

Harry introduced us one day, Weber said, 'Oh, you're the one who plays like Fred Feibel.' Quite a compliment!

"One reason for small attendance at the Long Island Paramount (ex-Brooklyn Paramount) is its bad location. Though the DeKalb Avenue subway station is across the street, people are afraid to ride the subways. When Rudy Vallee played the New York Paramount, he also played the Brooklyn Paramount the same week. Finishing a show at the former, he'd dash across the street and take the subway to the latter. It was faster than by taxi, and for cost-conscious Rudy, fare was but a nickel. Of course, he was hidden behind smoked glasses. This was but a mere 50 years ago."

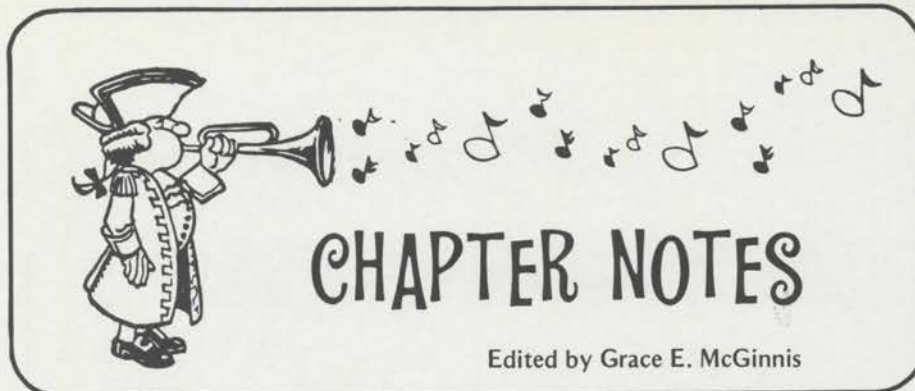
* * *

From time to time, due to apathy and indifference in getting news to the Pipe Piper, the list carries an installation which has long been abandoned. Such is the case of the Village Inn Pizza in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The place went out of business two years ago, and the organ is now in the Pipe Organ Palace in Elkhart, Indiana, according to Mrs. Marilyn Ambrose, one of the two organists who played the 3/12 Barton.

However, Fort Wayne has a new installation, the Cardinal Music Palace, at 911 West Washington Center Road, boasting a 4/42 Wurlitzer. The beautiful console came from a New York theatre, the pipework from Grauman's Chinese Theatre of Los Angeles. Don Springer and Buddy Nolan are the organists, and the restaurant is open daily except Monday.

* * *

Ex-New York Paramount organist Jack Skelly, on seeing references to colleagues in the various publications, contributes thoughts of his own: "Fred Feibel was always concerned about his premature baldness, but he was certainly tops as an organist. Egon Putz was a concert pianist in his pre-organ days. He showed me copies of programs he did at New York's Town Hall. The white-haired gentleman who played the piano in the lobby of the Paramount was Hans Hanke. I recall these things about the great theatre and its musicians because it was only 50 years ago." □



Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

DELAWARE VALLEY Philadelphia 215/566-1764 or 215/626-2456

On Saturday, October 23, 40 members and friends of the Delaware Valley Chapter traveled by bus to the home of Dick Kline in Thurmont, Maryland. They made the journey to hear a concert played by Frank Lybolt on Dick's beautiful 4/28 Wurlitzer, acquired from the Capitol Theatre in Washington, D.C. A detailed description of this organ was published in THEATRE ORGAN, June 1970.

Mr. Lybolt, who admits to being more than 70, is the organist-choirmaster of the Portsmouth, Virginia, historic Trinity Episcopal Church. There, he carries on a full program of liturgical services, especially during the Church's most important holy days. In addition to being an accomplished musician, Frank is an outstanding calligrapher. Many of the church bulletins for these services are enhanced by his handiwork.

In earlier days, Frank Lybolt was a theatre organist in the New York City area, as well as a church musician. It was in the former role that we were introduced to him at Dick Kline's home.

He played a program that lasted about an hour-and-a-half, broken into two segments. The first section of approximately one hour was followed by a period of open console for members of the chapter. Frank then returned to the bench to entertain us for another half-hour or so, playing not only numbers of his own choosing, but also audience requests.

Although Frank maintains that he has almost no opportunities nowadays to play theatre organ, there was no evidence that his skills have dulled from disuse. He played in a variety of styles, offering pieces that spanned

the period from the early 1900's through the fifties. There were hit tunes from musical shows of bygone years, sentimental ballads and ever-popular jazz. From time to time, he changed the mood by playing semi-classical favorites.

For this writer, Mr. Lybolt's approach to his selections was both interesting and unusual. Very often he would begin with a simple statement of the theme or tune, frequently announced on a solo rank, using a simple second manual and pedal accompaniment. Then he would gradually develop the melody line adding more color to the registration and more voices to the theme. Along with this kind of treatment he would add very interesting, and sometimes intricate, countermelodies on the second manual. The pedal line was rarely a simple "ump-pa" or "ump-pa-pa" bass, but often gave forth with tricky and appropriate rhythms. Mr. Lybolt's playing was never flamboyant, but handsomely brilliant when the character of the piece suggested it. He



Frank Lybolt at Dick Kline's Wurlitzer October 23, 1982.

brought into play all the resources of this very interesting and beautiful instrument.

At the conclusion of the program there was another opportunity for the organ buffs to "do their thing." At about five o'clock, we adjourned to the Cozy Restaurant in downtown Thurmont for dinner. Then back home to Philadelphia by 11:00 p.m.

October 23, 1982 — a warm, sunny day — good friends and organ buffs — a beautiful home and organ — a grand concert by a fine organist. An experience to be long remembered by T.O.S.D.V., Inc. members.

FRANK MADER

Editor's note: We sincerely apologize to Delaware Valley Chapter for the delay in publishing these notes. They were lost in our "high-tech" filing system.

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9815 or 319/363-9769

This chapter endeavors to have two silent movie/theatre pipe organ spectacles each year. If my tally is correct, we have experienced our twenty-eighth sell-out, or near sell-out. The latest rave-performer was Rob Calcaterra, who left over 1600 clamoring for more following his evening at the 3/11 Wurlitzer in the beautifully restored Paramount Theatre in Cedar Rapids on April 30. Rob certainly lived up to his advance publicity and to the article appearing in the March/April issue of THEATRE ORGAN regarding his appearance at Oral Roberts University. Once again, kudos are due Jim Oliver, as director of the maintenance crew, for the faultless performance of the organ.

The Christmas season included a meeting at the lovely home of member Joy Weiler with each attendee bringing a plate of goodies. After the delicious buffet, everyone gathered in the family room which just happened to contain a piano and an electronic organ. All performers contributed solos on either instrument or engaged in duets. The highlight of the afternoon was when Joy's son, Jeff, agreed to sing a selection from the *Messiah*, accompanied by guest-from-California Max Lyall, a friend of George Baldwin. The magnificent baritone of Jeff Weiler was matched

every inch of the way by the sensational sight-reading of Max. Wotta pro! A most delightful party.

The chapter is quite proud of Jeff, who is a doctoral candidate in music at Northwestern University. Part of his study in organ has been with Lee Erwin in New York. Lee has been featured twice in past silent movie spectacles for our chapter. On April 9, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia of Northwestern University presented *Phantom of the Opera* with original score composed by Jeff Weiler and performed by him on a Rodgers theatre organ.

The chapter meeting of April 17 was a bittersweet affair held in the Iowa Theatre in Cedar Rapids. This house contains about 1500 seats and a 3/14 Barton. Aside from a short business meeting, the entire program consisted of open console. The reason for this was that the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre has purchased the house and was commencing the next day to remodel. This will reduce the house seating to 550 in order to provide rehearsal rooms and other facil-

ities. Seven members participated in the open console. We anxiously await next fall to see what the Barton sounds like in the reduced house.

CRATOS was quite impressed to receive a \$20.00 check from Girl Scout Troop #2318 (Grant Wood School) to be used for "restoration work on the organ at the Paramount." Gives one hope for the future.

LOREN H. FRINK



GRACE E. MCGINNIS.



CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE

To help ease the burden on the editorial staff of THEATRE ORGAN, please observe the following:

Type all copy, double-spaced, on letter-size (8½" x 11") white paper, leaving 1½" margins on top, bottom and both sides. Do not use erasable paper. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Type photo captions on Scotch (3M) Post-it Note sheets (#654 - 3" x 3" or #655 - 3" x 5") and attach to *back* of photo. DO NOT use any kind of tape or rubber cement to attach captions to photos, and DO NOT attach photos to sheets of paper.

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:

Grace E. McGinnis, Associate Editor
4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

DEADLINES

December 1 for January/February	June 1 for July/August
February 1 for March/April	August 1 for September/October
April 1 for May/June	October 1 for November/December



Console of Walter Draughon's 3/15 Wurlitzer. Some 45 chapter members spent the day at his home and enjoyed a sumptuous lunch. (John Otterson photo)

CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/863-2264

Our April meeting was held at the home of Everett and Eleanor Bassett in Ridge Manor. We are always happy to meet there as the Bassetts have a fine 2/4 Robert-Morton which we enjoy hearing and playing. During the meeting a report was given of the Tampa Wurlitzer installation. We

had hoped to have it completed, but the theatre has been unavailable on weekends, causing some delay. This is a time when our electronic and electrical specialists can work. In spite of the delay, quite a bit of wiring has been done, particularly with the console and in the chambers. So, just a little longer and we should have that instrument playing.

Our artist of the day was our own Al Hermanns, a fine organist and teacher, who played several radio theme songs in addition to other favorites of the '20s. Afterwards, it was open console, giving us all a chance to play. Our thanks to the Bassetts for their hospitality.

On May 8 a short meeting was held during our first bus trip to Fort

Myers. Our visit was at the home of Walter Draughon who owns a 3/15 Wurlitzer. The console is beautiful and the pipe installation sounds great in the home with a fifteen-foot high A-frame ceiling. The home also houses a grand piano, a Hammond organ and a player piano.

The assistant organ technician, Steve Brittain, demonstrated the stops and played several numbers for us, including "Laura" which was played on the organ along with the player piano. What a nice duet that made. Once again, there was open console. Among those who played were Beverly Johns and Audrey Williams, two guests from the London chapter. Our sincere thanks to Walter for allowing us to visit and play his very fine instrument.

SANDRA SHOOK



**CENTRAL
INDIANA
CHAPTER**

Indianapolis

317/283-3410 or 317/255-8056

Central Indiana Chapter has fired up to a busy spring and summer. A registration class was held at Manual High School on March 27. The April meeting was held at the beautiful new St. Luke's Catholic Church with the artists including CIC Vice-President Virginia Rectoris; Alexia O'Neil, St. Luke's church organist, and Floyd Perry. Also, Bernice Fraction of local fame sang for the club. Attendance was 104.



Ev Bassett, vice chairman of the Central Florida Chapter, at the 3/15 Wurlitzer in Walter Draughon's Ft. Myers home. The two ladies in front row center are Bev Johns and Audrey Williams, visitors from South Wales. (John Otterson photo)



Lee Wilson, rear, and Ed Lawrence checking the wiring and solid-state units in the console of the 3/12 Wurlitzer which CFTOS is installing in the Tampa Theatre. (John Otterson photo)

Two busloads, 96 persons, made the trip to Cincinnati and Dayton on April 23 and 24. Organ installations visited included Springdale Music Palace, the Emery Theatre in Cincinnati, The Shady Nook Restaurant in Millville, Ohio, Fred Reiger's Red Barn at Waynesville, John Gogle's house at Kettering, and the Dennis Werkmeister house.

April 29 and 30 saw the first of a proposed series of theatre organ concerts which the chapter hopes to produce. Lin Lunde was the artist. The concert was highly successful. It was held in the Hedback Theatre on the Page 3/16 organ. A busload of Michigan ATOS members attended the Lunde concert. Bob and Donna MacNeur hosted receptions after the concerts on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

A jam session was held at the Paramount Music Palace Saturday at midnight for both the Michigan and Central Indiana Chapters. Several persons from each club participated. The Paramount also made available a big breakfast Sunday morning with Donna Parker playing several selections on the Paramount Wurlitzer. Following this fine meal, the two chapters went to Long Center in Lafayette to hear Ken Double, and then to Kokomo to hear Bill Tandy at the Pipe Dream.

On May 10 the CIC joined the AGO for a program by Tim Needler which included a Buster Keaton silent movie. Several excellent organists participated in the open console segment.

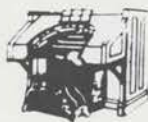
On May 15 Mary Drake presented a program at the Speedway Christian Church on the organ built in 1961 by

the E.H. Holloway Corporation. This organ was renovated in 1981 by Goulding and Wood Incorporated.

WAYNE R. PIPHER



CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.



Thomaston

203/378-9192 or 203/583-8334

From San Francisco to Thomaston, Connecticut, came Jim Roseveare to play our Marr & Colton pipe organ in the Thomaston Opera House on May 14, 15. We are glad he made the trip because he gave us an excellent concert. Among compositions from the '30s, Jim played excellent arrangements of "Journey Into Melody" by Robert Farnon, "In My Garden" by Isabelle Firestone, and some arrangements in the Jesse Crawford style. His encore was Max Steiner's "King Kong March."

This artist acquaints himself thoroughly with the origins of the music he plays. As a result, he is able to provide his audience with many interesting comments pertinent to the music heard. We at Thomaston found this enlightening, adding meaning and depth to the music, but not at the expense of musical listening. His program was very generous and there was not "too much talk and too little music." The comments were well-presented and not wordy.

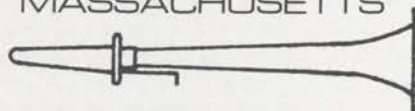
Following his concert, Jim appeared offstage to chat with anyone

interested in doing so, and a number of the audience lingered to comment and ask questions brought to mind by Jim's program. It was an entertaining and enlightening evening orchestrated by Jim Roseveare and thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. We look forward to subsequent appearances of this talented artist from California.

Our next concerts at Thomaston Opera House will feature Jim Bensmiller on September 17, 18, and Lyn Larsen, October 15, 16. Tickets and information are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Connecticut 06483. Telephone 203/888-9696.

W. F. POWERS

EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS



Babson College, Wellesley
617/244-4136 or 617/757-9793

A cold, pelting rain outside, but a warm, friendly atmosphere prevailed within our Babson "home" on April 24. Invited guests included Boston Audio Society, electronic organ groups and friends of our famous guest organist, Mildred Alexander. Business was minimal. Anticipation was maximal.

Mildred's plane was late so member Tim Holloran filled in admirably detailing Boston's long affiliation with pipe organ building. He then demonstrated each rank with infor-

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mative comments, including the percussions and most traps. Suddenly, loud cheers erupted as Millie was wheeled into the auditorium returning to EMCATOS after a thirteen-year absence. Quiet then ensued as she proceeded to explain certain techniques which she demonstrated with snatches of music. Some of her popular teaching lessons were used as she showed off several stops and effects. Recounted were early theatre organ days, including hers at Radio City Music Hall where so few female organists have been employed. Mildred also told of the "drying up" of theatre organ playing opportunities as the talkies took over and of having to go "electronic" even though her heart remained with pipes.

This informal afternoon showed many touches of her console "magic" and why she is called "Mildred The Great." Despite physical problems, this gallant lady would not leave the console until she had given it a "good try." She had all present on their feet showing their affection with loud acclaim — an inspired tribute for courage and devotion.

One of our best double concerts was produced May 7 and 8 with "Mr. Music," Eddie Weaver, also called "Mr. Personality of Richmond" and "The Living Legend" — not without good reason. This was his fourth appearance for EMC and he still combines the winning, crowd-pleasing ingredients of wit, showmanship and overall musicianship. Weaver is one of a rare breed, having made a lifetime career playing theatre organ from his music-student days at Eastman School of Music up to his present post at Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia. His first theatre organ job at \$100 weekly was accompanying the silents at the Lafayette Theatre in Batavia, New York. Here he met the future Mrs. "W" who was then cashier. Eddie had weekly theatre organ styling lessons from the famous Henry Murtagh and later from Jesse Crawford himself.

Our guest played thoroughly enjoyable three-part programs, concert, sing-along and silent movie accompaniment. A varied tempo "Swanee" was his opener each day, but there were numerous differences in programming. Eddie even sang and played a catchy, up-beat "Hello, Hello, Hello, What a Wonderful Word Hello." Eddie's song slides and



Gulf Coast Chapter's Robert-Morton console reproduction ready for its white and gold finish.

parodies brought many a chuckle as did his tongue twisters, comical triple paraphrases, parts for the "boys" and for the "girls." All encouraged excellent audience participation. *Habeas Corpus* with Laurel and Hardy, one of the last Hal Roach pictures, was the silent with Weaver at the console.

Each concert had an enthusiastic audience rise as one amid long applause at the conclusion, such was their delight. Weaver's talent in sizing up his audiences has not diminished over the years. Eddie knows how to please as he extracts most listenable music from his chosen instrument. What higher goal could an artist aspire to!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

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

Sir Winston Churchill was speaking of Great Britain when he said, "Never have so few done so much for so many." Well, our chapter can also make this same statement. We are few, with some small assistance from a few more, who are doing so much that so many can enjoy this wonderful organ when it is reinstalled in the Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola, Florida.

Each day sees more progress on the console, which is completed except for the finishing. B.D. Rhea, M.D., our console builder supreme, was

honored by a full page spread with pictures in our local newspaper. This really pleased us and generated much interest locally.

Months of countless hours have gone into the carving on the console and our crowning tiara, the "fence" around the top. This was done entirely by hand by Dr. Rhea in his shop. The original Robert-Morton used wooden dowels to hold the "fence" together. Ours has all brass dowel pins and receptacles mounted in the wood to extend its longevity. Dr. Rhea has also built a "muffler" to tame the noise of the giant blower in the basement of the theatre. The blower is all wired, fired and ready to go!

Before the chest work is installed in the new second chamber, all 16' pipes will be put in place. The chest work is being assembled and mounted in the chambers on framework being assembled at this time.

The console is all primed and ready for its final coat of white and gold leaf — beautiful. Dr. Rhea conferred with experts at duPont before considering the final finishing. After all, they should know paint and finishes!

Our concert playing/organ builder Chapter Chairman Tom Helms is working closely with Dr. Rhea on this organ installation tasks. It is exciting to know that our organ is in the last stages of reproduction. Hope to hear it soon!

DOROTHY STANDLEY



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY

**LOLTOS
St. Paul**

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

The supposedly last concert performance with "Goldie" at Cedarhurst on April 24 featuring Paul-Wesley Bowen drew a full house. Paul-Wesley played a beautiful selection of some of his favorite arrangements covering all types of music. He is especially adept at showing off the instrument and what it can produce. His footwork on the pedal board is fantastic, and that Sunday afternoon we heard sounds from that organ we had never heard before.

On May 25 Mike Erie, one of our talented young organists from the chapter, played for the 3M Vacation Club (with a membership of nearly 700) in the Orient Room at the 3M complex on the east side of St. Paul. The organ he played was a Kimball Xanadu furnished through the courtesy of Schmitt Music Centers.

Memorial Day weekend found some of us traveling to Bobby



Father Jim Miller at the Coronado Theatre, Rockford, Illinois.

Schmidt's Indian Hills Resort at Stone Lake, Wisconsin, for three different seminar-programs featuring Rob Calcaterra at the custom Rodgers organ and Dr. Kerry Grippe, University of Iowa, at the concert grand. The resort is always a pleasant place to spend a holiday with song fests, piano duets, piano and organ duets, 94-years-young Arma Neff with her violin, good friends and good food.

VERNA MAE WILSON

**LAND OF LINCOLN
Rockford**

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

An enthusiastic crowd attended the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, on April 28 to hear Father Jim Miller and his low-down-blues style music. He quickly established rapport with the audience and proved he was master of the Barton keyboard from the beginning. The "Padre of The Pits" (his term) coaxed special effects, softer Flutes, brassier brassy and stereo effects from the instrument to achieve just what he wanted from each number. "Basin Street Blues" with bass drum, cymbals and rhythm brushes was a ringer. Particularly pleasing was Fr. Miller's inclusion of the verses of the old songs. Too often neglected, the verse is a melodic introduction and an integral part of the composition. Although most of the songs were in the rhythm and blues category, Fr. Miller showed his romantic side with the lovely "When Day Is Done." It is obvious that Fr. Jim enjoys what he does, and his audiences echo that 100%. About 1200 people attended the Fr. Miller show, some coming from as far away as California, New York, Iowa and Wisconsin. Members and friends gathered backstage after the show to meet Fr. Miller and to enjoy a variety of munchies, chatting with friends and greeting new members.

Ed Boroweic, a LOLTOS organizer and charter member, entertained members and guests at the May social. The Grande Barton under Boroweic's direction responded flawlessly as if loosened up from the workout given it by Fr. Miller just two weeks earlier. Boroweic played a wide variety of music from show tunes to waltzes to medleys of old favorites. The Barton rose from the pit with Ed playing a 1924 tune, "Open Your Eyes," which was Eddie Dunstedter's



Ed Boroweic, LOLTOS charter member, takes his turn at the Coronado Grande Barton after Father Jim Miller loosened it up two weeks earlier.

theme song. Ed and his family used to live in Minneapolis, and he was a friend of Dunstedter's at that time. "Tico-Tico" was dedicated to the organ maintenance crew. This fast tune requires accurate reponse of all moving parts of the artist and the organ.

LOLTOS has talent of many types among its members. It's good to know that it is available for the asking.

BARBARA NICHOL
DON BISSELL

**LONDON & SOUTH
OF ENGLAND**

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Despite the disappointment of not being able to feature Ashley Miller as our prime concert artist in May, due to the late cancellation of his European tour by his agent, we managed to book the indefatigable British artist John Mann amid his extremely busy pipes, electronics and summer season vaudeville schedule.

An exceptionally talented musician and entertainer, John took to the famous 4/16 "Torch" Christie organ in the Top Rank Club, Edmonton, in Northeast London, as very much matching his bright and imaginative style. Although he had previously aired this unique instrument on the famed BBC radio program "The Organist Entertains," when Robin Richmond was its prexy, surprisingly, John had not hitherto played it in concert. With a spectacular and exciting performance to a large and appreciative audience, despite a downpour outside the theatre, John did us really proud, and certainly no marks were lost due to the late change of artist; indeed, we believe many were gained, thanks to his outstanding profession-

alism and happy personality readily identifying with the mood of the day.

Two more highly successful Chapter Club Nights have also been featured at our favorite 3/19 Wurlitzer in the ever-hospitable home of Edith and Les Rawle at Northolt in North-west London. Our April guest was widely accomplished Alec Leader, long-time friend of the British organ clubs and a real enthusiast with a strong sense of nostalgia, especially for the Deanna Durbin era of the cinema. Currently working professionally in the electronic organ business at Ware in Herfordshire, Alec is a frequent performer at the famous organ-in-a-pub at the nearby Plough at Great Munden which has long housed the 3/12 Compton formerly in the Gaumont, Finchley in North London. He was in fine form for the highly appreciative Northolt Club Night audience.

Our May event then featured the great Douglas Reeve, who has been

such an outstanding favorite at the huge dual-purpose Hill, Norman and Beard Christie organ at the Dome Brighton on the South Coast for more than forty years. Although he had sadly lost his lovely wife, Joyce, and her captivating singing voice, at the beginning of the year, Douglas was in brilliant form at the Wurlitzer, providing an exceptionally enjoyable and memorable performance which included a lusty sing-along and a goodly lacing of his special brand of humor. All in all, a fabulous musical evening.

We were also delighted to welcome Nor-Cal member Dean Coombs (and his camera!), having already had him with us at our Edmonton concert. Surprisingly, as with Alec Leader, this was Douglas' first ever visit to Northolt, despite having been a firm friend of Edith and Les Rawle and of our chapter for many years.

A gratifying interlude during Douglas' concert was the launching of the first public recording made by

our popular young member Janet Dowsett. Coming to the fore in one of our early "Young Theatre Organist of The Year" competitions, Janet is now professionally employed by the Yamaha organization in the UK and has a busy schedule of pipe and electronic concerts up and down the country and on special assignments overseas. Though not a chapter promotion, it was most fitting that Janet's recording debut, "The 1st of Jan," should feature our 3/19 Wurlitzer in Northolt which she handles in fine style, including an excellent arrangement of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Janet has already appeared once in concert at the famous ex-Granada Clapham Junction 3/8 Wurlitzer now in Geneva, Switzerland, and has been invited to return for another "double event."

Organ restoration work continues apace and we hope to be able to report good news on several fronts before too long.



Behind the scenes at Granada Slough, with Len Rawle at the console.

(John D. Sharp photo)



London Chapter member Vera Crook received a bouquet on her birthday during the October meeting.



John Mann at the "Torch" Christie, Edmonton, in May.

(John D. Sharp photo)



Dancers Nancy Candea and Jim Holdman with Eddie Weaver after Eddie's show at the Royal Oak Theatre in April. (Fred Page photo)



Tim Needler, ATOS national secretary, presents Marge Muethel and Harold Bellamy with a replacement charter for the Motor City Chapter at the Paramount Music Palace. (Bill Vogel photo)



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY
California
213/792-7084

LATOS ended its spring concert season with two of the most outstanding programs ever presented — George Wright at San Gabriel on May 7 and Hector Olivera, in his Los Angeles debut, at Pasadena on May 20.

San Gabriel's long-awaited new Brass Sax arrived at 1:30 p.m. the day before the Wright program and crew chief Carl Nebe, technical director Peter Crotty and the crew had the rank in and regulated and ready for George's practice session on Saturday morning! In addition, the revoiced Solo String was also featured in his program. The San Gabriel 3/16 never sounded better, and George's usual great artistry made for one of the most memorable programs ever presented in Los Angeles.



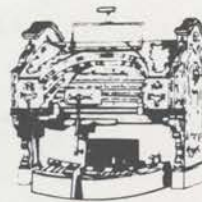
Hector Olivera at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium Moller. (Zimfoto)

"The Dazzling Sounds of Hector" was the second show's billing, and both Hector and the magnificent five-manual Möller lived up to the claim! A standing ovation, two encores and the demand that he be brought back again testify to the audience's complete delight and satisfaction.

Our Barton installation in the Wilshire-Ebell is proceeding on schedule and we hope to hear its first sounds in the fall. In June the chapter hosted a group of 16 Australians for several days of organ crawls. Tours of various installations and, often, open console sessions can be arranged by contacting LATOS in advance at our permanent mailing address: P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, California 91209. Any ATOSers in the area are welcome to call our telephone (213) 792-7084 for up-to-date concert information.

RALPH BEAUDRY

Motor
City
Theatre
Organ
Society, Inc.



Detroit
313/537-1133

Dennis James accompanied the D.W. Griffith silent film *Broken Blossoms* at the Redford Theatre on March 5. The audience obviously enjoyed Dennis' appropriate musical scoring to the 1919 release which contains tinted stock and stars Lillian

Gish and Richard Barthelmess.

On March 13, over 200 people attended our first chapter concert at St. Clare Church in Windsor, Ontario, to hear Tony O'Brien at the 2/7 Wurlitzer. Originally installed in the Knickerbocker Theatre in Detroit, the existence of the instrument, which was moved to the church in 1934, was discovered two years ago by chapter member Jim Casterson, and it has become a chapter project. Last serviced in 1974, considerable restoration of the organ was necessary in preparation for the concert.

Richmond's "Mr. Music," Eddie Weaver, appeared at the Royal Oak on April 9 before a very enthusiastic audience. In addition to his famous song-slide parodies, Eddie accompanied the 1920 Harold Lloyd film *Haunted Spooks*. One learns to expect the unexpected at an Eddie Weaver concert, and this time it was Nancy Candea and Jim Holdman in a dance routine in mime to "Music Box Dancer." All in all, a very enjoyable evening for Eddie's fifth appearance for our chapter.

Tim Needler, chairman of the Central Indiana Chapter, turned out to be the mystery artist for our theatre organ concert, workshop and dessert extravaganza, co-chaired by Irene FitzGerald and Marge Muethel, at the Redford Theatre on April 15. Following Tim's concert, a check for \$3,000 for our roof repair program at the Redford was presented to the chapter by the Deluxe Check Cashing Foundation, which annually gives grants to organizations they believe to be worthwhile community interest ventures.

The Second District and Ladies



Motor City Chapter receives Americanism award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Standing in front of the Redford's flag are: (l to r) Alan Wojtas, Second District Commander; Harold Bellamy, Motor City Chairman; and Don Lockwood, Master of Ceremonies. (Bill Vogel photo)

Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented the chapter with an Americanism award on April 20 at the Redford Theatre. As the organist plays the National Anthem at the beginning of each bi-weekly film showing, the curtains part to reveal a 20x30-foot American flag. Donated by member Jim Brown, in the name of Eileen F. Moore Brown, R.N. (1950-1974), the flag was first displayed on March 7, 1980.

Some 45 chapter members enjoyed a charter-bus organ crawl to our neighboring state of Indiana on April 30 and May 1. Organized by Fred Page, the group first stopped at the Cardinal in Fort Wayne to hear Don Springer at the 4/30 Wurlitzer (console from the Brooklyn Fox) before arriving in Indianapolis for an evening concert by Lin Lunde at the 2/12 Page at the Hedback Community Theatre. A midnight jam session at the Paramount Music Palace featured Donna Parker, Bill Vlasak, Lin Lunde, Tim Needler and several chapter members at the 4/42 Wurlitzer. Following breakfast at the Paramount Music Palace, the group traveled to the Mars Theatre (now the Long Performing Arts Center) in Lafayette for a concert by Ken Double at the 3/13 Marr & Colton. The final stop was at the Pipe Dream Restaurant in Kokomo, where members were entertained by "Wild Bill" Tandy at the 3/14 Wurlitzer.

Henry Aldridge, who is on the board of the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, was the Second Sunday artist at the Michigan in March. Bill Taber, from Akron, brought along friend Jim Timko for some piano and organ duets during his Second Sun-

day program at the 3/13 Barton in April. The chapter is celebrating ten years of regular intermission organ interludes at the Michigan.

John Lauter performed at the Michigan as our Fourth Sunday artist in March. In April, Burt Castle, organist at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Bay City and the Shrine Temple in Saginaw, was the featured artist at the 3/16 Barton for Fourth Sunday at the Royal Oak.

Upcoming programs include Charlie Balogh at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on September 10, and Fr. Jim Miller and the New McKinney's Cotton Pickers at the Redford Theatre on October 1. For information, write Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219. Telephone 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD



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

"It's really nice to have an organ where all the pistons are working the way you want them," declared Bill Taylor at the outset of his Castro Theatre debut for Nor-Cal on Sunday morning, May 22. This was his way of pointing out that it was not only his show, as the man playing the organ, but that of his brother, Dick, the man behind the painstaking craftsmanship exerted in the installation of the instrument. For each, it was at least a



Henry Aldridge was the Second Sunday artist at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in March. (Bo Hanley photo)

plateau that had finally been reached after many years of effort. Together, what beautiful music they made!

Since our last chapter meeting at the Castro, their Wurlitzer has grown to a 4/15 instrument. The meticulous care in the winding, voicing, regulating and balancing of the organ is immediately apparent to the listener's ears.

Young Bill Taylor presented a well-rounded program featuring ballads of the lush, lilting variety (including his father's favorite, "Love Locked Out"), upbeat novelty numbers such as "Java," and love songs of the thirties. He closed his program with Bronislaw Kaper's "San Francisco," which is the traditional closing piece of house organists Elbert La Chelle and David Hegarty for their nightly interludes. Then, for an encore, Bill played the sonically spectacular showpiece "The Galloping Comedians." Big, rich and melodious organ



Bill Taylor, who played for the Nor-Cal Chapter at the Castro Theatre in May. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Program Chairman Buddy Boyd assists Grace Lerner with registration of the John Beck Wurlitzer. (Wally Eakins photo)



1983-84 officers, l to r: Ernest (Buddy) Boyd, 1st Vice Chairman; Dolly Durham, 2nd Vice Chairman; Lorena McKee, Secretary; and Irving Light, Chairman. Not shown is Dr. Robert Lloyd, Treasurer. (Wally Eakins photo)

tones flowed from Bill's fingertips so smoothly that the program seemed shorter than it actually was. Those of us attending this meeting got a fine example of good theatre organ sound. Practice and polish certainly show! I'm sure I speak for the whole chapter in expressing thanks to each member of the Taylor family for their individual and combined efforts in bringing such a high standard of excellence to the Bay Area theatre organ scene.

BRUCE GRULKE
ED MULLINS

John Beck Hall. Then the meeting became the stage for Program Chairman Ernest (Buddy) Boyd and a program of nostalgia and fun. For nostalgia, a taped excerpt of a Lee Erwin concert, played on what is now the NTCATOS Robert-Morton while it was still in its original home (Loew's Jersey City Theatre), really whetted our appetites to complete the restoration of this gem and see it installed in a proper home. This is the major goal of our chapter — though not a simple one, for sure! The fun part was open console on the John Beck Wurlitzer pipe organ. This was an exceptional open console, as members who have usually been intimidated by the big console and its puzzling stop array stepped up and played without any arm-twisting. The secret of this, it turns out, has been some extra-curricular activity on the part of several members. This dedicated group, tired of missing out on chances to play the pipe organs, persuaded teacher/or-

ganist Charles Evans to conduct a series of pipe organ registration sessions at John Beck Hall. The entire chapter benefited from the resulting non-stop organ music — these are some of our best organists on home instruments. We were also fortunate at this session to have Larry Birdsong, member from Longview, Texas, in attendance. Larry can really make that Wurlitzer sing, and he received well-deserved ovations from a very appreciative audience.

We are sorry to report the closing of both pipe-organ equipped pizzerias in Dallas. The sign on the marquee of one of them sums it up rather succinctly, "Sorry we're closed — you weren't here." Unfortunately for us in ATOS, we now have lost three places where we used to hear the majestic sound of the theatre pipe organ (Gene Powell's Organ World pipes went into storage last year).

Faced with rather short notice to remove his pipe organ from one of the pizza houses, Mark Kenning received expert assistance from fellow NTC-ATOS members Dick Cooper and Fred Garrett. Understandably, Mark is very grateful for their gracious help.

IRVING LIGHT



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The newly-elected officers of the North Texas Chapter inaugurated their activity at the April meeting in

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OREGON
Portland
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On Saturday evening, April 23, we gathered in the Benson High School auditorium to hear the 4/24 Kimball played by "Mr. Seattle," Dick Schrum. Attendees included members from Vancouver, Eugene, and as far away as Medford.

The Benson Kimball has several straight ranks in each chamber which operate as floating divisions. Because of space limitations on the stop rails, these sets are controlled by tabs on the back rail to be coupled to different manuals as desired. This utilizes the entire organ, but makes the instrument not too easy to play. The auditorium has superb acoustics.

Dick Schrum is well known to the ATOS as a former National President and a concert artist. He has made several recordings, including one on Bill Blunk's famous five-manual Marr & Colton. Dick is an excellent showman



Laura Burke gets an autograph from Dick Schrum at the Benson Kimball.

(Claude Neuffer photo)



Gerry Gregorius in the chamber of the Gaylord's installation.

(Claude Neuffer photo)

as well as musician. He conjured up a very creditable windstorm for his "weather report" which included "Stormy Weather," "Singing In The Rain" and other appropriate numbers. Thanks to Benson High School, to Loren Minear's maintenance crew, and to Dick Schrum for a wonderful evening.

On May 22, a fine spring day, we were again guests of Jerry and Nickie Gaylord in their beautiful country home in the hills southeast of Portland. Their organ started life as a 2/4 Wicks, but now is a 2/7 hybrid. The compact console was built by former owner Bob Rickett. Since our last

meeting at the Gaylord's, the chests have been relocated to the rear of the chamber away from the shutters. With less direct sound egress, the expression is much smoother and the voices better blended and diffused. The volume is just right for the large downstairs recreation room.

Our artist for this afternoon was the popular Portland organist Gerry Gregorius, whom we have not heard for some time. His program was an excellent variety of show tunes, light classics and numbers by Irving Berlin and Leroy Anderson, all played with top professional registration and precision.

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In the absence of Chairman Joe Gray, Marie Briody did a very creditable job as MC for this meeting. Thanks to Gerry Gregorious for his fine music and especially to Nickie and Jerry Gaylord for their wonderful hospitality.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Jane Johnson appeared at the Seattle Paramount Theatre in April, along with students from Bellevue Community College, in a production entitled "Music You Remember Cavalcade - Spotlight on 1943." Jane played prior to the program, at intermission, featured solos, for a sing-along, and with the choirs and band in the finale, "God Bless America."

April 10 was the Potluck and Auction held at Haller Lake Clubhouse. The day started with open console on our own 3/8 Wurlitzer, with many members coming early for instruction and help with registration.

May 21 we traveled to Mt. Vernon, a small town about 60 miles to the north, to the Lincoln Theatre where they have a 550-seat auditorium. The two-manual Wurlitzer was installed in 1926, and has seven ranks with



Lorraine Nelson at the Fargo Theatre 3/9 Wurlitzer. (S. Carlson photo)

Piano, plus other tuned percussions. Uniquely, the Chime rank is spread around the perimeter of the auditorium. Our concert was played by Ken Fenske, co-owner of a music store in Mt. Vernon. Assistance in planning this concert came from the Peace Arch Organ Society, a new group (unaffiliated) that is just getting started in the Vancouver/Bellingham area. Bert Miller is their chairman. After an open console session, Jeff Fox played "rip-roaring" theatre organ using bird whistles, siren, etc. Jeff is helping restore the Wurlitzer and also has the Bellingham Mt. Baker Theatre Wurlitzer in his care. We were told that the Mt. Vernon theatre would give us



Lance Luce at the Johnson residence, 2/8 Robert-Morton (hybrid). (S. Carlson photo)

open console time nearly any day if we make prior arrangements — a tremendous gift to our members.

CHRISTINE PRIDE

RED RIVER

Fargo

218/287-2671 or 218/236-9217

On April 21 the weather was perfect, the Fargo Theatre sold out, and the concert was wonderful in the capable hands of Lance Luce at the console of the Mighty Wurlitzer. The audience clearly loved the performance and the performer. They were thoroughly attentive throughout and sang out heartily for the sing-along. Dur-

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ing the first half a slide presentation entitled "A Mary Pickford - Buddy Rogers Scrapbook," gave the audience some background about them and their movie, *My Best Girl*, which was to follow intermission. When he turned to take his final bow, Lance Luce got a certainly deserved standing ovation. A reception for members and guests was held on the mezzanine. Lance spent one evening at the home of Lance Johnson where he played some of his concert selections on the 2/8 Robert-Morton hybrid. His Fargo visit was a total pleasure. He's like one of our family now.

In June, the family series of classic films begins again at Weld Hall, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota, where we have chapter organ #2. It will be used before or during each of the ten Monday evening showings. Melita Nelson, a chapter member and organ teacher, brought a student down to the Fargo Theatre to try a theatre pipe organ for the first time. The young lady's name is Lorraine Nelson and she did so well that she was invited to play one of the prologues for the film series.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver

303/343-3930 or 303/233-4716

Several years ago this writer met Bill and Mitzie Fife at an ATOS gathering, and Bill invited several of us over to their home to see the pipe organ they were installing. Well, there it was — just sitting there in piles and boxes. I sat down and interviewed Mitzie about how the whole thing came about. It seems that over the years, with lots of rejuvenation, deliberation, procrastination and plenty of frustration, they started putting it all together with the help of friends and the ATOS. We had a meeting at



2/6 Wurlitzer console at Bill and Mitzie Fife's home.

(F.R. Gandy photo)

their home on a Sunday afternoon in April and found the organ up and playing.

Mitzie Fife had this story for me to share. Back in the late twenties, Vernon Ackerman accumulated from here and there a Wurlitzer console and over 500 pipes and, in his home in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, put together a pipe organ. Some pipes were made for him by Pete Howell in Dixon, Illinois. Pete is still making fine organs. Vernon's organ had six ranks that included Diapason, Strings, Oboe, Tibia, and a Vox that is exceptional. He bought a Xylophone (that is still waiting for an action) when a Chicago supply house was moving and let him have it for ten dollars. The organ cost about \$2,200 at that time. He had some installation problems. His mother took a negative view of the whole thing when some plaster fell off the ceiling after a very resonant bass pipes was installed and spoke roughly. Mr. Ackerman was a theatre and church organist and was well rewarded when the organ proved out perfect.

In 1934 Vernon Ackerman was rehearsing at church with a guest violinist from the womens' college in Mt. Carroll. To make a long story short, they fell in love, married, and the new Mrs. Ackerman's sister turned out to be Mitzie (not yet Fife), who also attended the college, and the pipes for the organ were installed in an extended room made from her bedroom closet. Mitzie was studying to be a concert pianist, but fell in love with the organ, married an airline pilot, moved to Colorado and, when Vernon Ackerman fell ill and had to make some changes in their home, the organ was dismantled and sent out to Colorado to the Fifes as a gift.

The builder of the Fife's home, being a musician, responded to the call for help and dug another room in the underground level for the organ. Before pouring a ceiling of concrete, he lowered the Spencer Orgoblo by crane into the lower level. Then followed many years of slow repair and refurbishing, fixing air leaks, re-leathering, replacing missing pipes and receiving many hours of help from

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Partial chamber view showing shutter motors on right. (F.R. Gandy photo)



Original Spencer Orgoblo shipped with organ. (F.R. Gandy photo)



Shutter/chamber access door in open position. (F.R. Gandy photo)

ATOS members, even those who had never seen a theatre pipe organ. There is still work to be done here and there, but it is playable and sounds great.

An innovation they had to make was having the shutters mounted in the frame of the door that is also the access door to the chamber. Hinged on one end with rubber casters on the bottom, it rolls out for easy entry into the chamber. The Rocky Mountain Chapter is pleased with the installation and the Fifes are wonderful hosts when we meet in their home.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO California

619/279-2867 or 619/561-2269

The month of April brought the San Diego Chapter the opportunity to hear Dan Bellomy. Dan treated our audience to a night of dazzling music. Throughout his concert, he demonstrated his versatility by his typical theatre stylings, sentimental romantic

ballads with very progressive harmony and the ever-popular novelty numbers. The highlight of the evening was Dan's use of progressive harmony in jazz style. Jazz lovers were treated royally all through the evening while his orchestral registrations did so much to enhance his renditions. His use of our organ, featuring a newly-installed Sub-Vox rank, was greatly appreciated, as was his grace and ease in his performance.

Our April membership meeting, held at Piano & Organ Exchange, set the wheels in motion for our summer events. Committees were chosen for our fund-raisers and our summer socials, all in preparation for busy summer months when our Mighty Wurlitzer will be inoperable because an additional five ranks are being added. A report was given on the club's procedure to become a non-profit corporation.

What better way to start the month of May than with an extravaganza featuring the mighty Gaylord Carter.

With support from our members and some great publicity timing, the show had the largest attendance in years. Gaylord again outdid himself with two short features, *The Bank Dick*, with W.C. Fields, and *Hairbreadth Harry*. The feature film, *For Heaven's Sake*, with Harold Lloyd, gave our audience 60 minutes of side-splitting laughter and fun. Again, Gaylord enjoyed the stage effects, a 20x40-foot American flag as a backdrop during his "Old Ironsides" number and, during a special arrangement of "Foggy Day in London Town," being engulfed in a sea of fog!

The Orange County Organ Society took the opportunity to enjoy a day in San Diego. Arriving at the California Theatre in the morning, they were treated to a concert featuring Chris Gorsuch, the designer and builder of the solid-state relay system recently installed in our organ. Following this it was open console for all to enjoy. Then it was off to Balboa Park to

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Dan Bellomy at the San Diego Chapter Wurlitzer.



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hear the Sunday afternoon concert on the Spreckles organ, the world's largest outdoor pipe organ. Concluding the day was dinner and an evening of musical entertainment at Tommy Stark's Organ Power Pizza in the Lemon Grove area.

To conclude the month of May, San Diego was fortunate to enjoy the talents of Hector Olivera in concert at the Spreckles organ, a 4/53 Austin in Balboa Park. The large audience, consisting of many ATOS members and the general public, was overwhelmed and responded to this witty genius at the organ with many standing ovations.

CONNIE REARDON

SIERRA
Sacramento
916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

On February 6 Sierra presented Bob Vaughn at the 2/11 Wurlitzer in the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse accompanying *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* Filmed on the Sacramento River, this silent comedy starred Buster Keaton

in a rollicking riverboat story that was really brought to life by Bob Vaughn's seasoned skills.

Sunday, March 20, Sierra teamed with the Roseville Theatre and Allen organ dealer J. Nelson to present Rex Koury accompanying *King of Kings*. Koury's score and performance were magnificent, with nearly all the music written especially for the film by Rex himself. The Allen three-manual theatre organ's tone cabinets were placed in the still-empty pipe chambers of the Roseville with spectacular results. The program was a fund-raiser for Sierra's organ installations project at the Roseville. The generous cooperation of J. Nelson in supplying the Allen is most appreciated.

April 10 at Arden Pizza & Pipes, Sierra Chapter's entertainment for the month consisted of a show of all women performers or, as billed in our newsletter, "An all-gal deal." An informal program allowing chapter members to practice and then play before a group, it was great fun. Participating ladies included Kay Ruland, Betty Taylor, Karen Cuneo, Joy

Lindberg and the organizer of the event, Sue Lang. The last few numbers even included a vocal quartet of Louise Daggett, Diane Lovely, June Anderson and, so not to violate the theme, Mr. Ed Posehn in drag.

May 1, Sierra brought to the Sacramento suburb of Fair Oaks, Kevin King at the chapter's Wurlitzer. Kevin is a young organist making his way in the Bay Area pizza circuit. Providing us an afternoon of most enjoyable music in true theatre style, Kevin's showmanship was put to a test and came through with flying colors as he had to cope with blower failure several times toward the end of his program. The problem? Our building was recently converted to three-phase power with only 208 volts. Our Spencer wanted 220 and overheated in protest. Chapter electrician Hal Wilmunder has installed a voltage booster to solve what is hopefully the last of Sierra's string of blower problems.

May 14 a busload of members crossed the mighty snowladen Sierra mountains to chapter member Fred Beeks' residence installation to hear



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the wonderful Miss Candi Carley. A concert by Candi Carley is always most inspiring as she plays and changes stops without the benefit of sight. Fred demonstrated his custom-built roll-player with some tasty Crawford rolls (it was used by George Wright during the '79 Convention).

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

April's meeting, held in Tulsa's beautiful Gothic-style First Methodist Church, was an enjoyable step into the world of church organ music. Mr. Richard Doverspike, organ curator, gave us an interesting history of the more-than-100-rank instrument, and organists Alta Bush Selvey and Vicki Stumpf presented a program from classical organ literature that was a delightful tour through the instrument's divisions, including the polished copper *Trompette en Chamade*.

The organ was originally built by Aeolian-Skinner in the 1920's, a gift from Foster Parriott in memory of his parents. The interest from the trust fund for the organ's maintenance has, over the years, accumulated enough that it was decided to enlarge the instrument. Mr. Doverspike, with

the expertise for masterminding the project, was selected to do so. Ultimately, there will be 200 ranks and a new console with a multiplex cable. The expansion is being done by Schantz Organ Company.

The end of April found a contingent from our chapter in Wichita, Kansas, to hear the Lyn Larsen concert on the former New York Paramount Wurlitzer in their Century II Exhibition Hall. Several of our new members were first-time attendees and were quite impressed with the instrument, the installation and Lyn Larsen himself! Needless to say, the program was a sheer delight.

May found us back at the Central Assembly of God Church with open console at the 4/14 Robert-Morton. Lorene Thomas delighted us with her many and varied selections. Later, we especially enjoyed organ and piano duets with Joe Crutchfield at the grand piano — you'd have thought they had been playing together forever!

Bob and Betty Weddle are still talking about their recent trip to Bella Vista, Arkansas, where they visited Russell and Florence Joseph and their four-rank Wurlitzer. They report a beautiful installation in the Joseph's home, spotlessly clean with everything looking brand new. The organ's four ranks sound like a "big organ,"

complete with a full Wurlitzer toy counter. Russell has a Wurlitzer Tibia he plans to add as soon as he can locate a suitable Wurlitzer chest. Russell, a onetime pupil of the late Milton Slosser, entertained them with his music, and they also heard a tape of Bob Ralston playing the instrument when he was there not long ago.

Hervey and Janice Barbour are well along on the new house they are building around their 2/11 Kimball. Several members of the "Pipe-Pack-in" Platoon" had assembled in Pryor some time ago to help move the bigger parts and pipes from their old house to storage.

Dorothy and Lee Smith are also talking "sheetrocking." Their house-addition is coming along slowly, but the blower room for their now seven-rank mostly-Wurlitzer is enclosed.

Phil Judkins reports that his Trivo Wurlitzer-style Post Horn is tremendous, and those who have played it agree! With his Austin Clarinet finally playing, his mostly-Wicks organ now has ten ranks.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

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Ava Irick, organ and piano teacher in nearby Nederland, played on the

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Don Baker in 1983. (George R. Hockmeyer photo)

3/8 Robert-Morton in the Jefferson Theatre for the Chapter's April meeting. This open meeting received extensive advance publicity in the local newspapers and from the TV stations, so that we had a record attendance of 325 persons. Although Mrs. Irick played from sheet music, her program was well received.

Rick Mathews of Houston, who has been both installer and performer for a pizzeria Wurlitzer in Arizona, played a varied program for our May meeting.

The Chapter's Annual Spring Concert — actually in June — was entitled "Sixty Years of Pipes," celebrating the long career of Hall-of-Famer Don Baker. Despite threatening weather, nearly 500 people came to hear Don's program. His arrangements of golden-oldies brought out the full range of the Robert-Morton's eight ranks, while demonstrating all the clichés of old-time theatre organ. Don accompanied a showing of the Laurel & Hardy silent, *Double Whoopee*, with a combination of sound effects and

appropriate background music. After a standing ovation, Don concluded as usual with "God Bless America."

A cameraman from TV channel 12, although not using any supplementary lighting, proved to be a distraction during the first 15 minutes of the program. It remains a question whether the publicity benefits from the subsequent showing outweighed the distraction.

IRA M. WILLIAMSON



Miami
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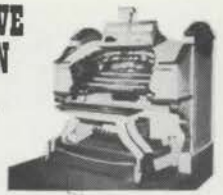
Connecticut organist and technician Allen Miller treated the South Florida Chapter to a program on the 4/15 Wurlitzer in Andre Hall on May 24. A member of the National Board of Directors, Allen currently has his own firm, Allen Miller Associates, which is active in pipe organ design and manufacture as well as design and fabrication of various custom electronic systems.

His program for the Miami theatre organ fans, however, was not electronic, but nostalgic, as Allen played his favorite music from old movie musicals. This included selections from *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Top Hat*, "King Kong March" and a medley from *Wake Up and Live*. Other treats were "Just a Bird's Eye View of My Old Kentucky Home," an arrangement of the oldie-goldie, "Nola," and the theme from *Ice Castle*, "Through The Eyes of Love." His rousing finale was "Forty-Second Street."

JO WERNE

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Akron Civic Theatre was the place for our March meeting. The organ is the twin to our Armory 3/13 Wurlitzer. Staff organist Bill Taber delighted us with a well-planned concert. Bill and pianist Jim Timko played several duets including "Hooked on Classics." Members were delighted with the opportunity to enjoy open console.

The Akron Civic Theatre proudly presented Ron Rhode at the Wurlitzer on April 9. Members of the chapter were present to enjoy his style of performance.

Driving through a late-winter snow storm on April 17, our members were delighted to visit the Oberlin Conservatory of Music on the Oberlin College campus, Oberlin, Ohio. Garth Peacock, Professor of Organ, guided us on a tour of the practice hall and most of the organs on the campus. Organ students have access to twenty-five instruments of varied design. Of the mechanical action tracker organs, six are Flentrops, one Brombaugh and two Noacks. Of the electro-pneumatic, six are Holtkamps and one a Moller. Warner Concert Hall contains a three-manual, 44-stop Flentrop built entirely in mid-eighteenth century classical North European style. Also in Warner is a six-stop positiv organ from Flentrop, and in Finney Chapel there is a large three-manual, 60-stop Aeolian-Skinner organ.

A Brombaugh organ, built by John Brombaugh and Associates of Eugene, Oregon, is installed in the Fairchild Chapel. The organ, situated in

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Keyboard of Brombaugh organ in Fairchild Chapel. Note the "broken octave" and split sharps on the Great.
(Photo courtesy of Oberlin College, Conservatory of Music)

the rear gallery of the chapel, is a two-manual instrument of 13 stops. Its case, mechanism and tonal resources are inspired by the important developments in organ design which took place in the first half of the seventeenth century. The versatility of the organ is expanded through the "broken octave" configuration at the bass end of the keyboard, which allows the player to reach larger intervals than possible with modern keyboards, and also through the presence of sub-semitones (split sharps) which extend the usual limits of the meantone temperament in which the organ is tuned.

April 23 found some members attending a concert at the Lorain Palace Theatre in Lorain, Ohio, with artist Ken Demko at the 3/11 Wurlitzer.

Rounding out a busy April, WRTOS was proud to present Larry Ferrari on the Mighty 3/13 Wurlitzer. The first half of the program was a

musical trip around the world starting in America, then to England, Europe, Asia, Hawaii and back home. Larry played steadily for an hour and fifteen minutes. After intermission, he honored Henry Mancini with a medley of his well-known songs. We were then entertained with a Laurel & Hardy silent movie. He closed with 20 minutes of hymns.

The next day members journeyed to Canton, Ohio, for a meeting at the Canton Palace Theatre, which gives the illusion of an open-air amphitheatre surrounded by Spanish gardens and covered by a blue Mediterranean sky containing twinkling stars and moving clouds. The Canton Palace is a sister to the Akron Civic Theatre.

Staff organist Bob Beck played the 3/7 Kilgen. He opened with "Valencia," then demonstrated the different effects of the Kilgen, some of which were Siren, Bird Whistle, Tom Tom, Castenet, Chrysoglott and Chimes. Next he played "My Buddy" while the curtain rose to reveal a beautiful garden scene on a backdrop. Another backdrop appeared later while he played "Someone to Watch Over Me." Members enjoyed a chance to play this organ when open console followed.

JIM SHEPHERD



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

Our April meeting was held at the home of Roger and Sue Mumbrue in Bloomfield Hills. Each visit to the Mumbrue's is looked forward to with great anticipation of what new and interesting sights and sounds will be in store for us. This year their three-manual hybrid organ has been expanded from 32 to 36 ranks with the addition of three Strings (for a total

of nine) and a Trivo Musette, plus a 16' extension on the Trumpet. A second Glockenspiel, a third Xylophone and a set of tuned bird whistles have also been added and are exposed in their basement room. The bird whistles are unique because each of the 18 notes is marked by a small stuffed bird with a light over it to indicate which bird is singing! Making the Mumbrue's music room unforgettable are various other unique visual and animated effects connected to the organ. There is a large parrot that flaps its wings in time to the music and that even lays "eggs." Another smaller parrot blows up a balloon, and a gorilla "drummer" beats out the time of the music on a garbage can lid with a tin cup.

John Lauter, a talented young organist from Livonia, played a very pleasant program for us in his own bouncy and toe-tapping style. John has become quite well-known locally as a rising star in theatre organ and will no doubt become better known for his artistry in the future across the nation. Since John is very familiar with the Mumbrue's organ, he was able to demonstrate many of its vast resources, both tonally and visually. What a tremendous sound that beautiful organ can produce! We are grateful to the Mumbrues for so graciously hosting our group once again, and we enjoyed John Lauter's performance very much.

On April 30 and May 1, a bus group of Wolverine and Motor City Chapter members went to Indiana for a weekend organ tour hosted by the Central Indiana Chapter. Lin Lunde from Richmond, Virginia, played a beautiful concert that Saturday evening at the Hedback Theatre in Indianapolis. Following Lin's concert was a midnight jam session at Paramount Music Palace which commenced after closing hours with staff organist Don-



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John Lauter at the Mumbroe's console.



Ken Saliba at the console of the Pied Piper Pizza Peddler's Wurlitzer.

(Max Brown photo)

na Parker bringing up the console. Several other visiting organists entertained us on the Mighty Wurlitzer during open console. It was great!

Paramount Music Palace's general manager Bob MacNeur had a special "breakfast crew" come in early the next morning to prepare and serve us cafeteria-style a very nice and filling breakfast before we left to go to Lafayette. They did a super job of it, too. So you thought the Paramount Music Palace was *just* a pizza parlor! We got an unexpected treat — about 15 minutes of delightful music by Donna Parker on the Palace's 4/42 Wurlitzer!

When we arrived in Lafayette, Ken Double played a short but sweet concert for us at the Mars Theatre, now the Long Performing Arts Center. Ken certainly got many beautiful sounds out of that 3/17 hybrid organ.

The last stop on our Indiana Organ Tour was at the Pipe Dream Restaurant in Kokomo where we were entertained by staff organist Bill Tandy,

who definitely catered to our musical tastes by playing a lot of "oldies." A couple of our members had the opportunity to play Pipe Dream's 3/12 Wurlitzer. Dr. John Elleman, one of the owners, played for us, too. We certainly thank the Central Indiana Chapter for doing such a marvelous job of hosting!

On May 15 our Wolverine meeting was held at Pied Piper Pizza Peddler in Warren. Ken Saliba, an owner of the Pied Piper, played an impressive special program for us prior to the opening of the restaurant for business. Ken's excellent musicianship and experience as a church organist and organ teacher were very much in evidence throughout his performance. His style and technique are super and he seems to have a flair for using second-touch resources. His right foot counter-melodies high on the pedal board were unique and added a pleasant element to several selections.


It appeared that Ken enjoyed utiliz-

ing the organ's softer and more subtle sounds as much as we enjoyed hearing them. His ballads, played in a lush, romantic style, were really gorgeous. Bach's famous "Tocatta in D Minor" paired with a toccata by Gigout were fine vehicles to display Ken's classical training. His arrangement of "Ebb Tide" included bird calls and surf sounds created by himself and not the usual devices found in theatre organs — unique and effective! His encore was a moving arrangement of "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Following Ken's program, several members ventured forth to play for us during open console. During our lunch, we were treated to the music of Pied Piper organist Rick Cucci. Rick is a talented 17-year-old musician well on his way to making a name for himself in theatre organ. We thank Ken Saliba and Pied Piper Pizza Peddler for a really super music-filled day!

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