

tributing editor/arranger for Sheet Music Magazine, was selected to arrange the smash hit, "We Are the World." All proceeds from the song are to be used to provide relief for the hunger crisis in Ethiopia. Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, and group recorded by nearly every well-known contemporary pop singer, the tune has already exceeded all sales expectations. Dave's easy organ arrangement is available in most music stores.

Back Issues of *The Console* Available

All remaining back issues of *The Console* have been donated to the Kansas City Theatre Organ, Inc. group, and funds realized from the sale of back copies will go toward the cost of installing the 4/23 Robert-Morton organ in the municipally-owned Music Hall.

Robert Maes, a member of the organization, hauled approximately 18 to 20,000 back issues of the magazine to Kansas City, Kansas, and has placed them in a warehouse. The issues, representing over 20 years publishing, have been arranged in monthly order by year and listings are available to anyone requesting them.

To facilitate mailing, it is requested that a large business envelope, stamped and self-addressed, be sent to Robert Maes, 1401 Fairfax Terrace, Room 331, Building D, Kansas City, Kansas 66115.

THS Chicago Theatre Book Available to ATOS Members

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Chicago Theatre, the Theatre Historical Society of America published a special 50-page book with the theatre story by Peter Miller, the Wurlitzer story by George Wright and notes by THS Director Joseph Duci Bella. THS is offering this issue and other back issues to ATOS members at the same price available to their members until the supply is exhausted. Information as to availability and prices will be sent to any ATOS member by the THS Chicago office. Address inquiries to: THS Archives, 2215 West North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60647. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. □

Closing Chord

Popular Portland organist Don Simmons passed away on March 3 having lost a lengthy battle with cancer. Don lived in Portland all of his 57 years except for a period of Navy duty during World War II. He spent close to 30 years as a skating rink organist.

Although he was best known as the organist at the Oaks Park Skating Rink, Don also played for the Imperial rink, for the Three Star and Anchorage restaurants, for local theatres, radio and television stations and, for 11 years, the Organ Grinder Restaurant. Don once told me that he remembered playing both rink organs in their original installations, the Oaks Wurlitzer in the Broadway Theatre and the Imperial Wurlitzer when it was in the Hollywood Theatre. He also remembered playing the Organ Grinder Wurlitzer when it was in the Oriental Theatre.

Don was known for this pipe organ jazz arrangements and had made several recordings of his jazz stylings. Another recording field that he excelled in was "music to skate by," and these discs are still in use in skating rinks all over the world. He also taught for many years in his organ studio.



Don Simmons

(Claude Neuffer photo)

Don always had a funny story or joke to tell, no matter what time of the day or night. My favorite one-liner from our Organ Grinder days was his classic at the start of each set, "If you need me, I'll be up at the organ."

Don is survived by his wife, Deborah; his son, David; and his parents Harry and Lucille Simmons of Portland.

PAUL QUARINO

It is on a sad note that I inform you of the passing of a true friend of the theatre organ in the Pacific Northwest. **Edward "Eddie" Pollock**, 36, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, passed away on February 23 following a short illness. He was a lifelong resident of Mt. Vernon, and his family has owned and operated the Lincoln Theatre there since its construction in 1926.

I met Eddie in 1977 when we decided to restore the Lincoln Theatre's Style D Special Wurlitzer. He later joined ATOS, and the theatre and Wurlitzer were always open to anyone who wanted to come in and play. When the Peace Arch Organ Society was founded in 1983, the theatre was always available for concerts or meetings, and Puget Sound Chapter could also meet there when they desired. Eddie was involved in many community affairs and was a substitute cameraman covering sporting events for some of Seattle's television stations. He also worked with the Forest Service and the Skagit County Sheriff's Department.

A get-together for family and friends was held of March 10 at the Lincoln Theatre. Jeffrey Fox was at the Wurlitzer providing the music. A friend to all and always willing to help, Eddie is survived by his father, Elden, two brothers and one sister.

Eddie, we will miss you greatly.

JEFFREY A. FOX

It is with sadness that Rocky Mountain Chapter notes the passing of **Guy C. Powell** on December 22, 1984 at the age of 69.

Guy graduated from Vandercook School of Music in Chicago in 1938, and taught in the LaSalle-Peru public schools in Illinois from 1938 to 1940. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was commissioned, and he retired from the Air Force in 1973 after 30 years of service. One of his jobs in the

service was that of Band Conductor.

Guy was a past president of Rocky Mountain Chapter and had served as concert chairman for several successful concerts. He was also a member of the Paramount Foundation of Historic Denver and was active in efforts to restore and maintain the 4/22 Wurlitzer in the Denver Paramount Theatre. His affiliations included the National Piano Technicians Guild and the National and Mile High Retired Officers Associations. Guy is survived by his wife, Ruth.

Guy was a gentleman whose thoughtful, quiet demeanor coupled with his ability to organize and provide leadership aided our chapter in its growth and its successful concerts. He will be missed.

PATTI SIMON

Central Ohio Theatre Organ Society mourns the passing of long-time member **Stanley Jay** on February 23. Stan, a true organ enthusiast, was an accomplished musician who felt equally at home at the piano, his electronic Hammond or the theatre organ. His jazz style tempos really added zest to our meetings. Stan also contributed to COTOS in many other ways through his philanthropy and participation with the organ crew. His credentials included a degree in engineering and a M.S. in Science. His memory will be with us always.

JOHN R. POLSLEY □

Letters to the Editors

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

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

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

Dear Bob:

I wish to respond to Allen Miller's letter in the November/December issue, in which he comments on my answers in the technical column on the Diaphone and Tuba problems.

First of all, for a professional organ builder who is a colleague to make the statement "... but in cases where the information given does not completely cover the problem, such information is of questionable value." reflects an overly harsh response on the part of my fellow organ builder, Allen Miller.

I have absolutely no objection to him or anyone else adding to what I have written if they feel it will help the person submitting the question. We all learn a little more from it perhaps. His statement was cruel, to say the least.

With regard to the Diaphone, the problem stated was a specific problem requiring a specific solution, which I

expounded upon in my column. The solution DID correct the problem. Most of his letter dealt with other problems that could crop up in Diaphones, most of which I had already covered in my previous columns on Diaphones. Nevertheless, I appreciate his reviewing this for the benefit of our readers.

Mr. Miller also seemed to feel that I had not explained how to regulate the pipe by use of the scroll and wire. I quote from the second to last paragraph of my answer to the question on the Tuba pipe: "To soften the pipe, push the wire down to the proper softness and retune by raising the scroll." I don't know how I could make this more clear than what was stated.

Sincerely,
Lance E. Johnson,
Fargo, North Dakota

Dear Bob:

With the advent of stereo TV-video it would seem that ATOS should be encouraging artists, local chapters and individual members to videotape organ concerts, restoration activities, home installations, open console sessions, etc., for the ATOS Archives or for loan, rental or sale to interested parties. Since its inception THEATRE ORGAN has been a valuable source of information concerning audio recordings, published theatre organ music and relevant printed materials. Why not some *video* news and reviews in these pages?

For example, a flyer came across my desk recently announcing 16 silent movie classics with original organ (Hammond B-3000) scores by none other than Rosa Rio. The flyer claims that films have been processed at the correct 16-frames-per-second speed. Lee Erwin reports that he has scored more than a hundred silents on theatre pipes (are these available in the

**THE VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
ANNOUNCES A . . .**

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**THANKSGIVING
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Featuring Many of the Country's Finest Theatre Organs and Artists

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Dennis James
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and others!

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Organ Stop Phoenix — 4/32 Wurlitzer
Organ Stop Mesa — 4/23 Wurlitzer
Bill Brown Residence — 5/21 Wurlitzer
Phoenix College — 2/9 Wurlitzer
and others!

Plans Are Still In the Works!

WATCH FOR COMPLETE DETAILS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THEATRE ORGAN