

Closing Chord

Jack C. Coxon of Portland, Oregon, passed away on April 20 following a heart attack; he was 63 years old. Jack, who loved playing theatre organ as much as his fans loved him, had played the closing shift at the Organ Grinder the night before he was stricken.



Jack Coxon (Claude Neuffer photo)

Jack was, for 20 years, a telegrapher and dispatcher for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and, for the past 14 years, worked as a technical illustrator for the A-Dec Company in Newburg. During his entire adult life, however, his first love was the organ, and when he lived in Coos Bay (1962-1971), he was heard regularly on the Egyptian Theatre's 4/18 Wurlitzer and on his Hammond X77 at the Chandler Hotel's Sky Room. For a number of years he accompanied the Astoria Clowns on the calliope when they performed at the Rhododendron Festival in Florence. When he moved to the Portland area in 1971, he played his Hammond in many area night-clubs and, in 1973, joined the staff at the Portland Organ Grinder. In 1983, he added Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza in Vancouver, Washington, to his schedule and, as a result, could be heard in one place or the other almost every night.

Jack had a large and loyal following and was as greatly loved for his wonderful sense of humor as he was for his music. He had an unlimited repertoire of railroad stories and songs and unfailingly evoked smiles or laughter from his fans each time he made his way up to the organ. The oth-

er staff organists at the Organ Grinder appreciated the fact that Jack was as close as a phone call and was always willing to come in and cover if we couldn't meet a shift. He was well-liked by all who knew him, and he will be missed.

Jack is survived by his wife, Adabelle, four children and six grandchildren.

PAUL QUARINO □

Note: See page 9 for the special Closing Chord of Reginald Dixon.

Harry Koenig lost his battle with cancer on April 9, but he will be remembered for the happiness he brought to people with his music. He was a talented pianist and organist. He was also a warm, life-loving, people-loving human being.

Harry was born in Danzig, Germany, in 1909 and came to this country when he was 14 years of age. His musical career started at age 17 when he became a professional organist accompanying silent films in theatres. He was also a concert pianist and leader of an orchestra that performed at hotel weddings. Later he established himself as an insurance consultant.

When he became a member of ATOS in 1973 his interest in theatre pipe organ was revived and he performed for various chapters around the country and as far away as New Zealand.

In 1969 he had his first bout with cancer and doctors gave him three to six months. However, Harry was able to make a satisfactory recovery after he offered himself for experimental surgery. He then put his musical talent to work for cancer research and produced two stereo recordings of some of his piano and organ arrangements. These records are being distributed



Harry Koenig

world-wide to people who make contributions to the Koenig Cancer Research Foundation. All of the proceeds from his records and his concerts are turned over to qualified cancer research centers.

Characteristically, Harry willed his body to medical science in order that someone else might benefit from his experience. A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 21, at the Sauganash Community Church in Chicago. Members of CATOE and LOLTOS were among friends who attended.

Harry knew he had a second chance and he used it wisely. He brought happiness to many people with his music. We like to think that now he is playing for the Angels in Heaven.

CATHERINE KOENIG □

Questions and Answers on the Technical Side

by Lance Johnson



We are sorry to report that Lance Johnson has decided to discontinue his "Questions and Answers" column. He will, however, continue to answer readers' questions by telephone. He can be reached at 701/237-0477 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday, or in the evening from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 218/287-2671.

Troubleshooting Guide Quiz Question

You turn on the organ and, as the air is filling the chests, a cipher occurs. After the reservoirs have filled, the cipher stops. What are two probable causes?

Answer on page 55. □