer in the Racine Theatre Guild Playhouse. The organ, originally a 2/5, was formerly in the Capitol Theatre in Racine. Mr. Lowell McNeill, then owner of the Capitol, donated the Wurlitzer to the Theatre Guild when his theatre was "twinned." The Theatre Guild was at that time planning a new building, and the design was modified to include the organ. DTOS installed it, adding two more ranks and a solid-state relay. The console was stripped of its white paint and restored to its original wood finish which is more compatible with the theatre decor. DTOS board member Rick Johnson was in



John Muri and Mrs. Lowell McNeill at the dedication of the McNeill Memorial Wurlitzer.

charge of the installation and spent much time and effort on the project aided by other chapter members.

Mr. Muri, who also played the final concert in the Capitol Theatre, was enthusiastically received by a capacity audience. The organ was officially dedicated to the memory of Lowell McNeill, who unfortunately passed away before the project was completed. Mrs. McNeill was present and accepted a brass plaque which will be mounted on the console.

Our March social was held at the Organ Piper Restaurant, with owner Gary Sette at the organ. Members of the Menoharmonee Barbershop Chorus were invited to join us. Several other barbershop quartets added to the musical entertainment. The combination of good music and good food made this one of our most enjoyable socials.

April 25 is the date of our next show, "Down by The Riverside." Co-sponsored by DTOS and the Menoharmonee Barbershop Chorus of Menomonee Falls, the program will feature Rex Koury at the 3/13 Mighty Wurlitzer, and the award-winning quartet, Tin Pan Allies, as well as the chorus. Our last joint concert was very well attended, and we hope to sell out the Riverside Theatre this time.

CARRIE NELSON

EASTERN MASS.

Our first Babson meeting for 1982 was on February 27, one month late, with Ol' Man Winter calling the tune in January. President Bill Carpenter announced that our Fall Concert artist will be Dennis James on October 23 and 24. Program Chairman Tim Bjareby in introducing our guest artist, Bob Wambolt, stated that he began on piano, graduated to organ and regularly plays skating rinks in addition to being organist/choirmaster at Brighton's St. Anthony's Church.

Bob opened with "How Great Thou Art" and closed with "The Paramount News March." In between was a good mix of old standards, waltzes and tango-style numbers. Several of his choir members were also present to add their encouragement. As part of a busy open console session Tim and Dr. Jonathan Kleefield jointly contributed an



Clark Wilson was a recent concert artist at the Eastern Massachusetts Wurlitzer.

amusing and tuneful "Alley Cat" as they nudged each other from the bench, missing ne'er a note. This spontaneous "act" was worth the price of admission by itself!

A month later our "clan" again gathered around our Wurlitzer. Treasurer Dave Marden proposed a group discount policy for public concerts, and an amended version was adopted.

In presenting our evening's artist, Milt Kimmel, Tim remarked that his old friend had a great sense of humor. Milt then stated that music has two parts, sound and silence, and with that both elected the latter and walked out, but returned just as quickly! Milt's console opener was "Roman Guitar" and some fine oldies, showtunes, waltzes and polkas followed. It was an interesting combination of the versatile Kimmel, first on organ, then saxophone, then on the Steinway grand with Tim alternating between organ and piano, mostly in duets. Their concert ended on an energetic Latin note including a head-spinning "Tico Tico" solo by Bjareby on the Wurlitzer.

The ever-popular open console and home-made refreshments shared the evening's final billing of soul and body sustenance. We did not starve!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

GARDEN STATE

A different type of membership meeting for most GTOSers was held on November 28 at the home of George Pasquaye in Wallington.

Within its walls is a 2/9 Wurlitzer with roll-player and phantom third manual. This organ was originally in the Bates Theatre, Attleborough, Massachusetts. George is a professional organ builder currently associated with the Peragallo Organ Company. A registration workshop was given by Ashley Miller, a member of the National Board of Directors and long-time organist at Radio City Music Hall. Topics of discussion included: stops and their usage, the accompaniment, some do's and don'ts, and expression.

On December 6, Larry Ferrari and the Mercer County Chorale were featured along with the 3/16 Moller at the Trenton War Memorial. Larry is a well-known organist on Channel 6, Philadelphia; he opened with the beautiful "Christmas Fantasy," by Leroy Anderson, then the Chorale performed alone and then with Mr. Ferrari. The audience, not to be left out, joined in for a Christmas sing-along.

On December 18, the Garden State Theatre Organ Society unveiled, for the first time in concert, the precious 2/8 Wurlitzer in Westwood's newly restored Pascack Theatre. The featured artist was Dennis James who, after a brief concert, accompanied two silent films, Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*, and the famous *Big Business*, with Laurel and Hardy. As usual, Dennis' accompaniment was excellent. No expense has been spared in the restoration of this theatre and the crew members, headed by Roy Frenzke, have done an excellent job of restoration on the organ which is used for movie intermissions every Friday and Saturday evening.

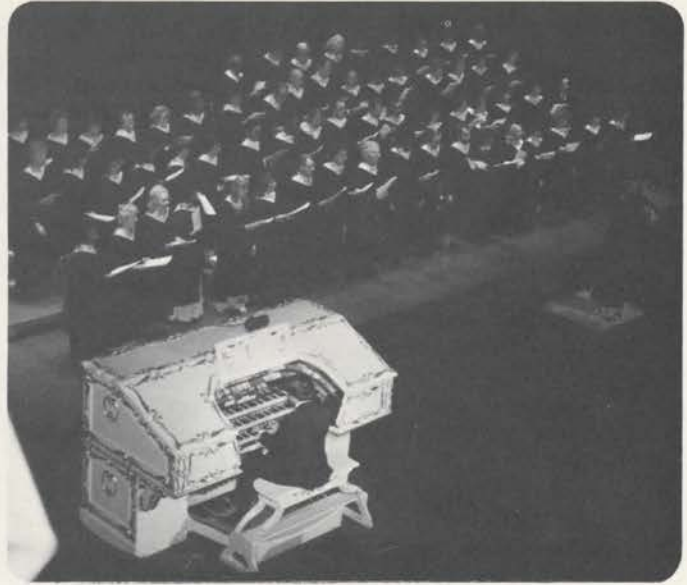
The inauguration of New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean was held January 19, at the Trenton War Memorial. Featured was Robert McDonald at the 3/16 Moller. Mr. McDonald is currently Musical Director at Newark's Sacred Heart Cathedral. The program was aired on Public Broadcasting Stations and included many shots of the artist at the console.

Those in attendance at the Trenton War Memorial on February 14 were in for an extraordinary event when Eddie Weaver took command of the 3/16 Moller. Program chairman Mike Cipolletti introduced Weaver as the "most congenial or-



Eddie Weaver at the 3/16 Moller — Trenton War Memorial.

(Plenkertfoto)



Larry Ferrari and the Mercer County Chorale.

(Reillyfoto)

ganist" that he had ever met, and Eddie had no difficulty sharing that same quality with us. Eddie boasts of having the longest tenure as a theatre organist, having studied with Helen and Jesse Crawford while resident organist at the New Haven Paramount. He is currently engaged at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond. It was a soup-to-nuts type of concert with every conceivable style of music and technique displayed. After a pedal solo, with percussion to pedal, Eddie announced that pedal work is good for his health as it keeps his feet going.

February 27, Lt. Col. Jack Moelmann, USAF, invited GSTOSers for a meeting and open console at his electronic "Wonder House." After a variety of refreshments enjoyed to the music of open console, a business meeting was held. Leonard Lipman announced the nomination, and acceptance by the screening committee, of Jack Moelmann for National Director. Then it was Jack at the console assisted by Rita Rodgers,

Barbara Spitalnick, and Ron Lee Savin, of Friendly Ice Cream commercial fame, at the microphones. Next, Jack displayed his animals and accompanied a comedic assortment of silent films. Then it was more "jamming" until the wee hours.

The Trenton Memorial Concert Series presented Jonas Nordwall at the 3/16 Moller on March 28. It was the first time for Jonas at Trenton, and his dynamic stylings and wide range of musical choices delighted everyone in attendance. Jonas received music degrees from the University of Portland, and is a freelance organ consultant as well as senior staff organist at Portland's Organ Grinder restaurant. After the concert, a very successful potluck supper was held on stage with dinner music on the 3/16 Moller. Jonas joined us for dinner, and it was a treat for the membership to have more time to chat with the artist.

This date will be remembered by Dr. Peter Panos, past Chairman, who was presented with a gleaming

pipe trophy for his dedication to GSTOS during his two years in office.

ED BAYKOWSKI

GULF COAST

We held our election of officers in December when Chairman Tom Helms was home for Christmas. Progress was reported on the construction of the Wonder Morton taking shape under the skillful hands of Dr. Rhea. Walter Smith announced that he would be returning to the ivy halls and studying again for a further degree.

Our Saenger Theatre here is doing a landslide business. All this is most pleasing, as everyone asks about the organ and its re-installation date. We like this kind of interest.

The wife of a local physician donated all proceeds from the sale of her cookbook to the chapter for use in the organ restoration. The response was good and generated more interest for the organ. We had quite a display in the lobby of the theatre,

George Wright

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thanks to Dr. Rhea and his midnight oil magic marker, showing the various stages and phases of the organ construction.

When Chairman Helms finishes his studies at TCU, we hope to go full steam ahead with our project. Until then, we have to listen with our hearts instead of our ears.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

LAND O' LAKES

In spite of the snowy, cold, wintry day, many of our chapter members turned out to attend a concert at Cicero's in Leisure Lane, Edina, with Karl Eilers at the 3/15 Barton on January 31. His selections were varied and interesting, and his version of "Night Train" provided the vehicle for some jazzy registrations. After the concert, members lingered to socialize and to have dinner. We always appreciate the hospitality offered by Dick and Bonnie Shelley, proprietors of Cicero's.

On February 21 our program chairman, Mike Erie, tried something new for our chapter. He promoted a "Membership Showcase," where our own members participated at the Powderhorn Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis, playing on their beautiful 3/13 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ. We heard Tom Neadle, Don Taft, Dick Hosier, Bernard Mullaney, Lonnie Roach, John Zetterstrom, Mike Erie, and Alice Rabus in a duet with Verna Mae Wilson at the piano. Members were pleasantly surprised at all the talent displayed by those who performed. We believe that by playing in our small home-organ groups, shy organists are gaining confidence, and another "Membership Showcase" will be organized in the future.

Barbara Danielson of Schmitt Music Centers invited LOL members

to a concert at Schmitt's in Minneapolis, with Scott Nelson from St. Joseph, Missouri, at the Kimball. His enthusiasm was contagious, and his program thoroughly enjoyed.

Our March 28 concert featured Lonnie Roach, one of our chapter members, at Bodine's Store and Warehouse in Minnetonka, on a Rodgers Marquis. His selections included many tunes from the '30s, and his delightful presentation was enthusiastically received. It was a very cloudy afternoon, but more than sixty members attended. We are looking forward to exciting events in April and May with a long winter behind us.

VERNA MAE WILSON

LOS ANGELES

Following Rex Koury's tremendous ovation in January at San Gabriel, Los Angeles went on to celebrate the rededication, in February, of the 3/13 Wurlitzer Style 240 in the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. It is the only theatre in Southern California in which its original theatre pipe organ, and its



John Ledwon at the 3/13 Wurlitzer, Orpheum Theatre, Los Angeles. (Zimfoto)

decor, are intact.

John Ledwon brought new life to this worthy instrument with a splendid program of popular and modern numbers, broken in two places by a pair of sets of fast-moving and tune-ful dance/choral selections by a most capable "Newbury Park Song and Dance Company." Their work was accompanied by Ledwon at the piano. John concluded his program by playing several selections that were part of the opening night's musicale on April 8, 1928.

Much credit is owed to the dedicated crew who worked over three years, usually Saturday mornings, to restore this fine instrument to its present admirable condition. Our group looks forward to using it often for future concerts, as the Metropolitan Theatres management is highly pleased with its superb condition, and are planning to give it more use.

One disadvantage was noted: lacking a console lift, this console remains deep in the orchestra pit, with only the top of the organist's head visible to over 90% of the audience. This will no doubt be corrected when an appropriate lift is obtained.

In March, two lovely ladies of the glimmering console, Candi Carley and Ann Leaf, rode the elevator from the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium pit up to acclamation by a capacity crowd. First visible was a large, colorful spray of spring flowers rising into the spotlight atop the white console bearing the talented blind artist, Candi Carley, to another triumph before an admiring audience.

This beautiful young woman demonstrated an almost fantastic familiarity with every stop and control on the 3-manual keydesk, which she cannot see, and her playing was



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positive and confident through the most complex pieces, be they show tunes, jazz, rock or the classics.

Candi was joined midway through her program by the renowned Ann Leaf, Mighty Mite of the Organ, who played four solo selections at the console, then took over the grand piano on stage for several sparkling duets with Candi at the Wurlitzer. It is hoped that we may have more of these piano-organ duos at future concerts.

LATOS has a new look on the masthead of our newsletter, designed by the award-winning Ann Mattman of Fullerton. Featuring a white five-manual Wurlitzer console drawing with photo of the current artist, the cover scene is capped by a dominating proscenium arch complete with archangels blowing trumpets and draping curtains spotlighting the console.

The new Board of Directors has signed a contract to install the donated Burton Barton theatre organ in the Wilshire Ebell Performing Arts Theatre in the prominent Wilshire district near the Wiltern Theatre.

The first organ concert series ever sponsored by the chapter was unveiled by Program Director Tom

Norman, substituting for Chairman Frank Babbitt who is recovering from a heart attack, at the meeting following Candi's concert. Featuring solo concerts at the 5/28 Moller in Pasadena's elegant Civic Auditorium, the series will star Gaylord Carter and his *60 Years of Chasing* silent comedy film on September 25. Rosemary Bailey, named "Jazz Artist of the Year" by *Keyboard World*, will perform January 23. On May 8, Mother's Day, Hector Olivera will complete the season with his dazzling technique. A bonus concert is being offered the early purchasers of season tickets — Lyn Larsen at San Sylmar's 4/35 Wurlitzer on June 12.

TOM NORMAN/CHUCK ZIMMERMAN

MOTOR CITY

In a departure from our usual concert fare we presented the 21st Century Steel Band of Trinidad at the Redford Theatre in February. Steel drum instruments were originally fashioned from the empty oil drums left behind by the United States in Trinidad after World War II. A ball-peen hammer is used to section each drumhead into a complex pattern of "playing areas." Each instrument is capable of producing tones ranging



Gregg Smith was the artist at the Barton console in the Royal Oak Theatre for Motor City's Fourth Sunday program there in January. (Fred Page Photo)

from one to two octaves. The audience was enthralled with the performance, which included the "Poet and Peasant Overture" and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The first recording of the Redford Theatre's 3/10 Barton is now available; it features six chapter members, all of whom have played overtures and intermissions at the theatre. Heard on the record are Greg Bellamy, Jim Boutell, Lionel LaMay, John Lauter, Tony O'Brien, and Ed Walsh. Proceeds from the sales of the record, which has already been aired on Detroit's top-rated AM station, will go to the "Buy the Redford" fund.

Our latest series of workshops for members, coordinated by Gil and Penny Francis, have evoked continued interest with their variety of subject matter. John Lauter led off in September with an introduction to the Barton theatre pipe organ. In Oc-



Ann Leaf at the piano and Candi Carley at the organ, San Gabriel Civic Auditorium.

(Zimfoto)

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(L to R) Bob Mills, responsible for organ restoration at the Punch, artist Barry Rindhage and Fr. Dana Schultz, master of ceremonies, at the First Sunday concert at the Punch and Judy Theatre in March.
(Fred Page Photo)



Steve Stephani played for the monthly Motor City program at the Royal Oak Theatre in February.
(Fred Page Photo)

tober, Bob Nagy demonstrated basic pipe organ theory and technique; and the subject of Lou Behm's seminar in November was the playing of Christmas music. For January, Sigmund Ross ably demonstrated how the organ is used to create various moods in the accompaniment of silent films. Tony O'Brien's topic for the February workshop was the use of console controls and pedals. Workshops planned for March and April will feature Steve Stephani and a discussion on chord building, and Norm Keating with a seminar on playing without printed music.

Jo Phillips has been appointed to the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of her husband, Hank Phillips. Hank, who passed away in January, was very active in show planning, group ticket sales, and in promoting our chapter activities wherever he could.

Gregg Smith was the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in January. Steve

Stephani appeared at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton for our February event there.

Our February artist at the Punch and Judy Theatre was John Lauter. In March, our First Sunday series at the Punch featured Barry Rindhage at the 2/7 Wurlitzer, with member Fr. Dana Schultz as master of ceremonies.

Greg Bellamy was the featured artist in February, at our monthly concert at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. Appearing at the 3/16 Barton in the Michigan Theatre in March was Greg Yassick.

DON LOCKWOOD

NEW YORK

March became a vintage month for the New York chapter, two Wurlitzers, two engaging artists, and two diverse styles of playing gave warmth to this wintery month. First was Rob Calcaterra, head organist at Radio City Music Hall, who gave us a powerful and well-prepared recital at

the Carnegie Hall Cinema. From his opening, "On a Wonderful Day Like Today," to a jazzy "Georgia Brown," to the full sounds of Bach, a precise and exacting technique seemed to take him effortlessly in and out of a variety of styles. Calcaterra played with finesse, freshness and dash; this was definitely not a disappointing visit with the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Our second artist, Andy Kasparian, interprets melodies in a contemporary manner with great style, but still retains some of the more tasteful aspects of former stylists. Listening to music played in this manner at our March 21 concert evoked a happy-sad mood, happy hearing the theatre organ sound this good and current, and sad realizing that this, the last Wurlitzer on Broadway, is no longer a reigning monarch awaited by daily movie audiences.

For our gathering, this 4/19 Wurlitzer was still holding court, royally filling the Beacon Theatre with Kas-

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parian's pleasing arrangements. Along with many standards, Andy included his trademark grouping of lively Latin American dances. As the pipes were sounding out his encore, "Tomorrow," from *Annie*, the old Wurlitzer sound seemed to unfold me and say, "Don't feel sad. I'll be around for a long, long time."

MARLIN SWING

NOR-CAL

Nor-Cal Chapter met February 21 at the Capn's Galley Pizza and Pipes in Redwood City. Jerry Nagano, resident organist of the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, was our concert artist. Jerry studied theatre organ with Gordon Kibbee and Tom Hazelton, and silent film accompaniment with Gaylord Carter. He has appeared in Las Vegas with Liberace, played for the ATOS 1979 convention in Los Angeles, and will be featured at the 1982 Detroit ATOS conclave.

Nagano's musical program was a well-balanced selection to suit all musical tastes. He has perfect tempo and a unique style utilizing progressive key changes, clean melody lines, and artistic embellishments.



Jerry Nagano played for Nor-Cal at Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City February 21. (Rudy Frey Photo)



Frank Olsen, "Dean of Canadian Theatre Organists," on the bench at Redwood City's 4/23 Wurlitzer for Nor-Cal concert March 14. (Rudy Frey Photo)

During the intermission, 1983 ATOS Convention Chairman Dan Lovett introduced committee chairpersons for the convention to be held in San Francisco July 2-7, 1983. This promises to be one of the truly significant meetings in the history of ATOS.

March 14, we met again at Redwood City to hear Frank Olsen play the 4/23 Wurlitzer. Chapter Chairman Rudy Frey gave some inspiring words and asked for some input from the membership for the 1983 convention. Program Chairman Ray Taylor then introduced our concert artist, Frank Olsen, an Englishman with a Norwegian name who left Scotland to settle in Canada and play theatre organ concerts in the United States.

Most of what Frank played was familiar music including many of theatre organ's old chestnuts and "War Horses" from the days when he was one of Scotland's best-loved cinema organists, often playing up to twelve shows daily in three Glasgow cinemas. He holds six degrees in music and operated the Olsen School of Music in Glasgow for many years

before emigrating to Canada. Frank is truly the "Dean of Canadian Theatre Organists," and has several phonograph records and tapes to his credit. Nor-Cal hopes we won't have to wait too long to hear this master organist again.

ED MULLINS

NORTH TEXAS

Our annual meeting turned out to be one of the best we've known. The bright spring-like weather cooperated fully, and a majority of our members were on hand at the lovely residence of Jan and Dick Nichols in Richardson. There was room for everyone, and Bob McGillivray opened the meeting promptly. This meeting is devoted to giving the annual financial report and a review of the activities of the past year. New business was discussed and Bob stressed the importance of each member completing the questionnaire sent out by the National. He touched on the upcoming convention in Detroit, and emphasized the fact that this convention would be very special since Detroit still has some fine organs.

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The only father-daughter team in the ATOS? Pizza owner "Uncle Milt" and his daughter Wendy, the head organist at Uncle Milt's Pizza Parlor in Vancouver, Washington. Wendy was the featured artist for the Oregon Chapter's February meeting. (Claude Neuffer Photo)



Jerry and Mickie Gaylord, hosts for the Oregon Chapter's cheese and wine tasting party. (Claude Neuffer Photo)

Denece Powell came up with an outstanding program which featured three of our members. Irving Light opened the program with several beautiful selections which were well received by the membership. Dr. Ted Thompson followed with a complete change of pace, opening with a movie theme since we are theatre organ buffs, and, as usual, he played a delightful program. Jack Riley completed the trio, and he chose a wide variety of tunes to delight us, some sweet and low, others that had us in a toe-tapping mood. Jack has been playing for Dallas audiences for a long time, and he certainly knows how to please everyone. Refreshments were served and a jam session

followed which kept the members lingering.

LORENA McKEE

OREGON

On Sunday morning, February 28, we crossed the Columbia River to Vancouver, Washington, to hear the 3/18 Wurlitzer in Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza. The entrance to this restaurant is in the form of an enormous console backed by huge pipes with the front doors in place of swell shoes. Inside, the console is centered between the two chambers and is on a lift. This instrument has an unusually fine balance and blend of voices.

Our artist, Wendy Kieffer, is lead

staff organist at Uncle Milt's. Her program opened with an elaborate "New York, New York," and included a sprightly 1929 number, "Singing in the Bathtub." It is impressive how this diminutive girl can tame this roaring giant and put it through its paces with such precision and artistry. After the concert it was open console with no shortage of players; Paul Potter, Richard Parks, Don Ledford, Robert Shafter, and Jack Coxon of the Organ Grinder in Portland were among those who entertained us. Several members stayed on to enjoy Uncle Milt's excellent pizza.

Our chapter includes members in Washington, Idaho, California, and





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Logo featured on T-shirts available to Puget Sound Chapter members.
(Ken Gallwey Photo)



Puget Sound Chapter members were welcomed by the sign on the Paramount marquee for their February meeting.
(Ken Gallwey Photo)

a very welcome Patrick Shotton in England. Some folks traveled all the way from southern Oregon for this meeting. Thanks to Uncle Milt and to Wendy Kieffer for the fine organ and music.

On March 27, we returned to the beautiful country home of Nickie and Jerry Gaylord in the hills south-east of Portland. It is not the easiest place in the world to find, and we suspect that some members headed for the original meeting of September, 1980, may still be out there looking for the place. This gathering was for a wine and cheese tasting party combined with open console. The Gaylords 2/7 "Heinz 57" has a most complete and compatible blend of stops.

The organ speaks directly into a large recreation room. The original Wicks console has been replaced by a beautiful compact one built for it by Oregon Chapter charter member Bob Rickett. Bob was the original owner of the organ after it was re-

moved from the Granada Theatre in LaGrande, Oregon. Because of complete unification and excellent voicing, this instrument is a joy to play.

Our self-generated program was enthusiastically played by our own members. Performers included Bob Rickett, Bob Burke, Joe Gray, Ken Keyser, and a super professional from the Portland Organ Grinder, Paul Quarino, who was most generous with his talent. The large assortment of wines and cheeses, the fine music, and the beautiful countryside made this a delightful respite from the usual concert format. We are grateful to Nickie and Jerry Gaylord for again sharing their wonderful home and organ with us.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND

Jonas Nordwall of Portland, Oregon, played a concert for chapter members and guests at the Paramount Theatre for the January meet-

ing. Jonas, as always, provided us with excellent entertainment. Chapter Chairman Jack Becvar paid tribute to members Don Myers, Gennie Whitting and Mike Wallace, who maintain the organ and work with the theatre management in exchange for the use of the organ. T-shirts were on sale in the lobby to raise money for the theatre organ restoration and maintenance fund. The logo on the front of them is patterned after the theatre restoration publicity of "We're bringing back the Paramount for you." The T-shirts read, "We're bringing back the Paramount Pipe Organ for you, ATOS." Gennie Whitting came up with the idea of the shirts as a money-raiser for the organ fund.

Our March meeting was held at the Haller Lake Club using our own chapter organ, a Marr & Colton console with a seven-rank Wurlitzer. After a potluck dinner, Andy Crow presented a fine program beginning

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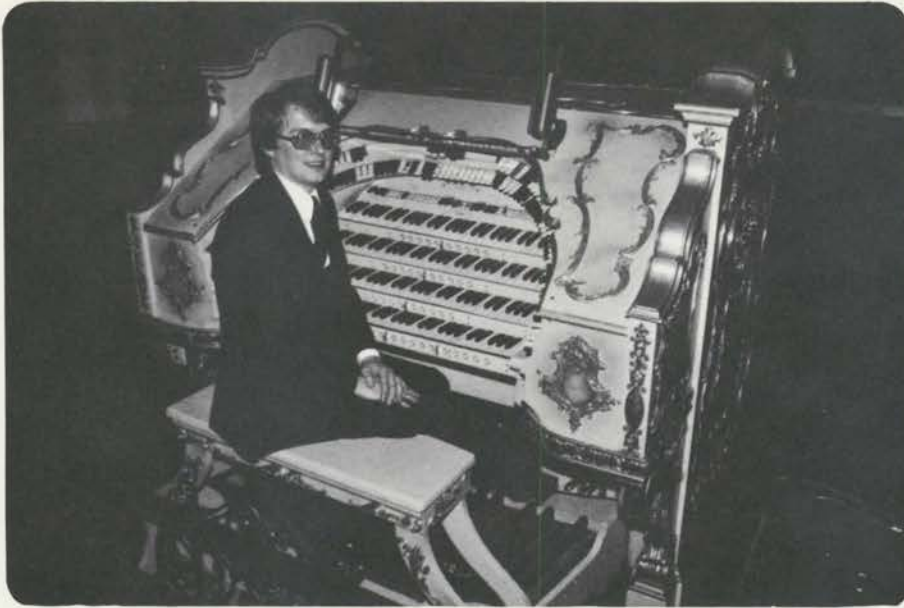
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Jonas Nordwall at the console of the Paramount 4/20 Wurlitzer for Puget Sound Chapter January meeting. (Ken Gallwey Photo)

with "Sing Hallelujah." He followed with a variety of selections including Handel, Bach, and new music. The program concluded with a full-length silent movie with Andy providing appropriate pipe organ background. At the business meeting the group decided to purchase a re-worked Kimball Harp to add to the chapter organ. Puget Sound Chapter is looking forward to a trip to the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham for our April meeting.

CHRISTINE PRIDE

RED RIVER

Our twelve 1928 Robert-Morton Major Diaphones are now installed at the Fargo Theatre as of the first weekend in March. The pipes are backstage next to the rope gallery, as there was not enough room in either chamber. With this, and some previous additions to our equipment, we found it necessary to add a second blower.

The Syracuse Hotel in Syracuse, New York, was the headquarters for a regional meeting of cinephiles called Cinefest II, March 26-28. Some 200 people enjoyed movies and movie memorabilia for two and a half days. The emphasis was on silent film, particularly the silent films starring Colleen Moore who was present. Our association with Miss Moore dates back to April, 1981, when she appeared on the stage of the Fargo Theatre, the star of our silent movie night. Lance Johnson, Dave Knudtson, and Ted Larson attended from our chapter and made an important contribution to the cinefest. The only existing print of Miss Moore's film, *Twinkle Toes*, was located and an organ score provided on the Fargo Theatre Wurlitzer for this film's revival before an enthusiastic audience. The contribution also included a tribute to Colleen Moore, a filmed documentary of her career, made here in Fargo.

April 22 is the date for our fifteenth silent movie night at the Fargo Theatre. Our guest artist will be charter member Harvey Gustafson. In the 1960s Harvey was one of our performers when our concert location was Bud's Roller Rink in Moorhead, Minnesota, and the organ was a 3/7 Barton. Later in the 1960s he moved to the Minneapolis area where he teaches organ at McPhail Center, University of Minnesota, is head organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in St. Paul, and is organist at Hafner's Dinner Club in St. Paul.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

"The Aladdin Theatre, one of Denver's oldest and most beautiful movie palaces, will be turned into a musical theatre in the next few months." This was the surprising news we read in the *Denver Post* on March 12. The article goes on, "Robert Morise, an officer of the Aladdin Theatre Co., a corporation representing Denver-area businessmen and investors, said Thursday that negotiations for a lease with owners of the building at East Colfax Avenue and Race Street and with Mann Theatres (which previously held the lease) have been completed."

Organ crew chief Frank Gandy and crew member Charlie Herman met with Mr. Morise and talked about the future of the Wicks 3/12 pipe organ. We played the organ for him, letting him hear the beautiful Strings, Celestes, Vox, and the two Tibias, not to mention the toy counter and percussions. He was overwhelmed with the sounds and thoroughly enjoyed going through the chambers and seeing how it worked. Speaking for the Aladdin Theatre Co., Mr. Morise said that he

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was delighted with the prospect of having their own pipe organ in the theatre to use with, during and after performances, and probably for special entertainment spots.

The theatre will undergo a carpeting, cleaning and painting job with new dressing rooms to be built backstage. A "thrust" stage will be added to provide versatility and make it possible to book other kinds of shows or acts. The Aladdin Theatre Company will take possession April 1, and will start renovation immediately. Their opening show, May 7, will be *Man of LaMancha*.

We had a visitor from Garden State Chapter on March 20, Don Plenkers from Eatontown, New Jersey, who came in and saw our theatre, crawled the organ, played it, and recorded it for a couple of hours. The only teeth-grinding fault we had was the 8' Tubas that need complete reworking as a couple of them were slightly out of tune due to broken wedges and reeds not placed properly to hold the right pitch. We had a grand visit with Don and hope he will return another time.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Chapter was pleasantly surprised on March 19 to receive a call from the famed British organist, Frank Olsen, saying he was in San Diego while on a U.S. tour and would enjoy the opportunity to play our Wurlitzer.

The wheels had to turn quickly and another place found for a concert, because of the upgrading and enlargement of our chapter's 2/13, soon to be 3/14, Wurlitzer. Through the gracious offer of Dr. and Mrs. John Dapolito, a concert was set for March 21 on the 3/19 Wurlitzer in their Mount Helix hillside home.



Frank Olsen at the console of the Dapolito Wurlitzer.

Mr. Olsen entertained approximately sixty organ enthusiasts with his musical forte, and his rare and jolly humor. After the concert, the group was afforded an opportunity to chat with the artist and express their appreciation.

An exceptional evening was enjoyed by all and the artist bid us fond adieu; then retired to the home of Robert Brooks, his host for the evening.

CONNIE REARDON

SIERRA

On February 7, more than one hundred members and friends lined picnic tables at Arden Pizza & Pipes for a members' cameo concert. Seven of Sierra's organ-playing members each took a turn of ten to fifteen minutes at the Wurlitzer in a kind of rehearsed open console session. Everybody turned in a respectable job considering that most of them aren't professionals. Members playing were: Sue Lang, Herb Dunkley, Dave Moreno, Jim Brown, Scott Reiger, Randy Warwick, and Fred

Dajas who matched some exotic, modern harmonies with fine registrations in the Cole vein that had everybody wanting more. Thanks to Bob Breuer, owner of the Pizza & Pipes, for allowing everyone a couple of hours practice time to gain familiarity with the big 4/20.

March 7 was the "shakedown cruise" for Sierra's transplanted and enlarged 2/11 Wurlitzer Style E. "Last minute" was the term to describe this program. The organ's first tuning was completed about starting time for the program which meant tuner and organist for the day, Dave Moreno, had to run home and change while emcee Jim Hodges stalled. Fortunately, it had been decided that this would be an informal get-together because the Wurlitzer was having fits getting used to its new home and protested with a wide assortment of ciphers and dead notes. But Dave Moreno and cipher-chaser Dale Mendenhall took advantage of the situation to create some impromptu vaudeville comedy as Dave commented and played to Dale's running back and forth between the two stage-level chambers. All in all, everybody had fun, and the organ does sound great in its new home, which is a WPA-built auditorium-meeting hall with a rustic charm that fits the little suburban hamlet of Fair Oaks. Acoustics are excellent, live and bright without being harsh nor with too much echo.

WESTERN RESERVE

Western Reserve Chapter's first meeting under newly-elected Chairman Robert Moran was held at Lukas Music store. Bill Taber, a well-known performer and organ instructor, entertained the group with selections on the Hammond Ele-

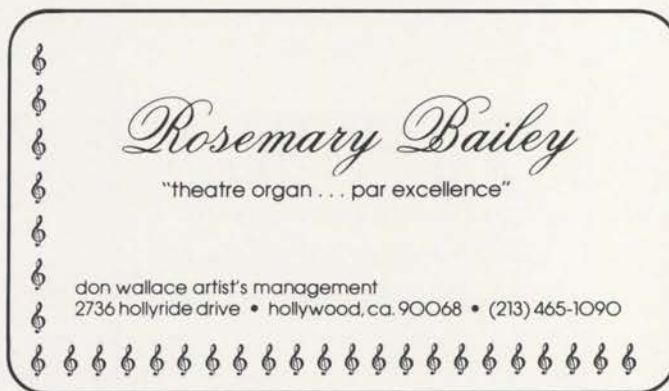


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gante. Having a professional theatre organist perform on this organ really brings out its best. Bill always likes to include one of his young students in his program, and his guest organist this time was sixteen-year old Cindy Maurer who played her own arrangement of a medley which included "Help Me, Rhonda," and "Watermelon Man." George Lukas concluded the program by demonstrating the features of the Elegante. Open console followed the business meeting.

Our February meeting was held at the historic First Methodist Church where we were treated to a concert by the church organist, Richard Fetter, on the Casavant organ which has twelve stops from a George M. Ryder organ built in the 1870s.

Loyal WRTOS members spent Saturday evening, February 27, at the Grays' Armory Annual Concert. The artist for the evening was Karl Cole. Karl introduced us to Gertrude, his ventriloquist-doll singer who sang "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," and "All of Me," perched on Karl's shoulder.

The first day of spring found us gathered at the luxurious Wade Park Manor for a concert by member John Lane on the 1950 2/3 Moller organ in the ballroom. The organ

had been recently tuned by several chapter members and sounded delightful. Following open console we had the opportunity to see a Kimball player organ which is in need of restoration and could be a future project for the chapter.

JIM SHEPHERD

WOLVERINE

On February 21, our meeting was graciously hosted by chapter members Gary Montgomery and H.C. Scott at their Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes in Pontiac. One of their fine staff organists, Pierre Fracalanza, provided us with an excellent concert prior to the opening of the restaurant. In addition to playing old standards, his selections varied from Chopin to Barry Manilow and Billy Joel, all played beautifully in Pierre's own refreshing and tasteful style. As an added highlight, Pierre treated us to a lovely vocal, "Shadow of Your Smile," to his own accompaniment.

Pierre has been playing piano and organ since the age of three, and at seventeen, he attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, to study voice. Although he has entertained on the piano in several Detroit area restaurants, he is a relative newcomer to the theatre pipe

organ scene, and what a talent this young musician has. Pierre's future as a fine theatre organist seems very promising.

Instead of a regular chapter meeting in March, the Wolverines were invited to a private party at the Detroit Theatre Organ Club, sponsored by DTOC and Wolverine Chapter member Lois Page. Members of Motor City Chapter, DTOC, and a Canadian group known as the Keyboard Kutups, were also invited to this concert-party.

Once again, we were privileged to listen to a delightful concert by Pierre Fracalanza, this time on the fine 4/34 Wurlitzer in the Senate Theatre owned by DTOC. The audience was very appreciative of Pierre's vocal talents in his performance of "I Wish You Love," with lyrics in both English and French, as he accompanied himself on DTOC's particularly fine Wurlitzer grand piano.


Following the concert, everyone had the opportunity to visit and to partake of refreshments, then a number of guests played during open console. We certainly appreciate the hospitality of our DTOC hosts, Lois and Fred Page, who provided us with a most pleasant afternoon.

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