

commit the money to this venture, because of the present lack of available funds for this project.

39. Membership Secretary McGillivray reported a cost of approximately \$1500 to print a roster of members which could then be sold to the membership. Editor Gilbert was asked to ascertain how much interest might exist for such a roster before funds be appropriated for this project.

40. Motion Ayars, 2nd Ashley Miller: The report of the Promotion Committee be accepted. Unanimous. Chairman Sklenar commended Ralph Beaudry for his invaluable help on this committee, and he also thanked and commended Thelma Barclay for her fine work with the Pipe Up! Campaign which has increased our membership. Various press releases concerning ATOS have been released, and an article appeared in *Americana* magazine about ATOS.

41. It was announced that approximately 1000 copies of our current Bylaws are available to chapters and members for the asking. Send request to Membership Office. Full address listed on page 3 in each issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

42. By unanimous action, the board issued the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors that Lois F. Segur be highly commended for her patience, energy and devotion to the American Theatre Organ Society and to the members of this board while serving as our president; and that the board expresses its utmost gratitude and fondest affection."

43. Motion Sklenar, 2nd Needler: Meeting adjourned sine die at 8:05 p.m., July 5, 1983. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy S. Needler, *ATOS Secretary* □

RALPH AI



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis



Honolulu, Hawaii

808/533-4524 or 808/395-2451

The highlight of Aloha Chapter's recent activities was hosting 17 ATOS members from Australia, who were



Bob Alder who played May 22 concert for Aloha Chapter. (Advertising Development Service photo)

enjoying their visit in Hawaii, sunning, surfing, touring and girl/boy watching through their sunglasses before continuing their tour to the West Coast. The first evening they enjoyed visiting the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. John McCreary and their Mighty Mongrel 3/12 theatre pipe organ. Hors d'oeuvres (pupus), drinks, and beautiful music with solos by members and visitors were enjoyed by all. The next evening they visited our club and had fun playing and listening to the 4/16 Robert-Morton organ at the Hawaii Theatre. They were grateful for our island hospitality, presented us with Koala bears and invited us to their club when we visit Australia.

May 22 we had a successful theatre organ concert featuring local artist Bob Alder, one of our members who also plays at the Waikiki Theatre #3 on Friday and Saturday evenings before showtime. He also accompanies silent movies on his Allen organ at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, an "old classics" theatre.

From Aloha Chapter Chairman Robert Anderson to Organ Maintenance and Reconstruction Chairman

Scott Bosch, our members are not standing still. We have two more concerts this year, one in September featuring Lew Williams and the other in December featuring Bob Ralston, so come on over and enjoy the action.

Twenty-one members of this chapter attended the ATOS Convention, representing the loudest, smallest, and the most colorful chapter of all.

Please drop by when you are in the area and have a chat. We meet every Sunday morning at the Hawaii Theatre for coffee, tea and goodies between 8:00 a.m. and noon. With love and Aloha.

ac/atos

atlanta chapter, american theatre organ society

Atlanta

404/892-0065 or 404/634-0833

POWERHOUSE! Not only the name of a musical selection he played, but also a fitting description of our May artist, Kurt Von Schakel from Indianapolis, Indiana. Kurt was introduced to Atlanta Chapter by his long-time friend, and our new chapter member, John David Alford. Kurt took Atlanta by storm as 140 people packed the Winn-Sound, Inc. warehouse to hear the 4/17 Page organ.

First came demonstrations of playing styles of such artists as Lee Erwin, John Muri, Eddie Dunstedter, Sidney Torch and Lyn Larsen. Impressive selections were "Knightsbridge March,"



Kurt von Schakel at the 4/17 Page at Winn-Sound, Inc., Atlanta.

“Take the ‘A’ Train,” “Ride of the Valkyries” and “Powerhouse.” His humorous variations on “Bringing in the Sheaves” almost brought dancing in the aisles. Kurt came to Atlanta in April to hear his friend, Lee Erwin. Some of us heard Kurt play at that time and quickly scheduled him for our May meeting. We have “discovered” a tremendous artist and look forward to his early return to Atlanta.

Our June happening was an afternoon picnic at Georgia’s historic Stone Mountain. A concert and demonstration by Mable Sharp on the Carillon (members even got the chance to play) was followed by a most interesting tour of the Antique Auto and Musical Museum. An exciting fall schedule is planned. We are growing with enthusiasm and new members.

WARREN WILLIAMS

BEEHIVE
Salt Lake City
801/571-2944 or 801/586-9098

The famous Organ Loft proprietor, young Larry Bray, generously hosted the Beehive chapter on Sunday afternoon, June 12. The meeting, originally intended as a cook-out in the Loft patio, turned out to be an indoors affair because of the violent winds. Secretary Wayne Russell, however, braved the blast to turn out some mouth-watering charcoal broiled hamburgers, while, indoors, his wife Maxine and young Larry Bray prepared delicious salads and tasty snacks — a real treat!

Following the feast, a short business meeting was held with Vice Chairman Bene Breinholt conducting. Wayne Russell gave minutes of the preceding meeting. He was followed by Claire Briggs who reported on the latest state of the Capitol Theatre Organ Project, declaring that the final checking has begun. He further reported that operating funds were almost gone and that the chapter may have to appeal for contributions to bring the project to a finish since city-county resources are being strained to the limit because of the disastrous spring flood conditions. Following this report came open console on the giant 35-rank Wurlitzer. Those who performed provided a very exciting conclusion to the meeting.

The chapter thanks Wayne and

Maxine Russell and young Larry Bray for a delicious repast, and especially Larry for his hospitality.

LOWELL J. BOBERG



**CENTRAL
INDIANA
CHAPTER**

Indianapolis
317/283-3410 or 317/255-8056

Our June meeting was held in the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Lafayette, Indiana, on June 12. Attendance, including guests, was approximately 60. Tim Needler, CIC President, advised that the Lin Lunde concert netted a profit. The Board of Directors recommended that half of the profit be deposited in the Dessa Byrd Memorial Scholarship Fund. They also recommended that part of the profit be used to purchase a second rectifier for the Hedback Page organ. Carroll Copeland gave a brief

history of the newly restored Long Center (formerly Mars Theatre). The theatre was started in 1921 and dedicated on April 18, 1922, by Ed Wynne. It was recently donated to the city by Dennis Long in memory of his father. Copeland then presented a program of old standards on the now nearly complete Wurlitzer hybrid. Following his program, open console was held.

The July meeting was our biannual



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

picnic on the grounds of the home of Phil and Betty Hedback. It was a catered picnic lunch and outdoor meeting. At 12:30 promptly, the serving line was interrupted by a rain shower which, fortunately, didn't last long. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Needler. Attendance was approximately 150. Because of the weather, a shortened program was presented by Tim and Cindy Moore. Both they and the organ were courtesy of Paige Music Company, Indianapolis. The rain returned and all picked up their chairs and went to the barn for the remainder of the meeting. Additional items covered included a review of the Detroit bus tour, the Lee Erwin film festival and the Walt Strony concert. Hope was voiced as to the possibility of the eventual installation of a theatre organ in the Circle Theatre in downtown Indianapolis.

WAYNE PIPHER

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Our May meeting convened at Pontones Music Store where we beheld AOB's El Paso Symphony Orchestra organ with its 87 completely independent ranks activated by some 5000 pitch/voice generators. It impressed us as a marvelous electronic advance toward true organ tone reproduction. Some of the refinements included an optional "chiff" to the Operante and a simulated "breath" in the Principal. We were treated to some classical and liturgical music by Susie Singer who, though handicapped by some missing digits, demonstrated remarkable dexterity in her organ playing. Open console followed. We are sorry to note the departure of two of our key members, Bob and Patti Clark, whose contributions to the board and publication of our monthly newsletter, "Stop Tab," will be sorely missed.

COTOS held its June meeting at the Shady Nook Restaurant near Oxford, Ohio, which houses the resplendent 4/32 Wurlitzer designed and developed by the late Stanley Todd. Two vast chambers rising from the lower level to a vaulted ceiling behind the stage house the majority of pipes. We were privileged to visit these chambers through the courtesy of

owner Dennis Werkmeister. The organ's basic 17 ranks came from its original home in radio station WLW; the acquisition of additional pipes swelled the organ to 30 ranks. The Peterson solid-state replacement of the original electro-pneumatic relays was one of the first of its kind in the country. Its two parallel blowers feed the windline at 19" static pressure. The stage of the Shady Nook sports a baby grand piano ingeniously hooked to the console by a keyboard layout which can be removed. Resident organist Van Jones treated us to a parade of melodies from pop to rock, and at open console, COTOS members Mark Williams, Bob Shaw and Ted Geyson distinguished themselves by their versatility at the keyboard.

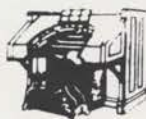
July's meeting was hosted by Bill and Adell Nahlovsky whose lovely home has a Hammond Concorde organ. Potluck on a hot summer day was icing on the cake to the treat Bob Tio gave us on the Hammond keyboard. The highlight of the afternoon was a series of vocal numbers by Bob and guest Brenda Searcy.

The incomparable 4/20 Robert-Morton at the Columbus Ohio Theatre has received some \$30,000 worth of improvements which involve installation of a new combination action to improve versatility, all new relays, and a new rectifier, a power supply to replace the aging, and at times erratic, DC generator.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.



Thomaston

203/378-9192 or 203/583-8334

Our February meeting had to be rescheduled for March 12 because of severe winter weather. This was our annual birthday party and, as customary, was held at the Thomaston Opera House, site of our fine Marr & Colton pipe organ. Open console hours obtained both afternoon and evening with dinner at various restaurants in between. Chapter member Joe Sweet, an accomplished musician, was kind enough to give us a most appropriate birthday celebra-

REPORT - ATOS ARCHIVES

The ATOS Archive materials have been moved to the Corporate Headquarters in Chula Vista, California. The collection of music, recorded tapes, glass slides, organ rolls, and other miscellaneous materials will be kept in storage until a permanent location is found for the collection. An attempt will be made to catalog the items in the collection.

Upon examination of our current collection, it is apparent that we have very little that deals directly with theatre pipe organs. We need pictures of organ consoles, theatres and organ chambers — properly labeled and identified. We lack copies of manufacturer's advertising for theatre pipe organs. We will gladly accept collections of memorabilia from theatre organists and their families who want a permanent place for their collections. In other words, the ATOS Archive collection is very meager and in no way begins to represent the glorious age of the theatre pipe organ. If you have anything that you would like to donate to the archive collection, please pack and send it right away.

The archive set of THEATRE ORGAN magazines is missing the following issues. If you have one or more of these issues available for donation you could help to make our archive more complete.

THEATRE ORGAN

Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring, 1959
Vol. 1, No. 3, Fall, 1959
Vol. 1, No. 4, Winter, 1959
Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring, 1960
Vol. 2, No. 2, Summer, 1960
Vol. 2, No. 4, Winter, 1960
Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring, 1961
Vol. 3, No. 2, Summer, 1961
Vol. 3, No. 4, Winter, 1961
Vol. 4, No. 2, Summer, 1962

Send your donations to: Mr. Vernon P. Bickel, Curator, ATOS Corporate Headquarters, 1393 Don Carlos Court, Chula Vista, California 92010.

tion by playing a concert for us in the evening. A good mix of popular selections plus the lovely "Clair de Lune," was as well as the fitting "Connecticut March" and "Happy Birthday to Us," made our birthday party a memorable one. Many thanks, Joe.

Our April meeting was very special, indeed. It took place in a most appropriate setting, the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Connecticut. This beautiful Art Deco theatre is now in the proud ownership of the Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts. It can seat 1800 patrons and has a grand foyer from which a broad, carpeted staircase leads to the balcony. The pipe organ has long since gone; however, the Association is already planning for the installation of another one. We had a fascinating day. Association members Paul Schroeder and Joanne Lobrutto went to great lengths to get things in readiness for our visit. We thank them heartily, also Al Ecker of Melody Makers.

So theatre organ sounds could be heard in this venerable house, the Melody Makers of Newington, and member Allen Miller arranged to have a Rodgers Trio 321C three-manual theatre model brought into the theatre. Following dinner and a short business meeting, none other than Allen Miller took his place at the Rodgers console and proceeded to make us feel really "at home" in a fine theatre listening to organ music. What more can an ATOS person ask?

Al gave us his best effort in a great program of tunes from motion pictures, "pop" presentations, and some specialty numbers like "Hungarian Rag" and "Trisch Trsch Polka." We do thank you, Al.

Our June meeting was in Stratford, once again at the home of Ernie and Beth Boda. There are a number of marvelous keyboard instruments in the music studio of the expansive Boda residence; however, the one of topical interest here is the 3/15 Style D Wurlitzer, Opus 501, that has been installed, maintained, and improved always with meticulous care. A visit to the chambers brings forth wonder at the elegant planning and execution that went into the installation. Ernie is to be congratulated for this superb job that is one fine example of how to properly install a pipe organ.

Following open console, business session and dinner, we were scheduled

to hear Everett Bassett, just returned with gracious wife Eleanor from Florida for a visit, and hear him we did. During his many years in Connecticut, Ev was tirelessly and enthusiastically engaged in all sorts of chapter activities, and we miss his great help. Taking his place at the console, he placed thereupon an *avant garde* version of his well-known fan, this one a humidifying version which, after a couple of numbers, he decided was not needed! Beginning with "I'll Walk Alone," Everett took us down memory lane with some familiar, and one or two unfamiliar, selections. Most were played in the Bassett style we all like so well, but he gave us also a rendition a la Dick Leibert and another one a la Jesse Crawford. It was very comfortable and enjoyable having Ev at the console once more. We're glad he came and wish him and Eleanor a most pleasant visit. Thanks, Ev.

Following Ev Bassett's concert, we were provided a highly unusual and most interesting treat. The motion picture screen was lowered, projection equipment made ready, and four short screen presentations of Jesse and Helen Crawford, one including their daughter and others including vocal artists, were shown. These were made by Warner Brothers around 1931, and featured both pipe and electric instruments. The films are the only ones existing and are the property of Jerry Hayward who was kind enough to show them for us. Inasmuch as some of us in the audience can remember those times, the films were fascinating, indeed. Rosa Rio was present and remembered her mother telling her about the Crawford's daughter, Jessie, who had a good voice and also played the organ. Rosa had some other entertaining anecdotes, too. She is a charmer. We extend a hearty "Thank you," to Ernie and Beth Boda, to Ev Bassett, and to Jerry Hayward.

Coming to the Thomaston Opera House on October 15 and 16 is Lyn Larsen, and December 3-4 will be Rosa Rio and Ted Malone. Information and tickets are available from Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Connecticut 06483-0426. Telephone (203) 888-9696.

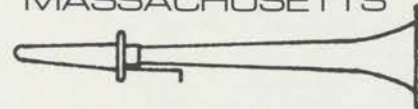
W. F. POWERS

* * *

It is with great sadness, indeed, that Connecticut Valley Chapter records

the death, on June 23, of our dear friend and most valued member of many years, Everett Bassett. For as long as most of us can remember, Everett and his dear wife, Eleanor, were doing something for the benefit of the chapter. Work on pipe organs, service as Chapter Librarian, countless hours in social endeavors, are highlights of their almost continual husband and wife contributions to the pleasure and success of our Connecticut Valley operation. To say that we will miss him is a gross understatement. We are grateful for the years during which we enjoyed his good spirit and his tireless gestures in our behalf. Our organization's spirit and success are in no small way testimony to Everett Bassett.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS



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

The "clan" gathered around our 235 Special on May 28, with President Lupo presiding. Dedicated "Eastern Pipes" editor Stu Hinchcliff reluctantly announced his withdrawal from that position after nearly 14 years. Fortunately, Dick Johnson volunteered to get out some form of newsletter to maintain continuity, effective with the September issue. Thanks, Stu, from all for a job very well done!

Guest organist was Evelyn Grant of Beverly, Massachusetts. She was a "stranger in paradise," this being her first encounter with theatre pipes although a regular on electronics in restaurants and church instruments. With only two sessions of practice, she created some nice sounds from our Wurlitzer in her smooth, easy style, much in the Millie Alexander mode. Selections such as "Dream" and "If I Had You" were played with an almost uncanny resemblance. Since it was Memorial Day weekend, a poignant "My Buddy" was included in the program rather in the mood of late-evening listening. The ever-popular open console followed until beyond midnight and the blower "Off" button finally pressed.

Only two days later, Memorial Day, one of our earliest and hardest-

working members, Alvah I. Winslow, passed away, at the age of 76, in his Foxboro home. Al, an Honorary Life Member, had served as both president and treasurer of EMCATOS. His style of playing was truly entertaining, going back to the silent days when he accompanied the "flickers" in several Providence, Rhode Island, theatres, usually in the Fay chain. He will be truly missed.

Our June meeting featured member Cheryl Linder at the console. We have seen and heard this young lady grow up and steadily improve as she has played our seasonal final guest spot for several years. Cheryl is studying the classics, but has not overlooked the "pops." Witness her lively "España Cani" opener, to say nothing of her own composition, "Merry-Go-Round," which involved much double pedaling executed in a French background setting incorporating carousel music, and her encore, "Bean Pot Rag!" Miss Linder's program included another of her own compositions entitled "Prayer." Cheryl received a good hand for her considerable effort before open console, chit-chat and snacks.

Patsey and Rosalie Fucci again graciously opened their Waltham home to the chapter on June 26, for an afternoon of excellent picnicking, good fellowship and viewing of their "Crystal Palace." This spacious new building will house their ex-Loew's State (Providence) 4/20 Robert-Morton within a year. Members and guests then enjoyed the Conn for some "soul food" before departure and "Goodbyes" for the summer.

EMCATOS looks forward with great anticipation to the first concert appearance of Jonas Nordwall on October 22 and 23, at our Babson Wurlitzer — nice to contemplate during the long, hot days ahead!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY

LOLTOS

St. Paul

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

Now that the great convention is but a pleasant memory, TO deadlines still have to be met, and chapter activities need to be reported.

Saturday afternoon, June 4, at

Cedarhurst, was a BIG highlight for LOLTOS. We are fortunate that Father James Miller of Fenton, Michigan, could play for us, and he was delighted to have the opportunity to present his "Sermon in Sound" on Goldie, the Mighty Wurlitzer which has since been moved to Schenectady. Father Jim drew a full house, and his performance was enthusiastically applauded, not only for his tremendous skill at the organ but also for his humorous and sensitive approach to life. What a wonderful philosophy and a joy to remember.

With about 30 LOLTOS members attending the convention in July, planning programs and activities for the summer was somewhat curtailed. This was this writer's first time to attend a National Convention, and it was a pleasure to meet the officers of the ATOS and to make the acquaintance of so many new friends from far-off places, Honolulu, South Africa, Ireland and England, to mention a few. One couple, Ray and Mary LaNew from Van Nuys, came to me at Serramonte Pizza & Pipes where we heard Dave Reese and said to me that they recognized my name as a correspondent for the TO magazine and that they were coming to St. Paul after the convention to attend a high school reunion.

Four of us from the chapter, Alice Rabus, Shirley Hall, Mike Erie and I, flew to LA a week before the convention, went sight-seeing in Garden Grove, Long Beach and Ventura, then drove up to San Simeon and the

Hearst Castle where we ran into Walt Strony, then to San Jose and San Francisco where we registered on June 30 at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel and took off immediately for Fisherman's Wharf and a cruise of the Bay. The weather was gorgeous the whole time, and we certainly enjoyed the sights, sounds and smells of San Francisco. Four of the artists were quite familiar to us; Lyn Larsen, Walt Strony, Rob Calcaterra and Tom Hazleton have played in concert for us here. The beautiful theatres and theatre organs were thoroughly enjoyed and now, of course, we will be looking forward to the '84 Convention in Indianapolis.

Since returning home, I have had several letters from new friend inquiring about and ordering the black and white "ORGAN POWER" musical caps some of the conventioners might have noticed LOLTOS members wearing. Alice sold hers right off her head! If any readers of this column would like to order a cap at \$5.50 each (postpaid), please write to me at 1202 Margaret Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106, with your check, payable to me, and I'll see that you get one.

VERNA MAE WILSON

LAND OF LINCOLN

Rockford

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

Seven members of the Land of Lincoln Chapter attended the National



Land of Lincoln Chapter members at the National Convention.

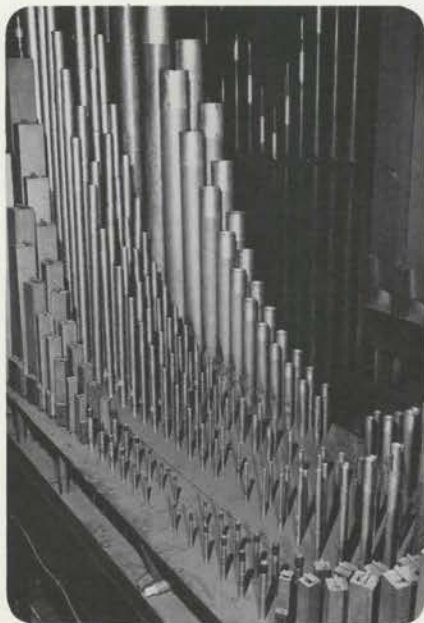
ATOS Convention in San Francisco. They were Don Bissell, Harry and Cathy Koenig, Edla and Bill Horn, and Betty and Orrill Dunn. It was Don Bissell's first convention, and he was impressed with three opportunities a national convention presents to its members.

First, the convention provides numerous formal concerts by top artists playing theatre pipe organs restored to peak condition. This, combined with the impromptu and less formal after-hours jam sessions, really fulfills the purpose of the society — to preserve theatre organs and theatre organ music.

Second, it is easy to interact with organists, arrangers, organ owners, organ "buffs" — even organ "nuts," and people with interests covering a broad range of related interests. This interaction based on bonds of common interests fosters working together between individuals and theatre organ chapters that is important, if not vital, to survival of theatre pipe organs. One member recalls less than 25 years ago when theatre organ music nearly became extinct. Today it is alive and quite well and growing steadily.

Third, and finally, each convention site provides a setting with unique flavor, both in terms of the theatres, artists and organs and in terms of local color. It is pretty difficult to top San Francisco on any of these criteria.

ORRILL DUNN



Some of the pipework of the Granada Welling organ purchased by the London & South of England Chapter. (John Sharp photo)



John Mann at the "Torch" Christie, Regal Edmonton, May 15.

(John Sharp photo)

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

Great news! Although the middle two months of the year are traditionally bereft of formal chapter events because of the summer holiday season, this year this period has been a highly productive and most exciting one for our chapter.

As well as a large chapter contingent (20) participating in the Stateside Convention in the San Francisco area, and substantial progress being made in our major restoration project in progress since the beginning of this year, the truly great news is that on July 5 our chapter became the proud owner of its own Wurlitzer organ.

Listed as an obvious top priority since our chapter was formed six years ago, the opportunity to secure our own instrument suddenly arose whereby the funds which we had accumulated enabled us to bid successfully for the well-known 3/8 Wurlitzer organ from the Granada Cinema at Welling in Kent, which was subject to imminent closure and redevelopment.

This late-model Wurlitzer (Opus 2221) was shipped from the factory November 22, 1937, and inaugurated at Welling by the great Robinson Cleaver at the opening of the theatre on February 3, 1938. It was the penultimate installation of the so-called "Granada 2" model in the Judd Wal-

ton Wurlitzer Installation List.

Recorded and broadcast by Cleaver and Reginald Dixon, this powerful instrument (which is identical to that still in the Granada Harrow in Northwest London and heard by U.S. members during the 1980 25th Anniversary Convention) is probably best known for the outstanding 78 rpm recording of "Canadian Capers" and "Czardas" made there by Cleaver in February 1940 and recently reissued as part of a 40-year tribute to him as president of the "Theatre Organ Club."



Some pipework of the Granada Tooting organ, which the London Chapter is restoring. (John Sharp photo)



Hard at work on the Granada Tooting organ. John Sharp caught at the other end of the camera; Cyril Gott and Chris Smith "eyes down." (John Sharp photo)



Les Rawle at work on the Granada Tooting restoration project — "a labor of love." (John Sharp photo)

Our Wurlitzer has eight ranks on three manuals (the top one being a coupler only) consisting of: Diapason, Tibia, English Horn, Gamba, Gamba Celeste, Flute, Tuba and Saxophone. Provision is also available for a Grand Piano attachment, although the actual instrument is no longer available.

Now removed and stored, our new baby is to be thoroughly cleaned and renovated before reinstallation somewhere in the London area. Having pursued a number of likely venues as a matter of routine over the past year pending such an opportunity, we believe that we now have an appropriate one in our sights — which we shall be pleased to report on as soon as agreement can be negotiated.

While this is awaited, we are now able to reveal that our big restoration project reported anonymously in recent chapter reports is, in fact, the world-famous 4/14 Wurlitzer in the Granada Tooting in South London. The organ was badly damaged a decade ago by flooding and was later completely entombed when this exceptionally fine and decorative "flagship" of the Granada chain underwent substantial structural alterations in the former stage area when the theatre was converted to Bingo.

Although there is as yet no guarantee from the theatre management that the necessary work will be sanctioned to enable the keydesk and the organ sound to be brought back in to the auditorium (the console is mounted on a lift in the centre of the original orchestra pit with the two pipework chambers being under-stage), substantial progress has been made since our technical team began work there at

the beginning of the year.

Despite all of the instrument and its pipework being intact, a very considerable reconstruction of the chestwork, regulators and other woodwork, wiring and air supply trunking, etc., has been necessary because of the water damage.

By midyear, after some thousands of man-hours had been expended, renovation of the Main chamber and its seven ranks of pipes had been substantially completed and brought back on wind and work begun on the Solo chamber. Obviously much remains to be done, but we anxiously look forward to hearing the mighty "Tooting Sound" again featuring top international artists in public presentation in the not too distant future — with the full cooperation of Granada Theatres which we have been exceptionally privileged to enjoy so far.

Beginning life in Sacramento in the 1920's and shipped to Tooting and enlarged for the opening there in 1931, the top manual of the French-style keydesk handles the percussions only, with the distinctive pipework being in two tightly-packed side-by-side chambers opening into the former orchestra pit area. Prolifically broadcast and recorded during its four decades of active use, its best-known exponent was the late Harold Ramsey (who was also the last to play it prior to the disastrous flooding).

Just as this report is written, our Chapter Club Night series has restarted — with the redoubtable veteran sisters Florence de Jong and Ena Baga providing a characteristically outstanding evening on organ and piano at Edith and Les Rawle's ever-hospitable home at Northolt. Among

the very few world-class exponents of silent film accompaniment, the profession in which they started more than 60 years ago, they still provide magnificent work at the National Film Theatre in London. A truly wonderful night out.



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY

California
213/792-7084

The Return of Laurel and Hardy — After Fifty Years of Silence was the title of the first benefit premiere LATOS has ever had the opportunity to sponsor. The six two-reel silents played a one-week engagement at the Continental Theatre (a first-run fine arts theatre in Hollywood), and the engagement was extended a week by public demand!

Working with the show's producer, John Quinn of Nu-Image Films, Kathie Henchman chaired the LATOS committee to present a good, old-fashioned Hollywood premiere complete with searchlight, antique cars, Roaring '20s attire, and a live pie fight in front of the theatre. The Laurel and Hardy fan club, known as "The Sons of the Desert," assisted us with the pie fight! Television crews caught the entire premiere, and we were given full coverage on *Entertainment Tonight* and *Real People*.

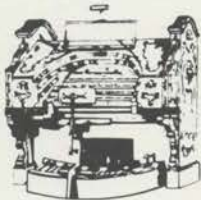
Ann Leaf and Gaylord Carter played at the premiere showing and, thereafter, were joined by Del Castillo playing an electronic organ for the rest of the show's run. Mr. Quinn plans to take the show on the road, and LATOS has provided him with

chapter names and addresses to contact in other cities.

The premiere netted our Scholarship and Education Fund a substantial sum, and the donations are still coming in from those who could not attend. We've also acquired about 20 new members as a result of the publicity in the newspapers and on the local TV newscasts!

RALPH BEAUDRY

Motor City Theatre Organ Society, Inc.



Detroit
313/537-1133

Lee Erwin, who has accompanied more than a dozen silent film presentations for our chapter in the 14 years since he first appeared at the Redford Theatre in 1969, returned to the Redford's Barton console for a two-night engagement, on May 20 and 21.

Presented on one of our regular bi-weekly movie weekends, Lee's program was an experimental effort to give our "Movies at the Redford" audience a taste of what our organ programs are like.

Lee accompanied the 1924 silent film classic that was voted Best Picture of the Year by *Film Daily* magazine, *The Thief of Bagdad*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. This presen-



Julanne Johnston. (Dale Horning collection)

tation offered a unique opportunity to honor local resident Julianne Johnston, who portrays the Princess in *The Thief of Bagdad*.

Julanne Johnston was chosen as the latest recipient of the coveted Rosemary Award, given by the Rosemary Association, in Washington, D.C., to a living actress, or actor, in recognition of their achievements in the film industry. The equivalent of an Oscar, the award is generally given to those whose contributions were made before the Academy Awards were established.

The name of the award comes from Ophelia's line in *Hamlet*, "Rosemary — that's for remembrance," and was suggested by actress Olga Petrova. In addition to Madame Petrova, previous recipients of the award include Jackie Coogan, Lillian Gish, Leatrice Joy, Butterfly McQueen, Pola Negri, Mary Pickford and Mae West.

The award was to have been presented on Friday night, by James Limbacher, of the Rosemary Association, but Miss Johnston was unable to attend at the last moment and the award was accepted by Don Lockwood on her behalf. The actual presentation will take place privately.

A chapter social was held at Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes, in Pontiac, on May 13, where the group enjoyed the music of staff organist John Steele.

The annual garage sale, held at the Redford Theatre on June 10 and 11, was chaired by Jeanette Duncan and netted over \$1200 for the Buy the Redford Fund.

Melissa Ambrose, who won first place in the Youth II Division of the District Yamaha International Competition, was a participant in the Regional Competition in Rockford, Illinois, in May.

Steve Stephani was the artist for our Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in May. In June, Don Haller was featured at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton.

The Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak Theatre in May was Greg Yassick. Wilma Steslick was the featured artist for our June Fourth Sunday event at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton.

The chapter will present Tom Wibbels and the Motor City Chorus of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. at the Royal Oak Theatre on November 11.

For more information, write the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone (313) 537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD



Don Haller at the Michigan Theatre Barton. (Bo Hanley photo)



Lee Erwin played a two-night engagement at the Redford Theatre in May. (Bill Vogel photo)



Wilma Steslick at the Royal Oak Theatre in June. (Fred Page photo)



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

Warren Lubich played for us on Sunday, June 19, at the Avenue Theatre. All registrations were set by hand as the 3/15 Wurlitzer was in the midst of major re-leathering and expansion for the convention. He opened with Erno Rapee's "Capitol March," and followed with "Don't Take Your Love From Me," putting emphasis on current music.

Warren began playing professionally in 1959, when he was pianist with the band at San Francisco's Red Garter. He became Avenue staff organist in 1966. He joined the Cap'n's Galley Pizza & Pipes staff in 1976, and has been organist at many of their Bay Area establishments. Currently he presides at the console at Redwood City. During the day, Lubich is a medical research associate at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

The Avenue Theatre Wurlitzer was in pristine form for the convention. This was the result of the blood, toil, sweat and tears of the work crew headed by Dave Banks. The crew consisted of Herb Boese, Ken Eaton, Brian Iottrell, Jon Johnston, Warren Lubich, Cliff and Judy Luscher, Phil Messner, Gary Miller, Roy Powlan, Bob Randolph, Jim Riggs, Mike Riggs, Joe Smith and Bob Vaughn. Parts and assistance were given by: Gary Baumann; Jack Bethards, Schoenstein Organ Co.; Ron Downer, Dana Huff, Tip Top Piano, San Francisco; Dave Moreno, Steve Levin; Bert Robinson, ATOS; Jim Roseveare, Oakland Paramount; Lowell Wendell, Nor-Cal; and Ernie Wilson, Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland.

Lubich's program was an interesting afternoon of middle-of-the-road pop tunes, drawing heavily from movie themes, musicals and show tunes. His encore was "Zacatecas," a Mexican march. He also did a very professional job as Master of Ceremonies during the ATOS Convention '83.

We are indebted to Avenue manager Geoffrey Hansen and his charming and vivacious wife, Viki, for this



Chairman Irving Light (standing), Vice Chairman Dolly Durham (seated at organ). Chapter meeting June 1983, Light residence.

concert and for all their efforts to make the convention a huge success. Warren Lubich supervised the console re-finishing, and a Trooper Arc Lamp spotlight was used during the convention.

The Avenue organ will continue to be improved, with an ultimate goal of 20 ranks. Jim Riggs played on July 4, and his Sousa march, "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine," complete with fez, brought resounding applause. If he ever runs for National Director, he'll get the "Masonic" vote.

Riggs returned to Tuscon the following week. Bob Vaughn returned to the Avenue on July 22 to accompany a rare MGM vault print of the 1929 silent film, *The Single Standard*, starring Greta Garbo.

Nor-Cal's annual summer picnic outing was held Sunday, August 7. We joined Sierra Chapter for an outdoor barbeque and open console session at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse 2/11 Wurlitzer in Sacramento.

ED MULLINS



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

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

As pipe organ-equipped meeting places in our chapter area are limited,

we often rely on members' homes and their fine electronic theatre organ installations for our chapter meetings. This is particularly true during the "dog days" of summer when air-conditioners often can't cope with the combination of a hot-air breathing pipe organ and 50 or more human heat producers. This was true in June when we enjoyed the hospitality of the Lights, Irving and Ruth, and their bountiful music room (Hammond Concorde, Hammond C3 and Steinway grand piano). This trio of instruments is an incentive for duets, and even an occasional trio, when musical friends gather at the Light house.

For this chapter meeting, however, featuring Dallas professional organist Lloyd Hess, we were treated to a delightful musical exploitation of this musical resource. Lloyd was obviously delighted at the prospect when he announced his plan to take a trip around the music room, playing



Organist Lloyd Hess at console, June 1983 at Light residence.

music on each of the instruments that would use the unique capabilities of each. And Lloyd's musical talent and extensive professional experience have prepared him for doing this — superbly.

Starting on the C3, Lloyd was obviously at home, drawing exciting sounds from this vintage instrument that we tend to forget were possible before the advent of arpeggiators, rhythm units, electronic pianos, etc. Selections chosen for this instrument included Errol Garner's "Swinging Gently," the lushly romantic "Misty," and "When the Saints Go Marching In." As a send off for those members soon to depart for the 1983 Convention, he concluded this segment with a San Francisco medley. Moving to the piano (often risky before an organ-oriented audience), our artist showed his versatile talents beginning with a warm and exciting arrangement of "Liebestraum." No risk here! These music lovers were delighted and appreciative and showed it with their ovations. Lloyd concluded his "trip" on the Hammond Concorde. Here his selections included many favorites and show tunes taking advantage of the newer sounds and capabilities of this organ. The time slipped by quickly and, much too soon, Lloyd had to leave to keep his next professional commitment that day (playing for Sunday evening services).

With great trepidation at the thought of following this "class act," host Irving Light concluded the day's musical program, playing several tunes that had elicited favorable response in the past. They did again. Whew!

A dozen North Texas ATOSers were privileged this year to enjoy the musical and urban treats of the 1983 Convention in San Francisco. We

vote it "One of The Best," and we offer our sincere appreciation and congratulations to the hard-working Californians who made it possible. See y'all next year in Indianapolis?

IRVING LIGHT

OREGON

Portland

503/244-2141 or 503/253-6874

On June 26 we again had the pleasure of hosting the chapter in our home in Milwaukie, a suburb of Portland. Our newsletter announced that "Hazel and Bud have a new baby, a three-manual Conn 652 with one pipe." It may be a new baby to us, but it has been fitted with the same old teeth — the speaker system in the loft with the single wood pipe. This is a 16' open wood, powered by a large woofer to provide heavy bass down to low "C."

This event was to be primarily a social affair with open console and no single artist. However, we were honored to have several top professionals play, including Paul Quarino, Gerry Gregorius, Jimmy Deacon and Marti Lynch who came all the way from her home near Tacoma, Washington. It was wonderful to hear these excellent musicians as well as many fine amateur organists. As a bonus, we heard Miki Geuder, a former touring singer with many of the big-name bands. Thanks to our board members for organizing the refreshments and to Don Lacey for using his van to haul chairs provided by Day Music Company.

As customary, we had no local meeting in July, this being replaced by the National Convention in San Francisco. Oregon was well-represented by many of our members, including Jonas Nordwall performing on the

convention program on the Redwood City Capn's Galley 4/23 Wurlitzer. Jonas displayed the brilliant theatre organ styling we hear from him at the Portland Organ Grinder, and an amazing ability as a classical concert artist.

BUD ABEL



OHIO
VALLEY
CHAPTER

ATOS
EMERY THEATRE

Cincinnati

513/721-2741 or 513/721-2742

The Ohio Valley chapter turned out 60 strong when invited to a special demonstration of the 4/37 Wurlitzer at the Springdale Music Palace here in Cincinnati at 9:30 a.m. before its usual 11:00 a.m. opening time on Saturday, February 26. Several of the Emery movie staff organists took a turn at this impressive instrument. Our organ crew got a big kick out of peeking through the glass chamber openings to observe the practices of other organ installers. We all stayed for lunch to hear Dave Weingartner play. Dave, together with Karl Cole, provides most of the music at this restaurant. Dave demonstrated the versatility of this organ and proved that a Wurlitzer can do a very good Widor "Tocatta." Dave is one of our newest members and, after playing every day at the Music Palace, he volunteers his services at our movies at Emery. He likes the glorious in-theatre sound of our Wurlitzer in the lofty, resonant Emery Theatre.

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Bud Abel's Open House for the Oregon Chapter. Clockwise from top left: Marti Lynch; Miki Geuder, vocalist, with Marti at the organ; Mildred Luttrell; Paul Quarino; Elva Wagner, with Bud Abel giving pointers; Don Lacey, Jimmy Deacon, Ted Schoen. Center: Jimmy Deacon getting a little help from Bud. (Claude Neuffer photo)



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members of the Central Indiana chapter, Tim Needler among them. They enjoyed open console at our instrument before they went to the Springdale Music Palace to dine and hear that organ. They returned later to see and hear our film and organ show at Emery.

Moon River revisited Emery for the fourth time on May 8. Again, we had Bill Myers announcing, Cecil Hale reading the poetry and Ruby Wright providing the vocal solos. These three all took part in the Moon River radio programs over WLW, the Nation's Station. At the console was Gene Wilson, one of our staff organists and currently one of the staff musicians at WLW-TV. As before, this re-creation of Moon River was a gripping nostalgic experience, especially when the "Caprice Viennois" theme and the poem, "Moon River, the Lazy Stream of Dreams," got together.

We celebrated our fifth anniversary of movies at Emery on July 29, 30 and 31, by reducing the admission to 50 cents as in the Golden Days of movie and theatre organ. The last night we served free punch and birthday cake to 750 people. WMLX, a local radio station featuring music of the '30s and '40s over which we do our radio advertising, joined us in the celebration by providing the Emcee, Dave

Williams. These three performances drew almost 1700 people, well above our usual weekly attendance. Many of these were first time attendees. We can judge about how many first timers are there by the number who take the tour of the organ chambers after the show while the organist plays out the house. It's a great feeling to witness the awe and joy of people making their first acquaintance with a large theatre pipe organ. We know that we are keeping alive and spreading the love of this art form.

We are raising money for our twenty-seventh rank, a Krumet. We have the console and the chest ready for it and soon will place the order for the pipes built to Wurlitzer scale.

Van Jones is the featured artist at Shady Nook Steak House on S.R. 27 just north of Cincinnati. Dennis Werkmeister, one of our chapter members, is one of the owners of this fine dining and listening spot.

On October 7, 8 and 9, we are again having Bob Ralston in concert. He was such a hit last fall that we and our co-sponsors, the Scottish Rite Valley of Cincinnati, have called him back.

We now have two phones: (513) 721-2741 gives a recorded account of our theatre programs, and (513) 721-2742 will be answered live by someone at the theatre or by our an-

swering service which can refer calls to the proper officer of the chapter. If you are in Cincinnati call us, as we're itching to show off the Emery Wurlitzer.

BILL AHLERT

PUGET SOUND Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

The June meeting of our chapter was particularly exciting this year as we met at Seattle's Paramount Theatre which houses a fine Wurlitzer pipe organ. Probably the youngest player this day was Travis Wise of Puyallup, Washington, who has been



Puget Sound Chapter visits the Seattle Paramount Theatre. At the Wurlitzer, below, l to r: Christine Pride, Thelma Barclay (new National Director) with her granddaughters, and above, Eddie Zollman, Sr. (Ken Gallwey photos)



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Ed Benoit, Denver Paramount house organist, at the master console.

studying for six years with Lillian Houston. A great many of our other members participated in the afternoon total open console time on this magnificent instrument. This reporter reports a feeling close to heaven to be able to hear yourself making this fine sound even with relatively simple music. Possibly the person

who has played professionally the longest was Eddie Zollman, Sr., and he still does a fine job though he has been retired for some time. During the five-hour session, about 35 members participated. Don Meyers, Brian Ingoldsby and Gennie Whitting were thanked for arranging the opportunity to use the Paramount Theatre

and for maintaining and tuning the organ.

Refreshments were included in the afternoon of music and all members and guests appeared to really enjoy the day. Now we are looking forward to our summer picnic at the Lobberegts'.

Our chapter is also looking forward to entertaining Eric Schröder and Ray Allen who will be here in August from South Africa. They are enjoying their visit to the states after attending the National Convention which 40 Puget Sound members attended and concluded that it was a great success.

CHRISTINE PRIDE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver

303/343-3930 or 303/233-4716

Pictured here is Mr. Ed Benoit, currently on the staff at the Denver Organ Grinder and staff organist at the Denver Paramount Theatre. The console in the photo is the master console at the Denver Paramount Theatre.

We had Ed write a brief item on what had happened to him since he called this writer several years back to find out if he could bring a friend to Denver from Central City, Colorado,

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who was thinking of putting a pipe organ in his home. This gent wanted to see just what was entailed in the installation of an instrument of this type. We invited Ed and his friend to the Aladdin Theatre (then playing beautifully) to see the first installation. We crawled them in, out and over the whole thing, then called Bill Arthur, who then had a 2/6 Marr & Colton up and playing in his home, and went there for more information. While Bill and Ed's friend were talking organ, Ed sat down at the console of his first pipes. You see, Ed had been playing electronic organs at Central City in the local bistros (we like to kid Ed) and in church. Well, Ed fell right into the thing and was "hooked on pipes" right then and there.

It wasn't long after that when we found Ed playing at the Denver Organ Grinder along with Patti Simon, Roy Hanson, Ray Young and others whose names escape me just now. We find that Ed played for the Preliminary Lottery Drawings held at the Denver Paramount from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. which saved a day that could have been long, dull and boring.

On April 21 Ed played at the Paramount for the Colorado Special Olympics, sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs. Ed says to imagine him and Allen Berg on the same bill! April 21 brought in ATOS member Wes Rangstrom to play with Ed on the twin consoles for Mrs. George Bush, the Vice President's wife, when she was in town. Mrs. Bush loved the organ and its sounds. Ed and Wes have since played the twins for several conventions held at the Paramount, as well as for restoration fund-raising luncheons. All this work netted Ed the job of house organist at the Paramount.

The summer film series is on now with organ overtures. Theatre man-



Calamity Stan Kann and his ruptured vacuums.

ager, Curt Mangel, is planning on bringing back the silent *Wings* again, and Ed will play, as he did last year, dressed in a WWI Doughboy uniform complete with wrap-around leggings and Smokey-the-Bear hat. Ed had the best aeroplane sound we have ever heard — a real treat.

Soon, on your visits to Denver, you will see a brand new marquee on the front of the Paramount. It is being designed by C. W. Fentres and Associates. Funding for the marquee is being provided by a \$36,000 contribution from Joy and Franklin Burns, long-time Denverites. The donation is part of the \$1.5 million Capital Fund Campaign conducted by the "not-for-profit" historic Paramount Foundation, Inc. to preserve the Paramount.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO California

619/279-2867 or 619/561-2269

San Diego has been busy these past three months hosting out-of-town vis-

itors as well as visiting organ clubs such as the Orange County Theatre Organ Society. This busload of organ buffs was treated to a mini-concert featuring our organ designer-technician/concert artist Chris Gorsuch, which was followed by open console and technical inspection. A few brave souls climbed the thirty-foot metal wall ladder to the chambers, while others tried tickling the keys. They departed the California Theatre with broad smiles and were whisked off to Balboa Park for the regular Sunday afternoon classic concert on the 4/53 Spreckles organ. To complete their day, they dined at Tommy Stark's Organ Power Pizza in Lemon Grove.

June brought us a rare and unusual treat. San Diego Chapter, in conjunction with the Pierce-Arrow Society, presented "1920's at the Movies." This event found local community theatre actors in authentic '20s costumes mingling throughout the large crowd. Free popcorn and balloons added to the festivities. The crowd, the actors and the world's largest assemblage of Pierce-Arrow motor-

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Collection of Pierce-Arrow motorcars that occupied the parking lot for our guests to view.



Charles Harrison of Orange County Theatre Organ Society trying California Theatre Wurlitzer during their visit.

cars, topped off what came to be a widely televised event and local station news scoop. Approximately 90 antique cars filled the parking lot next to the California Theatre, giving our theatre-goers a most unusual and rare treat. The show opened with Stan Kann, fully equipped with vacuum cleaners, who accompanied the great silent film, *Son of The Sheik*, starring Rudolph Valentino. For his grand en-

trance, Stan popped out of a trapdoor in the stage through a smoke-explosion stage effect. The show and the evening proved to be a huge success.

Our June Membership Meeting was held at the Organ Stop, a piano and organ business owned by Wayne and Cheryl Seppala. At this meeting, decisions were made in regard to the incorporation of our chapter and the use of our scholarship fund. A motion was made and passed to send one of our youth members to the 1983 National Convention in San Francisco. Seventeen-year-old David Irwin was happily surprised. Also voted on and approved was a \$500 donation to the National Fleet Foundation Matching Scholarship Fund. In addition, a decision was made to add a computer capture system and five more ranks to our Mighty Wurlitzer in the California Theatre. To add the final touch to our business meeting, Wayne Seppala honored us with a mini-concert on the new three-manual Allen organ while Cheryl lavished us with generous refreshments. Our thanks went out to these beautiful, musically talented young entrepreneurs.





After hearing numerous out-of-town concert artists, we chose to feature, for July, San Diego's own Tom-




my Stark — brought back by popular demand. Tommy played many tunes of the Big Band era which accentuated two original jukeboxes used as stage props (a loan from member Greg Breed). Tommy also did a San Diego "first" with the Laurel and Hardy movie, *Music Box*, a "talkie." As there was no background music on this sound film, Tommy cleverly accompanied the film on the organ. It was most effective and most unusual. He also accompanied two other silent short films. As the curtain rose for the second half of his program, we found Tommy at the organ in a complete garden setting with a real running-water fountain — a good summertime stage scene for its cooling effect on the audience. Again, our San Diego stage crew outdid themselves, and applause certified great approval.

Future concerts will feature David Hooper in October, our own Cheryl and Wayne Seppala for November, and in December, our organ will be featured in the San Diego Repertory Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*. Members are also being kept busy with handicraft work for our forthcoming shopping center bazaar scheduled in November to raise money for our organ expansion.



"Curtain Call" — Tommy Stark
(Poster by Karen Schoute)












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 — Citizen Journal, Columbus, Ohio

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As usual, our every Saturday open console at the California Theatre will continue. Anyone traveling in this area, or anyone wishing to visit our installation and try our Mighty Wurlitzer is most welcome! Our doors are always open! Contact Bob Brooks (619) 279-ATOS (2867) or Charlie Porter (619) 286-9979, to make arrangements so we will not miss you. Our most recent guest was Clive Moorhead from far away Brisbane, Australia. We enjoy and encourage visitors.

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Members and guests of Sooner State Chapter met for their June annual picnic at Harvey Young's "Island" on the grounds of his private airport on the outskirts of Tulsa. As always, Harvey was a delightful host, and we enjoyed a delicious potluck meal provided by those who attended. Entertainment afterward was on Harvey's Conn 652 for those who wished to stay.

We have voted to honor our late long-time member, Bill Roberts, who died on June 3, by naming our club-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton the "Bill

Roberts Memorial Organ." Lois Roberts, Bill's widow, has graciously consented to donate Bill's Honorary Member plaque for placement on the console, and Bruce Wilson has agreed to engrave an additional plaque stating that the instrument has been so named.

Plans for the organ's installation in Tulsa's new Vo-Tech High School are in their final stages, and we expect the work to begin very soon. Many members have indicated their willingness to help in this undertaking, and we are counting on using them all! We are also considering ways of raising money to pay for professional assistance with the installation.

We tried something different for our July meeting: we met an hour earlier than usual at Shotgun Sam's Pizza Parlor for pizza dinner (no organ music — just pizza), then held our meeting there in their private room. We had many favorable comments on the idea and may try it again. Program was a talk by Phil Judkins on the history of the theatre pipe organ and how it differs from a classical or church organ, and a talk by Harry Rasmussen on the Wurlitzer style numbers and what they mean. We have many new members and felt that this would be especially interesting to them.

We also named this year's Honorary Members, Bob and Betty Weddle, in salute to their many, many years of faithful service to our chapter, much of it in behind-the-scenes activity. Bob and Betty have always been willing to do whatever was asked of them, with or without public recognition, big task or small. Bob served as our treasurer for many years, and Betty was variously our secretary, membership chairman and newsletter editor — and she's also the best hot-dog cook around! Bruce Wilson engraved the plaque presented to them by Chairman Lee Smith. Bruce had mounted it on a piece of wormy chestnut cut from a swell shade from the 1923 Kimball pipe organ installed in his home.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

409/886-1609 or 409/835-6533

Jim Doleman played a half-hour concert before each showing of the John Wayne film, *The Alamo*, presented by the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society on July 3 and 4.

On July 10, 26 members traveled by carpool caravan the 90 miles from Beaumont to Houston. First stop

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after lunch was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Buster Matteson where the 4/12 Wurlitzer formerly in Houston's Metropolitan Theatre is now housed. The pipes are in two adjacent second-story chambers, and speak through vertical swell shutters into the triangular space above a woven-cane false ceiling above one side of the first-floor room housing the fully restored console. Electrical components have been completely replaced. A rank of Post Horns, now directly in front of the swell shutters where the Kinura had been, speaks too loudly and is to be moved back in the chamber. Rick Matthews and others assisted in the final tuning before the meeting. Don Baker said he had played this instrument in 1927 and proved himself still master of it. During open console, the playing of old-time theatre organist Ruby Moore and of the talented Harry Heth drew special attention. Open console was also open bar, courtesy of the Mattesons.

The group then traveled less than a mile to the home of George Hockmeyer to see and hear his Rodgers theatre organ. The use of one speaker near the console and two at the other end of the room proved very effective.

IRA M. WILLIAMSON



WOLVERINE CHAPTER
of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

Approximately 40 Wolverine Chapter members attended our June 19 meeting at Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac for a highly enjoyable afternoon of good theatre organ music. Since the restaurant didn't open for business until later that day, we were able to listen to music that appeals more to theatre organ buffs instead of the tunes that are normally heard in a pizza parlor.

Staff organist John Steele came in early that day to play a very fine hour-long program just for us. John has an extensive repertoire and plays a variety of good theatre organ styles reminiscent of Jesse Crawford, Buddy Cole and other "greats." Following John's portion of the program, staff organist Lance Luce played a very nice, although somewhat shorter, segment of the program. Lance, who came in on his day off especially to play for us, has a very youthful and vibrant approach to performing both current tunes and those of yesteryear which is very pleasant, indeed. Both John and Lance played very appeal-

ing programs for our musical tastes that day. It was a pleasure to hear them feature some of the softer sounds of the organ that cannot always be heard during the restaurant's business hours. Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes is very fortunate to have John and Lance complementing their fine staff.

Wolverine Chapter really appreciates the hospitality of the owners of Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes, Gary Montgomery and H. C. Scott, in opening their restaurant early for our group. They are always such congenial hosts, allowing us to have open console on their 3/21 Barton-Wurlitzer before business hours and providing their staff organists for special programs for us. We also appreciate the friendliness and hospitality of the staff organists there.

On July 31, Wolverine Chapter combined with Motor City Chapter to have a picnic at beautiful Murray Lake Park, a private preserve located between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. All sorts of recreation were available, including swimming and motorless boating. We all shared a fantastic dinner, having brought part of the meal as potluck! Of course, an electronic organ was brought in for our appropriate entertainment!

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