



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9815 or 319/363-9769

We are sorry to advise that the Closing Chord sounded June 19 for Dorothy L. Burton, wife of chapter charter member Howard Burton. She, too, was a long-time supporter of many chapter activities as well as a strong right arm for Howard in his projects. Our sympathy goes to Howard and his family.

In view of the summer just over, it is hard to remember that the June 26 meeting, a picnic at Margaret and Kyle Mills' home, was driven indoors by a storm, thereby converting a picnic into a buffet in the rec room. Wonderful hosts!

The 3/11 Wurlitzer in the Cedar Rapids Paramount Theatre has been silent for the last half of the summer for rejuvenation of the regulators in the Solo chamber. Our hats are off to Jim Olver, Paul Montague, Jeff Weiler, Leonard Santon, Bob Anders and John Hochaday for being able to accomplish anything in the dead confines of a closed building in the murderous grasp of the hottest Iowa summer in recent memory. (Yes, it is difficult to imagine 100-degree weather while brushing up on Christmas carols.) But the project had to be completed with enough time to spare so that we could play it enough to insure that the wind lines were blown clean. The pressure (no pun intended) resulted from scheduling our Fall Silent Movie Night for September 24 with Jerry Nagano as the featured artist. As a happy P.S. to the original copy, may we state that the program was a tremendous success with Jerry putting on a well-received show for a good-sized crowd, both main floor and balcony. And the Mighty Wurlitzer performed flawlessly.

We are glad to report the return home of Owen Strickel's wife following two strokes this summer. Owen is custodian of the Paramount Theatre and an active supporter of all activities pertaining to the organ in that house.

Our thoughts are with Dorothy Longstaff and her family with the death of her husband on September 16. Fred was a past member of the board in the chapter and was one of the most active supporters, physically and mentally, of any CRATOS project up to the onset of his illness. We shall miss his counsel and ready smile.

Installation has resumed with the chapter Barton organ in the Englert Theatre in Iowa City, about twenty miles south of Cedar Rapids. The chapter also owns a two-manual Wurlitzer which has been installed in Kirkwood College on the south side of Cedar Rapids. The college has made the setting available for chapter meetings.

LOREN H. FRINK

CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/863-2264

In June our meeting was held at the Tampa Theatre. A progress report was given on the organ installation. We had hoped to have it playing, but there are several air leaks plus ciphers and considerable electronic and electrical work to be done. Following the meeting, the blower was turned on and a tour conducted through the chambers to see that a lot of work remains.

We dispensed with our meetings for July and August since the weather was hot and many members were away on vacation. On July 31 our radio program on WMNF-FM was broadcast with Bill Dudley, of the station, acting as host to three members of CFTOS. The program consisted of a question and answer discussion plus a good representation of theatre organs and organists. The publicity was helpful since CFTOS and our project at the Tampa Theatre were mentioned. Several favorable calls regarding the show were received.

In September we journeyed to J. Burns' Pizza & Pipes in Winter Haven. Following the business meeting, Tom Hoehn, the resident organ-



Tom Hoehn at the console of J. Burns' Pizza & Pipes' Wurlitzer in Winter Haven.

(Earl Wiltse photo)

ist, played a short concert for us. The opener was "Roller Coaster," a good lively number, then a few other well-known tunes. The concert was most enjoyable and we wished it could have been longer. Tom was giving us time for open console which, of course, we all enjoyed. After open console, we stayed for lunch and were treated to some more fine music by Tom Hoehn. We thank J. Burns for a delightful afternoon.

With sadness we announce the passing of our Vice-Chairman, Everett Bassett. Ev was a fine theatre organist and was a Past President and founder of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of ATOS. He will be greatly missed. Eleanor Bassett will fill out his term until elections in December.

SANDRA SHOOK



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis

317/255-8056 or 317/786-2160

The chapter held its August meeting at the Hedback Theatre in Indianapolis on August 14. At the usual business meeting the club decided to forego the usual Christmas concert at Manual High School because of the pressure of the upcoming National Convention. Convention committees have been appointed and work is underway in many areas.

Kurt Von Schakel, CIC member and organist for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, presented a variety program including a medley of Hoagy Carmichael songs. Brian Holland led off open console period.

Events previously programmed are rapidly coming to pass. The Lee Erwin Silent Film Festival is taking place as this is written, and the Walt Strony concert is fast approaching. Donna Parker and Bill Vlasek have a thirteen-week program on WIAN-FM which started October 7. It is expected to be broadcast, through syndication, over many other stations.

Dr. Jack Elleman and wife, Carrie, were gracious hosts at their Pipe Dream Pizza Restaurant in Kokomo for the September 11 meeting. Neil Copley provided a delightful program

for the meeting. The new membership brochure is working as the club has now passed its goal of 200 members by the end of the year.

On September 17 and 18, two busloads of chapter enthusiasts toured the Motor City area organs with the gracious guidance, assistance and cooperation of Motor City Chapter, Wolverine Chapter and the DTOC. The tour included the St. Clare Roman Catholic Church in Windsor, Ontario, the Detroit Theater Organ Club, the Redford Theatre, the Pizza and Pipes at Pontiac, the Royal Oak Theatre in Royal Oak, and the majestic Fox Theatre. On the return trip to Indianapolis, the busses stopped at the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne. A great trip made doubly pleasurable by our gracious hosts, Gerald and Marjorie Muethel, and so many others who worked hard and stayed up late to make sure things came off in perfect shape.

On September 24 and 25, Western Reserve Theatre Organ Club of

Cleveland, Ohio, visited Indianapolis. Points of interest were the Paramount Music Palace, Hedback Theatre and Manual High School. Dwight Thomas, of the Paramount staff, gave a concert at Manual High School, and Brian Holland closed out the late night jam session at the Paramount.

WAYNE PIPHER



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.

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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

Think
About it . . .

Indianapolis

SATURDAY, JULY 7
THRU
THURSDAY, JULY 12
1984

**ATOS 29th
Annual Convention**

**CENTRAL OHIO
Columbus**

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

It was a long hot summer, but this didn't blunt the enthusiasm at our August meeting at the home of Bob and Yoshiko Matumoto where we were privileged to hear, for openers, several delightful numbers on their Conn 651 by Ohio Theatre organist Dennis James. There followed a business meeting conducted by President Mark Williams who detailed problems our chapter was having getting several of our ATOS dues-paying members recognized by National. At open console we were regaled with a variety of music featuring several organ and piano duets by members Betsy Richards, Ruth Shaw and Mark Williams.

On September 11 we enjoyed the hospitality of the Victory Theatre organ crew in Dayton, who had extended invitations to several chapters on the occasion of the debut of their renovated organ. After some 4000 hours of dedicated work, the crew has rebuilt NCR's 4/44 Estey into a 4/14 stage-mounted instrument that is superbly voiced. We listened in awe as the talented crew played at open console and then extended this privilege to members of other chapters. The introductory mini-concert by Bob Cowley, and the melodic renditions by long-time favorite Henry Garcia, were especially noteworthy. Our plaudits for restoration of a beautiful instrument go to a very knowledgeable bunch.

The September meeting was held at the home of Joan and Ed Lougher whose hospitable dwelling sports a Baldwin Studio II. Some twenty-five members were in attendance and

heard, perhaps, the most free-spirited open console yet with some of the more bashful members at the keyboard for the first time in front of the group.

We witnessed the curtain descend on the last of the Ohio Theatre's summer movie series, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, on September 25, but not before we heard guest organist Dave Peckham, resident organist at the Samuel L. Clemens Performing Arts Center in Elmira, New York. This young man not only proved to be a competent organist, completely at home at the 4/20 Robert-Morton, but we understand he's also well qualified in pipe organ maintenance.



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



Thomaston

203/378-9192 or 203/583-8334

Our August meeting was held in Plymouth at Gen Roberg's home wherein sits a fine pipe organ built by her late husband, Jack. Outside are spacious lawns ideally suited for picnicking, of which there was much evidence. Inside was much open consoling.

Gen's home is but a short way from the Thomaston Opera House, so, after the picnic we convened there for the usual business meeting followed by a fine concert by member Ed Holbrook. Ed played a nicely varied program which, along with some popular tunes, included some semi-classical and classical numbers, a mix that, thankfully, we are hearing more often these days. We had a fine day for which our sincere thanks go to Gen Roberg, Ed Holbrook and program chairman Bob Bailey.

Again in September, we were invited to Cape Cod for a wonderful afternoon and evening at the gorgeous residence of members Joe Calliano and Bill Hastings. These hospitable chaps are most generous in sharing their great pipe organ and beautiful house and grounds with us for what is always a long-remembered event. At four o'clock in the afternoon, after much open consoling, we

took seats to listen to a concert by Steve Schlesing. Mr. Schlesing is a professional organist currently engaged at the Pizza, Pipes & Pandemonium in Groton. To say that we heard a professional concert by a talented professional organist would be an injustice. We heard beautiful music in a tastefully programmed offering that was enhanced by unusually fine arrangements skillfully played. Our thanks go to Steve and to Bob Ayrton, manager of Pizza, Pipes & Pandemonium, for making possible this memorable musical event.

Following Steve's concert, we patronized some of the Cape Cod restaurants for fare that included everything from Cape scallops to Texas beef. Well fed, we returned to Jobi's, as Bill and Joe refer to their plantation, for an evening with Bill at the console and Joe at the keyboard in a mini-version of their highly popular summer concerts which they have offered for several years for the benefit of the North Truro Historical Society.

Before turning their attention to the art world, both of these gentlemen entertained professionally at console and keyboard. They maintain their interest in music and, on this occasion, we were the beneficiaries. Being able to play together whenever they wish, they create some really great musical arrangements for organ and piano in addition to their solo offerings.

At the console, Bill began with a "Salute to Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire" and, three numbers later, a "Flying Down to Rio" medley. Then Joe at the piano joined Bill at the console for a lively "Salute to New York City," a "Salute to Paris," and an arrangement of "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" that had the audience cheering mightily. Finally, the unique Jobi arrangements for piano and organ of "Misty," "Laura," and "Tenderly" brought the audience to its feet. No "Thanks" to Bill and Joe would be adequate, but we do thank them most wholeheartedly, together with friends from afar and neighbors who did so much for refreshments, serving, etc., for a day of great organ music, conviviality, and the best of weather!

Great concerts at the Thomaston Opera House most assuredly include the December 3, 4 appearances of Rosa Rio and Ted Malone. For tickets or information send self-

addressed envelope to: Concert Tickets, P.O. Box 426, Seymour, Connecticut 06483-0426. Telephone 203/888-9696.

W.F. POWERS



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

While no formal meetings were held this summer, the expanded Concert Committee convened for several sessions at Babson under the able direction of Chairman Erle Renwick. The board voted unanimously to hire Ms. Liz Linderman of Wesley Associates, a public relations firm in Newton, to assist us in promoting our upcoming concerts and our organization. Additionally, a greater recognition by the general public of TO as a legitimate art form is to be explored.

Our new season opened at Knight Auditorium on September 18 with President Lupo presiding. The nominating committee's 1984 slate of officers was read with some new, some incumbent, to be considered. Erle Renwick then, in TV's Ralph Edwards' style of "This Is Your Life," introduced our own Leonard Winter as he revealed some fifty years of playing theatre organ, both pipes and electronic. Lenny was the last paid organist at the Lynn Paramount Wurlitzer, playing for matinees and children's shows. Among other theatres on the North Shore, he played the Wurlitzer at the Salem Paramount. This genuine theatre organist has had a career on instruments in churches, supper clubs, night clubs and skating rinks — he has done it all. Until recently, Len has not been in the best of health and all present were pleased to see and hear him at the spotlighted console.

In good form, Len opened with a bright "That's Entertainment," after announcing that his program would be mostly his often-requested numbers. Before closing, Len dedicated two numbers to the late Humberto Cardinal Medeiros of the Boston Archdiocese, "God Bless America" and "How Great Thou Art," requesting all to participate in singing. The always welcome "Battle Hymn

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of The Republic" was the finale which brought a standing "O." Yes, Len was back!

Mr. Renwick had a memorable field trip arranged for the club on September 25. We went to hear the organ in Christ Episcopal Church in Needham. This church houses not just another fine organ, however, as it was the "World's largest radio broadcast organ," as always announced from Boston's WNAC studio. The late talented Francis J. Cronin wrote its specifications and played it for many years with several programs aired daily. His was the first program of the Yankee Network mornings called "Sunrise Melodies," with Francis frequently doing his own announcing, time checks and performing on that wonderful Aeolian-Skinner organ. He and that organ made great music, and the writer and his folks were devoted regulars to this program for years — a live pleasurable start to the day. Francis was also a theatre organist and his orchestral transcriptions were tops, tastefully using certain traps and percussions which, fortunately, are still fully operable!

Erle introduced the church organist, Richard F. Roberts, who had studiously given much time to faithfully recreating the F.J.C. sound for the Cronin family present and for us. Even though the instrument had certain tonal changes and additions in 1970, to better suit its environment, Dick Roberts played an amazing concert of Cronin compositions. At one point, a selection entitled "The Cathedral" was played as a Cronin son read the moving words. At another one of Francis' daughters announced an organ scholarship fund the family started for worthy stu-

dents, and all immediate members were duly recognized. We were also privileged to hear two organ rolls F.J.C. had cut for Aeolian-Skinner played back on a rare, unaltered 3/38 Skinner pipe organ with Skinner roll-playing mechanism. Our friend, Bill Hansen, located these in the roll collection of the Milwaukee Area Technical College and kindly taped them in the reverberant Cooley Auditorium. Almost no one knew of the existence of these rolls, and their discovery brought Mr. Cronin right back among us as we listened in awe.

Mr. Roberts received a well-deserved big hand when his program ended and was the perfect host as he invited all to open console. During this period, as several tried their skills at this impressive console while others engaged in animated conversation, particularly with the Cronin family, we spotted in the gathering one Dennis James! Yes, it was him, not only mingling, but like a sailor on holiday, naturally joining in open console with four numbers rendered with such apparent ease as if practiced for days!

This unusual F.J.C. memorial concert will truly be remembered by those present, along with its wonderful surprises. We owe special thanks to our hosts, the Rector, Harold D. Chase and Dick Roberts, organist and choir director, who made it all possible, and to Erle Renwick who coordinated arrangements.

STANLEY C. GARNISS

JOLIET AREA

Illinois

312/393-9201 or 815/726-7665

Our April/May social/business meeting was held in the home of Taylor Trimby on May 1. Taylor showed off his newly purchased 2/6 Marr & Colton pipe organ by playing a variety of tunes from current hits to Golden Oldies. JATOE President Lee Rajala and former Rialto Theatre organist Fran Wood Irving also played the Marr & Colton.

On May 22 the Rialto Theatre was officially dedicated as a center for the performing arts. Taylor Trimby played the Barton for JATOE, and several other local groups also performed.

In July, JATOE co-sponsored a pipe organ concert with the Rialto Theatre starring Bill Tandy, Jr. Bill played some great selections featuring

our new Kinura and the newly rebuilt Piano. Bill asked for requests and received over 200! The crowd was very enthusiastic and really enjoyed Bill's concert. Bill can really get the audience involved in his show. We hope to have him back again in the near future.

September 18 we had our quarterly business meeting at the Hillside Restaurant in Lemont. Twenty members and guests were in attendance. We adjourned to the First United Methodist Church of Lockport where Kim Eldred played a short program on the Allen Digital organ; among her selections were "Ave Maria," "And There Was Love" and "Brazil." After her recital, members Donald M. Walker, Taylor Trimby and Lee Rajala tried their hands at the organ. Then soloist Rosaline Reed sang a couple of songs for us with Kim accompanying her. This put a nice touch on the end of a great day!

The Golden-Voiced 4/21 Barton in the Rialto is being used more often now than it was in the past. Most tours get to hear a mini-concert, and some performers have the organ played before their shows start. This is great publicity for the organ and JATOE.

TAYLOR TRIMBY

**KIWI
Auckland, New Zealand
540-919**

Winter is now over and it's time for this Kiwi to spring to life and report on some events down this way. With Opus 1475 completed at the Hollywood Theatre, the owners of the organ, Les Stenersen and John Parker, are planning a very interesting series of concerts. Forerunner of these was a program by Tony Felon which was of his usual high standard. Another Australian to visit us was Neil Jensen who was passing through on his way to America. By the time this reaches publication, many of you will have heard him in concert. Later this year we are looking forward to a visit by Warren Lubich from San Francisco, well-known to ATOS conventioners.

In March we were delighted to meet and entertain Harry Koenig and his wife, Cathie, well-known to ATOSers in America for their tireless efforts raising funds, through concerts and recordings, for the Koenig Cancer Research Foundation.

Several organ buffs went on a 400-mile safari for a reunion with Opus 2075, a 3/16 260 Special Wurlitzer which was originally installed in the Civic Theatre in Auckland in October, 1929. This instrument is owned by Kiwi member Len Southward and has been housed in a specially built theatre which adjoins a magnificent vintage car museum. Resident organists of the past at the Civic presented two concerts to capacity audiences. A visit to this wonderful museum is a must for all tourists.

Visits are made during the year to members' homes, and recently several gathered at the Duke of Wellington, a popular tavern, to wine, dine and dance to the music of Ian Johnson and his Baldwin.

Oh! Gosh. Golly. Very late to mention last year's Christmas party, a washed-out garden party in the morning, but a happy ending when the sun decided to shine and Ian wheeled his traveling music box out into the garden where he entertained us and the neighbors for blocks around.

Kiwi Chapter sends greetings to all chapters for the coming festive season and 1984. KIA ORA.

NORMAN DAWE

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

When we said in our last chapter report that our newly acquired Wurlitzer (from the Granada Welling in Kent) had been removed and stored, this was not, in fact, quite true at the time of writing — although it certainly became so only a few days later. More than 20 eager pairs of hands gathered at the rear of the already shuttered theatre at 7:00 a.m. on an August morning and enjoyed a most memorable, if very hot and dirty, day together in an extremely rewarding experience, thus engendering a surprisingly compelling allegiance to the project right from the start.

Under the admirable direction of our veteran technical-team leader Les Rawle, who has been involved in the removal of well over 40 instruments from British theatres during the past 25 years, the whole process of removal and storage of the bulk of the instrument was completed by late afternoon. This is not to say that a miracle had been achieved, for, although only an eight-rank instrument, our



Nicholas Martin, 19, at ex-Regal Edmonton Christie, September 11, 1983. (John Sharp photo)

day's toil had been prefaced by three weeks of judicious dismantling by Les and a small team. All of the actual pipework, off-note chests and similar readily detachable items had already been taken to members' homes for temporary storage and cleaning, and the main and piano cables were coiled back to the console. All that was left was to remove a few strategically placed supporting screws. An altogether happy day, such an opportunity should not be missed if it ever arises as it is certainly a great generator of chapter camaraderie.

Before we can begin renovation and re-installation, however, our energies continue to be expended on the flood-damaged 4/14 Wurlitzer in the Granada Tooting in Southwest London. Now nearing completion, but still awaiting sanction of the necessary structural work to enable the presently entombed console and understage pipework sounds to be brought back into the auditorium, we are anxiously looking forward to recreating the worldwide renowned "Tooting Sound," and eventually featuring Stateside artists there.

Meanwhile, our September concert featured brilliant 19-year-old Nicholas Martin at the 4/15 Torch Christie in the Top Rank Club (formerly Regal) Edmonton in Northeast London. This was a significant occasion for our chapter because it epitomized our central objective of the encouragement of new young talent in theatre

organ performance. Moreover, to associate his exceptional capability at such a young age with this famous organ in his first major solo concert in London was due recognition of both his impressive progress and his evident potential. Although we do not make great claim for his rapid ascendance in the organ world, we are quietly proud to have helped to further his initial interest in the theatre organ by featuring him in our second "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" competition at the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn, in November, 1978.

Already greatly inspired by the legendary Reginald Dixon and the "Blackpool Style," young Martin quickly and deservedly won a place, which he held for two seasons, in the Blackpool Tower team of young organists now playing the world-famous Wurlitzer pipe organ and the several electronic organs in various parts of the modern-day Tower entertainment complex. Then, with the establishment of the exciting new Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round at Northampton near his family home in the Midlands earlier this year, he was appointed star staff organist at the newly-transplanted 3/19 Balaban & Katz Style 4 Wurlitzer, originally installed more than fifty years ago in the Paramount Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the northeast of England (where, in 1933, it was played and highly acclaimed by Jesse Crawford during his visit to the UK), and more recently in the Kitchen Brothers' garage in Diss, Norfolk.

Already highly regarded and popular at this fascinating new musical emporium, and having cut his first lively LP record on this distinctive Wurlitzer, Nicholas certainly delighted his enthusiastic audience as unquestionably a rising theatre organ star of today and tomorrow.

Our much-loved member Stan Whittington entertained us in typical Club Night style at the ever-popular 3/19 Wurlitzer at Les and Edith Rawle's delightful home at Northolt in Northwest London, which is also the venue for our increasingly successful series of Masterclasses under the expert tutelage of veteran cinema organist Ron Rogers.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD

Note from Edith Rawle: Lowell Ayars and his wife, Reba, have been



Lowell Ayars at the BBC Compton organ in Broadcasting House, October 1, 1983.

our house guests. Lowell has just come down to earth as, the day after he arrived, he played for our monthly Club Night. The next day we were at the BBC by 2:30 p.m. for practice for an evening concert which was arranged in conjunction with the BBC Organ Club and which seventy-five of our members attended. The next day he was rushed over to Hornchurch for a farewell concert on Father Kerr's favorite Compton. Father Kerr has now taken up another parish and, no doubt, before long another Compton will be installed. Thank you, Lowell, for three lovely concerts.



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY
California
213/792-7084

Dan Bellomy made his Los Angeles debut at the Orpheum Theatre on September 18 and proved that, although he is best known as an electronic organist, he has a master's understanding of pipes. Opening with an exquisite arrangement of Eddie Dunstetter's theme, "Open Your Eyes," he then went on to play his planned opening selection, Billy Nalle's "Show Business." In several selections he showed that the Orpheum Wurlitzer plays jazz as well as ballads. "C Jam Blues" was not rehearsed nor planned for the show, but his earlier version of a jazzy "Lullaby of The Leaves" was so well received that he showed just how fast and ap-

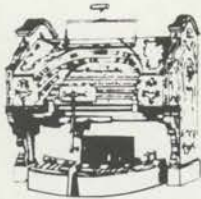
propriate the organ can be for "pure" jazz.

At our September Membership Meeting at San Gabriel, the chapter learned about the proposed LATOS By-laws which, to bring them into conformance with the California Code, are being completely rewritten by Chairman Ralph Sargent and the By-laws Committee. Gaylord Carter was the surprise guest at the meeting and, having completed sixty years of "chasing," received a plaque with the inscription, "Gaylord Carter . . . Congratulations on 60 years of silent movie accompaniment, with love and best wishes from the officers and members of the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society." Also, former chairman Bill Exner, for his years of dedication to LATOS as a frequent member of the board of directors, and for having spent years working on the various organs we have maintained and rebuilt, was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in LATOS and ATOS. Also honored was one of the original members of LATOS when it was founded and who, for many years, produced its monthly newspaper which developed into *The Console* magazine which now is read worldwide. Tom B'hend also became a Lifetime Member.

Progress on our Barton continues as the organ console is now being rebuilt by Ken Crome. Although we don't expect to have the installation completed until early in '84, we expect the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre will become one of the country's prime theatre organ locations in 1984!

RALPH BEAUDRY

Motor City Theatre Organ Society, Inc.



Detroit
313/537-1133

Members and friends enjoyed our tenth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the historic 81-year-old excursion steamer Columbia on July 20. The three-hour cruise on the 968-ton vessel took us out into Lake St. Clair and down the Detroit River under the Ambassador Bridge. Music for continuous dancing was provided by dance organists Gus Borman, John Lauter, Dennis Minear and Stan Zimmerman. An Allen organ was

provided through the courtesy of Stan Zimmerman and Smiley Bros. Music Company.

Our annual picnic was held at Murray Lake, a private preserve near Ann Arbor, on Sunday, July 31, and was coordinated by Audrey Candea and Helen Vogel. A Kimball organ was provided through the courtesy of Dale Caplin and LaPrima Music Company.

An informative series of organ-related workshops for members was held during the year at the Redford Theatre and was coordinated by Gil and Penny Francis. Topics included familiarization with the console, registration, tape recording techniques, playing for sing-alongs, use of chords, self-help tips for playing, a review of teaching and learning techniques and a question and answer session. Among those who conducted, or participated in the workshops were Lou Behm, Willard Crissman, Gil Francis, Mike Kwitt, Dave Lau, John



Jennifer Candea at the console of the Barton organ in the Royal Oak Theatre in July.
(Dick Hunt photo; Courtesy of the Daily Tribune)

Lauter and Wilma Steslick.

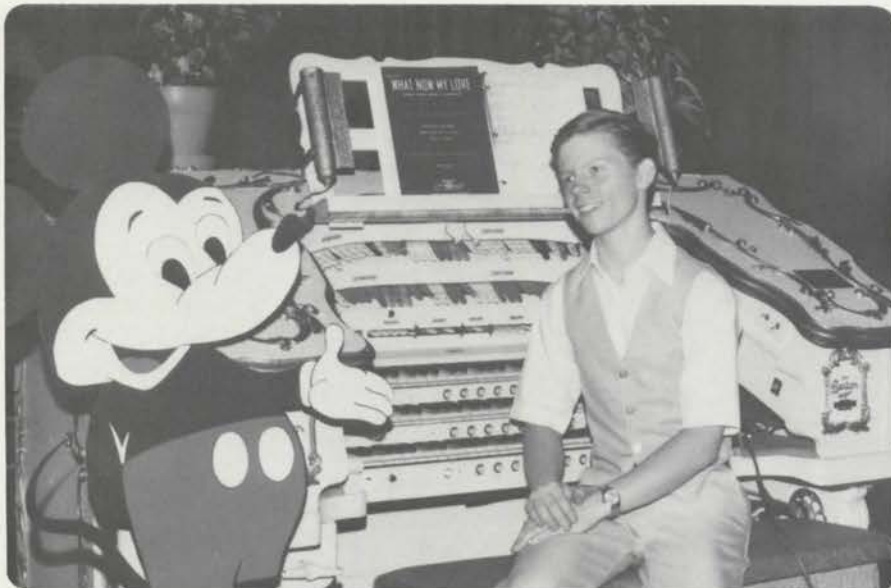
Jennifer Candea, currently a student at Clawson High School, played the Barton organ for the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in July.

The August Fourth Sunday show at the Royal Oak Theatre also featured one of our younger artists, Mark Smith, at the console of the 3/16 Barton. Mark also played a Hammond organ, courtesy of The Organ Exchange, on stage to show his appreciation for electronic organs and the organ clubs they have created which he feels are a source of talent to perpetuate the theatre pipe organ.

The annual Christmas program at the Redford Theatre on December 10 will feature Lew Williams at the Barton organ and the Fairlane Ballet Company on stage performing excerpts from *Sleeping Beauty*.

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

DON LOCKWOOD



Mutual appreciation. Mark Smith played a medley from Walt Disney's films with a cutout of Mickey beside him at the Royal Oak Barton in August.
(Fred Page photo)

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Don Thompson played a concert for us on Sunday afternoon, September 18, at the Granddaddy of all pizza-organ restaurants, Ye Olde Pizza Joyn't in San Lorenzo. Owner Carsten Henningsen originated the idea of combining a theatre pipe organ with a pizzeria 25 years ago. The core of the organ is the 2/9 Wurlitzer from the State Theatre in Fresno, enlarged in 1962, with the three-manual console from San Francisco's Warfield Theatre. The latest addition is Thompson's British-style Wurlitzer music rack with hand-carved scrollwork, a rarity in America. The white and gold 3/13 console is in a very intimate setting giving Don a good rapport with his audience.

After his signature tune, "Don's Theme," he opened with "The Phantom Brigade." His program was a well-balanced olio of Richard Rod-

gers, Sigmund Romberg, classical and popular music. Don dedicated "Jerusalem" to his and our dear friend, the late Frank Olsen of Port Colborne, Ontario. Frank collapsed and died during an organ concert in London, England, on September 4. Olsen had played two concerts for Nor-Cal and was planning another American tour at the time of his death. He will be sorely missed.

Thompson's venue prior to moving to California was at the Organ Grinder in Toronto, Ontario. He was born in Kendal in the north of England. At the age of two he began playing on the linoleum. He started piano lessons at eight; by 16, he was resident organist at his local church. The bearded virtuoso has degrees in psychology and literature. His career has taken him to Paris, Rome, Athens and, in 1965, he was playing in the Byblos Cinema in Beirut, Lebanon. Fortunately, Don got out of Lebanon before the shooting started.

Don ragged the French Celeste Accordion when he played "Dill Pickles" and "Russian Rag." A crowd-pleaser was his Bach-Nalle Trio, "Alles Was Du Bist," with

apologies to Jerome Kern. He played "Samum" as interpreted by Reginald Dixon, giving it a "Blackpool" registration. This German piece's composer, Carl Robrecht, described it as a "symphonic foxtrot," which is the way Don played it. His final number was Liszt's "Second Hungarian Rhapsody," followed by an encore, "Boogie-Woogie."

Nor-Cal thanks Don Thompson for giving us such an enjoyable and listenable concert. We also tip our hats to Carsten Henningsen and his lovely wife, Joyce, for their kindness and hospitality. The pizza was delicious, too.

ED MULLINS

OREGON
Portland

503/244-2141 or 503/253-6874

What happens when a group of ATOSers get together and one asks, "I wonder if George Wright will ever come back and play in Portland?"

And Dennis Hedberg answers, "I don't know. I'll call him and find out."

This dialogue between Dennis Hed-



Don Thompson at Ye Olde Pizza Joyn't.



George Wright and Paul Quarino after the concert at Vollum's. (Claude Neuffer photo)



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berg and Oregon Chapter Chairman Joe Gray led to a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our chapter and guests on October 2 when George Wright did come and play in Portland on Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vollum's 4/49 Wurlitzer.

Once Dennis had confirmed the arrangements with the Vollums and the artist, the chapter's board took the ball and ran, and preparations for this gala event began with the mailing of formal invitations to members of Oregon and Puget Sound Chapters. Paul Quarino was given the responsibility for ticket sales which were by mail order only as seating was limited. On Labor Day, Dennis Hedberg and Mike DeSart undertook the task of bringing the organ up to prime condition for the celebrated artist.

The organ is housed in a specially-built studio with the chambers con-

Indianapolis
Sat., July 7 thru Thurs., July 12, 1984
ATOS 29th
Annual Convention

taining the 49 ranks at one end and the four-manual console at the opposite end on a level above the main floor. The 132 eager guests were seated comfortably on the main floor where each had a clear view of the console and the artist above.

To open the program, Chairman Joe Gray welcomed the guests who came from as far away as Vancouver, British Columbia, and San Francisco, California. Dennis Hedberg then presented a brief history of the organ which had been originally installed in the San Francisco Paramount Theatre (for detailed story, see THE-

ATRE ORGAN, February, 1973).

Dennis introduced George Wright, who immediately made all of the guests feel at home by descending the open staircase while chatting informally with them for a few minutes. When he returned to the upper level and began to play, the atmosphere remained relaxed and informal, a feeling which was sustained throughout the concert. Every person who attended was able to meet and talk with George afterward, a rare and unforgettable pleasure.

PAUL QUARINO

PUGET SOUND
Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Once again the annual picnic was held in August at Bert and Georgia Lobberegts' home in Issaquah, a little east of Seattle. It was a gorgeous day and there was a large attendance. Open console went on all afternoon while many folks enjoyed Mr. Lobberegts' antique car collection, old time music machines and player pianos.

We were pleased to have Eric Schröder and Ray Allan visit us from Kynsna, South Africa, as part of their trip here to attend the National Convention in San Francisco. Several of us, including Don Myers, Ken Gallwey, Alice and Andy Anderson, Dianne Whipple, Clyde and Adeline Hook and Chris and Al Pride entertained the guests with our Hammond and Wurlitzer electronics. Myers arranged for them to see, hear and play the Paramount organ. Our visitors are fortunate to have a pipe organ near their home in South Africa that they can play.

In September, Andy Crow gave a fine concert at the Paramount Theatre on the 4/20 Wurlitzer. There



George Wright gives an informal talk to Oregon Chapter members and guests before his concert on the Howard Vollum Wurlitzer. (Claude Neuffer photo)

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were nearly 150 attending. Outstanding was his arrangement of "One Morning in May," and he played exceptionally well on his classical choices. We understand that Andy's own pipe organ has been temporarily removed from the Olympic Theatre in Olympia. The theatre is to be converted to a performing arts center and the organ will be reinstalled later. We shall look forward to hearing it again after the remodeling.

CHRISTINE PRIDE



PINE TREE

Old Orchard Beach, Maine
207/967-2452 or 207/846-5756

Our chapter met on October 8 in Loranger Auditorium of Old Orchard Junior High School. The ex-Proctor Theatre (New York City) 3/13 Wurlitzer performed very well. Guests included John Arnlow and

Cliff Lind, ex-theatre organist in the New England states. During open console Bob Johnson, Cliff Lind and Bob Legon played.

Chairman Bob Johnson presided during the business meeting. He and Bob Legon presented reports on the San Francisco National Convention. A new member asked for help on a recently-discovered theatre organ in

northern New Hampshire. Several members volunteered. This organ is to remain in its present location. We'll report further on it later.

We extend an invitation to members of neighboring chapters and theatre organ organizations to attend our meetings on the second Saturday of each month, usually at Old Orchard Junior High. Sunday sessions at the



Bob Legon at the console, with Bob Johnson standing by. Loranger Auditorium also serves as a gymnasium, and has excellent acoustics for the organ. (Bill Langton photo)

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Bob Legon at the 3/13 Wurlitzer at Old Orchard Beach Junior High Loranger Auditorium during centennial program in May 1983. Note shutters on chambers backstage. (Bill Langton photo)

organ can be arranged by calling Bob Johnson (first number in logo above).

Unfortunately, our planned summer concerts this year had to be abandoned because of low patronage. We have found it very difficult to get radio and TV coverage in our area for theatre organ events. But, theatre organ is still alive in northern New England.

ROBERT K. LEGON

RED RIVER

Fargo

218/287-2671 or 218/236-9217

Now that Red River Chapter is operating the Fargo Theatre, there's no end to the list of things that need attention. The board of directors of our newly formed corporation, the Fargo Theatre Management Corporation, met often this summer to handle the job of getting underway. In the capable hands of manager Dave Knudtson, the theatre is doing even better than was projected. The brochure we designed to promote use of the theatre by other groups is now ready. We've

ordered a plaque for a lobby display, listing businesses and public-spirited individuals who have generously donated labor and materials toward renovation.

Our immediate projects are in preparation for winter: roof repairs, storm windows, a new steel threshold for the stage doors, re-installing the double sets of exit doors, and a massive insulation job for the attic. We also have a basement full of basic junk and hundreds of old theatre seats to dispose of. Then there is the never-ending task of tracking down and repairing old wiring, and much relamping to do. At the first fall chapter meeting, lists of projects were passed around for sign-up. The Wurlitzer is on the work list, too. We expect to be releathering primaries for about a year, as take-home projects. The ultimate plan is to enlarge the 3/9 Wurlitzer to 15 ranks and to add a third chamber just for percussions.

The grand opening of the Fargo Theatre under our management took place November 4 and 5 when we presented *Wings*, starring Clara Bow,

with organ scoring by Lance Johnson. This was the 55th Anniversary of *Wings* being shown at the Fargo as it opened November 4, 1928, with our own Hildegard Kraus as accompanist. It was the first feature film to win an Academy Award for best picture.

SONIA CARLSON

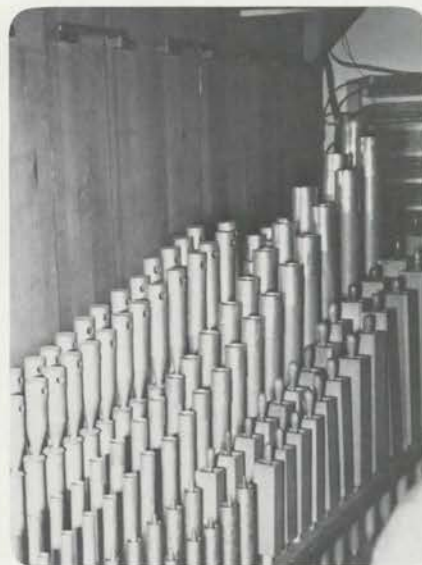
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver

303/343-3930 or 303/233-4716

Another epoch in our coverage of home pipe installations out in the Great West has to deal with a lovable gent by name of Richard V. Lewis. Mr. Lewis, affectionately known as Dick to the Rocky Mountain Chapter folks, has installed in his three-car garage a prize 3/8 Marr & Colton theatre style organ built circa 1928.

This instrument came from the Uptown Theatre in Racine, Wisconsin. Dick has a poster showing the inside of the theatre with the console down in front advertising some gala event



Solo chamber of Dick Lewis' Marr & Colton. (F. R. Gandy photo)



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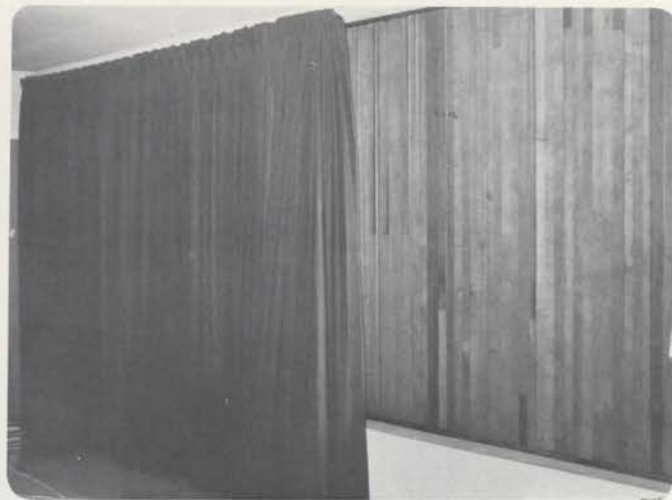
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Dick Lewis' 3/8 Marr & Colton.

(F. R. Gandy photo)



Dick Lewis' organ installation, showing shutters and red velvet curtain.

(F. R. Gandy photo)

of the period. After hearing of the availability of the organ, Dick and some of his family went to Racine, looked it over and decided then and there that it was the one he wanted.

The console has been overhauled; the finish is a beautiful cherrywood-type red with a glossy finish. The keys and stop tabs look as though they just came from the factory. The chests were cleaned and refurbished. Dick did some partial releathering as some of it was in good shape. The percussions were completely rebuilt and tuned. The reservoirs were all recovered, and new cables were installed on about one-third of the organ. Five ranks were tonally re-regulated over the years, and Dick has added a Clarinet rank. Clear in the back of the garage is the blower/relay room with tremis. There are two chambers divided down the center, each with its own separate set of shades which have also been scraped and sanded and re-finished to perfection. The chambers stretch clear across the width of the garage with the exception of the entry way which is a combination hallway leading to the blower and chambers

and the console room which is rather large.

The front of the chambers are covered when not in use with a red plush curtain hung on a traveler, making it easy to expose the shutters when needed. The acoustics are good. However, with full organ and the shades wide open, it could blow the audience right out through the overhead doors. This has not happened, as yet. We have had several chapter meetings at Dick's, and have had some wonderful organists entertain us. Our thanks to Dick and his family for their hospitality.

And now to a slightly sadder portion of the column. As most of our readers know, we have been repairing the cable break on the 3/12 Wicks at the Aladdin Theatre in Denver. The theatre has been up and down with productions since the movie end of it went out a year or so ago. Last week, while returning from the airport, we discovered the theatre boarded up with "For Sale" signs on it. We cannot get in to work on the organ, as they don't know what is to become of the theatre. Some of the parking lots

across the street have been sold. They are hoping that someone interested in theatre will buy it and continue using it as such. Then the organ can be worked on again and brought back into playing condition. The insurance investment company that owns it now says that if all does not go as expected, the furnishings will all be sold at auction, including the organ.

FRANK R. GANDY

SAN DIEGO California

619/279-2867 or 619/561-2269

Recently our chapter members and friends were treated to an exhilarating afternoon of music by four of our talented and exceptional members. This was the first in a series of matinee concerts produced by our chapter under the auspices of Galen Piepenburg solely for the enjoyment of our members, friends and their guests (hopefully, prospective members). The four members, Galen Piepenburg, Harry Jenkins, Russ Peck and Herb Chiu, each volunteered his time and effort to present his musical forte to

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an audience of over 100. Each prepared a 20-minute program displaying his own unique talent and style.

It is amazing that anyone, on a hot evening in San Diego, could play so magnificently and look so calm and cool doing it, as San Diego's local artist, Chris Gorsuch, did on September 10. Not for quite awhile has San Diego been treated to a more well-rounded and versatile program. As designer of our solid-state system and

our tonal consultant, no one knows the Wurlitzer and its capabilities as well as Chris demonstrated that evening.

From pop to jazz, with a "One O'Clock Jump" into the classical, Chris dazzled us as he demonstrated the wide spectrum of the organ. To finally expose the orchestral value of the organ, Chris scored highly with medleys from *Carmen*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Porgy and Bess*. With this,



Chris Gorsuch at San Diego's California Theatre 3/15 Wurlitzer.



San Diego Chapter matinee concert artists, l to r: Harry Jenkins, Galen Piepenburg, Russ Peck and Herb Chiu.

San Diego's audience demanded an encore and was kindly obliged with the first movement of Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*. It is great to see such a young artist with the versatility and knowledge of music who has the ability to put it all together.

A new concept that San Diego Chapter is experimenting with is area socials. Members open their homes for an afternoon or evening to entertain other members located in their zip code area. We are having great success with this, and members are creating new friendships as well as

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volunteering to help in our growing organization. Participation has been great, and the members are excited about the program.

December will again feature our Wurlitzer as the "star" of the San Diego Repertory Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*.

SIERRA Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

June 12 marked the second annual appearance of Emil Martin & Friends. With the long-time Sacramento theatre and radio organist was a combo of piano, drums, trumpet and woodwind. Our chapter has found that having shows combining other instruments, including electronic organs, with pipes has worked to broaden the appeal of the theatre organ and demonstrate the variety of musical styles that it can be worked into and sound right. In this instance, Emil's group played '20s, '30s and '40s material, most of it in a decidedly Dixieland style (possibly because Sacramento hosted the world's largest Dixieland Jazz Festival just two weeks earlier).

With our geographic proximity to San Francisco, Sierra was well represented by 31 members at the National Convention. Our members' feelings were unanimous: great instruments, terrific performances, and a most thorough and competent job by Nor-Cal Chapter.

Sierra Chapter was grateful to be able to ride on the shirrtail of Nor-Cal's effort for our River City Encore the day after the convention. We hope the 300+ who came to Sacramento enjoyed themselves as much as our nearly 50 participating chapter members enjoyed hosting the event. Special mention must go to Dale Mendenhall, Encore Chairman, and Kay

Ruland, organizer of the barbecue operation. These two people, especially Dale, put in a tremendous number of hours, starting in September, 1982, all so that one day would be the best we could offer with no possibility for a hitch and with all contingencies covered.

August 7 was Sierra's annual picnic. This year we made a special effort to invite Nor-Cal members, many of whom did not attend our River City Encore in order to make room for those from distant chapters. Held in the park surrounding the Fair Oaks Community Club House location of our 2/11 Wurlitzer, the picnic was followed by an informal open console session.

Our concert-meeting on September 11 included two members at the chapter Wurlitzer. For Dave Reitz, it was his first time playing before an ATOS audience, but he conquered the jitters and played some nice theatre organ. The afternoon wrapped up with Jim Brown, who likes to play bravado theatre organ, so our augmented Style E was given a workout that had it sounding bigger than its 11 ranks.

RANDY WARWICK

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

August found members of Sooner State Chapter once again in Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church for open console on the 4/14 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ. Although our turnout was small (was it summer heat? or vacation time?), we did enjoy music from Joe Crutchfield, Lynda Burns, Gary Schaum, John Barhydt, Phil Judkins and Dorothy Smith.

Also in August, an abbreviated Pipe Packers Platoon consisting of Oz Redding, Phil Judkins, Gary

Schaum and Lee Smith journeyed to Pryor to help Hervey Barbour move the heavier chests and pipes of his organ from storage to his new home. Hervey and Janice have a beautiful installation, from all reports, and we are looking forward to seeing it.

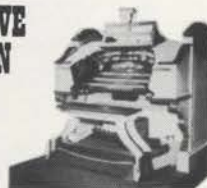
For our September meeting, we returned again to Central Assembly of God Church where we began with an important business meeting. The discussion centered on our proposed contract with the Tulsa Vo-Tech High School. We feel fortunate to have such excellent cooperation with the school officials — everything we've asked for has been "no problem." We're looking forward to a long and satisfying relationship, with many opportunities to display our 3/10 Robert-Morton. They are even interested in including a course in Organ Maintenance in their curriculum! Open console followed with music by Lynda Burns, Phil Judkins, Joe Crutchfield, Jim Routsong and Lorene Thomas. We also enjoyed the impromptu duets with Lorene at the organ and Joe at the grand piano.

We owe a vote of thanks to Phil Judkins for making our meetings at Central Assembly possible. His maintenance of the organ makes it available for us to play. He, together with Harry Rassmussen and Lee Smith, recently repaired ten blown switchstack pouches on the instrument.

DOROTHY SMITH

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Our program for June was held at the Grays' Armory where we were entertained by member Bill Taber at the



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console of the 3/13 Wurlitzer. His selections included "Song of The Wanderer," "My Love Song," "Memory" and "Soldiers on The Shelf." Claude Hawks, our concert chairman and member of the Grays, led a group through the Grays' Armory Museum. This was a very worthwhile tour as there are many interesting things to see and facts to learn about the history of the Grays. Open console followed with members enjoying a last fling at the console as the organ will be unplayable while the regulators are being rehabilitated.

On August 21 we met at the lovely home of members Clare and Victoria Ullman for a buffet picnic. We enjoyed walking on the spacious grounds and watching the fish jump in their lake. Members enjoyed the opportunity to play and hear the Ullmans' Baldwin organ.

Our September meeting was at the home of Joe and Lanette Kurpan, the proud owners of a Wicks 2/6. Our guest organist was George Krejci. Trying to cool us off from the hot weather, he started by playing "Winter Wonderland" and "Let It Snow." He continued with "When You Wish Upon A Star," "Sonny Boy" and "In A Persian Market," a challenging piece to perform on a two-manual organ.

JIM SHEPHERD



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

In August, Wolverine Chapter met at the Redford Theatre for a concert by our own Barry Rindhage on the 3/10 Barton. Barry has played a number of organ concerts in the area and is well-known in theatre organ circles

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in Southeast Michigan. A graphic artist by profession, Barry has done a variety of art work around organ themes, including the note cards and paper which were on sale at the last two National Conventions.

Barry's creativity shone through in many of his musical ideas and arrangements that day. One of his special features was a sing-along using slides of his own making, and it was refreshing to hear his different selection of sing-along songs, too! Barry displayed the true colors of his talent, as well as the true colors of our nation, by giving us a patriotic number complete with the showing of a huge American flag! It was a fine program, and to show our appreciation for Barry's having served Wolverine Chapter in every official capacity during his 15 years as a member, a cake and punch reception was provided following his program. Other members participated in open console afterwards.

On September 17, Wolverine Chapter hosted Central Indiana and Motor City Chapters for a concert at St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church in Windsor, Ontario. The organ there is a beautiful-sounding 2/7 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ which was installed in 1934. It apparently was formerly in a theatre in Florida, but was repossessed by Wurlitzer and later sold to the church. Recently, Motor City Chapter has had a crew servicing and maintaining that instrument. It was a real delight for those playing it that day, as well as for those listening. Don Jenks, our chapter vice chairman, played a lovely program which


really showed off the tonal resources and capabilities of the organ. Don is well-known locally, having played theatre organ programs all over the area. While he was classically trained by Dr. Cyril Barker, his real love is theatre organ and has been since he was a child. Don, of course, has been very active on the theatre organ scene for many years.

This September weekend was an extremely busy one with a full schedule planned for the Central Indiana guests co-hosted by Motor City and Wolverine Chapters. The Central Indiana folks were treated to a tremendously exciting concert by Australian organist Neil Jensen at the Detroit Theater Organ Club as guests of Gerald Muethel. Afterwards, members of all three chapters congregated at the Redford Theatre for a late-night concert by Tony O'Brien.

Tony O'Brien is a young organist who is definitely a rising star. He is extremely talented and plays a wide variety of music, including frequent classical selections. Tony's program was well-executed showing good dexterity, fine pedal work and great technique. A reception with refreshments was provided by Motor City members for their guests preceding Tony's program. Following the program, open console time gave Central Indiana guests a chance to play the Barton.

After a short night of rest, everyone gathered for breakfast at Theatre Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac where owners Gary Montgomery and H.C. Scott graciously hosted. While eating, we were treated to the artistry of John Lauter who did a great job of waking us up with his up-tempo and toe-tapping music, well-played.

From there we proceeded to the Royal Oak Theatre where Motor City Chapter presented a delightful program featuring various young members! Ron Moore (Morocco) was the



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Barry Rindhage at the console of the Lady Barton.



(Max Brown photo) Don Jenks at the 2/7 Wurlitzer in St. Clare's R.C. Church in Windsor, Ontario.

(Max Brown photo)

first to play followed by his students, Melissa Ambrose and Mark Smith. Jennifer Candea, who is a student of Mark Smith, followed him on the program. The two Sunman sisters, who are still so young and small that they can barely reach the pedals, concluded the program. They all did well, and it was really a thrill to hear these young people playing theatre pipe organs. It is reassuring to know that theatre organ will be carried on and preserved by the younger generation!

The future of ATOS depends on them! Central Indiana's young sensation, Brian Holland, played during open console, as did other older members.

To conclude a terrific weekend, Motor City and Wolverine Chapters provided their Central Indiana guests with the rare treat of a visit to the Detroit Fox Theatre. The special artist for the occasion was Charlie Balogh, who played an excellent program in his great style which often reflects the

superb coaching he received while working with Lyn Larsen. Open console followed Charlie's program. The Fox's lobby Möller pipe organ was also played by Lawrie Mallett during the course of the day.

Our Indiana guests seemed tired, but happy, as they headed "Back Home Again (to) Indiana." It was a satisfying weekend for our Wolverine Chapter as well. We thank Motor City for being great hosts, too.

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