



# Letters to the Editors

Letters concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are welcome. Unless clearly marked "not for publication" letters may be published in whole or in part.

Address:  
Editor, THEATRE ORGAN  
3448 Cowper Court  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the policies of ATOS or THEATRE ORGAN magazine.

Dear Editor:

This is a slightly belated expression of thanks directed to the Detroit gang for a most enjoyable convention last July. I was very impressed by the extreme friendliness of the Detroit hosts and appreciated very much how well organized the event was.

Having been involved with convention planning, I can well appreciate what you went through! I have not attended an ATOS national convention for 17 years, but am looking forward to future conventions as you really got me hooked on these things!

I also want to thank all of the organbuilders who attended my seminar and for the support you gave it with your many questions. Maybe next time more time can be allocated for such an event.

Sincerely,  
Lance E. Johnson

Dear Lloyd:

I want to tell you directly how much I enjoyed your articles on Dolph Goebel and Bill Gage in recent issues of THEATRE ORGAN. Both were good friends of mine.

Because he lived not too far from me, Bill was a frequent visitor for many years. In addition to the pleasure he derived from playing a theatre organ, he also enjoyed long, analyti-

cal discussions on subjects such as styles of organists, those who could do better on a Wurlitzer than on a Robert-Morton, those who'd play chords and progressions on certain organs as opposed to others, how registration differs in the type of

music or size of hall and audience.

We'd play records and tapes, sometimes taking sequences from several records and transferring them to one tape which we'd put away for a month or two. Then, we'd play the tape for ourselves and guests, trying to name the artist and the organ. I miss Bill, and your articles on him and Dolph are a couple of nice things which were done about two fine individuals who passed among the many of us who love the theatre organ.

I noticed in your Nuggets column in the Jan./Feb. 1982 issue the name of Oscar Roed. I knew him since the forties, but have lost track of him and so has Mary Goebel. Anyone know of his whereabouts?

I am looking forward to meeting other theatre organists via your articles, and I wish you success.

Sincerely,  
Stanley Warzala  
Wayne, New Jersey □



## CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

### BEEHIVE Salt Lake City

801/467-5700 or 801/486-9098

Beehive Chapter members and guests met at the Valley Organ and Piano Company on November 12. Chairman Clarence E. Briggs presided and the annual business meeting and election of officers and directors for 1983 was accomplished.

Harry Weirauch, Co-Chairman of the Capitol Theatre Restoration project, reported on the status of the organ, noting that completion is now a matter of weeks away with tuning, voicing and final checkout remaining. By the time these activities are concluded, in excess of 5000 man-hours of dedicated labor will have been expended.

Valley Organ hosts, ATOSers Nita Waldron and Scott Gillespie, proved

to be excellent hosts with Nita preparing refreshments, and Scott starting us out with four numbers on their fea-



Past Chairman Clare Briggs, 1983 Vice Chairman Gene Breinholt and 1983 Chairman Lowell Boberg at the Valley Organ Center. (Harry Weirauch photo)



**ATOS**  
28th  
ANNUAL CONVENTION  
JULY 1-5, 1983  
**San Francisco**

tured Hammond Elegante Organ. Open console was then in order on the several models of Hammond organs on display.

On December 3 Beehive Chapter members were guests at the installation banquet of the Organ Club of Salt Lake City, held at the Number One Restaurant in West Valley City. Following the banquet, new club members were installed and guests were introduced. The climax of the evening was a beautiful organ concert by club member Leni Rolfson, one of Salt Lake's outstanding jazz organists, playing on a Hammond organ furnished by the Valley Organ and Piano Company.

LOWELL J. BOBERG

# CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Tampa

813/384-1854 or 813/863-2264

In October a good attendance of about fifty members and guests were present at our meeting at J. Burns Pizza & Pipes. After the business meeting, members had the opportunity to play this fine Wurlitzer during open console. Among those who played

was Charlie Stanford, who is also staff organist at J. Burns. Afterwards, members stayed for the entertainment and the pizza.

Our November meeting was held at the Clipper Cove Yacht Club in Clearwater. Progress is being made on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer installation with the console and relay still remaining to be hooked up. Once again open console was enjoyed at M.C. and Velma Burnham's Conn theatre organ at their residence. Our membership is continuing to grow. We have eight new members, all of whom we wish to welcome.

Finally, with deep regret, we mention the passing of our chairman, Edward "Ted" Chapman. He took an active part in the Tampa Theatre organ installation and will be greatly missed. Vice-Chairman Everett Bassett will take over until a new election.

SANDRA SHOOK



## 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.



## CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis

317/283-3410 or 317/786-2160

In lieu of a September meeting, the group took a bus tour to central Ohio. The bus left Indianapolis on September 18 at 6:30 a.m. The first stop was the Marion, Ohio, Palace Theatre, now a 1434-seat performing arts theatre which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1978 and now appears on the National Register of Historic Places. Here several members played the organ in open console.

The group moved along to Columbus and the beautiful Ohio Theatre. Dennis James, resident organist and friend of Central Indiana Chapter, was our most gracious host. The Saturday night movie was *A Tale of Two Cities*, starring Ronald Coleman, preceded by a half hour of beautiful classical music by Dennis James. The Ohio Theatre was a former Loew's movie palace which opened in March, 1928. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Sunday a concert was given by G. Dene Bernard, one of the finest organists in Columbus, at the First Con-

gregational Church. The church has two organs, a Kimball and a 3/73 Von Beckerath. Mr. Bernard, after his concert, told us a great deal about the organs, especially the tracker instrument.

The group then attended a concert at the Broad Street Methodist Church given by Thomas Murray, American concert organist and assistant professor in the School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. Following the concert, the group attended a reception given by the church. Then on home late Sunday. All agreed that it was a good tour.

On October 10 our group met in the auditorium at Manual High School. After the business meeting, everyone settled down to hear the "pipes" at Manual. Mr. Carl Wright, teacher at Manual and organ enthusiast, said that it was exactly ten years ago that the Louisville Uniphone organ was brought into Manual to be installed. Our organist for the day, Mr. Carlton Smith, presented a delightful program.

On October 29, Bill Vlasak, organist at Paramount Music Palace, presented a concert at Manual for the Indianapolis Fire Buffs and Fire Department Museum, Inc. After his concert selections he accompanied the silent movie *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The setting for the November meeting was the Pipe Dream Restaurant in Kokomo, where Dr. Jack Elleman and his wife, Carrie, were host and hostess. In 1980, when the S.S. Kresge Company sold their store on the square in Kokomo, Dr. Elleman purchased the building, and the realization of his "pipe dream" began. Besides the restaurant, there are several unique craft shops located in the arcade. There is a video game room in the basement along with a meeting room where we met. The pizza parlor is equipped with a large stage in the front where the twelve-rank 1913 Wurlitzer sits in all its glory. Dr. Elleman has fondly named his organ "Second-Hand Rose," and after his

performance and a program presented by house organist Bill Tandy, several members performed on open console. The program was not strictly for members as the pizza parlor continued to serve the public. This meeting was truly enjoyed by all who attended.

MARY LOU HARRELL



**Chicago Area Theatre  
Organ Enthusiasts**  
312/470-0743 or 312/627-3245

Chicago Theatre Gambit, November 10: notice of hearings for landmark status of the Chicago Theatre posted. November 12, Plitt Theatres apply to city for demolition permit. City refuses, citing incomplete paperwork by Cleveland Wrecking Company. CATOE has taken part in all hearings to date on the plight of the Chicago Theatre. At the first hearing, November 18, organ builder Bill Hansen testified to the organ's integral part of the building, design, early use and resurrection by CATOE in 1967. Chicago Theatre organist Bob Chaney played a tape of the first known electrically recorded (microphone) commercial record, which just happened to be Jesse Crawford at the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer. He also provided proof of national radio hook-up from the Chicago Theatre with copies of radio transcriptions. A show-stopper from George Wright's latest direct-to-disc recording at the Chicago Theatre ended his testimony. Vice-Chairman Bob Boin presented CATOE's plea that the theatre organ be considered part and parcel with the Chicago Theatre in landmark designation. The more than three hours of testimony for the theatre included statements from Mayor Byrne and Josie Balaban Coture. Plitt Theatres' lawyers did not cross examine, but merely waited their turn to present their point which, paraphrased, reads: We do not care about nostalgia, architecture, history, pipe organs or theatre; let's talk money. For those of you who would help us save the Chicago Theatre and its Mighty Wurlitzer, please write to Ira Bach, Landmarks Commission, 320 North Clark Street, Room 800, Chicago, Illinois 60610. To be continued.

January 9 found CATOE and its offspring together again at the Joliet Rialto. CATOE, Land of Lincoln, Dairyland and Joliet chapters heard piano and organ duets by Bob Chaney and Bob Coslett of Walnut Creek, California. Theatre tours were conducted, open console lasted for hours and refreshments were served in the rotunda under the chandelier known as "The Duchess." And a good time was had by all.

CHRISTOPHER CARLO



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



**Thomaston**  
203/378-9192 or 203/583-8334

Our October meeting was held at the Thomaston Opera House so invited friends from neighboring chapters could join us at the organ, socialize, and hear our chapter member David Senak present a program. After our early afternoon business session, the hall was available for open console until the dinner hour.

Came 7:30 and it was time for David to play. He was introduced by Program Chairman Bob Bailey, then promptly began making the pipes speak in well-arranged sequence; the result being an hour or so of very good music, especially remarkable considering his years. Joined by an area choral group, David demonstrated capability in accompaniment in addition to his solo talents. Altogether, our singers and organist made us mighty glad we had come.

### NEW FIRST CLASS AND AIRMAIL RATES FOR THEATRE ORGAN

Effective January 1, 1983, special mail rates for THEATRE ORGAN will be as follows:

FIRST CLASS —  
U.S. and Canada .....\$12.00 per year

AIRMAIL —  
Great Britain & Europe .....\$15.00 per year  
Australia, New Zealand,  
South Africa .....\$20.00 per year

NOTE: These are the correct rates. The rates shown on non-chapter member's statements are wrong because of a printing error.

THEATRE ORGAN  
CLASSIFIED ADS  
GET RESULTS!  
TRY ONE

On October 22, 23 and 24, Lyn Larsen once again held forth at the Thomaston Opera House. We have had Lyn here toward the end of each year with some regularity. This year Lyn had with him Jack Bethards from California. Jack assembled ten very capable musicians from the Al Gentile Orchestras group, a Connecticut organization, to augment the pipe organ in some most entertaining arrangements of familiar music from the Golden Days of radio. Jack has collected, over the years, some 175,000 original arrangements used by such performers as Anson Weeks, Ray Noble, Nathaniel Shilkret and others. It was from these arrangements that the program for our concert was compiled.

Lyn started the evening with his familiar arrangement of "That's Entertainment," soon coming to a medley of Duke Ellington creations. A fine arrangement of the "War March of the Priests" concluded the first part of the evening's bill. Then it was time for Jack Bethards and company to augment the program. This was done with much gusto as organ and orchestra put us, figuratively speaking, "on the air" with a group of 1946 tunes. Lyn finished the evening with some additional popular tunes and an outstanding rendition of Puccini's "Un bel di," to leave us in a fine state for enchanted slumber. The brass, drums, piano and bass instruments so capably directed by Jack Bethards in concert with the fine Marr & Colton pipe organ provided an interesting and very entertaining evening. Many favorable comments were heard from the audience.

On March 19 and 20 Charlie Balogh will play for us at the Thomaston Opera House. For tickets and information contact Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Connecticut 06483. Telephone 203/888-9696.

W. F. POWERS

### DAIRYLAND Milwaukee

414/463-2365 or 414/771-8522

Fred Hermes opened his home and "Basement Theatre" to DTOS members and invited guests for his annual Halloween program in October. Fred himself accompanied the full-length version of *The Phantom of the Opera* on his five-manual Wurlitzer. A standing-room-only crowd enjoyed the classic film and special effects on the Brenograph, not to mention the Halloween treats after the program.



Jerry Nagano at the Avalon Theatre.

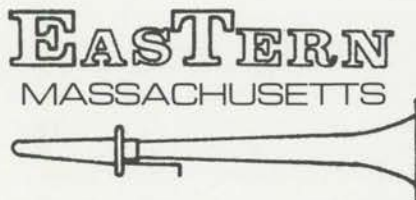
(Pat Jameson photo)

Many thanks to Fred and Veryl for the enjoyable evening.

Jerry Nagano made his midwest debut on November 14 on the Avalon Theatre Wurlitzer. Jerry delighted the crowd with a very diverse program and the Buster Keaton film *One Week*. The organ has recently been expanded and is now a 3/12.

After the concert there was a reception for Jerry at the Riverside Theatre. There were refreshments and theatre tours as well as open console on the Riverside's 3/13 Wurlitzer. When Jerry got up to take his turn, he was treated to a full display of the theatre's lighting and scenic effects.

CARRIE NELSON



Babson College, Wellesley  
617/244-4136 or 617/754-1508

The principal order of business at our October Babson meeting was acceptance of the Nominating Committee's slate of 1983 chapter officers. Our afternoon's artist, member Dr. Jonathan Kleefeld, always makes our Wurlitzer speak with authority. His opening few bars of Bach's "Toccatina in D" modulated into "Who," and then a fine contrasting variety of marches, movie themes and old fa-

vorites followed. The audience response required Jon to extend his concert with a double encore, Anderson's "Sandpaper Ballet" and Faure's "Pelleas et Melisande." During open console, Dr. Jon was also among the several attracted to our Wurlitzer, such is its magnetism.

EMCATOS' twin concerts by Dennis James, October 23 and 24, were among the best we ever presented. This opinion was heard many times during both intermissions and upon conclusion of each. Mr. James is only 32, yet he has captured the feel of the "Golden Era" of the theatre organ like a veteran. His polished, thoroughly prepared programs were truly works of art.

Before dimming the house lights, recorded music of that era was heard as the focus of attention was our shiny black console bedecked with a large basket of fall flowers. Over the P.A. system then came an announcement, "From the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio — Dennis James!" Lights out, the screen pictured Dennis seated at a console, then leaving, strolling over the house porch to a Model A Ford. After climbing into the rumble-seat with background barbershop quartet singing, he headed for the Ohio Theatre. Entering through the lobby doors of the gleaming theatre, he ambled down the aisle to the white and gold console, dressed in white suit and straw hat. Dennis, in person, then came down the aisle spotlighted in similar dress as mounting applause greeted him. As beautiful colored views of the Ohio were screened, Dennis began his program with the appropriate "Beautiful Ohio." Amid loud approbation he turned with a "WELCOME TO BABSON DREAM THEATRE" greeting and stated that his program would be an introduction to the 1920's use of the organ in movie houses. Wonderful music of Berlin, Kern, H.N. Brown and others was played with great accuracy and feeling, utilizing the organ's resources to the hilt. Lightning-fast registration changes, second-touch use, pistons, toe studs, all carefully enhanced his program. Dick Johnson and crew added much to the mood changes with lighting effects. Community sing-along time with Dennis' vintage and humorous slides was a great hit. For the Halloween season, the best Laurel and Hardy comedy we have seen in years, *Habeas Corpus*, was screened with truly expert accompaniment.

After intermission, Dennis paid tribute to one of the greatest theatre organists, the late Reginald Foort, with Foort's arrangement of the "Poet and Peasant Overture," which served to introduce a musical trip around the world. His audiences were "up" in all ways as they applauded this most talented organist, so Dennis reciprocated with two tunes from Kern's *Roberta*. Dennis James gave us two most memorable concerts showing his thoroughness in attention to detail, musicianship, knowledge of his instrument, programming and showmanship. We all left with a warm glow and Dennis won many friends for himself and for theatre pipe organ. Isn't that what it's all about?

STANLEY C. GARNISS



GARDEN STATE  
THEATRE  
ORGAN  
SOCIETY, INC.

New Jersey  
609/888-0909 or 201/891-1588

On September 26, the Garden State Chapter proudly presented Robin Richmond, one of Britain's few remaining "original" theatre organists. Prior to the concert, Mr. Richmond was greeted at the airport by Program Chairman Michael Cipolletti and member Joe Vanore. Unsure as to how Mr. Richmond would be able to recognize them, they secured the assistance of a couple of Tibia pipes and carried them into the airport. The result was instant recognition.

Mr. Richmond has performed for U.S. audiences during three previous tours. He is one of the few singing theatre organists who publicly do so. His concert stylings were thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. This writer particularly enjoyed the Edvard Grieg selections so rarely heard in performance on theatre pipe organs.

October 22, the Trenton War Memorial was the scene for the installation of new officers, the annual banquet, and a superb concert by Ralph Ringstad who has delighted audiences at the U.S. Military Academy's Moller and the sorely missed Suburban Restaurant's Wurlitzer. Chairman Jack Moelmann addressed the members and outlined the goals of the ad-

ministration for the coming year. He presented Ginny Vanore with a brass trumpet for ten years of dedicated service as editor of the chapter newsletter, *Pedals and Pipes*.

Meanwhile, quick progress is being made as work crews have been formed at the former Broadway Theatre in North Bergen and at the Asbury Park Convention Hall. More details of the progress at these installations will be presented in future chapter notes.

ED BAYKOWSKI

### GULF COAST Pensacola 904/433-4683

Chairman Tom Helms is through with his studies and is now back at the helm of our chapter.

B.D. Rhea, M.D., is still bee-busy on his construction of the reproduction of the Wonder Morton. He is up to the stage of putting in the electric switches on the stop tabs. Sure looks good!

If you think building a console is simple, please stop and consider. Now, you would think to build a pipe organ you would start with pipes. Right? Wrong! One of our starting goals was the purchase of a blower. Sound simple? No way! To begin with, the blower was in Abilene, Texas, in the basement of a small college. We heard of the availability of the blower, and the size and price suited us. This necessitated a trip to Abilene, garnering workers from the local unemployment bureau to help, renting a U-Haul and pulling the whole thing back to Pensacola behind the car. Some job! Then, to add to all this, heat of 117°. Well, we got home with the blower, and the workers at the Saenger Theatre helped off-load the thing into the basement of the theatre where it will blow. You would think that after dismantling and pulling the whole thing all those miles, the rest would be simple. Forget that. In the Law of Murphy, nothing is simple. Sometimes he runs over into ATOS work, too. Murphy, I mean. After the almost thousand-mile odyssey, the blower sat three inches from its connecting point with no way to connect it to the shaft. To the rescue came Tom's father with a portable lifting mechanism which lifted the behemoth motor the necessary three inches, and now it is home! Twenty-five horsepower motors are heavy — in case you need to get one this week.

Our next meeting will see the election of officers for the coming year. Hopefully, our organ might be playable by that time. The whole town is interested, and our chairman is working closely with the theatre officials on the many phases of its installation. Oh! to see it come from the pit in sound! Dream on, fellow members.

DOROTHY STANDLEY



AMERICAN THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY  
Land O' Lakes Chapter

St. Paul  
715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

Our chapter has never been so busy — one concert after another! Once again we had the privilege of hearing the magnificent 3/13 Robert-Morton pipe organ at the Powderhorn Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis when Paul-Wesley Bowen played for us on August 29.

Labor Day weekend found about twenty LOLTOS members attending another of Bobby Schmidt's famous music festivals at his Indian Hills Resort in Wisconsin. The guest artist was none other than Lyn Larsen headlining the programs for three evenings. We enjoyed his charm and easy rapport with his audience in such close, intimate surroundings, and we feel that we really got to know him. Others participating in the programs: Dr. Kerry Grippe from the University of Iowa thrilled us with his artistry at the grand piano; Arma Neff, 93 years young, received a standing ovation for her violin solos accompanied by Lyn Larsen at the organ; Sylvia Hartman, a multi-talented young lady from Minneapolis, played her beautiful harp and sang several numbers accompanied by Lyn at the organ. Sylvia also plays piano and organ. We all felt fortunate, indeed, to hear such beautiful music in such surroundings.

On September 10 Lyn Larsen appeared in concert at the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul. Bobby Schmidt again brought his Rodgers 340 from the resort and Lyn, of course, was much at home at the organ after playing the previous weekend for the festival.

About fifty LOLTOS members traveled in separate cars on October 10 to Spring Valley where Mike Erie, our own vice-chairman, played a delightful concert of familiar tunes on

the 2/8 Wurlitzer situated in the loft of the enchanting barn owned by Dr. Roland and Marilyn Matson.

On October 22 Rob Calcaterra, organist at Radio City Music Hall, played at the World Theatre on the Rodgers 340, courtesy of Bobby Schmidt. Arma Neff, in a cameo appearance, played her violin accompanied by Rob at the organ. There was a silent movie and a sing-along which made a thoroughly enjoyable concert.

Cedarhurst, a beautiful historic mansion in Cottage Grove which is the home of "Goldie," the giant Wurlitzer, was the scene of our annual election meeting on November 19, preceded by a dinner and followed by a concert by Harvey Gustafson, well-known Twin Cities organist.

Another concert at the World Theatre, held on November 26, featured Paul-Wesley Bowen at the Rodgers and five wonderfully talented singers in a program of tunes from Broadway shows, a truly delightful musical treat. The guest singers were Dr.

Michael Livingston, Eleanor Call, Madalyn Traun, Laura Nichols and Cheryl Wittala.

VERNA MAE WILSON

### LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND 8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Our fifth "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" Competition, held this year at the Granada Harrow in northwest London and featuring the sparkling 3/8 Wurlitzer of 1937 vintage, was an outstanding success, drawing a record 12 entrants from various parts of the country.

With ages ranging from 12 to 16, the lineup had an equal mix of boys and girls and an exceptionally fine cross-section of theatre organ favorites in the two free choices allocated to each competitor. These were complemented by one set piece, "Charleston."

Before a very appreciative audi-

ence, the competition adjudicators were Dr. Joanna Frazer with both classical and theatre organ appreciation; Frank Fowler who heads the renowned Hill, Norman and Beard organ company which earlier built the brilliant Christie theatre organs; and good friend and chapter member Dennis James, who was in London for a major silent film festival at the Dominion Theatre in London's Tottenham Court Road. As usual, Len Rawle acted as chairman.

After a truly first-rate playing program, we enjoyed an exciting 20-minute interlude played by last year's winner, exceptionally talented Rodney Pooley, while the adjudicators retired to finish their assessments. The winner was stylish 15-year-old John Barlow of Gomersal, West Yorkshire. In second place was 14-year-old Helen Kaye of nearby Berry Brow. Both John and Helen have been greatly encouraged by John Whitely of the '3Js' Leisure Centre at



Rodney Pooley, 1981 winner, hands over the chain of office to 1982 winner, John Barlow. London Chapter chairman looks on. (John Sharp photo)



Young Organist of the Year competitors, with winners seated on the bench, L to R: 3rd place, Jeffrey Solman, 16; 1st place, John Barlow, 15; 2nd place, Helen Kaye, 14. (John Sharp photo)



Marquee of theatre where Young Organist of the Year Competition was held on November 21, 1982. (John Sharp photo)



"ATOS 82" proudly displayed in front of organ grilles for competition. Note also special bench with "ATOS." (John Sharp photo)



Reginald Porter Brown, who passed away August 12, 1982. A favorite organist on all our safaris, was most often described as "the organist with four hands." He was a brilliant musician who will be greatly missed at Southampton Guild Hall. USA visitors rated him the "tops."  
(John Sharp photo)



Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Candea made her debut at the Barton organ in Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre in October.  
(Bo Hanley photo)

Gomersal, which houses the 3/10 Compton formerly in the Gaumont Cinema, Doncaster, and proving the importance of regular access to such an installation. In third place was 16-year-old Geoffrey Solman from Sidcup in Kent in his third competition, and now playing regular "live" interludes each Friday night at the recently restored 3/6 Compton in the State Cinema, Grays in southeast Essex.

John Barlow collected £50 cash, as well as the now prestigious silver inscribed "Chain of Office." With a second prize of £25, third prize of £15 and all other competitors receiving £5 each, all twelve received LP records from Amberlee Records, Joanna Frazer, Frank Fowler, and Dennis James, together with other handsome supportive gifts.

As usual, good chapter friend Audrey Williams of South Wales brought along three fine young pupils to compete, together with a wagon load of fervent supporters.

Encouraging various similar competitions in other parts of the UK, and now, we are happy to see, in the USA, our "YOY" is a well-established feature of our annual calendar. Moreover, with around 40 young organists grouped around our chapter and the enthusiastic support of their families and friends, we are pleased to be laying a firm foundation for the continuation of our chosen pleasure. Several of them are now employed in the organ business and are also booking im-

pressive concert engagements.

Sadly, 1982 ended on a somber note with the passing of the uniquely talented veteran organist Reginald Porter Brown (conventioners will remember his scintillating performances at Southampton Guildhall in 1976 and 1980). However, we take comfort that his special talents have been captured on numerous LP records, including some from his tour of Australia a few years back, and a reproduction of his only 78 disc which he cut at the Regal Walton-on-Thames Compton around 1943, just issued in a new compilation.

NORMAN BARFIELD

Motor  
City  
Theatre  
Organ  
Society, Inc.



Detroit  
313/537-1133

Twenty chapter organists played during our two-day garage sale at the Redford Theatre the first weekend in October. Proceeds from the very successful event will go toward the purchase of the theatre.

The eighteenth birthday of Motor City Chapter was celebrated October

15 at the Redford Theatre. Members viewed numerous photographs, publicity posters and other memorabilia from the early years of the chapter on display in the lobby. Following introductory remarks by Marge Muethel, Don Lockwood spoke from the stage and, to the accompaniment of Lou Behm at the organ, recounted several remembrances from the early years of the chapter which was formed at the home of Al and Betty Mason on October 15, 1964. The birthday celebration was co-chaired by Marge Muethel and Virginia Duerr.

Gaylord Carter's program at the Redford Theatre on October 16 marked his twelfth silent film presentation for our chapter. Gaylord, who this year celebrates his sixtieth year in show business, accompanied *The General* with dramatically appropriate film scoring.

On October 30, two busloads of chapter members journeyed to Kalamazoo to attend a benefit concert by Father Jim Miller at the State Theatre, where local enthusiasts are seeking support to save the atmospheric movie house and its Barton theatre pipe organ.

Our annual membership meeting was held at the Redford Theatre on November 7 and featured a catered dinner in the lobby. Gerald Muethel was heard at the Barton during the social hour; Lou Behm played dinner music, and Mike Kwitt was featured at the organ following the meal.

We presented young Tony O'Brien

in his musical debut at the Royal Oak Theatre on November 12. Magician Jeff Hobson and member Nancy Candeia, as a clown-mime, also appeared and were accompanied by Tony at the organ.

In a surprise presentation following intermission, Don Lockwood awarded a plaque to Mert Harris in appreciation of his loving maintenance and restoration of the Royal Oak Barton over the past 14 years. A plaque was also awarded to Marion Cook, who could not be present, in recognition of her efforts to preserve the Royal Oak Barton organ by purchasing the instrument and then donating it to our chapter, thus assuring the future of the organ in the theatre.

The artist for our September Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor was Barry Rindhage from Saginaw. In October, fifteen-year-old Jennifer Candeia appeared in her first program at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton. Norm Keating, who has played in night club dance bands, was our Fourth Sunday organist at the Royal Oak Theatre in September. Appearing at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton in October was Don Jenks. An open console session attracted members and local residents to the Punch and Judy Theatre on October 3, and provided an opportunity for many to try their hands at the 2/6 Wurlitzer.

Upcoming programs include Dennis James accompanying *Broken Blossoms* at the Redford Theatre on March 5. Eddie Weaver will be accompanying *Haunted Spooks* at the Royal Oak Theatre on April 9, and Lee Erwin will play accompaniment for *The Thief of Bagdad* at the Redford Theatre on May 20, 21. For more information write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone (313) 537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD



Magician Jeff Hobson, clown-mime Nancy Candeia and organist Tony O'Brien after Tony's program at the Royal Oak Theatre in November.

(Ray Van Steenkiste photo)

### NEW YORK New York

201/573-9567 or 201/473-0559

In 1928, *Present Arms* opened on Broadway, and the Brooklyn Paramount made its debut on Flatbush Avenue. There remains one gem from each: "You Took Advantage of Me" from the first, and the glorious-sounding 4/26 Wurlitzer from the lat-

ter. Fifty-four years later, both were alive and well when Rex Koury united them in a Richard Rogers medley during his October 10 concert.

Every composer's melody seems to be vibrantly alive when Mr. Koury performs it, and this Wurlitzer has seldom sounded better. Throughout his program he displayed a great knowledge of orchestration in imaginative registrations which never once gave a sameness of sound to the organ. He has an effective technique for making great use of counter-melodies without lessening the rhythmic force he is employing. These elements, combined with a keen, sensitive musicianship, made listening to a very orchestral "Rhapsody in Blue" and selections from *Annie* and *Music Man* most enjoyable.

A lighter side of Rex Koury was evidenced when he presented a silent movie without the movie and with very definite un-silent sound. He made the Wurlitzer tell the story, as he did when he led us back to the Golden Days of radio by way of montaging many famous themes of that era. This concert was proof positive that the American Theatre Organ Society was right on target when they made Rex Koury their Organist of the Year.

MARLIN SWING



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Larry Vannucci played for Nor-Cal on October 17 at the Empress Theatre in Vallejo. Member Bill Elliott is the owner of the theatre and its Style D, 2/6 Wurlitzer Opus 952. The organ



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Larry Vannucci at the Empress Theatre Wurlitzer, Vallejo, California.

(Rudy Frey photo)



Facade of the Empress Theatre, Vallejo, California.

(Ed Mullins photo)

was originally installed in the Gaiety Theatre in Santa Maria, California. It was removed in 1965 and installed in the home of Claire Shipley who was later married to Larry Vannucci, so Larry was quite familiar with the instrument and was able to bring the most beautiful sounds from it.

The organ passed through two other home installations before William G. Elliott acquired it for his little gem of a theatre. The Empress was originally built in 1911 as a vaudeville house and was known as the Crest and as the Senator. It operated through the silent film and depression eras. It was redecorated in the forties in the beautiful Fox West Coast style, also known as the "Skouras plumes and swags style." The house was closed between 1965 and 1980. The Elliott family of Vallejo purchased the house in 1980 and completely restored it at great expense. An organ had never been installed in the house, so chambers were built behind the screen upstairs from the console. The pipes are

under expression and the percussions are to the right side of the pipe chamber and are exposed. Future plans include enlarging the instrument to eleven ranks.

Vannucci mentioned the small size of the organ, but said he was "gonna attempt it anyway," when he played Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance," proving himself the master of this instrument. It was a most enjoyable concert for all who attended. Following the concert, Chairman Rudy Frey presented the slide show that was seen at the Detroit convention promoting the 1983 ATOS Convention which will be hosted by Nor-Cal.

November 21 our concert artist was nineteen-year-old Miss Pauline Dixon

of Hayes, Middlesex, England. Although not related to famed British organist Reginald Dixon whose name is a household word in England, Pauline Dixon is a rising young star. She was the winner of the first Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition sponsored by the London and South of England Chapter in 1978. When she played the 4/23 Wurlitzer at the Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, she showed us why she was selected.

Before opening with "Everything's Coming Up Roses," Pauline thanked pizzeria owner Bob Paterson for all the kindness he showed her during her visit. This is Pauline's fifth trip to the United States. She is a great devotee of the late Buddy Cole, and her recent visit to his grave in Forest Lawn was an emotional experience. She also visited Cole's organ which is now installed in Campbell, California. Her program was highlighted with several Cole arrangements of which her "Autumn in New York" was note

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perfect. She is developing a nice style of her own as well, which was evidenced in the variety of her numbers.

Mrs. Audrey Dixon said that her daughter practices from five to seven hours every day. Pauline regrets that there aren't very many theatre organs available for practice in England. We know the feeling, Pauline! We hope your dream of having your very own pipe organ comes true.

It was delightful to have such a lovely young lady play for us, which is a first for Nor-Cal, and we look forward to hearing more from her.

ED MULLINS



Pauline Dixon at the Capn's Galley Wurlitzer, Redwood City, California.

(Rudy Frey photo)



**NORTH  
TEXAS  
CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth  
214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108**

The recent activities of North Texas Chapter were designed to further the goals of ATOS as expressed at the Detroit convention: to encourage talented young organists in their playing theatre organ and to build membership and participation in ATOS. August 15 the chapter members met in the lovely home of FX and Barbara Coronado for the first meeting following the convention. Program Chairman Ted Thompson introduced a very talented young organist, Miss Luz Oralla. Luz, a senior this year at Ursuline Academy, is an outstanding student of Mr. Charles Evans.

Miss Oralla exhibited an unusual degree of composure as well as exceptional musical accomplishment, par-

ticularly for someone of her youth. Announcing each of her selections, she revealed her professionalism and her natural warm personality. Her program, which began with a spirited "Bumble Boogie," included a Don Baker arrangement of "Limehouse Blues" and, in a more contemporary vein, a medley from *Annie* and the beautiful theme from *Ice Castles*. Her appealing music showed a depth of feeling and a warm regard for harmony as well as a telling influence from her teacher. We hope that our grateful applause and sincere standing ovation will provide encouragement to this talented young woman in her musical career. We hope to hear her again.

Chairman Bob McGillivray began planning our chapter's membership expansion while still at the Detroit convention. He called a caucus of the NTC officers and members in support of his plan to invite Father Jim Miller to play an October concert in Dallas. He got enthusiastic support and the invitation was given. It was expected that the presentation of Fr. Miller in a public concert would be

both enjoyable and the desired stimulus to expand our membership. It turned out well in all respects.

Planning for the Fr. Miller concert began in earnest as soon as we returned from Detroit. The choice of instrument was simple as we have only one theatre organ in an auditorium of sufficient size to support a public concert; the 2/15 Wicks in the Scottish Rite Temple in downtown Dallas. Arrangements were quickly made for joint sponsorship of this event, and proceeds will support organ maintenance activities of both organizations.

The Scottish Rite Temple in Dallas is an imposing edifice of classic architecture, richly appointed with marble and bronze and recently refurbished to its 1920's splendor. The auditorium, when new, had a much larger pipe organ installed; however, in the forties when it became popular to do so, an electronic organ was purchased. The pipe organ fell into disrepair and was removed. Pipe chamber space was used for storage, so when the building was restored a smaller organ was chosen to replace the origi-

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Luz Oralla, young organist who played August 15 concert for North Texas Chapter.

(Irving Light photo)

nal. This organ, built in 1925 for an Illinois theatre, was later used in a church. When the church decided to trade it in to Wicks for a larger organ, it was brought back to the Wicks factory. There the instrument, built by the father of the current Mr. Wicks, was prepared for its new home. This work included expansion to fifteen ranks from its original eight.

Our choice of Fr. Jim Miller for our October 8 concert could not have been better. His love, contagious fun and laughter and his exciting music completely charmed his audience of ATOS and Scottish Rite members and friends. During intermission and following the concert, the lobby ATOS desk was kept busy recording names for concert notices, providing ATOS information and applications, and receiving unsolicited praise of Father Jim and his music. A number of people said they had "never heard that organ sound so good," and asked to be notified of future concerts. We expect to gain many new chapter members as a result of this concert.

While many people contributed to the success of this effort, Chairman Bob McGillivray gave special thanks to Lorena McKee who handled most of the arrangements, including advertising and ticket sales. Special credit also goes to Fred Garrett and Dick Cooper who provided transportation for Fr. Miller, as well as assured that the Wicks behaved properly for the concert. We now proudly count Fr. Miller in our NTC membership. Saying that he found us Texans to be warm and friendly and dedicated ATOSers, he wanted to be one of us. He wrote his check for 1983 dues and received his membership card in NTCATOS. We love you, Father Jim.

Finding a proper and permanent home for our chapter's 4/22 Robert-Morton Wonder organ continues to be a prime concern and activity of NTC officers and members. Much searching has not yet resulted in success. Existing facilities in this area have not proved adequate for this instrument. We are now pinning our



Lorena McKee joins Fr. Miller on stage to accept gratitude of members for her work.

(Irving Light photo)

hopes on receptive interest from developers of several structures now being planned. In the meantime, work continues on refurbishing the instrument, looking forward to that wonderful day when it assumes its destiny as the center of theatre organ presentations for the North Texas area.

IRVING LIGHT



### Cincinnati

513/221-3387 or 513/471-2965

The October 22 concert by Bob Ralston at Cincinnati's Emery Theatre, sponsored by Ohio Valley Chapter, was a success. Ralston played to a fairly full house. His varied program included a couple of numbers on an on-stage piano and was well performed, although perhaps a bit too talky. It was, however, quite obviously enjoyed by everyone, judging from the applause.

Ralston arrived in Cincinnati a few days before his performance to get acquainted with the organ. OVC's 3/26 Wurlitzer, rescued from the now extinct RKO Albee Theatre and completely rebuilt in the Emery Theatre, has been maintained and enlarged from its original 19 ranks by a very capable organ crew headed by "Tote" Pratt.

Ralston highly praised the organ to the audience during his concert. OVC members Ken Aultz and Rich Kersting keep the organ in tune. Ralston himself, and Pratt spent some of the last available hours touching up the tun-



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ing of a few pipes the day of the concert, a chore requiring Pratt to climb about in the pipe chambers, aggravating his leg condition, putting him in bed and forcing him to miss the concert. Too bad, for it was a good concert, and the organ sounded really super! Ralston seemed to use every key on the organ and every item on the toy counter.

One small thing that detracted somewhat from its being a really first-class presentation was the absence of a printed program of any kind. This writer feels that, even without a listing of selections scheduled to be heard, a program giving information about the organ, the theatre, the society and the all-important various credits is very desirable. Apparently the public felt so, too, considering the great number of requests for a program.

The Ohio Valley Chapter, in a 100% volunteer operation, presents double-feature classic films nearly every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at the Emery Theatre unless preempted by other events scheduled by the owner, the University of Cincinnati. A chapter member organist, from a staff of about a dozen willing to perform, plays for half an hour while the movie patrons arrive as well as during an intermission between features. Admission for the entire evening is only \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children under twelve, a bargain by any measure these days. The hard-working volunteers of OVC-ATOS are proud to be constantly exposing the public to theatre pipe organ and its wonderful music in this way.

Other recent OVC activities have included a Big Band concert with Bill Walters' band on stage following a showing of *Orchestra Wives*, which featured the Glenn Miller band. Gene Wilson provided the organ music beforehand. Our membership meeting

was held at Rieger's Barn, where we heard a 3/41 Moller/Estey classic organ with built-in player action which was rather neat. Some of us visited Mickey and John Gogle's home afterwards to see, hear and play their three-manual Kimball. A chapter dinner meeting at the Fireside Ristorante was followed by a concert by member Rodney Barbour on the Schantz at College Hill Presbyterian Church.

GORDON CORNELL

### OREGON Portland

503/244-2141 or 503/253-6874

When the organist scheduled for our November 6 meeting at Benson High School was unable to appear, it was necessary to quickly find a competent replacement. Our thanks to board member Paul Quarino, whose perseverance and ingenuity enabled him to engage famous organist Bill Langford. Bill had just moved back



Bill Langford seemed to enjoy himself as much as the Oregon Chapter enjoyed him, at the November concert at the Benson High School Kimball organ in Portland. (Claude Neuffer photo)

to the California Bay area from Indiana but Paul did not have his new address or phone number. However, after much time and expensive telephone sleuthing he finally reached Bill and got him to play this concert.

Bill Langford has an extensive background in radio, TV, recording, and as a touring artist for Hammond and Gulbransen. He was for 18 years at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in Hayward, California, the first pizza organ in the world. Although he had played a great many pipe organs over the years, this was his first time at a Kimball. His great satisfaction with this fine instrument was evidenced in his inspired playing throughout the concert.

Bill's generous program included an elaborate and sensitive arrangement of "Autumn Leaves" and a clever music lesson skit with the piano and Clarinet. His artistic use of the Kimball's gorgeous Strings, Tibias and Vox was enhanced by the superb acoustics of this auditorium.

Thanks to Bill Langford for a wonderful concert and to Benson High for the use of the organ. Our chapter is also grateful to our maintenance crew and especially to Paul Quarino for bringing this super musician to us.

BUD ABEL

### PUGET SOUND Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

October was home tours for Puget Sound, beginning at Bert and Georgia Lobberegt's home in Issaquah. Don Myers played a fine program on the Lobberegt instrument. This was followed by open console. The Lobberegts have a very interesting home with the organ pipes installed horizontally above a burlap ceiling in the living room. Many of us enjoyed a tour of their museum which houses many old



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Dick Schrum at Calvary Temple, Seattle.

(Christine Pride photo)

player pianos and musical machines, as well as an antique car collection.

We then traveled to Pearl Nelson's, where Pearl played her magnificent Rodgers organ for us. I especially enjoyed her version of "Tea for Two."

After dinner at a restaurant in Kent, we continued to the home of our chairman, Jack Becvar, where Dianne Whipple gave us a fine program on the Wurlitzer there. We also enjoyed Jack's demonstration of the player piano and organ using player-piano rolls.

In November we were fortunate to have Ron Rhode in concert at Seattle's Paramount Theatre. His performance showed excellent training as he played a variety of classical and popular music. Of special note was his rendition of a medley of songs from *The King and I*. Extra thanks to Don Myers, Mike Wallace, Genni Whitting, Jack Becvar, Bob White and Brian Ingoldsby for their work on the 20-rank Wurlitzer at the Paramount. It sounds great!

In December we will have our usual Christmas party using our own organ at the Haller Lake Community Club. Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all.

CHRISTINE PRIDE



Davenport

309/793-1451 or 319/359-5620

A chapter meeting was held at the Butterworth Center in Moline, Illinois, on August 27. There were twelve members at the social who enjoyed the beautiful furnishings of a turn-of-the-century home. The home has three grand pianos and a 3/16 Stanke pipe organ which is also playable by a Moller roll-player mechanism.

Mark Spangler was our guest artist. He played several popular tunes and demonstrated the roll-player, after which he was joined by Martin Leon at the grand piano. This was a great surprise for all members, and all had a good time listening. Such hidden talent is sometimes found by accident.

Labor Day weekend proved to be

quite exciting for the quad cities. The Cinephiles held their national convention at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport, Iowa. Three days of continuous movies and silent films of famous actors and actresses were shown. The hotel was equipped with an Allen theatre organ and a piano, each in separate rooms with films going in both rooms at the same time.

The highlight of the convention was at the Capitol Theatre on Saturday afternoon. All gathered to watch *Poor Little Rich Girl* and *My Best Girl*, starring Mary Pickford, accompanied by Bob Vaughn on the organ. Bob is from San Francisco and normally plays weekly at the Avenue Theatre. The organ, a 3/12 Wicks, was in fine tune, and Bob played a great accompaniment to the films. The crowd of close to 1,000 gave Bob a standing ovation.

BOB ADAMS

### RED RIVER

Fargo

218/287-2671 or 218/236-9217

Silent movie night at the Fargo Theatre, November 4, was a total success with a completely full house and a wonderful show. A very cold evening did not deter the crowd, and we had to turn people away for lack of seats. Lance Johnson began the program on the 3/9 Wurlitzer with an especially interesting jungle number, "Quiet Village," while exotic bird calls were heard through the house sound system. We made use of the stage for a special presentation of 1920's costumes belonging to Marg Scott of Fargo. From formal evening dress to lingerie, nine models paraded to organ music and commentary. Two of the models also sang, the real highlight being "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," by a model in flapper dress. The Keystone Cops were not far away

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and "raided" the place when the last model appeared in lingerie. Following intermission we saw the delightful comedy *It*, with Clara Bow, scored by Lance. A new feature this time was a reception desk in the lobby for persons interested in membership and our concert mailing list to sign up.

A children's film series of Saturday matinees has been very well attended this fall, and the kids have really enjoyed the organ prologues. Meanwhile, we are working downstairs in the dressing room area on our music library.

Again this year, we will provide free noon-hour Christmas organ concerts at the theatre beginning December 13.

For our 1983 project, we voted to make a record on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre with selections by several of our members.

SONIA CARLSON

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver

303/343-3930 or 303/233-4716

This has been a good year for us. We have had some wonderful concerts and entertainment. Our present group of officers and committee people have again done a great job.

Our meeting was held in the storage/work room where #3 and #4 crews are working on our club's 2/6 Wurlitzer brought up from Alamosa, Colorado. The woodwork is done, the combination action air lines have been un-smashed, and re-leathering is just about completed. The pedal board looks like it had just come from the factory. Of course, it is still all apart while the finishing touches are put on. The pipes, we understand, are in perfect condition as this was the first move for them since being installed in the Alamosa Theatre. No

one has stomped around in the chamber where they were, so they should be in brand new shape except for some dust that will be removed later on. The organ is being readied for installation out in Littleton, Colorado, in a newly acquired building for the performing arts. Our "mouthpiece" (lawyer, to you genteel folk) is working out the details of the paperwork, and the crew is working with the construction people on building the chamber and storage of the console on a dolly platform. As soon as the installation starts we will have photographs and more information on it.

The Aladdin Theatre 3/12 Wicks suffered a great accident on November 6. Now that it is a live musical stage theatre, a great many changes and additions are being made backstage and throughout the building. On November 6 an electrician, needing more power cables for the stage lighting, ran two heavy cables from the old projection booth down through a ventilator tunnel under the house to backstage, where he drilled a three-inch hole in the stage floor, which is six or eight inches of concrete under the wooden floor and — you guessed it — chopped off 380 wires going to the relays in both chambers. The dirty deed was not discovered until, as usual, every work morning we turn on the organ to check things, and we really found one. It will take some time to ring out the break because the cable only had two color-coded wires — black and tan. Good luck to our crew!

In October we guided tours, a total of about 130 people, through the Denver Paramount Theatre. They all received the grand inspection tour and a demonstration of the Mighty Wurlitzer. On October 16 we had Bob Ralston at the Paramount in concert. A great night, indeed. The other console was played by our own Roy Han-

son, a featured organist at the Denver Organ Grinder restaurant. We even had on stage one of those giant Bosendorfer Imperial grand pianos which Bob Ralston played for us. Ladies were up dancing on the stage with Bob while Roy played, and, needless to say, a grand time was had by all. Pikes Peak Chapter was responsible for this concert. Thanks, guys! It was a grand evening.

In September we had Ray Young entertain us at the Paramount, a fine program of oldies that we had almost forgotten about. Then on Halloween the Paramount hosted a party with Jeff Weiler from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, playing the old silent *Phantom of the Opera*. Jeff scored the movie himself and it was just like the old days. Wonderful performance with plenty of partying afterward.

We understand that sometime in April we will be having Hector Olivera in concert at our Denver Paramount Theatre, so if any of you travelers are out this way, come see us and hear Hector.

FRANK R. GANDY

## ST. LOUIS

Missouri

314/863-2318 or 314/742-2385

Here are some details on the St. Louis Fox Theatre which has undergone a \$2 million renovation since being purchased by St. Louis redeveloper Leon Strauss and Associates in 1981. The Fox is the keystone of the plan to rejuvenate the Grand Avenue entertainment district, which includes Powell Symphony Hall, the Beau Arts Center and the Lynn Theatre, an old vaudeville house.

Leon Strauss' wife, Mary, an art historian, supervised the task of refurbishing the theatre. She directed an army of electricians, plumbers and other craftsmen. 7300 yards of new

# Father James Miller

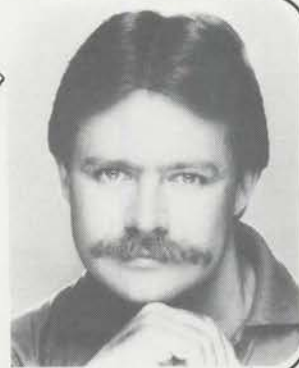
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carpeting duplicating the original were installed. 4000 yards of fabric were used to reupholster the 4503 seats which were removed from the auditorium, refinished and replaced.

Mary hired chapter member Marlin Mackley to repair the 4/36 Wurlitzer, which had suffered from neglect and damage. Hometown organist/comedian Stan Kann returned to the Fox last September to inaugurate the renovated theatre. He played the organ before each performance of the Broadway musical, *Barnum*, and provided the accompaniment for two silent film classics, *The Eagle*, starring Rudolph Valentino and Lon Chaney's *Phantom of the Opera*. Stan was Fox house organist from 1952 to 1974.

A variety of big-name Las Vegas-style entertainment has been scheduled to play the Fox. The theatre is also the winter home of the St. Louis Municipal Opera which presents top Broadway shows.

ROY FECHTER

### SIERRA Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

On November 7, Sierra Chapter in co-sponsorship with J. Nelson Organ Co., presented Candi Carley at the Allen 456 and the now 2/11 Wurlitzer

installed in the Fair Oaks Community Club House. After having blower problems that would fill a book, the Wurlitzer was finally brought on line by a very determined Hal Wilmunder the Friday morning before the Sunday concert.

Being blind and having a limited amount of practice time on an instrument she had never played should have handicapped Miss Carley. This young lady was not handicapped! Came Sunday afternoon with a near overflow crowd of over 400, and both consoles on stage with tabs brailled, Candi Carley cut loose into a concert filled with a vibrant, rhythmic gusto that must be heard to be appreciated. All told and heard, it was a wonderful, rousing, inspirational afternoon.

Sierra member Gary Konas played a very fine concert on the Grant High School 4/22 Wurlitzer as the final event in the school's October 24 Fiftieth Anniversary celebration. Over half of the 600 in attendance were alumni who had not heard the organ since their "Grant days" and who were enthusiastic about Gary's playing groups of selections from each decade of the school's history.

This Wurlitzer is nice to play from its near-new (1975) console; however, the years of little maintenance and no major work on the pipes and chests are taking their toll on the sound. As

is typical in this era of funding shortages, the school district has neither money for renovation or maintenance nor faculty who can play it. The school principal, however, was inspired by Gary's performance and, with some ATOS expertise and assistance, the situation with the Grant High Wurlitzer may improve.

RANDY WARWICK

### SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

October found members of Sooner State Chapter at Bill Roberts' Piano Store in Tulsa for a pep-rally meeting for the Rob Calcaterra concert on October 23. At that time we were given name tags and posters, and encouraged to talk up the concert wherever we could.

The big day arrived! Rob had the afternoon to get acquainted with the two organs in Christ Chapel on the Oral Roberts University campus, then had all of thirty minutes to sleep after a hectic flight from Minneapolis before dazzling us with his performance.

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a more than 100-rank classical tracker organ built by the Phelps Organ Company. The classical organ has its own console, and is also playable from the Wurlitzer console.

Rob's music reflected his classical training, as evidenced by the precision with which he played. His theatre organ style was all his own, and his selections ranged from "Mairzy Doats" to a beautiful "What I Did for Love," from *Chorus Line*. Two classical selections on the tracker were tremendous! His show-stopper, however, was Widor's "Toccatina" from his Symphony No. 5 played on both organs from the Wurlitzer console, something that, to Rob's knowledge, had never been done before. That particular piece of music can only be described as breathtakingly stupendous, and on those two organs, played by Rob Calcaterra, it was absolutely magnificent!

Many people contributed to the success of this concert: the staff of the Fine Arts Music department at ORU; organ technician Walt Gaber, also from ORU; Phil Judkins and Hervey Barbour, who assisted with transportation and were on hand at Rob's rehearsal; Harlan Judkins, Phil's brother from Tennessee, who was our Emcee; John Barhydt and Harry Rassmussen who arranged publicity; and Jerry Lysinger, who donated the printing of our programs. And, of course, the entire concert would not have been possible without all the people who contributed the funds for Rob's fee. Because it is university policy not to charge admission to events in Christ Chapel, this was the way we decided to cover the costs, and the concert was presented to Tulsans at no charge to them.

This concert owes its success to one other person, Chairman Lee Smith. From its beginning as an "impossible dream" to the standing ovation at its

end, Lee contributed more than anyone can know, perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, time, ideas, arrangements, compromises, countless telephone calls, enthusiasm — you name it! There aren't enough words to describe his behind-the-scenes activities, the trips to ORU for conferences with music department officials, trips to nearly all the Tulsa music stores to distribute posters, and Herculean efforts to get publicity. He gave time for a talk on tape with Ed Dumit of KWGS, to be presented as a radio interview, and he persuaded Marty Pittman of the *Tulsa Advisor* to run Rob's picture with a story. He spent hours making arrangements with ORU. Two days before the concert the program master copy was ready, but still not printed. Lee persuaded his friend, Jerry Lysinger, to donate the copies we needed! Lee, we salute you!

Our November meeting was held at Central Assembly of God Church. We had twelve new people present, a direct result of our "interest" coupon attached to the Rob Calcaterra concert program, and we gained seven new family memberships to Sooner State Chapter. The program was open console on the 4/14 Robert-Morton formerly housed in Tulsa's Downtown Rialto Theatre. Several of our new members surprised us with their considerable talent, and we're looking forward to hearing more from them.

DOROTHY SMITH

**WESTERN RESERVE  
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Many WRTOS members attended the Gaylord Carter concert October 9 at the Akron Civic Theatre. After an interesting program including a med-

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ley of silent movie "chase" music, the artist accompanied Harold Lloyd's classic *Safety Last*. This exceptionally funny film showcased Gaylord's impressive talent at using the theatre organ for its original purpose.

Western Reserve Chapter was proud to present Bill Tabor in concert at our 3/13 Wurlitzer on October 30. Bill, a chapter member, opened with "Barcelona," followed by a *Wizard of Oz* medley. After many other favorites, he closed the first half with an enjoyable sing-along. After intermission Bill accompanied Buster Keaton's *Cops* to the delight of the audience. He then honored WBBG, a local Big Band radio station, with a 1940's medley. His finale was an inspiring "How Great Thou Art."

Many WRTOS members attended the business meeting held at the Lorraine Palace Theatre. The meeting was preceded by member Paul Kamas at the Wurlitzer console. Paul's program started off with a nostalgic "Forgotten Melody" and concluded with a rousing version of "Under The Double Eagle."

Our November meeting and election of officers was held at the Cleveland Grays' Armory, and was followed by open console. November 28 saw the decoration of Grays' Armory with two eighteen-foot trees in preparation for our annual Christmas party. After the decorating, the workers rewarded themselves with a potluck dinner accompanied by some open console artistry.

Preparations are now underway for two upcoming concerts: February 26, Cleveland Grays will present Jonas Nordwall at the 3/13 Wurlit-



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zer, and Western Reserve Chapter will present Larry Ferrari at the Wurlitzer on April 30. Tickets are available from Cleveland Grays for Jonas Nordwall, or WRTOS, Inc., for Larry Ferrari, 1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. They are \$4.50 for general admission and \$5.00 for reserved balcony.

JIM SHEPHERD



**WOLVERINE CHAPTER**

*of the American Theatre Organ Society*

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

A fine crowd of Wolverine Chapter members and others gathered on October 17 at the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler to hear Lance Luce and Karl Cole perform on the Mighty Wurlitzer. It is always a pleasure to listen to such talent. As it was Karl's last day as staff organist at the Pied Piper, many went there to hear him for that final time and to give him a good send-off to his new position as head organist at the new Springdale Music Palace in Springdale, Ohio (near Cincinnati). We all wish Karl the best of success there. We understand that Ken Saliba will now be playing at Pied Piper along with Lance.

On November 17, a small, but very appreciative, audience of our chapter



Rick Moore at Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac.

members gathered to hear Rick Moore play the Barton pipe organ at Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac. Rick is relatively new to this musical staff, having come there from his recent position as staff organist at the Lansing (Okemos) Roaring 20's Pizza restaurant. Rick has also played at Pasquale's Pipe Organ Pizza in Indianapolis.

Before Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes opened for business that day, Rick played a short program just for our group, and his musical selections

were tastefully chosen for their appeal to theatre organ buffs. Rick's playing is very pleasant, and we thank him for providing us with such an enjoyable listening experience.

We thank the owners of both of these pizza restaurants, Henry Hunt and Ken Saliba of Pied Piper Pizza Peddler and Gary Montgomery and H.C. Scott of Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes, for so kindly allowing us to have chapter meetings in their restaurants. Their support is much appreciated. MAX AND CAROL BROWN □

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