

NUGGETS
from the
GOLDEN DAYS

Prospected
by Lloyd E. Klos



Let's see where some of the organists were broadcasting in the great days. Reference was *Local Press (LP)*.

March 15, 1923 WOC, Davenport, Iowa, is airing a 7 p.m. organ concert, featuring JOHN W. CASTRO.

March 24, 1923 Dr. CHARLES HEINROTH is featured on the Carnegie Music Hall organ over KDKA, Pittsburgh, this evening.

April 15, 1923 WEAF in New York is presenting G. H. FEDEREIN, organist of the First Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey, in a recital from the Skinner Organ Co. Auditorium this evening for one hour, beginning at nine.

July 6, 1923 WJZ, New York, is presenting J. T. NOE in a concert, using the Wanamaker organ, the newest and largest in the city, at 8 p.m. (Six days later, ALEXANDER RUSSELL, concert director of Wanamaker's, presented another recital over WJZ on that instrument.)

February 11, 1924 KDKA, Pittsburgh, is presenting an organ recital this evening from the Ritz Theatre. HOWARD R. WEBB is the artist.

May 8, 1924 WHAM, Rochester, will present an organ program tonight from the studio in the Eastman Theatre, with JOHN F. HAMMOND at the console.

January 7, 1925 WCCO, Minneapolis-St. Paul, will present HUGO PHILLER GOODWIN, Municipal Organist of St. Paul, in an evening recital.

November 4, 1925 WHAD, Milwaukee, presents EDMUND FITCH in an organ concert this evening.

December 9, 1925 A midnight organ recital, given by LEO TERRY of the Capitol Theatre in Chicago, is a new feature of WOK. Mr. Terry is known as a musician of exceptional talent, and numerous letters, complimenting him upon his performances, have been received from radio fans since the hookup of WOK with the Capitol last week.

October 2, 1926 One of the outstanding features of the weekly broadcasts from the Capitol Theatre in Springfield, Massachusetts, by Westinghouse Station WJZ, is the period allotted to the organ recitals by RENE DAGENAIS, who has been heard since the broadcasts were inaugurated from this pickup point.

The problem of broadcasting organ music with any degree of success, is one which has given broadcasting engineers a great deal of food for thought. In this particular instance, however, due in a large extent to the interest of Mr. Dagenais, the engineers of WJZ have succeeded in producing organ sound of exceptional quality. Mr. Dagenais, upon learning of the intention to use the Capitol Theatre instrument, volunteered his services in the experimental work.

The organ is a three-manual Austin of 30 stops. Through many years of motion picture work, this musician has attained an almost unlimited repertoire of standard concert and late popular numbers which permit him to cue the pictures with the minutest detail.

Mr. Dagenais at 12 was singing in the chorus of the Church of the Precious Blood in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Under the pseudonym of Bobby Burns, he began his career in theatres as soloist for illustrated songs. He states that one of the most disconcerting experiences of those days was the necessity for procuring a permit from the mayors of towns in his circuit, because of his being under age. At the time his voice began to change, and unwilling to give up his contact with music, he began serious study of piano under circumstances which only an indomitable spirit could overcome. Much of his knowledge of piano was gained from his first theatre position at the time when theatres used only piano and drums as an orchestra. This was at the old Palace in Holyoke, a movie house no longer existent.

October 19, 1926 WBZ, Springfield, Massachusetts, is presenting ARTHUR CLIFTON from the Estey Organ Studio in Boston, starting at 6:15 p.m.

October 28, 1926 WGY, Schenectady, New York, will present organist STEPHEN E. BOISCLAIRE from the Mark Ritz Theatre in Albany at 10:30 p.m.

January 27, 1927 WLS, Chicago, will feature RALPH WALDO EMERSON and ELSIE MAY LOOK in "Organ Sketches" tonight at 11:30. (Two nights later, AL MELGARD began a recital at 7:10 on the same station.)

February 19, 1927 Alternating at the Eastman Theatre's 4/155 Austin organ over WHAM, Rochester, are ROBERT BERENTSEN, HAROLD OSBORN SMITH and BEATRICE RYAN.

May 31, 1927 Chicago's BASEL CRISTOL is the Tivoli Theatre's featured organist, and is heard almost every afternoon over WCBN, directly from the theatre.

December 10, 1928 WOC, Davenport, Iowa, is featuring organist AL CARNEY, while WSUI in Iowa City has been presenting programs from the Pastime Theatre.

August 6, 1929 Over the CBS Network tonight from New York, will be presented "JESSE CRAWFORD and His Bag of Tricks."

GOLD DUST: More broadcasting organists included: 1/25 ARTHUR BLAKELY, over KHJ, Los Angeles; LLOYD DEL CASTILLO, WEEI, Boston; ERWIN SWINDELL, WOC, Davenport, Iowa; RALPH WALDO EMERSON, WLS, Chicago; L. CARLOS MEIER, WHO, Des Moines; HARRY O. NICHOLS, WMC, Memphis; THEODORE IRWIN, KPO, San Francisco; DWIGHT BROWN, WFFA, Dallas . . . 2/25 VINCENT PERRY, WEAR, Cleveland . . . 3/25 CLEMENT BARKER, KLX, Oakland; EDWIN ARTHUR KRAFT, WTAM, Cleveland . . . 4/25 Dr. SHELDON, WSB, Atlanta; MARY VOGT, WOO, Philadelphia . . . 8/25 ARTHUR HAYS, WOAW, Omaha . . . 10/25 CLARENCE BAWDEN, WOO, Philadelphia . . . 11/25 LOUIS CULP, Hot Springs; CHANDLER GOLDTHWAITE & GUY FILKINS, WAHG, Richmond Hill, New York; JOSEPH BEEBE, WTIC, Hartford; WILLIAM METCALF, WTAM, Cleveland . . . 12/25 ELMER TIDMARSH, WGY, Schenectady; ARTHUR CURTAIN, WBZ, Springfield; ARTHUR BROOK, WPS, Atlantic City . . . 1/26 LAWRENCE REID, KTHS, Hot Springs; KARL BONAWITZ, WPG, Atlantic City; GORDON NEVIN, WAHG, Richmond Hill, New York . . . 2/26 FREDERICK WEAVER, WBAL, Baltimore.

That should do it for now. So long, sourdoughs!

Jason & the Old Prospector □