

ly retired from college teaching. There was no glamour in being a theatre organist; it was just hard, tiring work, and I can assure there was no applause, except for the solo organist. Every now and then I accompany a film and I am flattered by the applause of the audience; what a contrast to the old days!

Well, I still have fond memories of

those days and I still have quite a library of theatre organ music and even loads of the complimentary popular tunes that the publishers sent us, to say nothing of the cue sheets.

Again thanks for a wonderful organization and magazine.

Sincerely yours,
Harry F. Bolich

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania □



The "Phantom" (Tom Helms) appears once again at the Alabama Theatre!
(Billy C. Evans photo)



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/979-8132 or 205/785-4864

The fall months were really busy for us with concerts, programs, shows and whatever else came along. In October we held our Fall Presentation of *The Phantom of the Opera* with Tom Helms at the console of the Wurlitzer. As always, this classic performance was very well attended, and all of our members had fun doing it. The next day we held a "Meet the NEW Mighty Wurlitzer" concert, again with Tom Helms, to show off the new Post Horn rank that has been added to our Big Bertha. Once again, the crowds came out, and many attended both performances.

We try to do something different each year for our Fall Presentation, but the public demands *The Phantom* for Halloween. It has almost become a ritual, with the same people coming each time and talking about last year's show while eagerly awaiting the next show. Our presentation starts off with 30 minutes of pre-recorded funeral music, ending with "Come, Sweet Death." A sinister, black coffin is carried down the aisle by six black-robed and hooded pallbearers led by another black-robed and hooded figure carrying a brass candelabra. The procession slowly carries the coffin to the front of the orchestra pit, places it in state before the audience and then silently exits the auditorium.

The theatre has gone totally dark by this time, except for a black light which the audience cannot see. The Phantom, (Tom Helms) suddenly cracks the lid on the coffin and an eerie glow emanates from the fluorescent green paint that is inside the coffin and struck by the black light. Tom then leaps out, runs to the console (which has mysteriously appeared by itself) and plays Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue." The audience goes wild, and we love it!

On October 28, Tom presented a concert on our beautiful Wurlitzer with her new Post Horn. The sound was unbelievable! Tom Helms does such an excellent job playing our Wurlitzer that it is hard to believe that he does not play it all the time. The afternoon show was complete with sing-along slides and an audience that seemed to have a wonderful time.

Our November program featured the famous Bob Van Camp from the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. The beautiful Alabama was once again alive with

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Five Manual Kimball Roxy Theatre Console with 28 ranks now owned by Phil Maloof.



Mark and Cindi Landers — proving that the organ, flute and grand piano make a perfect combination.
(Billy C. Evans photo)

good old favorites that Bob does so very well. We have decided that Bob is like a fine wine — gets better as he gets older, and so smooth! Bob stated that the “Mighty Mo” is a great organ, but there is nothing like a Wurlitzer, especially the Alabama Wurlitzer!

December saw us celebrating with both a Christmas party and a birthday party for our beloved Wurlitzer and theatre. Who else but Walt Winn from Atlanta could handle such a big event! This is our fifth consecutive year for Walt to play for our December meeting, and our membership feels that if Walt got too busy to play for it next year, we would just have to postpone Christmas! Walt has a unique and fresh style that we don't get to hear very often, and we always welcome the sounds that he gets out of Big Bertha. In fact, Walt gets so colorful sometimes that you can almost smell the pizza in the theatre! We are glad that both Walt and Christmas come around each December.

On December 16 we presented the annual “Christmas at the Alabama” program. This featured the Mighty Wurlitzer played by Steve Hancock and Cecil Whitmire, six handbell choirs on stage, and the combined choir of three churches in the orchestra pit. This program is presented each year in cooperation with the Birmingham Ministries to provide food for the needy of our city. Admission was an item of non-perishable foodstuff. We had a very large crowd, and they certainly enjoyed the sing-

alongs, the beautiful carols and the general feeling of goodwill. This performance always makes us think about what Christmas is all about. Immediately after this show, the

weather turned very cold and since our beautiful Alabama is still without heat, we had to call a halt to any formal activities at the theatre.

February is our “getting started” month — the beginning of another busy year. We've got bus trips planned, more concerts, more programs, loads of music and, we hope, the grand reopening of our beautiful Alabama Theatre!

CECIL WHITMIRE



GRACE E. MCGINNIS.



CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE

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

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Send Chapter Notes and photos to:

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

DEADLINES

November 15 for January/February

January 15 for March/April

March 15 for May/June

May 15 for July/August

July 15 for September/October

September 15 for November/December

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9815 or 319/363-9769

We had a traditional holiday season, a full dinner meeting in Cedar Rapids Czech Village plus a holiday party centered around the Weiler family's home installation. Other local developments were to provide some real "gifts."

Foremost, the Paramount 3/11 Wurlitzer was the site of another phenomenal concert on October 20 by Jonas Nordwall, who also graciously extended many hours of volunteer effort. During several hours prior to console rise, he aided in perfecting repairs and refining regulation of the organ which enhanced his already scintillating technique and facile use of the Wurlitzer's resources in concert. Jonas' contribution was also a legacy to spring artist Tom Hazleton, and we thank him immensely.

The Style 235 Wurlitzer has long been the focal point of our activities. Lately it has been slated for concentrated attention, according to Chairman Leonard Santon. Its relay room has been enlarged to accommodate a full restoration effort and future options for tonal enhancement of the 3/11.

For New Year's, the Paramount console with treasurer George Baldwin seated was the recent cover story of the local *Neighbors* magazine. As he also presides there prior to showtime of the Paramount's Classic Film Series, George is no stranger to local fans. This is true even though the outdoor visibility of the Paramount's events is currently in the process of improvement. Eventually, the theatre will receive a new replica marquee with potential for a replica for the ver-

tical original. With events like these to publicize, we can expect to be reading "Mighty Wurlitzer" for years to come.

As an unexpected bonanza, a complete local theatre organ became a gift to the community. It is the fine 3/14 Grande Barton in the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre. Left in uncertain status by the theatre's recent renovation, there were no concrete plans for preservation of the organ. However, a group of local theatre organ buffs, led by former Englert Barton crew chief Bob Burkhart, opted to act. The newly formed Cedar Rapids Barton, Inc. is a non-profit and CRCT-affiliated organ committee. These new arrangements have led to an intensive restoration effort spearheaded by Paul Montague, a former major in Cinematography at USC. Ultimately, CRCT will launch its own subscriber concert series in addition to regular use of the organ in its productions. Overall, the advanced creative potential of the Barton at the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre is bound to enrich the public appreciation of the art of the theatre organ.

MICHAEL VANCURA



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis
317/255-8056
or 317/786-2160

Our December meeting was held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianapolis. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Needler, guests were introduced, and the usual business meeting was held. Tess

Moses announced the schedule of organists for the "Christmas at The Zoo" programs, and election results were announced. An interesting and imaginative program was presented by Kurt Schakel, who is the organist at the church.

Our 1985 President, Tess Moses, conducted the January business meeting in the Manual High School Auditorium. Items covered included the proposed bus trip to St. Louis in April and the proposed Neil Jensen concert in April. Vice-President "Dusty" Desterbecque introduced Bee Butler who performed on the Louisville Uniphone 3-manual organ. The highlight of her program was a duet with Brian Holland at the piano. Open console included performances by Martin Ellis of Monrovia, Indiana; Berry Baker, a 13-year-old student from Ft. Thomas, Kentucky; Jack Pollack, Dick Harrel, Ken Double and Larry Bonebright.

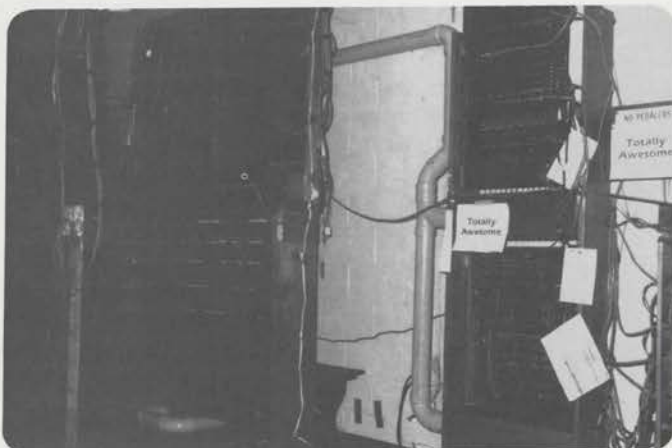
WAYNE R. PIPHER

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

It was back in action for our Worthington Wurlitzer when we met at the high school on November 18. The Robert-Morton relays and switch stacks were partially wired to permit us to use six ranks. The response times have been unquestionably shortened as members and guests were quick to note at the console. It has been because of the organ crew and their untiring efforts that we, again, have an operational organ, albeit incomplete. In the interim, further progress has been made, and the Wurlitzer had its debut, of sorts, before a near-capacity audience on December 9 when the



The Morton relays for the Worthington Wurlitzer.



Ruth Shaw at the Worthington Wurlitzer.

Worthington Songsters presented their annual Christmas program. Following intermission, the organ was swung into place on the stage, and our Betsy Richards accompanied a ballet and solo portion of the program. It was the first that many of the local citizenry knew of the organ, let alone its magnificent voice.

The Christmas season climaxed with the appearance of Lyn Larsen at the Ohio Theatre on December 8. Long a favorite artist at the Ohio, Lyn did not disappoint us in a stellar performance at the keyboards. Especially enjoyable were his selections from *The Nutcracker Suite* and a composition of his own entitled "One Star." The unique chording and counter-melodies which characterize his arrangements continue to set him a cut above his contemporaries.

We converged December 23 on Worthington High School for our annual Christmas party where, once again, our membership demonstrated their culinary arts with a wondrous display of edibles. It was gratifying to see the membership turn out to appreciate the time, skill and care that went into the preparation of such tasteful food. Wheeled center stage and draped with Christmas lights, our Wurlitzer was ably played by member Ruth Shaw who opened with a medley of Christmas music. Then, as we listened to organ background music, we watched a slide presentation of the restoration of our organ dating back some ten years when it was completely disassembled in a warehouse for re-leathering, cleaning and rebuilding. Following the slide presentation, we all joined in the singing of Christmas carols — truly a delightful audience-participation program. Open console followed. The occasion was saddened by the death of President Mark Williams' father, and our condolences go to Mark in the loss of a loved one.

JOHN R. POLSLEY, M.D.

**CHATTANOOGA
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY**



A new ATOS group is slowly beginning to blossom on the horizon. We were organized in the spring of 1984

and now have 14 members. We have a lovely theatre in Chattanooga, the Tivoli, and, of course, our pride and joy is our Style 235 Wurlitzer, Opus 0780, expanded from 3/11 to 12 ranks. This organ was installed February 1, 1924, and has 117 stops. Over the years, as was the case with so many, the organ has been neglected and has fallen into a state of disrepair. But, thanks to the expertise of Larry Donaldson, who is heading up our organ rebuilding, our lovely lady is fast becoming the beautiful, full, rich-sounding instrument she was when she was installed. Lots of work still remains to be done, including rebuilding the keyboards and second touch, and then completely re-finishing the console. At some time, the console was relocated to the main floor of the theatre left box-seat area under the Main chamber. The combination action was removed from the console and presumably robbed for parts. We would like, in the future, to again relocate the console back in the orchestra pit on a lift.

We met for our December meeting at the home of our secretary/treasurer, Roy Harrison, in Ocoee, Tennessee, for a covered-dish buffet. Roy has a 3-manual, equivalent to 19-rank, Devtronix Paramount organ — the installation just completed in time for this meeting. After a delicious buffet and a brief business meeting with Chairman Jon Robere at the helm, a program of Christmas music was presented by Jimmy Wright. Open console followed with several members participating. It was a fun time for everyone, with lots of good food and good music, and everyone is looking forward to our next meeting.

ROY HARRISON



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/470-0743 or 312/627-3245

Now that the Chicago Theatre is secured, the next step is to decide its future. Details are being formulated, and many possibilities are being investigated. The new owners seem to be thinking in the right direction, for which we are all thankful. Recently, Carlo Curley and Tom Wibbels visit-

ed the Chicago Theatre and secured permission to sound out the theatre's Wurlitzer which is being maintained by an able crew and its chief, Gary D'Amico. Tom Wibbels is on the '85 Convention program and is scheduled for the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge. He stopped at this theatre for a morning session and was quite pleased with what he saw.

Our Christmas social was at Sally's Stage with Don Springer at the 3/14 Barton. Don treated the more than 100 members and guests to a lively program of seasonal melodies and a variety of tunes which led up to the arrival of Santa to climax the program.

On the weekend of March 16, we are sponsoring a bus trip to Columbus, Ohio, to attend the showing of *The Thief of Bagdad* starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. Dennis James is to be at the 4/20 Robert-Morton performing the music which he composed for this film. This will be a great outing!

Plans for the "Pipes Alive in '85" are progressing very well, thank you, and we would like to see you all attending this extravaganza. Try to make it!

ALMER BROSTROM



**Milwaukee
414/463-2365
or 414/771-8522**

The October social was held at the Riverside Theatre. Work was in progress to restore the theatre to its original beauty, but there was a lot left to be done. It was a great opportunity, however, for our members and guests to get a sneak preview of things to come.

The theatre has been redone from top to bottom. All the seats and seat stands were removed, and the seats and backs were re-upholstered in red velvet and the stands painted with red enamel. The entire theatre, including the lobbies, was redone in shades of pink and red. All the gold ornamentation, including the ceiling around the main chandelier and some of the lobby ceilings, was redone in gold. All stage equipment was replaced, including new stage curtains. The orchestra pit was enlarged and the stage extended over the pit. The part of the stage over the organ and orchestra pit is removable for shows needing smaller

stages. The best news is that the Wurlitzer stays, and the management would like to see the organ used. Member Gary Hanson has loaned us a Post Horn which was installed in time for the October social. Gary presented a short program which was enjoyed by those who had made their way to the balcony. Many hours of our time have gone into the Riverside, and it is nice to see them now pay off with the organ and the promise of more concerts in the future.

The annual meeting was held at the Organ Piper Pizza, and it was reported that we now have 81 members. Our concert at the Avalon, with Jim Benz-miller, was the best-attended ever at the theatre. Overall, Bob Leutner and Fred Wolfram outlined a very successful year for us. Election of officers was held, and then Fred Hermes reported that the new Avalon console and electronic relay installation is being finished, and the organ will be ready for a 1985 concert. The organ at the Theatre Guild in Racine is used occasionally, and Bob Leutner said that it would be used again in December.

On December 19 the Riverside Wurlitzer made its public debut in a Christmas program with Gary Hanson and Clark Wilson. They played for a Hunger Task Force, and donations of food and money were taken at the door so the needy might have a better holiday season.

BILL CAMPBELL



**Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055**

Richard Knight Auditorium at Babson, November 18, was our gathering place, and busy member Bob Legon our artist. He dedicated his program to the memory of all past members, opening with Handel's "Fourth Organ Concerto" which melded into an early radio Whiting's Milk eggnog commercial ditty. Ballads and waltzes were included, together with a tingling "Sabre Dance." Sullivan's "The Lost Chord" was Bob's final selection, but we wanted more so "On Old Cape Cod" and an appropriate "Bless This House" resulted. Bob is always willing to play, to talk organs and to promote and preserve the instruments —

we need more like him!

We were again invited by member Garrett Shanklin and his gracious wife, Sarah, to their sumptuous Groton home on December 16. Each visit sees an improved and enlarged Wurlitzer — now a 2/15 with still another rank planned. This installation has to be one of the finest in the area and is a joy to play with everything working and in tune, plus an Ampico grand piano which can be played from the console or separately and has a roll-player as well. Allen Miller, National Board member, was our capable artist and worked closely with our host to bring this organ to its present state of perfection. Because Garrett greatly enjoys novelty tunes, there were several. "Nola" was particularly effective with the piano activated from the console. A liberal group of Christmas selections enhanced the snowy view from our host's windows. George Gershwin and our artist's favorite, Irving Berlin, were given careful treatment. Long applause brought Miller back for a real foot-tapper, Strauss' "Tritsch Tratsch Polka." Knowing this organ so well, Allen really exploited it to its fullest and gave us a wonderful concert. Garrett, after a few welcoming remarks, played three numbers to launch open console. Between the beautiful instrument and concert, the joyous atmosphere of the Christmas-decorated home, the good fellowship, our friendly hosts and the mouth-watering homemade goodies, what better way to get into the proper frame of mind for the season? Thank you, Sarah and Garrett.

Our annual winter concert was held at Babson on January 5 with Steve Schlesing as our organist. Steve established a reputation on the Wurlitzer at Pizza, Pipes and Pandemonium in Groton, Connecticut, but is now resident at the 3/21 Barton hybrid in Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac, Michigan, along with John Steele. Steve had played for us at a regular club meeting, so we knew his abilities, but he was a nice surprise to many in the well-filled auditorium. Animation describes our artist's opening "42nd Street," and an out-of-the-rut choice of new or seldom heard selections — even a punk rock number, "The Stray Cat Strut," pleased his enthusiastic audience. He sang as he played "When I'm Singing in the Tub." *A Week in the Life of Buster Keaton*

was our silent which Schlesing accompanied very well as the audience howled. Our artist played a spectacular "God Bless America" for his finale, but the crowd would not let him go without an encore. It was a first for us as he invited the audience to dance to tunes with a beat, and at least two dozen couples did just that. Schlesing's last number was "What I Did for Love," a beautiful tune. It was a fine evening, and Steve's playing of requests with audience participation in singing and dancing was a sure key to success. We wish you well, Steve!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



**GARDEN STATE
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY, INC.**

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

December began with a Christmas concert at the Trenton War Memorial with the well-known Larry Ferrari featured on the 3/16 Möller. Sharing the program was the Greater Trenton Choral Society who presented an enjoyable variety of Christmas music. The concert was well attended, and our members remained after the performance for their twelfth annual installation banquet. A cocktail hour was held in the board room while the stage was cleared of the risers used by the chorus. The remainder of the evening was spent on the stage where a buffet dinner was served. Everyone enjoyed the food and the excellent



Ashley Miller and Larry Ferrari having fun at the Garden State installation dinner at the Trenton War Memorial.



Marty Spitalnick, editor of Garden State's *Pedals & Pipes*, Joe Vanore and Barbara Spitalnick pose during the Christmas Open House at the Vanore's.



Former president Bill Smith displays the plaque he has just received from President Mike Cipolletti.

dinner music provided by Gary Phillips at the Möller. He is one of our young, talented members who loves theatre organ.

After dinner, Chairman Michael Cipolletti introduced the new officers. Retiring Vice-Chairman Dan Dawson, who had done an excellent job of programming meetings and workshops, was presented with a special plaque, with a mounted flute pipe, inscribed with name, title and years of office. A similar plaque was presented to Bill Smith, a previous Chairman, who has been doing an outstanding job of arranging and running the organ concert series at Trenton War Memorial. Gary Phillips ended the night's activities with a mini-concert.

Further Christmas activities included an open house at the home of Joe and Jinny Vanore. The weather was beautiful, and many came to socialize during the afternoon and listen to the

2/3 Estey with wall-to-wall toy counter and a Chickering grand Ampico which Joe has wired to the organ. For dinner, members, fortified with maps, chose from a variety of 13 restaurants in a ten-minute radius. All returned for coffee and dessert and enjoyed movies shown by Emil Weichand depicting the interior of the Pascack Theatre in Westwood, with accompaniment on its 2/8 Wurlitzer played by Frank Cimmino, Ralph Ringstad and Jinny Vanore.

JINNY VANORE

JOLIET AREA

Illinois

312/393-9201 or 815/726-7665

December gave the Golden Voiced Barton plenty of exposure. Organist Terry Hochmuth played for the Chinese Magic Circus before the show began and at intermission. The organ was also used for Guy Lombardo and

two showings of *A Christmas Carol*. Member Taylor Trimby, who played for both Guy Lombardo and *A Christmas Carol*, also played for the Joliet American Legion Band's benefit concert on December 23. Taylor dressed up as Santa Claus for *A Christmas Carol*, and the audience really enjoyed the Christmas carols that were played by Santa.

On December 30 about 30 members and guests dined at Bruns Restaurant in New Lenox. After the scrumptious meal, we trekked to President Lee Rajala's house for our annual business meeting/social. After the formalities, the membership voted for the new board of directors which then called a mini-board meeting and selected officers for 1985-1986. Then President Rajala ascended to the console of his 2/6 Kilgen and played a variety of Christmas carols. His player piano performed a solo, and then Lee and the piano joined together for a duet. Open console provided the 35 members and guests with several hours of enjoyable organ music. It has been nice to have such large turnouts for our socials, and we hope it continues in '85.

Our work at the Rialto on the Golden Voiced Barton continued with the enlargement of our wind supply to the combination action and the repair of several blown pouches in the chestwork. New pipes, built by the Trivo Company in Maryland, help to fill in the annoying holes and add to the ability to solo on the organ without fear of silence from any rank. With continued help from the Will County Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority and the Cultural Arts Council, we are going to make the Barton sound and play as it hasn't in



GSTOS couples dancing on the orchestra lift at Trenton War Memorial after the installation dinner. L to R: Elaine & Dan Dawson, Ginny & Joe Martin, Alice & Bob Norris, Jinny & Joe Vanore and June & Ed Mittman. Gary Phillips provided the organ music.

quite a while. If you will be here for "Pipes Alive in '85," you will hear a greatly improved organ.

TAYLOR TRIMBY



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY

LOLTOS
St. Paul

612/938-2974 or 612/771-1771

Our election-meeting-concert was held on November 18 at D. J. Brady's Restaurant (formerly a private club known as Diamond Jim's) in Mendota Heights. The election of officers and board members was efficiently conducted by Maury Lindholm. Our guest artist was Norm Gray from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, who travels back and forth from Oklahoma for his organ teaching at Bodine's Music Center at Har-Mar in Roseville. Norm was the house organist during Diamond Jim's heyday in the '60s where his career began at the age of 19. He played there until 1969. He was also organist for the North Stars for ten years at the St. Paul Met Center. The 2/4 "Mighty Mite" Robert-Morton, complete with toy counter and an added Chrysoglott, was in fine playing condition having been rescued and renovated by volunteers from our chapter who worked tediously for many hours on the restoration. The crew, Don Johnson, Maury Lindholm, Roy Wilds, Oscar Mogan, with technical advice and spare parts furnished by Terry Kleven, Bob Sweaney and Joe Wallace, was introduced and thanked.

Norm played a program of familiar tunes, including selections appropriate to the Christmas season. It was nostalgic for Norm to appear at D. J.'s after so many years, and we thoroughly enjoyed his program and his

charming self. After Norm's program, Vice-Chairman Dorothy Thill, completely disguised, and her partner, Alice Olmstead, lip-synced a Spike Jones recording of "The Tennessee Waltz." It was a riot!

The Organaires, a small home-organ group, met at the home of Marge Shepard on December 13, each member taking a turn on her Yamaha organ.

On December 16 we welcomed David Kelsey from San Francisco, and fresh from an engagement at Rochester, who played the Robert-Morton at Cedarhurst. Such an easy-going, outgoing person, David charmed all who attended. His program included mostly familiar melodies from Strauss to Eubie Blake, a request time and Christmas selections — how beautiful was his rendition of "O Holy Night!" He is one talented person. Open house at my home followed the concert where, after some persuasion, David sat down at the piano and played the songs that were pictured on my musical valance, all 25 of them! We certainly hope he wends his way to Minnesota again.

On January 11 our members and Powderhorn Park Baptist Church members enjoyed a semi-classical, gospel song program with Ralph Kratzer at the console of the magnificent 3/13 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ at Powderhorn. The program was worked out in conjunction with the ministry, a totally different performance than we are accustomed to hearing. Ralph, who lives in Minneapolis and calls himself the "organ and piano doctor," was organist and choir director for a period of 25 years in various churches, traveled for a year with Ethyl Waters as her accompanist and was a member of the Golden Strings, a popular entertainment group at the Radisson Hotel, for a

year. The Powderhorn organ is really something, and we feel quite fortunate to be invited there occasionally. Tom Hazleton played a concert there in 1981.

Mike Erie, Chairman for 1985, hopes for an exciting and fruitful year. Our concerts seem to be attracting new members for which we are thankful. We are certainly looking forward to the announcements and schedule of the ATOS Convention in August.

VERNA MAE WILSON

LAND OF LINCOLN Rockford

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

We continue to be an active, growing group, planning and scheduling events allowing more exposure to good theatre organ music. Most of these events are open to the public at no charge.

Our latest show featured "Mr. Gentleman," Rex Koury, who always draws a large, appreciative audience in Rockford. In spite of limiting his professional engagements, Rex maintains a high level of expertise without sacrificing any of that mystique which bonds an audience to the artist. His version of *La Boheme*, rewritten for theatre organ, was well received. He also accompanied a Harold Lloyd silent movie, using many of the sound effects available on the Barton.

We also sponsor monthly socials at the Coronado Theatre, and guest artists are most complimentary about the Barton and its beautiful sound. After each social, open console allows members and guests to experience the thrill of playing it.

Recently, Richard Litterest of Rockford was our guest artist. He arranged an orchestration of "Peter and the Wolf" for theatre organ, us-



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Paul Sheffield, 15, winner of London & South of England Chapter's "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" competition. (John Sharp photo)



Dean Herrick Award for 1984 — David Redfern proudly takes over from Geoffrey Solomon, 1983 holder of the cup. (John Sharp photo)

ing the individual solo voices for the characters — a most enjoyable "first" for this writer. Another social featured Jack Jenkins from Springfield. This was one of the best-attended events we have had, and Jack entertained with a well-balanced program which inspired many members to get into the act during open console time.

An old-fashioned theatre party was held on New Year's Eve. Advertised as an alternate way to celebrate the arrival of 1985, a full evening of entertainment was provided. Chad Wierick displayed his musical magic on the grand piano located on the mezzanine. Bill Erlandson presided at the Barton prior to the showing of *Daddy Long Legs*, a vintage classic starring Fred Astaire. Magic acts and a balloon drop completed the celebration although an unexpected blizzard, dropping 12 inches of snow, was probably the climax of the evening.

Plans for the 1985 convention may include a side trip to Rockford. If so, it will enable more ATOS members to visit our theatre and hear our organ and discover for themselves why we call it the Grand Old Barton.

BARBARA NICOL



LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Whatever the constitutional or self-styled objectives of any leisure interest organization such as ours, the transcending one must be that it should be fun — whether playing, listening to, restoring and maintaining, or merely writing about our beloved instruments — and the enjoyment of the unique fellowship and camaraderie which our global society fosters. We fervently hope that our reports consistently portray this axiom which is definitely fulfilled in our very wide-ranging activities. As we approach our eighth birthday in May, with the welcome return of Rob Calcaterra planned for the event and a full program for the whole year already well advanced, we certainly completed 1984 in style.

Our last Chapter Club Night of the year was at the end of November, which we now traditionally reserve as the ultimate event of the year's reign of our Young Theatre Organist of the

Year to entertain members at close quarters at Edith and Les Rawle's magnificent 3/19 home Wurlitzer. Our guest was exceptionally talented 15-year-old David Redfern, from Belper in the Midlands county of Derbyshire, who not only provided a most polished and varied program but also displayed a correspondingly professional console appearance and manner. Keenly supported by his parents, David has already sought out and played 26 theatre pipe organs throughout the UK, and constant practice and learning is his commendably sensible approach. The result for all of us was much more than a characteristically happy Club Night — with all the usual trimmings that this implies at Wurlitzer Lodge — but another very reassuring vindication of our prime objective of encouraging new young theatre organ playing talent.

Our last "in-theatre" event of 1984 was tinged with considerable sadness. Necessarily organized at short notice, it was entitled "Tribute to the Regal" to commemorate the glittering 50-year cavalcade of entertainment provided by the Top Rank Club/Regal Edmonton — and most notably its

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world famous 4/15 Torch Christie theatre pipe organ — which closed in mid-December following a change of ownership pending redevelopment of its prominent North London site.

The obvious answer as to how to pay an appropriate "Golden Jubilee" farewell and tribute to the Regal was to focus on the endearing and enduring Christie that has been enjoyed by every generation through the five decades since the theatre opened in March, 1934, with the uniquely distinctive 22-year-old Sidney Torch at the console. Our first guest was popular young Michael Wooldridge who was the winner of our Young Organist Competition in 1980 and has recently recorded a superb cassette tape at Edmonton to perpetuate both the Big Band Style, which he has taken as his own, and the syncopated style of his famous mentor, Bobby Pagan (himself a star performer at the Regal in its halycon years).

Variety and the "true stuff" of

show business was perpetuated by the magical Peggy O'Farrell Children's Dancing Troupe who provide so much joy and professional entertainment in-theatre and on television. Byron Jones and Allun Davies from Wales then highlighted the keyboard and vocal combination which so often graced the stage of the Regal. But no tribute to the Regal Edmonton could be complete without renewing the memories of the legendary years of Sidney Torch and his lifetime work as one of Britain's finest all-round professional musicians. The obvious choice for this was William Davies who worked with and admired Torch through his many years of leadership of the outstanding BBC Radio series "Friday Night is Music Night." Finally, Dave Neale, the "Chief" who has so enthusiastically and lovingly cared for the Christie and has been such a bastion of strength and friendship to our technical team in recent years, completed our special show.

Together and separately, this veritable "Host of Stars" assembled at short notice thus truly completed "The Regal Story" in handsome style.

Fortunately, the sadness of the occasion (which attracted an audience of over 500) was softened by the fact that we have been entrusted with the organ and are, therefore, already casting around for a possible future home to perpetuate the sight and sound of what was considered by many to be one of the most versatile instruments ever to emerge from the Christie factory and described as "Truly a great monument to the theatre organ builder's art."

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From the opening notes of "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," Walt Strony's dedication program of the LATOS-owned Barton organ in the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre proved we have another major theatre organ installation in Los Angeles. The gala program on November 24 included a champagne reception prior to the concert and supper at the Hollywood Brown Derby afterward. Walt received a well-deserved standing ovation after his closing "1812 Overture," and then took requests for his "encore medley."

Our annual Christmas Party and Membership Meeting took place at the San Gabriel Auditorium on December 2. Members brought unwrapped children's gifts as the price of admission and over 150 were collected and given to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Beverly and



Entrants in the 1984 "Young Theatre Organists of the Year" competition. On the console bench are the first, second and third place winners. (John Sharp photo)

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Ralph Wolf playing a mini-concert on the 3/13 Wurlitzer at San Gabriel, following LATOS Christmas brunch and business meeting. (Zimfoto)



Peter Crotty, technical director; Bob Jackson, donor of a vibraharp for the Wilshire-Ebell Barton; and Ralph Sargent, president of LATOS. (Zimfoto)



Walt Strony acknowledges audience appreciation of his dedicatory program on the 3/13 Barton in the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre. (Zimfoto)



Gene Davis displays his Honorary Life Membership just presented by LATOS President Ralph Sargent. (Zimfoto)

Frank Rounds, with the help of the directors and a number of members, prepared a champagne buffet featuring lasagne and Turkey Tetrazzini. Following the party was the brief business meeting during which Gene Davis received an Honorary Lifetime Membership in both LATOS and ATOS in recognition of his years of dedication to theatre organ. Ralph Wolf was presented in concert at the 3/16 Wurlitzer to complete the festive holiday meeting. Although Ralph has traveled for years playing electronic organs, his love of theatre pipes shows in his playing, and we look forward to hearing him again soon.

Theatre organ music is back on radio in Los Angeles! On December 14



LATOS Christmas brunch on the stage of the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. 75 attended brunch and over 100 for the business meeting and concert following. (Zimfoto)

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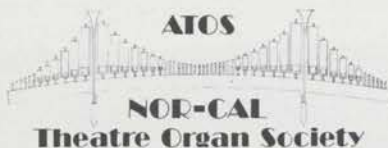
Bob Vaughn accompanied three MGM silents at the Castro Theatre in January. (Ed Mullins photo)



Jim Riggs at the Avenue Theatre 3/15 Wurlitzer during final concert. (Ed Mullins photo)

KPCC-FM started a weekly one-hour broadcast titled "Gee, Dad, It's a Wurlitzer!" Host is Hal Sanguinetti, a staff announcer at KPCC, who just happened to play a recording by Gaylord Carter one evening and had a number of calls from listeners demanding more organ music. Hal contacted us, and several of our members are working with him now to assure that theatre organ music stays on the air in Los Angeles.

RALPH BEAUDRY



San Francisco Bay Area
415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Jim Riggs played the final Nor-Cal concert at the Avenue 3/15 Wurlitzer on November 18. The organ was originally installed in Chicago's State-Lake Theatre, which also closed the same month. Riggs made the trip from Tucson, Arizona, to play the concert and record the organ before it was dismantled.

The console came up on the Bartola lift with "Young and Healthy" from 42nd Street. It was followed by a con-

cocted Sidney Torch arrangement of "Isn't it Heavenly." A folk-tune medley led into "Would You Like to Take A Walk?" played in the style of Lew White, New York Roxie organist of the 1930s. Jim used a "Grumpaphone" in the last chorus; this registration employed a 16' Tuba and Tibia, and an 8' English Horn, Trumpet and Tibia combination played snappily in the bottom octave. An actual 1937 Sidney Torch arrangement of "12th Street Rag" followed, with a sing-along of eight Christmas carols after that, using song slides from his collection. Riggs is slated to appear on the program for "Pipes Alive in '85" in Chicago, August 3-7. With

artists of this caliber on the program, the convention should be a real winner.

Following intermission, Chairman Lowell Wendell again introduced Riggs as he rode up to "Paramount on Parade." Jim "dervished" the Wurlitzer when he played "I'm the Girlfriend of the Whirling Dervish" from a Warner Brothers musical. Jim is noted for favoring music of the '20s and '30s. He also plays the verses, as is his wont. Jim's final number was Fats Waller's "Honeysuckle Rose." For an encore, he played Ben Bernie's theme "au Revoir," and with that the final curtain for the Avenue Wurlitzer, as we knew it, neared.



Bob Vaughn and Father Gerard Kerr at the 3/6 Compton in St. John Vianney Church, Clayhall, Ilford, Fr. Kerr installed the organ in 1968. Vaughn dedicated the electronic Compton in Fr. Kerr's new parish. (Ed Mullins photo)



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The Avenue organ crew feverishly began the Herculean task of dismantling the organ and closing down. The last silent movie with pipe organ was December 7. Bob Vaughn played the following two Friday films using a Baldwin electronic. The staff was in the house until late New Year's Eve to meet the January 1 deadline when a \$50-per-day rent would begin. They completed the job in the nick of time.

On New Year's Day radio station KQED-FM broadcast Riggs' concert except for the sing-along. They also gave some nice publicity to Nor-Cal and ATOS. They also requested anyone who knew of a suitable location to contact Geoff Hansen as they are seeking a new home for the Wurlitzer. The organ is not for sale; it will rise again.

San Francisco's Castro Theatre ran three M-G-M silent films in January accompanied by Bob Vaughn at the 4/18 Wurlitzer. Bob is now the "Silver-Haired Granddaddy." His son Bill and wife Judy presented him with a grandson, Matthew David. Bob's wife, Frances, was killed in a tragic automobile accident October 18, 1982. Vaughn recently was in England where he dedicated a Compton electronic organ at Father Gerard Kerr's Church of St. Anne Line in South Woodford. Bob attended a screening of *The Thief of Bagdad* at London's Dominion Theatre on December 1 as guest of Kevin Brownlow. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. introduced the film which starred his father. Vaughn related to Fairbanks that he was probably one of the few people there who had seen the film when it premiered at the Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood in 1924. Carl Davis conducted the 60-piece Philharmonic Orchestra which accompanied the film.

ED MULLINS



What to do with it? Santa has a problem. (CN photo)

OREGON Portland

503/639-9543 or 503/771-8098

Our annual business meeting/dinner/show took place in Sherwood, Oregon, about 20 miles southwest of



Paul Quarino, featured artist at the Christmas program, presents Mogul, the Theatre Cat, to the audience at the Sherwood Oriental Theatre. (CN photo)

Portland, on December 9. Dinner was served in the Sherwood American Legion Hall, and Chairman Marie Briody conducted the meeting which was held to a minimum of business as all were eager to make the short walk to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre for an



Paul thanks Loren Minear for some last-minute help in voicing and tuning the 3/8 Wurlitzer.

(CN photo)

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Santa plays the Wurlitzer at the Sherwood Oriental Theatre.

(CN photo)



Terry Robson and Marie Briody award door prizes at the Christmas program.

(CN photo)

afternoon of music, movies and merriment featuring our own Paul Quarino.

And a 3-M program it was! The theatre portion was open to the public, and the audience had doubled by the time Paul, nattily attired in a black tuxedo, came down the aisle carrying a briefcase labeled "Supplies

'n Stuff" and a cardboard box which he placed, without comment, on the railing in front of the Wurlitzer. He brought the organ up with an upbeat "Great Day" medley which set the mood of the show. He added to the lighthearted nostalgia when he opened the box and revealed his twelve-year collection of Organ

Grinder ties — long ties, bow ties, plain and print ties in a cavalcade of color. More organ music, a Lew White "sing-along," a series of antique glass slides of old advertisements and admonitions to the audience, and a brilliantly cued *Big Business* were accentuated by the fact that Paul kept disappearing and returning

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in different outfits, a blue paisley jacket, a black and white print jacket and, at intermission, a brown plaid jacket.

During intermission, door prizes were awarded by Marie Briody and Terry Robson, and Paul introduced theatre owners Bob Rothschild and Gene Stoller and Mogul, the Theatre Cat (you've heard of church mice?). He also introduced Katherine Marks and a charming couple, Anna and Henry Hahn, now in their eighties, who helped bring the theatre's Wurlitzer from Illinois to Portland in 1965.

The second half of the show, however, found the briefcase still on the railing by the organ and Paul in a blue plaid jacket. A sing-along with slides and, to the total delight of the audience, a number of Christmas songs highlighted this half and were followed by Laurel and Hardy's sound film, *Dirty Work*. Once again, Paul disappeared, but this time it was not Paul who returned. The crowd was amazed to see Santa Claus come bouncing down the aisle. Could Santa play a Wurlitzer? He could, and he did! Never had that little theatre heard such a sparkling version of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," complete with wrist-bells! And then, at last we were to learn what was in the briefcase — the suspense was electric! Santa reached slowly into the bag and — could we stand it?? — pulled out a mechanical clapping monkey!! He wistfully commented, "I would have used him in my program, but I didn't know what to do with him." The audience forgave him with prolonged applause, and the Yuletide spirit prevailed as Santa took the monkey and the Wurlitzer down into the pit.

On that happy note, we left with the feeling that 1984 will be a hard year to top, but we'll try!

GRACE E. MCGINNIS

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Use of the organ in the Seattle Paramount for public performance has begun to generate interest and to increase the pride and enthusiasm we share in this project. Don Myers and a volunteer crew have made it possible for the general public to again appreciate the magnificence of this beautiful instrument.

In December, the Paul Winter Consort presented a celebration of the Winter Solstice which involved many local instrumentalists and the Seattle Oratorio Society. Paul Halley, organist at St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City, provided organ accompaniment. The following week, Paul Olson, of Seattle, accompanied the Seattle Choral Society and the Seattle Oratorio Society in a program of Christmas music.

At this writing, a 40-member pit orchestra of Seattle Symphony players has begun rehearsal with Dennis James at the organ for *Robin Hood*, the first of three silent films to be screened this winter. Carl Daehler, the conductor who has worked with Dennis since the Detroit Convention performance, is conducting the group using a version of the original score which has been carefully modified by Dennis.

The refurbishing of the theatre and the organ has progressed, and gleaming brass and sparkling chandeliers throughout the building complement the newly restored gold leafing on the organ. Somewhat extensive damage to the pit area, railing and console caused by a surging crowd "showing its appreciation" (??) following a recent rock concert has been repaired. The insurance held by the theatre will cover the cost of repairing the damage done to the console by people falling

into the pit onto the organ. Media coverage of the film festival has been outstanding, and the house is sold out for the first performance.

In a recent press release to *Variety* and *Box Office* magazines, the management of the Neptune Theatre announced plans for a pipe organ installation. The theatre, in the colorful University District, has been quite successful with a seven-night per week schedule of classic and vintage films in addition to recent releases. Later in the year, the organ will be used during intermission on weekends as well as for periodic silent film accompaniment. The instrument, recently acquired by Mike Wallace, has grown to a 2/12 hybrid Robert-Morton while being refurbished and lovingly cared for by Ginny Whitting and Don Myers. The beautiful antiqued mahogany console, originally from the Liberty Theatre in La Grande, Oregon, was reportedly once played by Marcel Dupré while in the home of a former owner. More additions are planned as the theatre has two enormous chambers which formerly housed a 15-rank Kimball without mitering. The Solo chamber is 29' x 22' with a 22' ceiling; a smaller chamber will hold the traps and relay. The theatre is clean and well-managed, and Mike reports a considerable degree of enthusiasm and cooperation on the part of the management.

DIANE WHIPPLE

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On December 30 we gathered at Whatley Chapel on the campus of the former Colorado Women's College, now part of Denver University. This modern Gothic chapel was constructed in 1962 and contains 39 beautiful stained-glass windows designed by

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Loire of France. Vice-President-elect Dorothy Retallack gave a description of the religious and social significance of the subject matter in each of the windows.

The artist of the day was Phyllis Tremmel, an organ instructor with Denver University and an organist at Whatley Chapel. Ms. Tremmel, who was highly involved in the design of the chapel and the 3/51 Reuter organ, explained how the installation of the organ takes full advantage of the acoustics of the chapel. She demonstrated each available sound and in-

cluded in her program the beautiful Richard Purvis arrangement of "Greensleeves" and the "Fugue in D Minor" by Bach. Ms. Tremmel also played "Evergreen" to show how this number, which is frequently done so beautifully on theatre organ, might be treated on a classical instrument. Members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, which demonstrated that interest can be shared between those interested in the classical instrument and those interested in the theatre organ.

PATTI SIMON



Phyllis Tremmel, chapel organist, at the console of the 3/51 Reuter organ in Whatley Chapel, Denver University. (Ed Zollman photo)



Organ and choir loft, Whatley Chapel, Denver University.

(Ed Zollman photo)

SAN DIEGO California

619/561-2269 or 619/336-0532

Our annual Christmas party at Wrigley Hall was a huge success with a good turnout of both members and good food. A short business meeting and election of officers was followed by a potluck dinner and open console on the Hammond.

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Our 1985 concert season opened with Dennis James presenting an evening of exciting adventure and delightful entertainment to a very responsive audience. He first introduced talented tenor Thom Gall who created the spirit of the twenties with a series of songs, accompanied by appropriate slides. The highlight of the evening was Dennis' accompaniment of the silent classic *The Mark of Zorro*. Our 1985 concert season includes Tommy Stark and the Laurel and Hardy Club on April 20, Hector Olivera on June 1, Walt Strony on October 12 and Gaylord Carter with silent films on November 16.

Our Wurlitzer will be out of service for the summer to allow completion of the five-rank addition to the Main chamber, a newly acquired 32' wood Diaphone rank and a solid-state computer capture system in the console.

WAYNE SEPPALA

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Those few who attended our November meeting at Tulsa's Shotgun Sam's Pizza Parlor enjoyed an unexpected treat. At the close of the meal, new member Bill McMahon graciously invited us to his home to view and play his Kilgen "Petite Ensemble" pipe organ. As he showed us the 4-ranks-with-chimes (blower included) in its enclosed cabinet, styled as a "breakfront," he explained that it had been designed as Kilgen's answer to the electronic Hammond. Built some 50 years ago, it had been advertised as a real pipe organ for about the same price as an electronic and would occupy about as much space. Bill acquired it from an estate in Oklahoma City. We saw the pipes in their cabinet in his entrance hall with absolutely *no* wasted space; the pedal pipes were mitered twice to fit around the corners!

The two-manual "spinnet" console with an AGO full pedalboard was in the living room. Lynda Burns and Dorothy Smith played it (and Vic Thomas, afterward) — it was fun! He also let us see his beautiful newly remodeled kitchen. It's got everything you can possibly imagine, including four lighted stain-glass cupboard doors, made from his own design, of the four major classes of food.

Our December meeting was our annual Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall of Central Assembly of God Church. Some 30 members and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and then adjourned to the sanctuary for music on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. It was Christmas all the way, played by Lorene Thomas, Phil Judkins, Luther Eulert, Gary Schaum and Dorothy Smith.

A number of our members also enjoyed a too-sparsely attended concert of Christmas music played by Wally Brown on the 4/21 Wurlitzer in Christ Chapel on the campus of Oral Robert University early in December.

DOROTHY SMITH

Miami
305/448-7361
or
305/443-2651

We combined a business meeting with a Christmas concert on December 7 at the home of Mildred and Calvin Jureit. New officers were elected, and departing President Michael Kinker reviewed the year and thanked all the outgoing officers. Dues have been raised to \$18 a year for a single membership, but chapter-sponsored con-

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certs will be free to members. Dues had been five dollars for years.

The delightful Christmas concert was performed by a popular duo, Bill Hastings at the Jureit's pipe organ and Joe Colliano at the Yamaha grand piano. These artists are members of both South Florida and Eastern Massachusetts chapters. The first half of the concert found Hastings in solo performance offering renditions of "Great Day," "The Way You Look" and "Three Kings Fantasy." Then Colliano joined him for duets of "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" and a Gershwin symphony featuring "Rhapsody in Blue" at the beginning and the end. Hastings remarked that "Gershwin . . . is always a Christmas present." The second half of the program found Hastings back at the organ performing several Christmas tunes followed by a piano/organ duet of a Cole Porter medley and a salute to Christmas with more carols. "Deep Purple" was the last duet of the evening.

Allen Miller, National Board member, was a guest. Miller's parents are members of our chapter. Miller discussed the unique electronic reverber-

ation system installed in the Jureit's pipe organ.

JO WERNE



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Ohio

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We are moving ahead! In January, new officers were installed, and an aggressive campaign was undertaken to restore the former Rivoli Marr & Colton theatre pipe organ. Our new president, Evan J. Chase, has restored two theatre organs and currently has a movie palace in his home with a 2/5 theatre organ.

There is lots of positive progress on the Marr & Colton and its new home, the Ohio Theatre in Toledo. Built in 1921, the Ohio Theatre was a large neighborhood vaudeville/movie house. The current owner, St. Hedwig's Church, is making considerable headway in restoring and upgrading the theatre. Last year a volunteer work party restored in detail the old marquee. The organ crew has good

news, too. The Main chamber has been assembled and winded and is ready to go. The electronic relay is now being finished. The organ crew deserves much credit for sticking with this project in spite of terrible setbacks. The Toledo area will now have a theatre pipe organ in an historic theatre of which they can be proud!



*American
Theatre Organ
Society*

VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Contrary to popular belief, we have not been spirited away to some Never-Never Land never to be heard from again! We are still alive, fairly well and moderately active. Because it has been some time since we have been seen in print, this will serve as a review of 1984 and a look ahead to 1985.

Our January, 1984, meeting was held at Yesterday's, a restaurant of nostalgia, where member David Lindsay is the musical director, and he and some of his singing waiters and waitresses entertained us during a very nice luncheon. In February we met at the Mesa Organ Stop pizza restaurant where several members enjoyed open console at the Wurlitzer. Springtime brought beautiful weather and a March meeting at the home of Ray and Ione Danford where Johnny Harris played for us on their home installation. Johnny was to play for us again in April at the Mesa pizza restaurant but was unable to keep the date, so manager Mike Everitt, outfitted in Addidas, shorts and a T-shirt, filled in for him at the last minute.



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Mike plays well no matter what he's wearing. Our May meeting was held June 3 (it's a long story!) at the Valley of the Sun Center where Lyn Larsen played the organ for us. June found us at Phoenix Organ Stop with a program by Walt Strony.

A potluck luncheon at the home of Lily and Leo Carrero in July featured Johnny Harris at their electronic organ and reports from some of our members who had attended the National Convention. In August, Dick and Evelyn Keith, of Prescott, hosted us with a program on their theatre organ installation plus an excellent men's singing group. Always a treat is a visit to the home of Bill and Barbara Brown. Last year it was September, and we were entertained by Walt Strony. Our October meeting followed the Lyn Larsen/Tony Fenelon concert at the Valley of the Sun Center. Elections were held at the November meeting at the Mesa Organ Stop after which we listened to Lew Williams at the organ. We made a return visit to the home of Glenn and Barbara Van Diver for our Christmas party. Following a delicious potluck dinner, we heard songs of the season from Lyn Larsen at the Van Diver's theatre organ. A sing-along with Ron Rhode was fun after the dessert.

On January 13, 1985, our meeting was held at the Phoenix Organ Stop with music by Mr. Strony and songs by tenor Don Morgan. Don has been singing a few numbers at the restaurant on Thursday and Friday evenings.

In addition to all this fun and frivolity, we continue to work on the Phoenix College Wurlitzer and some of our members' home installations. We are anxious to find a home for the club-owned Marr & Colton. We look forward to a busy year.

MADLINE LIVOLSI



Maestro John Muri about to make music.

(Fred Page photo)



WOLVERINE CHAPTER
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Our November meeting was held at the Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac. Veteran organist John Muri had happily accepted the invitation from owners Gary Montgomery and H. C. Scott to come and play a special pre-Thanksgiving concert on the 3/22 Wurlitzer for his Wolverine friends. John took us on a real joyride through the land of evergreens, all the way from 1896 to the present. After John's well-chosen and well-received program, staff organist John Steele entertained us while we were "refueling."

In December we had our traditional "Christmas at Wurlitzer House." This gathering had special meaning as it was our "last (potluck) supper" at Wurlitzer House. Hosts Voydanoff

and Rank are going to relocate near Algonac, so our 1985 Christmas meeting must find a new home. This ends a string of 14 cherished Christmas gatherings in Dave and Glenn's home. Again, we were happy to welcome John Muri at this event, especially since we learned that John is going to resettle in Atlanta, Georgia, in search of a warmer climate. We wish John well in his new surroundings. We owe a "Thank you" to Dennis Minear for bringing John to the meeting. Dennis and several members added their talents to those of John to provide the musical backdrop for our Christmas feast, which itself was so beautifully "orchestrated" by our dear Betty Heffer and her helpers. The annual meeting, which took place during this event, was "short and sweet," and the important business of establishing the board for 1985 was quickly accomplished so we could return to the celebration of Christmas.

CHARLES AND BETTY BAAS □

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