



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA

Birmingham, Alabama

205/979-8132 or 205/785-4864

A really good act is difficult to follow, and the present administration of the Alabama Chapter has not found it easy. However, good things are worth working for, and "Big Bertha," the Mighty Wurlitzer in the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, is good, and we are planning to let her show her stuff twice this year. Chairman Floyd Hauffe has definite goals set for this year, and with his sleeves rolled up immediately after installation, he set out to achieve these goals. The results began to show themselves like crocuses in the spring.

On May 16 Walt Strony played to a capacity audience in the Alabama. A sing-along followed a short slide show of the organ itself which gave the audience an insight into the many intricate workings and sounds of "Big Bertha." A variety of selections of all-time favorites wove their way through the memories of the people who sat back and enjoyed the first half of the show, and who were thrilled in the second half when Walt played in accompaniment to the Rudolf Valentino silent movie, *The Eagle*.

This memorable concert was the result of many people working together under the guidance of the concert chairman, Glen Apperson, who also provided a school program for all the children of Jefferson County. This featured Walt Strony on Friday before the concert and involved all the teachers and principals of all the schools in the county by instructing all the children in what an "ole timey" theatre is all about, and by giving them a taste of what theatre organ sounded like in years gone by. The organ is in excellent condition and is kept that way by Larry Donald-

son and his Saturday work crews.

A pre-concert banquet, where over fifty people were able to meet Walt and enjoy excellent food, was held at the home of Freeman Andress. And this concert did not stop after the three curtain calls for Walt Strony; it will live on like his finale, "Dixie," which brought the house down.

Our meetings are held the second Sunday of the month. Join us.

RAY KENDERDINE

ac/atos

atlanta chapter. american theatre organ society

ATLANTA

Atlanta, Georgia

404/963-6449 or 404/457-4731

Would you believe the Atlanta Chapter is alive and thriving? Membership is up and so is attendance at all club functions. Atlanta, for too many years a one (Fox) theatre organ town, now boasts three major theatre organs. The 4/42 Fox Moller is played occasionally throughout the year, and the theatre runs a Family Film Festival on Monday nights during the summer. Bob Van Camp is featured in mini-concerts, which include sing-alongs using the original lantern slides with enthusiastic audience singing, preceding mostly-70mm, six-channel sound spectacles.

On Saturday nights Atlanta enthusiasts gather at member Walt Winn's Warehouse for informal playing on Walt's 4/17 Page. Walt provides coffee, a refrigerator, and limited seating. Latecomers are moderately comfortable on the floor. The policy is Open Console, 7:30 - 8:30, and the Pro's from 8:30 till . . . It's open house and there's no fee.

Now on the Atlanta scene is Showboat Pizza in the location formerly housing the Music Grinder Pizza. The



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organ is a 3/19 Wurlitzer removed from Loew's Palace in Louisville, Kentucky, in September, 1981. It was originally a 3/13 Style 240. Removal and re-installation were accomplished by Walt Winn's Warehouse crew, Atlanta Chapter members who also maintain the organ. The organ is played every day for lunch and dinner featuring staff organists Bob Van Camp, Rick McGee, Jay Mitchell, and Walt Winn. Showboat Pizza was officially introduced to the club in February with member Rick McGee as featured organist before 80 members and guests. Open console followed the official program.

March found the Atlanta Chapter at Callanwolde, the Tudor mansion formerly owned by Charles Howard Candler, first president of Coca-Cola. The program featured the original installation of a 3/15 Aeolian residence player organ with member Charles Walker, who helps maintain the organ, at the player controls.

In April we made our annual tour of Atlanta Victorian churches down Peachtree Street. Four turn-of-the-century churches were visited by over fifty members. The theme was "Pipe Organs and Stained Glass," and each church presented a brief church history and organ demonstration. After the tour, members gathered for a picnic at the theatre owned by member Charles Walker to hear his newly installed 2/4 Robert-Morton.

If you are passing through Atlanta, call us because a theatre organ event occurs in one form or another each weekend.

BERNICE R. SLATE

CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa, Florida

813/384-1854 or 813/863-2264

Our April meeting was held at the home of Everett and Eleanor Bassett in Ridge Manor. We have held meetings there in the past, and it is always a pleasure to see and hear the Bassett's 2/4 Robert-Morton pipe organ. Our

surprise artist was one of our members, Bob Foody, who entertained us dressed as a clown. Following his program, several members participated in open console.

In May, John and Florence Hobbis invited us to their home for our monthly business meeting. One of our members, John Otterson, presented the program on the Hobbis' Gulbranson. During the meeting a round of applause was given to our crew chief, Seth Evers, and liaison committee chairman Lee Wilson who have spent many hours on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer installation. It was announced that all the pipes are in and all four swell actions are working. All the chests are in place. The old wiring on the three- and five-rank chests is out and ready to be replaced. The wiring from the rectifier to the console and from the blower to the console remains to be done, also. Hopefully, we soon can have a meeting at the Tampa Theatre. Even though installation is not yet complete, it will be helpful for

all the members to see what progress has been made.

With sadness, we acknowledge the death of Stillman Rice, a member of our chapter and former National President.

SANDRA SHOOK

CENTRAL INDIANA Indianapolis, Indiana

317/283-3410 or 317/786-2160

Fox Music Company, Indianapolis, was the place of our meeting for April. Forty members and guests were present. It was noted that the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is contemplating the purchase and renovation of one of the city's old downtown theatres, the Circle Theatre. This establishment could then again house an organ, possibly a theatre organ, to be used as a source of income during the periods when the symphony is not appearing. This action would, in all probability, be of value to our chapter by helping to provide additional or-

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.



Owner Dennis Werkmeister and resident organist Carl Creagar beside Shady Nook Theatre Restaurant's Wurlitzer console. (Mark Williams photo)

gan facilities for our excellent organists' performances.

Another little theatre that is progressing nicely with refurbishing is the Hedback Theatre, home of the Page organ and the Footlite Musicals. It is nearly ready for the building of a new entrance. The Footlite Musical company and the Central Indiana Chapter are discussing combining their efforts to give a Christmas variety performance in 1982. This would be a great project for both organizations.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Rob Slayman of the Fox Music Company played a classical number and then presented Sue and Jerry Downs who played duets on the Lowrey MX-1 and Lowrey Celebration. They also gave individual performances. Jerry presented an arrangement of "Classical Gas" with special combinations on the MX-1. Sue gave us a number she had played as a young girl.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL OHIO Columbus, Ohio

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Two outstanding meetings accompanied springtime for members of COTOS. The April meeting was held at Fred Rieger's "Barn" near Waynesville, Ohio. The organ is a 3/41 Moller/Estey player which has been completely restored and embel-

lished with additional ranks. The chambers are a work of art and would have been the envy of any theatre organ builder in the '20s. Roomy aisles between ranks and stairways to upper levels make for an easily maintained instrument and allow for the fun of watching the organ at work from the inside out.

About 35 members and friends gathered at the "Barn" for beautiful music, lots of fun, and enough delicious food to feed a regiment. Members Ralph and Leona Charles from Somerset, Ohio, got their first opportunity to see this installation and compare it with their beautiful instrument in Somerset. The organists for the day were many and varied, with such talents as Betsy Richard, Lois Hayes, Jay Pontius, Ted Guyson, Mark Williams, and Ralph Schluttenhofer all contributing their wealth of skill and experience. Fred Rieger introduced his instrument and demonstrated one of its more intriguing characteristics when he put a roll on the player mechanism. It is fascinating to watch an instrument the size of a theatre organ sit there and play by itself. Other attractions of the "Barn" include antique cars, a complete machine shop and a wood shop. COTOS' thanks to Fred and Kay Rieger for their hospitality.

The Shady Nook Theatre Organ Restaurant near Oxford, Ohio, was the scene of our May meeting when 25 members met for dinner and an afternoon of music by resident organist

Carl Creagar and COTOS organists Karl Saunders, Mark Williams, and Ted Guyson during open console. The 4/32 Wurlitzer is the pride and joy of owners Dennis Werkmeister and Ralph Hutchinson and is the main attraction other than the outstanding food in this little restaurant alongside U.S. Route 27.

The majority of the Shady Nook organ came from the studios of radio station WLW in Cincinnati where it had been the instrument on which Cincinnati's popular *Moon River* radio program was played. The works were acquired in 1968, and the Shady Nook was enlarged to almost twice its size to accommodate the organ and its chambers. The actual job of rebuilding and installing the organ took most of 1968. While construction was underway, Helen Crawford's slave console and Jesse Crawford's Howard Seat from the Chicago Theatre were acquired. The console was redesigned to accommodate a third row of stops. Additional pipes and accessories were purchased to bring the Mighty Wurlitzer up to 30 ranks with four manuals and 268 stops. A solid-state relay system was designed to replace the electro-pneumatic relay; this system is the first and largest of its kind with over 37,000 diodes and transistors which respond to the pedals, stops, and keys and control the pipes, instrumental attachments, swell shades, and regulate incoming air supplied from two huge centrifugal blowers.

The organ made its debut in the fall of 1969, and from that time forward equipment has been added on a regular basis. Among these additions are a 61-note Harp, 16' Celeste, Glockenspiel, a remote-controlled baby grand piano, tape delay reverberation equipment, a tinkling Zimbelstern, and a beautiful set of custom-made Brass Saxophones. To complete the effect, draperies from the Capitol Theatre in Cincinnati were added to the stage. Stained glass exit lights from the Capitol and New York Paramount Theatre were added. A motion picture screen, high-fidelity sound equipment and a well-equipped projection booth were acquired which are capable of showing silent classics for which organ equipment is scheduled. The organ even rises from the pit on a lift, as in days of old, to complete the original flavor of this exciting instrument.

The other activity of interest during

the spring was the Ohio Theatre Organ Series final presentation for 1982. Len Rawle returned to the Robert-Morton after an absence of several years to present a highly varied program of classical music, show tunes, pop, and ragtime. A large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the evening and expressed this with a standing ovation for Mr. Rawle, who will be returning to his home in England having completed a tour of the United States and Australia.

The COTOS Wurlitzer at Worthington High School continues to progress. The loss of time because of the necessity of releathering all of the pneumatics a second time has slowed down the restoration considerably, but major progress is again being seen and a fall debut of the instrument is being discussed. Replacement of the badly deteriorated ivory on the bottom manual has been the latest chore undertaken by crew members Oliver Williams, Oliver Williams, Jr., Bing King and son Duane, Jim Dunn, and Stanley Jay. Additional dedicated members of the effort include Mark Williams, Bob Shaw, Willard Ebner, and John Polesley who are working on still other portions of the restoration and installation.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CHICAGO AREA

Chicago, Illinois

312/470-0743 or 312/627-3245

St. Mary's of The Lake in Mundelein was the site for our May show. Dwight Beacham, from Allen Organ Company, was our soloist and presented an excellent program of nostalgic and contemporary melodies. A short talkie cartoon met with the approval of the large audience. This was a trial run.

We tried a White Elephant Sale at our April social at Downers Grove High School using the auction routine. It worked very well, netting us \$120 (Chapters, take note!). David Hamilton, our soloist, presented a good program during which he included a few classics and operatic melodies, a pleasant change. It certainly was great to see and hear David after too long an absence from our group. He is back now, living in our area and still with Conn Keyboards, Inc.

In May we gathered at the Aragon Ballroom for a social and board elec-

tions. The ballroom is in fairly good shape and is used often for large parties.

The Arcada Theatre and Baker Hotel, for brunch, in St. Charles, Illinois, will be the spots for our June social activities with Les Hickory at the keyboards of the Arcada and Baker Hotel.

Plans are being formulated for a Chicago Theatre show in September with Lyn Larsen at the console and a Patio Theatre show in October with Rob Calcaterra as soloist. We hope for more than the best during the coming months.

ALMER BROSTROM



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.**



CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Thomaston, Connecticut

203/378-9192 or 203/583-8334

Our April meeting was held in Glastonbury at the residence of Allen Miller and Tom Gnaster. Their home is a veritable music hall complete with a nine-rank "Allen Special" pipe organ with piano in a generously-sized second floor studio, and on the first floor, a magnificent grand piano. On both floors there are many and varied items of electronic music-making, recording and amplifying gear. Inasmuch as both of our hosts are very familiar with keyboards and manuals, all of this musical apparatus is in good use. The weather was pleasant, so outdoor meandering about the pleasant grounds of Al and Tom's residence was very enjoyable. Much open console was played and heard during the afternoon. Time was also available for chatting with friends and being otherwise occupied very enjoyably.

Came the dinner hour, and local restaurants did a fine business. Organ enthusiasts seem always to enjoy eating!

Back at the Miller/Gnaster studio, Chairman Paul Plainer got us through the business session in good time so program chairman Bob Bailey was able to present on schedule our artist for the evening, member Mark Renwick. Mark has played for us be-

fore; the last time was on Cape Cod at the residence of Bill Hastings and Joe Calliano. This evening Mark played a good springtime program of popular songs plus some special numbers. About midway through his program, Mark played "Happy Birthday" for June Garen and Millie Beck. Much lusty singing honored the twentieth birthdays of these two popular members of our chapter. After more popular songs the program ended with an original composition by Mark, most pleasant but still without title.

Refreshments followed the musical program and more organ music was heard as others accepted Al Miller's invitation to play the organ. The day ended as pleasantly as it began and our thanks were extended to our genial hosts for their gracious hospitality.

Coming events at the Thomaston Opera House include Larry Ferrari on September 25, 26, and Lyn Larsen October 22, 23, 24. Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Connecticut 06483.

W. F. POWERS

DAIRYLAND

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

414/463-2365 or 414/771-8522

Remembering that education is one of our goals, along with entertaining and preserving, DTOS presented two cash scholarships to deserving students at local colleges. Recipients



Rex Koury at the Riverside Theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer.
(C. Nelson photo)



Riverside Theatre marquee set for Dairyland show.



Board member Diane Jones displays new sign designed by Bill Krueger.

(C. Nelson photo)

were Miss Julanne Ranek, a sophomore at Alverno College, and Mr. Dale Niehaus, who will enter Carthage College this fall as a freshman. We hope to have these two talented young people play a social for us this fall. Both are musically active in their home churches and plan careers in music. These scholarships were presented at our "Down by The Riverside III" concert.

The April show at the Riverside Theatre featured Rex Koury at the 3/13 Wurlitzer along with the Tin Pan Allies championship barbershop quartet and the Menoharmonee chorus. A highlight of the show was "The Nostalgic Days of Radio." At the suggestion of our chairman, Fred Wolfgram, Rex drew on his radio experience and arranged a medley of old radio show theme songs. As each was played, an off-stage voice, Bill Parkinson, introduced each show just as it was done years ago. Rex wrote the script as well as the musical arrangement, and the audience loved it! The organ, chorus and quartet joined for the finale, "God Bless America." A cast party at the theatre followed the show with more great musical entertainment by our "stars."

CARRIE NELSON

**EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
Boston, Massachusetts
617/244-4136 or 617/754-1508**

After President Bill Carpenter opened our Babson April 24 meeting, Bill Hansen, our friend and Wurlitzer restorer, was warmly welcomed. With a sincere, "It's nice to be home," opening comment, Bill gave us a brief progress report on the 5/21 Wurlitzer

from the former Marbro Theatre in Chicago which is being installed in the Providence Ocean State Performing Arts Center.

Carpenter then introduced Al Winslow, our evening's artist. As he swung onto the bench, our "old pro" of the silent days showed no ill effects from a bad fall this winter. A long potpourri of old time favorites was a typical Winslow beginning, with snatches of both familiar and not-so-well-known themes. One of Al's talents is improvisation and some of his favorites were given special treatment. A highlight was his movieless movie accompaniment complete with characters identified by musical themes. An appreciative audience brought our artist back twice with a little serious music, Baptiste's "Offertoire," and Boellman's "Toccatata," from the "Suite Gothique." Other EMCATOS members then entertained during open console to round out another satisfying meeting.

The May 22 gathering saw Bill again in command and regrettably announcing the resignation of Mark Renwick as secretary because he is moving to Florida. Program Chairman Bjareby introduced our organist of the evening, Robert Love, a church organist with a definite interest in theatre organ. He displayed a good flair for the instrument with nice combinations and solid enjoyable playing. He varied his program from waltzes to light classics to selections from the Civil War era. One of our guests was Steve Schlesing, from Texas, who had just played a public concert for SENETOS that afternoon on the 2/6 Columbus Theatre Wurlitzer in Providence. He joined in open console with two brief stints to every-

one's pleasure. A real bonus! Next weekend, Hector Olivera. What more is there to say?

STANLEY C. GARNISS

**GULF COAST
Pensacola, Florida
904/433-4683**

Our chapter hosted the local AGO Chapter in May. We gave them a tour of our Robert-Morton under construction. There were plenty of "Ooo's" and "Ahhh's" from the group when they saw the beauty of this console. Many of the AGO members share the same story as other organ enthusiasts; they have never seen an organ built, only played.

Our Wonder Morton reproduction is coming right along. B. D. Rhea, M.D., our vice-chairman and treasurer, is responsible for this beautiful work of art. Each passing day sees more progress toward its completion,



B. D. Rhea, M.D., showing new Robert Morton console to members of AGO Chapter at May meeting.

and we continue to have guests from all over the country come to see our project. Dr. Rhea's workshop is "Organtown, USA."

Our chairman, Tom Helms, has completed his studies toward a degree at TCU and will be returning to Pensacola to help with the restoration and re-installation of our organ.

We'll keep you informed.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

KIWI Auckland, New Zealand 540-919

In these inflated times, tomorrow is gone before it arrives and, with that reasoning, it is hoped that the writer will be forgiven for not sending chapter news from No. 52 for some time. Also, our belated congratulations to Puget Sound for presenting us with a most wonderful convention. It seems only yesterday that we were treated to so many fine concerts, so much sight-seeing, meeting old friends and making new ones, and above all, lots of laughter, of which there is too little these days. Thank you, Seattle!

KIWI is very much alive, and our main objective, the restoration of Opus 1475, is nearing finality. This instrument is owned by ATOS member Les Stenersen and, in addition to this, Les has acquired Opus 1748, a 2/5 Wurlitzer which is one of the last shipped from Tonawanda with piano console that can be operated manually or by rolls. ATOS members have been gathering each week for the past four years, and much assistance has been given by Auckland businessmen with the result that both organs are now installed in permanent positions on either side of the Hollywood Theatre, the main console on a lift and the slave console on a platform. It is hoped to have the dedication concert



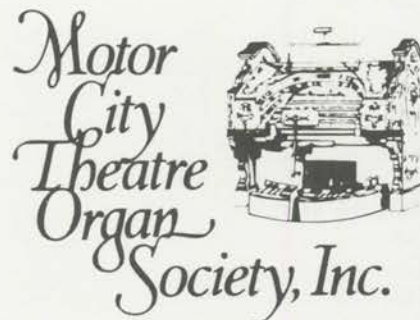
Artist Barry Rindhage was assisted by singer Sandy Bresser and pantomimist Dennis Alport at the Royal Oak Theatre in April. (Fred Page photo)

later in the year, but on May 9 the public was permitted a preview of this undertaking for a fee. An Organ Spectacular to raise funds toward completion was an outstanding success with 450 people in attendance. We are fortunate to have in our midst a very talented import from Australia, Margaret Hall, and she presented a very fine program on this wonderful music machine. She was supported by Peter Parkinson, Bernard Stroochi, and Ian Johnson at Baldwin organs. The latter was joined by Margaret Massey in piano and organ duets, a fine combination. We are lucky to have so much talent in our small chapter and we are grateful to ATOS member Neville Smith of Musical Sounds for providing the Baldwin organs and piano.

Meetings are held during the year in members' homes, and our Christmas party at the home of Ken and Jocelyn Hill was a "wingding." Not only is Margaret Massey a fine pianist, but she has a husband talented in the culinary field and they combined to present us with a fine, festive feast.

We have had several visitors from overseas. They are always welcome.

NORMAN DAWE



**MOTOR CITY
Detroit, Michigan
313/994-4992**

Pierre Fracalanza performed at the Detroit Theatre Organ Club in March in a Sunday afternoon concert sponsored by member Fred Page. Members of Motor City and Wolverine chapters were invited to the program which concluded with an open console session at the 4/34 Wurlitzer. Pierre plays at Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes in Pontiac.

Hector Olivera's return visit to the Redford Theatre in March was enthusiastically received. His concert at the 3/10 Barton was varied in content and enjoyed by the sizeable crowd in attendance. Even the most avid Olivera fan probably never

Your Help Needed . . .



For more details see page 29.



Grace Joslin played the Royal Oak Barton for the Motor City Chapter in March.
(Fred Page photo)



Motor City thanked Ed and Winnie Beer with a surprise party in April for their many years of working with artists and providing refreshments at the Royal Oak.
(Fred Page photo)

ceases to be amazed at Hector's almost traditional "Bumblebee" encore.

We presented the silent film, *Wings*, accompanied by Dennis James at the console of the Redford Theatre in April. The audience was delighted with Dennis' accompaniment to the only silent film ever to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Grace Joslin was the artist at our Fourth Sunday show at the Royal Oak Theatre in March. A former piano accompanist for Detroit area

dance studios and a small dance orchestra, Grace has played at several chapter functions at the Redford and Royal Oak theatres.

Our April Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak featured Barry Rindhage at the 3/16 Barton. Having performed at a number of our Sunday get-togethers, Barry was joined on this occasion by vocalist Sandy Bresser and pantomimist Dennis Alport.

Steve Stephani appeared as a Sunday concert artist at the Punch and Judy Theatre's 2/6 Wurlitzer in

April, and at the 3/13 Barton in the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in May. On both occasions Steve played a variety of old standards and audience favorites.

In April we celebrated the second anniversary of continuous monthly programs at the Punch and Judy Theatre held on the first Sunday of each month. Our artist was to be Lionel LaMay, who had played our first concert at the Punch two years before. Concert time arrived, but the artist hadn't. Enter an unsuspecting Herb Head, there to enjoy the pro-

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gram just like everyone else. Herb graciously consented to perform an impromptu concert which included circus music for which he is perhaps best known. An out-of-breath Lionel LaMay soon arrived with apologies for having been delayed in a traffic tie-up. Lionel's program apparently pleased everyone, a fitting way to mark two years of free concert offerings at the suburban Detroit movie house.

Upcoming fall programs at the Redford Theatre include Harry Koenig on September 18, and Gaylord Carter and *The General* on October 16.

DON LOCKWOOD



*Nor-Cal
Theatre
Organ
Society*

NOR-CAL

**San Francisco Bay Area, CA
415/589-6683 or 415/524-7452**

Nor-Cal members traveled to Fair Oaks on Sunday, April 4, for a dedicatory concert by Rex Koury on Sierra Chapter's re-installed Seaver Memorial 2/11 Style E Wurlitzer in the Community Club House.

A busload of Sierra members traveled to San Francisco May 23, to hear Walt Strony play the Castro Theatre four-manual Wurlitzer with eleven ranks now playing. This was Nor-Cal's first meeting at the Castro. Program chairman Ray Taylor's sons, Richard and William, are the owners of the organ which, when completed will boast 26 ranks including eight 16' pedal stops, piano and all the percussions. The console and relay are from Wurlitzer Opus 1148, originally installed in 1925 in the State Theatre, Detroit, Michigan.



Walt Strony at the Castro Theatre, May 23, 1982.

(Rudy Frey photo)

Twenty-seven year old Walt Strony is from Chicago where he began studying piano at the age of seven. His theatre organ teacher was the late Al Melgard, organist at the Chicago Stadium. Walt also studied piano with Giulio Favario of Chicago's Lyric Opera, and classical organ with Herbert L. White of the Sherwood Music School and Karel Paukert at Northwestern University. Strony is currently featured organist at the Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix.

"That's Entertainment" was the console riser followed by a Gershwin medley after which Walt stated, "We all really owe the Taylors and Ed Stout a round of applause for the sound of this instrument." Edward M. Stout is the consultant and tonal finisher of the organ. "The true test of a good organ is one that not only can sound good loud, but can sound really good soft. This one certainly does pass that test." Walt also said, "A beautiful job on the flute." Walt's classical piece was the difficult "Toccata" from Joseph Jongen's

"Symphonie Concertante," in which he used the 32' resultant that really shook the house. Dick Taylor had wired it in earlier that week. The organ should be completed in time for the 1983 ATOS Convention.

Nor-Cal is grateful to Mel Novikoff, President, and Matt Fance, Operations Manager, of Surf Theatres who operate the Castro, and to Ms. Carol Grandy, Manager, and her assistant, Del Harvey, for permitting us to present this concert, as well as to the Taylors for their kindness in making the organ available to the chapter.

ED MULLINS

OREGON

Portland, Oregon

503/244-2141 or 503/253-6874

The Pacific Northwest is fortunate to have several of the nation's finest theatre organists. One of them, Andy Crow of Olympia, Washington, was our guest artist May 22, at Benson High School. The 3/24 Kimball is in two chambers located high on either

DENNIS JAMES

Resident Organist for the Ohio Theatre

"The audience rose as one to give this brilliant organist a genuine standing ovation, one that was richly deserved. James clearly is an enthusiast in love with the organ."
— *The Whig-Standard, Kingston, Ontario*

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— *Citizen Journal, Columbus, Ohio*

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Andy Crow shows Christina Trotti how the organ works, after the concert for the Oregon Chapter at the Benson High School Kimball.
(Claude Neuffer photo)

side of the stage, sounding out into a big, live auditorium. The exceptionally fine pipe work includes plenty of pedal to support full organ. Our chapter is providing a work crew, with Loren Minear in charge, to maintain this instrument.

Andy Crow was trained as a classi-

cal musician, but since the age of 17 has played theatre organ. He has technical knowledge of pipe organs and has rebuilt a number of them. Andy has been staff organist for the Rodgers Organ Company and served as road manager for their touring program, which included the late Virgil Fox. For many years he was active in the Worth/Crow duo, playing concerts throughout the United States.

Andy's program included quite a few compositions of Irving Berlin, as well as many contemporary composers, all played with modern harmony and lush registration. His classical background was evident in a masterful rendition of Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor." As a surprise bonus he walked over to a concert grand on the stage and demonstrated that he is also an accomplished pianist with a fantastic technique.

Thanks to Andy Crow for this wonderful program. We are also grateful to Benson High School for the use of this great organ and to our maintenance crew for their time and effort.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND
Seattle, Washington
206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Puget Sound Chapter has enjoyed a very active spring. Our April meeting took us to the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham. This theatre opened in 1927, has 1600 seats, and was designed by a noted Northwest architect, R. C. Reamer. The 2/10 Wurlitzer has a scroll console, and has a Marimba and Harp. Wurlitzer sent four installers who spent three weeks putting it into its concrete chambers. The console is on a hydraulic lift using city water pressure. The concert was played by Gunnar Anderson, who presented a lovely and varied program. We were especially pleased to have many of our Canadian members there.

For our May meeting we journeyed by bus over beautiful Stevens Pass through the Cascade Mountains to the Liberty Theatre in Wenatchee. We were most fortunate to have one of our own members, Don Myers, present the concert on a marvelous Wurlitzer Style 185 which had been installed in 1919. The organ originally



Andy Crow on our own organ at Haller Lake Community Club. *(Chris Pride photo)*



Don Myers at Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer, Wenatchee, Washington, May 16, 1982. *(Ken Gallwey photo)*

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had seven ranks in one chamber on the right side of the theatre: Flute, Vox, Tuba, Diapason, Clarinet, Viole d'Orchestre, and Viole Celeste, plus five tuned percussions and a toy counter. In 1931, the Tibia from another organ in town was added on the Diapason chest, then an additional four ranks were installed in a small chamber on the left side: Diapason, Tuba, Dulciana, and a set of Voxes. The result is a loud Kinura-sounding rank.

Our group also went to a restaurant for dinner and fellowship and then to the Gellatly home for more music on their large Rodgers organ. It was a great day and was enjoyed by all.

We extend a warm invitation to anyone coming our way to please look us up. You will be welcome. Write Christine Pride, 12564 Densmore Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98133.

CHRISTINE PRIDE

QCCATOS
Quad Cities Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society



QUAD CITIES

Davenport, Iowa

309/793-1451 or 319/359-5620

It was showtime again on April 29 at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. Everyone was excited about our third spectacular. The houselights dimmed as master of ceremonies Jeff Weiler came on stage and announced our artist of the evening, Mr. Lee Erwin, who was seated at the console of



Lee Erwin at the 3/12 Wicks in the Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa, on April 29, 1982.

the 3/12 Wicks with piano. As the console rose from the orchestra pit Lee opened with Gershwin's "But Not for Me," a favorite theme song of his time.

Lee followed with two Irving Berlin numbers and a trip through the organ chambers with slides of the pipework. The crowd was surprised at the size of the Wicks. Then came the sing-along followed by the first of two Buster Keaton films, *The Paleface*. After a short intermission the second half of the show started with the other Keaton film, *Sherlock, Jr.* He then closed with "Goodnight, Sweetheart."

Lee arrived three days early and, with the help of QCCATOS members Harry Kelly and Dan Lindner, we were able to draw a large audience. Harry contacted WQAD-TV and the station came down to the theatre the day before the show and filmed shots of Lee at the Wicks. They also interviewed Lee and chapter Chairman Bob Adams along with Harry Kelly. This was seen on TV-8. Dan took care of the news media, mailing list and ticket sales.

At our May 7 social, Jerry Adams

from LOLTOS Chapter performed beautifully on the 3/12 Wicks. Jerry played for 22 visitors and members and the music was superb.

BOB ADAMS

RED RIVER

Fargo, North Dakota

218/287-2671 or 218/236-9217

Our first meeting at Weld Hall, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota, since the installation of our new 2/6 chapter organ was held April 18. Following the business meeting we joined the public for a viewing of *Girl Shy*, starring Harold Lloyd. Our past chairman, Dave Knudtson, scored the movie. Our members then had a chance at open console, and we are all very pleased with our new instrument! During the summer a family film series of classic films and vintage cartoons will be shown at Weld Hall on Monday evenings. Three of the ten features will be silent movies making use of the organ, and the others will have half hour organ prologues.

Everything was perfect, even the weather, for our spring silent movie

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Harvey Gustafson (with punch cup) and friends following concert at Fargo Theatre.

night at the Fargo Theatre, April 22. Our guest artist, Harvey Gustafson, played a wonderful concert for a full house. Following intermission was the silent movie, *The Kid*, starring Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Coogan. Pre-show and intermission music was provided by Hildegard Kraus on the chapter grand piano in the lobby. During the reception, Harvey was greeted by a number of people who hadn't seen him since his move to Minneapolis in the late 1960s where he is a full-time organist, teacher and performer.

For our fall program we have picked the movie, *It*, with Clara Bow, to be scored by Lance Johnson.

Our last meeting before summer recess was held at the home of Melita Nelson where we were treated to a performance by two of her organ students. Following the business meeting, Pat Kelly, Hildegard Kraus, and Lance Johnson got together for a jam session on the two Lowrey organs and the Baldwin piano. Because it was

a warm evening, the windows and doors were open and soon a group of neighbors gathered by the front door to listen.

On June 17, the movie, *Annie*, will premiere at the Fargo Theatre. The evening will cost twenty-five dollars a couple and will include food and champagne. Our chapter will be involved in the opening night as Lance Johnson will play the Wurlitzer prior to the movie. The proceeds will go to the local public television stations through an arrangement PBS has with Columbia Pictures.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Denver, Colorado

303/343-3930 or 303/233-4716

People stood in line from the box office out to the sidewalk, up the street for half a block and around the corner at the Denver Paramount Theatre for our last concert on Saturday, May 8. The doors finally opened for

the wild horde. Hostesses, gracious ladies of the chapter spearheaded by Ruth Powell, met these music-loving folks head-on in the lobby and upstairs in the balcony. They handed out programs and sing-along sheets to all who came their way. The ladies looked charming in their formals and put the job of Greeters over with a bang. They were cool, calm and collected during the melee, but you could tell they were tired and glad to sit down.

The concert was a sell-out. The lights dimmed, the audience grew hushed with anticipation, and then two spotlights shone on both sides of the orchestra pit, and the mighty sound of the twin-console Wurlitzer organ filled the theatre with a stirring military march accompanied by thunderous applause from the house.

When the consoles reached their top stopping point and the two artists turned to acknowledge the greeting, we saw Father Jim Miller on the master console and Patti Simon on the slave. They shared the consoles in solo mode and played many songs together. The silent film was a good old Buster Keaton comedy which Fr. Miller accompanied, much to the delight of the crowd.

After intermission we had a sing-along of oldies-but-goodies played by both Fr. Miller and Patti Simon. Patti holds forth at the Denver Organ Grinder where she is a featured organist, and Fr. Miller was "found" at the convention last summer by our group that attended the concerts and immediately fell in love with his style and personality. Needless to say, he brought the house down several times with his great wit and humor.

After the concert, the chapter served cookies and punch to everyone and had a grand reception for the two artists. Plans are underway for next year, which we are certain will be as



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Patti Simon and Father Jim Miller at the Denver Paramount Theatre, May 8, 1982.

(Sieg Benson photo)

successful as this one. The organ was in great shape, thanks to Ivan Duff, Don Wick, and Ed Zollman. The tuning and voicing were tops, and the white and gold consoles were beautiful.

On April 11 we had a business meeting at which our young friend from Illinois, Phil Silberhorn, played a concert for us and, as usual, he was just great. Open console for the brave was held afterward. Then Phil was joined by our Ed Benoit for a duet which turned out just like they rehearsed it, which, we found out later, they didn't.

The Aladdin Theatre 3/12 Wicks is

now in use with the newly purchased, redecorated theatre now presenting live musicals with an orchestra in the pit. Work is still being done on the organ because of little "drive-ya-crazy" problems that pop up when the theatre is closed. It will be in perfect condition yet, by golly.

FRANK R. GANDY

SIERRA

Sacramento, California

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

On Sunday, April 4, blue skies and the allure of the pipe organ music of Rex Koury wafting through the idyllic setting of the Fair Oaks Community

Club House brought a turn-away crowd of over 400 to the premiere concert of Sierra's George Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer re-installation. The instrument, playing with nine of a planned eleven ranks, responded well to Rex's always fine artistry.

Installation of new, heavy stage curtains only an hour before concert time added a nice visual touch but dampened the sound of the on-stage pipes. Chapter voicer Dave Moreno has since opened up the high end to compensate for the drapes and for large crowds. A "new" used blower is being sought because the new installation with more ranks, regulators, and windlines, plus a phase converter, has so taxed the already-marginal 50 cycle Orgoblo that the organ showed some signs of wind shortage.

These few minor items, however, could not dampen our enthusiasm about the excellent turnout and the fine quality of the installation. The total project of re-installing the chapter's organ involved upwards of thirty members pitching in at one time or another, including the "Big Three," Dale Mendenhall, Dave Moreno and Ray Anderson. Others deserving special mention are Bob Longfield and Jim Carpenter; also, kudos to Hal Wilmunder for the electrical hookup.

On May 7, Sierra members were treated to an informal "Members Performance" concert at Fair Oaks. The program featured the playing of Dave Molzahn, his first before a crowd, and of Gary Konas who is Sierra's undiscovered great talent. It also featured the organ-piano duet of Art Phelan and Chuck Shumate, aka "The Blooming Idiots," and guest artist from AGO, Chris Lund. As one might surmise from the list of performers, we had a little of everything from the sublime to the ridiculous.

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Behind the curtain on stage at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse, with main chamber in the background.



A happy group at Sierra Chapter dedication. Crew Chief Dave Moreno, Chapter Chairman Randy Warwick, artist Rex Koury, and ATOS Vice President Dale Mendenhall. (Rudy Frey photo)

Everyone had great fun, especially Art and Chuck.

May 23 Sierra chartered a bus and journeyed to the Castro Theatre in San Francisco as guests of Nor-Cal Chapter for their presentation of Walt Strony. The seven o'clock Sunday morning departure was well-justified, as the combination of Walt Strony, eleven ranks of what will eventually be one of the finest big Wurlitzers anywhere, and excellent acoustics, all in the setting of the beautiful Castro, made for really thrilling theatre organ. We thank Nor-Cal Chapter for inviting us to this sampling of what will surely be many years of theatre organ concerts at the Castro.

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE Tulsa, Oklahoma

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

News from Sooner State Chapter has some catching up to do! We'll start by going way back to last December and a program of Christmas music on the 4/14 Robert-Morton in-

stalled in Tulsa's Assembly of God church. Featured artist was Larry Jones, whose program was a truly beautiful beginning to the Christmas season.

Our December meeting was our annual Christmas party, held this year at the home of Tom and Lee Seaton. Since Tom's Wurlitzer was still not ready for its debut, music was available as open console on his custom Rodgers. We heard many talented musicians and the dinner was delicious.

January found us at Bill Roberts' piano store for our annual business meeting. By way of saying "Thank You" to Bill for his many hours of behind-the-scenes assistance sharing his knowledge and expertise concerning pipe organs, we presented him with a plaque naming him Honorary Member for 1982. The plaque was made by Bruce Wilson from a section of a swell shade not used in his 1923 Kimball.

Early in February we returned to Central Assembly of God church for another concert on the Robert-Morton, again with Larry Jones at the console. After several numbers on the


organ, he introduced Meiko Nakagami, pianist. The duet they played, "Praise The Name of Jesus," was spine-tingling! He then announced open console and we heard from Phil Judkins, Joe Crutchfield and John Barhydt. But the grand piano-with-organ was too good not to hear more of, so Meiko returned to the bench and, with Larry at the organ, played two more numbers. Bravest performer of the evening was twelve-year-old Richie Jobe, a neighbor of Hervey Barbour's in Pryor. Richie has studied piano for several years and is just beginning to study organ. We think we heard a future theatre organist!

The grand piano still beckoned. We heard more duets with Larry at the piano and Phil at the organ, Joe at the piano and Larry at the organ, then Richie at the piano with Larry at the organ. Larry closed with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," on the organ alone.

Our regular February meeting was held in another church, Christ Methodist in Tulsa, around the newly-installed thirty-five rank Reuter pipe or-



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gan housed in the sanctuary. Our own Dr. Jim Routsong was involved in designing and obtaining this instrument, and he proudly demonstrated it for our enjoyment. Its three-manual console has been modified to give it an artificial tracker touch, which makes for interesting playing.

Hervey and Janice Barbour hosted our March meeting at their home in Pryor. The 2/11 Kimball concert organ certainly reflects the loving care it has had in Hervey's hands. We enjoyed music played by Hervey, Richie Jobe, Phil Judkins, John Barhydt, Joe Crutchfield, Jack Beindorf, and Dorothy Smith.

April found us at the home of John and Charlene Roberts in Tulsa for a program of taped organ music on John's superb sound system. One tape was of the late Ken Wright playing the radio station WKY studio 4/16 Kilgen in Oklahoma City. Other tapes were of Larry Jones playing Phil Judkins' 3/8 Wicks home installation, the Phelps tracker concert organ and 21-rank Wurlitzer housed in Christ Chapel of Oral Roberts University, and the February concert at Central Assembly of God church.

In May we returned to Central Assembly of God Church. As we were without a formal program this time, we enjoyed open console on the 4/14 Robert-Morton by several of our playing members. Harry Rasmussen and Phil Judkins have done some work on the organ, principally wiring the swell shades so they will open into the front of the church, with a control tab on the console. This gives a much fuller sound to the instrument when the organ is being used alone.

June found us at Harvey Young's "Island" on the grounds of his airport for our annual picnic. For a wonder the weather was beautiful — which can be a rare occurrence this time of year in Oklahoma. Music

afterwards was on Harvey's Conn 652 for those who stayed.

In July we met in the backyard patio of Harry and Beth Rasmussen. Our business meeting included news that the plans to install our club-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton in the auditorium of the new Vo-Tech high school campus are nearly complete, and construction is beginning. Hervey Barbour told us of his recent pipe-organ tour of Southern California, in the company of Lois Segur, ATOS president. Chairman Lee Smith discussed the progress made on plans for a fall concert on the 4/21 Wurlitzer in Christ Chapel at Oral Roberts University. We are in the final stages of arranging this, and feel it is another step in realizing our goal of bringing theatre organ music back to Tulsa. Music for the evening centered around Harry's 3-manual completely-unified Artisan organ. Harry has 71 stops playing from 12 "ranks" of tube generators, and plans to add 30 more stops.

We have been busy!

DOROTHY SMITH

WESTERN RESERVE Cleveland, Ohio 216/933-2272

Our April meeting was held at the Lorain, Ohio, Palace Theatre. Our soloist, playing the 3/10 Wurlitzer, was Charles Merhar, an active member of our chapter whose selections were all of the theatre organ era.

April 24 was the tenth anniversary of the first concert on the 3/13 Wurlitzer in the Grays' Armory. Keith Chapman duplicated his dedicatory concert on this organ. Dr. Chapman has always been ready to lend his time and considerable talent to keep the theatre organ alive and well in the northeast Ohio area. His selections included the "1812 Overture," with a

600-watts-per-channel Crown sound system with four six-foot-high sound cabinets for the Carillon bells and two 12-gauge shotguns which fired blanks producing a unique effect.

Our piano, installed in a separate chamber, was dedicated on this anniversary. Dr. Chapman's song for the dedication was a fitting "Kitten on the Keys." Charles Power and Vernon Webster had spent ten years repairing the piano, which included straightening the main frame and re-wiring it. After the concert, the piano chamber was opened for the audience to inspect; Charles and Vernon were in the chamber to answer any questions.

Our May meeting was held at the Cleveland Grays' Armory. Performing at the console of the 3/15 Wurlitzer was member Bill Taber. Opening with a medley of three Jesse Crawford tunes, he continued with many of our favorites. He featured our recently installed piano with "I Love A Piano." Western Reserve will present Bill Taber in concert at this 3/15 Wurlitzer on October 30. Tickets can be ordered from WRTOS, Inc., 1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

JIM SHEPHERD



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

WOLVERINE

Central & Lower Michigan
517/793-5418 or 616/364-0354

April 18 was a lovely spring day for a nice group of Wolverines to turn out for an enjoyable afternoon of good music at the home of Roger and Sue Mumbroe in Bloomfield Hills. The center attraction in the Mumbroe's home is a 3/32 hybrid theatre pipe organ in their basement music room. They have recently added eight of

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John Lauter ably performed at Roger and Sue Mumbrue's 3/32 hybrid pipe organ, including a demonstration of its unique animated features. (Ed Corey photo)



Fred and Bethel Hohner at the console of their son Lee's 3/10 Robert-Morton, which is installed in their home. (Carol Brown photo)

these ranks, various traps and toys, and have enlarged the blower. Several visual (animated) effects have also been added, such as a large parrot that flaps its wings in time to the music and even lays "eggs," and a smaller parrot that blows up a balloon. There is also a gorilla that beats on a garbage can lid with a tin cup in time to the music. Such creativity!

John Lauter provided us with a varied program ranging from up-tempo tunes to beautiful ballads. He also played medleys of some of the lesser known tunes from *Annie*, *Camelot*, and *Hello, Dolly*. John also demonstrated some of the animated features of the installation, much to

our delight! Our thanks go to John Lauter for such a nice concert, and a very special "thank you" goes to Roger and Sue Mumbrue for so generously sharing their terrific pipe organ installation with all of us for the afternoon.

A good time was had by all who came out on a gorgeous day, May 15, to our meeting at the Hohner residence in Mt. Clemens. Our warm and congenial hosts were Fred and Bethel Hohner, and we certainly thank them for sharing their home and organ with us that afternoon. Actually, the 3/10 Robert-Morton belongs to their son, Lee, who was unable to be with us that afternoon, to our regret. The or-

gan console is a real beauty, and the pipe installation sounds marvelous as it speaks out into a special addition to the home with a 16' ceiling.

Several of our members took turns playing the organ for us, putting everyone in a very relaxed and happy mood. A real highlight of the day was when we were treated to piano and organ duets with Bethel Hohner at the piano (how she can play!) and John Lauter at the organ. Everyone enjoyed that so much that the duets turned into a sing-along as well. All in all, it was a very satisfying day, musically and socially, and we certainly appreciated the Hohner's hospitality. □

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