



## BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF THEATRE ORGANISTS

by Dr. John W. Landon

### BECK, FRED

Theatre organist in the Chicago area. Beck rented a studio complete with a pipe organ in the Wurlitzer Building in Chicago. He used it not only for teaching but also supplied his services to Radio Station WJJD, Mooseheart, Illinois, whenever required. WJJD was in the process of installing an organ in their own studios and so their contract with Beck included not only his services as organist but the organ in his rented studio. At different times he rented three different locations to supply WJJD with the programs they desired.

### BECK, OTTO F.

Theatre organist in the Washington, D.C., area during most of his professional life. Was organist of the Rialto Theatre in New York City in 1922. In 1925 he joined the staff of the Tivoli Theatre in Washington, D.C. Also played the Auditorium Theatre in Washington that year. In 1927 he played the Rialto Theatre in Washington in January, but spent most of his time as organist of the Tivoli Theatre. He continued at the Tivoli Theatre until the early 1930s. He had a midnight radio broadcast over NBC from that theatre.

### BECK, R. E.

Organist of Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, California, in 1925.

### BECKER, REINE E.

Theatre organist in the Los Angeles area. Was Vice President of the Los Angeles Society of Theatre Organists in 1923. Organist of the Ravenna Theatre in Los Angeles in 1925.

### BECKETT, HAROLD

Organist of Loew's Premier The-

atre in New York City in 1927. Organist of the Roxy Theatre, New York City, in the 1940s, including the post-World War II years.

### BEEBE, CHESTER H.

Organist of Loew's Bijou Theatre in New York City in 1927. In September of 1927, he became an instructor at the Wurlitzer Organ School in New York City.

### BEHREND, NETTIE

Organist of the Lark Theatre in Brazil, Indiana, in 1928.

### BELLOMY, DAN

Bellomy is a native of Houston, Texas, where he began playing the organ at age eight. He began his professional career at age eleven.

Bellomy has been active in radio and television work for a number of years, having made his television debut at the age of eleven. In later years he has made solo appearances and has served as writer and musical director of several shows. He was the first resident organist at the Wurlitzer of the Casa Manana Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition to playing concerts within the United States, Bellomy has performed in such places as Australia, Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. He has served as record reviewer for *Keyboard World* and *The Console* magazines. He has five albums to his credit, including "Power Pipes," which was recorded on the Wurlitzer located in the Organ Grinder Restaurant, Portland, Oregon.

Bellomy currently makes his home in the Portland, Oregon, area where he teaches in addition to being a staff organist at the Organ Grinder Restaurant.

### BENDER, BURTON J.

Born February 2, 1903, in Whitehouse, Ohio. He studied piano for seven years with Flo Rakestraw and later with Will Hamilton, a piano teacher from Maumee, Ohio. He studied organ with Leon Idoine, and practiced the organ at the United Brethren Church on Cherry Street in Toledo, Ohio. From 1925 to 1928 he was organist at the Palace Theatre in Toledo, and from 1928 to 1929 at the Rivoli Theatre in Toledo. During these years, he also played at the Loew's Valentine Theatre, the Pantheon Theatre and the Vita Temple Theatre. The advent of sound films put him out of employment for a while, but soon he was playing at the Press Club nightly on the Hammond organ. In more recent years he played at Ann's Restaurant in Whitehouse, Ohio. □

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