



Clyde M. "Sandy" Balcom (left), pictured with Oliver Wallace, former theatre organist who later became musical arranger for Walt Disney Studios.

also installed many Fotoplayers in the smaller houses. Once he got to the Puget Sound area he fell in love with the climate, the scenery, the fishing and the opportunities in the theatre organ field. He took over the sales and installations of Kimball theatre organs and installed about 20, including two in Alaska. He also maintained most of the organs and soon became the leading theatre organ man in the Northwest.

In 1924 Sandy married Mary Young, and they had a particularly beautiful marriage for more than 61 years until she passed away on August 14 of this year. Their daughter, Susan B. Hammer, lives in Carmel Valley, California and is an executive with the Hilton Hotels.

When sound films ended the era of theatre organ, Sandy focused on servicing both church and theatre organs. E. L. "Pop" Vaughan had worked for the Robert-Morton Company so he and Sandy formed a partnership which became Balcom & Vaughan Pipe Organs, Inc. During the depression the company was active in relocating theatre organs into churches at minimal cost. Sandy felt that these used instruments served as stepping stones, and, in many cases, he did subsequently replace them with custom-built organs designed for churches. A number of organs were also installed in skating rinks, radio stations and even beer halls. In all cases Sandy insisted on first-class installations and would not tolerate shoddy workmanship.

In 1944 the company took over the Meridian Theatre and converted it into a workshop. Sandy had installed a Fotoplayer in this theatre in 1923. After the war the firm started building new organs for smaller churches and chapels, including about 80 for the Mormon Church. In time the firm built larger and larger organs of increased sophistication. In 1948 Sandy became the representative for Wurlitzer electronic organs and formed a separate corporation, Balcom & Vaughan Pianos & Organs, and was, for some time, the leading Wurlitzer dealer in the nation. He retired from the electronic company in 1964 and

from the pipe organ shop in 1966. His first love was always the pipe organ, and he was always dropping by to check on the progress of the work in the B & V shop.

Sandy was also a superb fisherman and knew every lake and stream within driving distance of Seattle. He was also a master storyteller. The late Justice William O. Douglas, a fishing buddy, wrote in his autobiography, *Go East, Young Man*, that he had once invited a New York lawyer friend, George Draper, on a fishing trip and that "Sandy Balcom, the great fisherman, had come for a vis-

it, fishing by day and telling his stories by night. Sandy is a cross between Danny Kaye and Groucho Marx with a touch of Jack Benny added. At the end of the third day Draper took me outside and said, 'For three days now I have laughed. I have never laughed so continuously and so long. I have laughed so much I am totally exhausted. Either Sandy must go or I must go!'"

Those of us who were privileged to know and love Sandy will keenly miss his enthusiasm, encouragement, humor and friendship.

BILL BUNCH □



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

"Busy" is the word that best describes our past few months. July found us traveling to the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola, Florida, for the dedication of the new Robert-Morton recently built and installed by Tom Helms. Several of our chapter members helped with this organ, and we are all very pleased with Mr. Helms' accomplishment. The second Sunday in August found us at Southside Baptist Church in Foster Auditorium, home of the former WAPI studio 3/6 Kimball. Tom Bagwell, 12-year-old virtuoso, provided a delightful program of various types and styles of music. The September program was our second annual Young Artist program. Tom Bagwell, 12; Bryan Black, 16; Brian Preston, 14; and Michele Radue, 14, provided a marvelous program on both the Kimball and the piano. This program, designed to promote younger artists in the area, was a tremendous success for the second year in a row.

The Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre is going through some changes, including the permanent installation of the new Trivo Post Horn. This brings our Publix #1 to 21 ranks with more on the way. Larry Donaldson and crew have been busily preparing chambers, chests, pipework, relay and console for all the scheduled additions. The master Xylophone has been moved to its new location outside the swell shades and, along with the ability to select a single or reiterating stroke, will certainly give the organ a much needed "kick" in the percussion area. Other scheduled additions include a Flute Celeste, 16' Violone, a more unified console, several traps and a few more surprises. Prior to the Post Horn installation, Larry and crew spent several weekends adding a new regulator to take the Solo Tibia

pedal off the tremulated Tibia regulator, adding more stability to the rank. Results are very favorable. More work has been done on the 3/6 Kimball. Several traps and percussions have been completely releathered, regulated and adjusted, enhancing the already beautiful sound of the organ.

GARY W. JONES

ac/atos

atlanta chapter. american theatre organ society

Atlanta

404/963-6449 or 404/457-4731

This has been a busy year for us. In February John Seng played a concert at the fabulous Fox Theatre on the 4/42 Möller and utilized the new 32' Diaphones obtained from Roy Davis in McMinnville, Tennessee. In March Kurt Von Schakel presented a well-received chapter program on the Walt Winn Warehouse 4/17 Page. The organ was in great shape with the exception of a squeaky Howard seat. Kurt played several unfamiliar novelty tunes and presented a really outstanding program.

In April we sponsored programs at two local churches. Member Rick McGee presented a program on the 3/7 Kimball at Grant Park United Methodist Church, and Paul Stockhammer performed at St. Paul United Methodist on the historic 2/13 John Brown Organ built for the 1895 Cotton States Exposition in Piedmont Park in Atlanta. Rick is currently one of the organists at the Excelsior Mill, a local restaurant with a 3/23 Wurlitzer.

In May we were presented a slide and sound program by Theatre Historical Society members Charles Walker, of Theatrical Paraphernalia, and Clay Holbrook and John Tanner on Atlanta's long-forgotten theatre palaces. Theatres involved were the Roxy, the

Capitol, the Paramount, Loew's Grande, Howard and, of course, the only remaining one, the fabulous Fox.

August brought us a real treat, John Muri, who has recently moved to the Atlanta area. John presented a delightful program, including selections from *West Side Story* and *Victory at Sea*. He entertained us on the 3/23 Wurlitzer at the Excelsior Mill. This was a well-attended concert, and John provided a professionally printed program with comments about the *West Side Story* plot.

Two members, Ron Carter and Gordy Johnson, are presently installing identical 2/7 Style E Wurlitzers in their homes. They hope to have these instruments playing early in 1986. Work will soon begin on expanding Charles Walker's 2/4 Robert-Morton to a 2/9 and hooking it up to a new Morton console. Charles is active in many areas including the Carousel Association.

Pipe Organ Sales and Service is busily restoring the 3/54 Aeolian residence organ in the Callanwolde Mansion. John Tanner and Charles Walker have been very active in the restoration of this instrument.

RONALD CARTER



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis
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or 317/786-2160

We had no meeting in August because of the National Convention. The September meeting was held at the estate of Philip and Betty Hedback on September 8. A catered outdoor picnic was served to about 170 mem-

CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE

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

Type all copy, double-spaced, on letter-size (8½" x 11") white paper, leaving 1¼" margins on top, bottom and both sides. Do not use erasable paper. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

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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

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:
Grace E. McGinnis, Associate Editor
4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222



GRACE E. MCGINNIS.



Organist/Manager Van Jones at the Shady Nook's 4/30 Wurlitzer.

(John Polsley photo)

bers and guests. A short business meeting was held during which discussion centered around a possible bus trip to McMinnville, Tennessee, for an organ bash in November. After the meeting, the Hoosier Ragtime Revelers provided an hour of Ragtime and "oldies" that delighted everyone present.

WAYNE R. PIPHER

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

In spite of threatening skies, the promise of a great afternoon won out. Twenty-six members and guests gathered at the Shady Nook Theatre Restaurant near Oxford, Ohio, for our August meeting. President Mark Williams deftly sidestepped the formality of a business meeting so we could proceed directly to a mix of music and morsels. Manager/organist Van Jones, a most hospitable host, gave us a very generous helping of old favorites on the 4/30 Wurlitzer, some of which he sang in rich baritone. Then for two hours we had the gorgeous instrument available for open console, for which there was no lack of talent.

After our repast, we didn't allow the fun to stop there — a sizeable contingent proceeded to the Springdale Music Palace to hear and enjoy Karl Cole at the 4/23 Wurlitzer. We've got to say it again — it's one superb instrument mechanically, and musically. The Palace has enjoyed an ever-expanding audience to a perimeter of 100 miles or more, and this is, in a small way, a tribute to staff organists Karl Cole, Dave Weingartner and Rod Barbour.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



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Conventions have a way of approaching, happening and then passing on. Memories

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from your



South
Florida Chapter

linger — memories of renewed friendships, glorious instruments, excellent artists and their music, and interesting places. the 1985 Chicago Convention had a few "dark" spots, but compliments, appreciation and joy abounded. It is difficult to realize that almost two years of planning and preparation went into the convention, and then, in less than a week, it was over. The committee worked hard and cooperated fully. The outcome was rewarding and acknowledgement was extended to the committee in the form of an appreciation party at the Baker Hotel in St. Charles which has a Geneva pipe organ in good order.

Many comments were heard, one of which was that we were fortunate to have so many wonderful organs in our area. This is true, but for us to hear an organ presented in concert, as during the convention, is extremely rare. The Stadium organ, for example, is used only during athletic events and not too much then. To see and hear that organ during the convention took a big bite out of your registration fee — over \$2000 just to open the doors! Any organ presented in concert takes planning, cooperation and cash. The amount of cash varies with the conditions, publicity, artist and so on. Most of them are rarely less than \$2000. Thus, we locals do not hear these magnificent instruments too often.

A profound comment came from Rosemary Bailey who remarked that the future of

ATOS depends on our youth. This we have heard before. "BUT," she continued, "our youth is attracted by contemporary music and greatly repulsed by most of the old stuff. Therefore, our old-timers should learn to accept the newer musical renditions in order to enhance the future and continuance of ATOS." This may be rough for some, but it is true!

And now with the 1985 Convention in the history column, we continue with Gaylord Carter at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, plus outstanding magician Bruce Walstad and some movie shorts for a full program. Plans for a variety show at the Patio Theatre in November are being formulated, also a December show at the Gateway Theatre. It is planned to use local artists for both shows. It is a good idea to use locals occasionally.

Life continues, and thoughts are now focusing on the 1986 Convention to take place in Richmond, Virginia. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

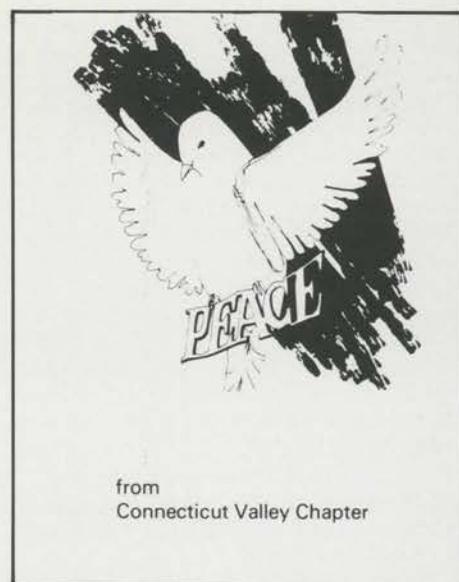
ALMER N. BROSTROM



Milwaukee
414/463-2365
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The May 10 Lyn Larsen concert at the Riverside Theatre was a real gem. Lyn is unmistakably one of the finest artists on the circuit today. *Milwaukee Journal* theatre critics are assigned to cover all events at the Riverside, and Larsen's concert was no exception. Kevin Lynch of the *Journal* staff noted that the 1984 title of "Organist of the Year" was very fitting to Larsen's talents. He also said that the 1928 Wurlitzer 235 Special "is a musical monstrosity that demands stylistic range to deal with its embarrassment of sonic riches." In other words, he enjoyed the concert along with the rest of us.

The biggest event of the summer was the donation of the 3/10 Barton organ, removed from the Colonial Theatre in Milwaukee some years ago. David Strassman of Kentfield, California, a former Milwaukeean, donated the organ to our chapter after it was discovered that the loft where the pipes were being stored had been broken into. Someone stole all the metal pipes and probably melted them down for scrap. However, the Tibia and



from
Connecticut Valley Chapter

the Flute woods are complete. The console, intact, is in California. It would be great to have a Barton in our city along with the two Wurlitzers and the Oriental Kimball.

Our annual picnic was held at the Lake Geneva home of Fred Gollnick on August 18. About 40 attended the event. Fred has a fine two-manual Barton in his music room. Liquid refreshments were provided by the chapter with everyone bringing something for the grill and a dish to pass. A fine time was had by all!

The new Avalon Wurlitzer console was recently moved into the theatre. Final connections are being made with a Z-tronix relay. The double-stop rail console will allow eventual expansion of the organ to 20 ranks.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL



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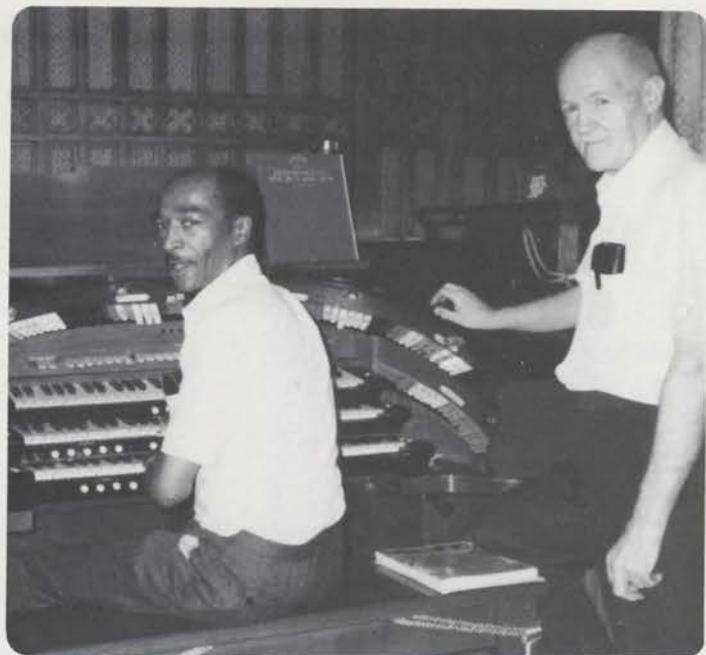
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Ty Woodward and the Möller console of the Trenton War Memorial. (Jinny Vanore photo)



Mel Robinson seated and Charles Hoffner standing by at the console of the Hoffners' 3/19 Marr & Colton. (Jinny Vanore photo)

many beautiful, green agricultural areas that are the reason New Jersey is so aptly named the "Garden State." This was the type of scenery viewed by our members coming from all parts of the state to meet at the home of Charles and Mary Hoffner in Vineland on

May 26. Of course, the main attraction was a 3/19 Marr & Colton with a Steinway grand Duo Arte wired to it.

The Hoffners are gracious hosts, and some 30 members enjoyed the music and socializing until 4:00 when we piled into cars and ad-

joined to a nearby restaurant. There all were seated at a long table and had an enjoyable dinner accompanied by the usual lively pipe organ quips that also entertained nearby diners. Members then returned to the Hoffners' where coffee, dessert and more music completed a delightful afternoon. Many thanks to the Hoffners for their warm hospitality.

June 23 was a big, red-letter day for us and our hard-working crew which works on the 3/12 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in North Bergen. This chapel, which was the former Astor Theatre, has been renovated into a small, active Catholic Church with the altar on the original stage and pews replacing the theatre seats. The acoustics are great, and the organ fills the room with sound.

We felt much pride and joy as the first concert on the restored organ was given by the young, talented Walt Strony, currently the organist at the Organ Stop Restaurant in Phoenix, Arizona. His delightful program of both classical and popular music used unusual tone colorings and just plain "showed off" our Robert-Morton in great style. Though more work remains to be done on the organ before it is in top condition, Walt's ex-



Organ crew and guest artist at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel (formerly the Astor Theatre) in North Bergen. L to R, Bob Schmidt, Gary Phillips, Frank McCraigh, Joseph Visinho, Walt Strony and crew chief Peter Polito.

(Peter Polito photo)

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Charles and Mary Hoffner with their "Welcome" pipe.
(Jinny Vanore photo)

perience and knowledge of stops and ranks produced a concert that still has members talking. It was a wonderful program and many bouquets go to the artist and to the dedicated organ crew.

On June 28 an unusual free concert was offered by our chapter. Featured was the young, well-known organist from Arizona, Ty Woodward. This was the first concert at the Trenton War Memorial for Ty, and the mighty Möller performed "mighty fine" under his skillful fingers. The concert included many theatre-style favorites, and the audience was delightfully impressed with his classical offerings which demonstrated the technique with which he was able to win many AGO competitions. It was a most enjoyable concert and was followed by open console.

JINNY VANORE

JOLIET AREA

Illinois

312/393-9201 or 815/726-7665

We were entertained at the home of Meg and Taylor Trimby by our entrant in the Young Organist Competition, Donald Walker, who played the Trimby's 2/6 Marr & Colton. Many other members enjoyed the chance to play during open console. Donald Walker played a cameo at the Rialto Theatre during the 1985 Convention.

Rosemary Bailey, at whose concert Donald

played, really put the 4/21 Barton through its paces, and the organ did not falter under her lightning-fast fingers. All of the attendees enjoyed both performances.

The voice of the Indiana Pacers basketball team, Ken Double, provided an "Old-Fashioned Sunday" organ concert at the Rialto Theatre in June. His selections were well-received by the large turnout, and they enjoyed the Laurel and Hardy silent movie.

In September we had a champagne brunch social at the home of Norman and Mary Martin. Norman provided the entertainment, and many tried their hands at open console.

From all the members of JATOE, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

TAYLOR TRIMBY



Land O' Lakes Chapter

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LO'LTOS

St. Paul-Minneapolis

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Louise Borak played for us at D. J. Brady's on May 19 in her bouncy, energetic style. Open console followed.

The Organaires met at Larry Koch's daughter Judy's home in May and Glenn and Harriet Bateman's in June. It is always pleasant to meet with this group who enjoy each other's efforts at the various home instruments.

Bobby Schmidt, at Indian Hills Resort at Stone Lake, Wisconsin, held another Musical Festival weekend over Memorial Day with Larry Ford as guest artist at the custom Rodgers; Dr. Kerry Grippe, Professor of Music at the University of Iowa, at the grand piano; Sylvia Hartman, harpist/pianist/singer; and Mike Erie and Bill Eden at the organ. As one of the features of the program, Larry and Kerry performed the "Rhapsody in Blue," which really delighted the audience. All that talent in one weekend — fantastic!

We are not as fortunate as some chapters in that there is an extreme shortage of theatre organs in this area, and our mini-concerts must be concentrated at Phipps Center, D. J. Brady's, the Cedarhurst Mansion in Cottage Grove and the Sheldon Auditorium in Red Wing. The latter is where, for the past several weeks, Garrison Keller's popular Prairie Home Companion radio show has been broadcast, with Karl Eilers at the Kilgen, and

just last week, Philip Brunelle played. At least the organ is being heard nationwide in this show. The Prairie Home Companion will return this fall to the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul. This theatre is being renovated with provision being made for the installation of the Minnesota Theatre Organ Association's 3/19 Wurlitzer.

Member Tim Stevens, recently moved to Maple Plain from Iowa, played the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Phipps Center for a tour group and accompanied a silent film, to the delight of the audience. He did a super job!

When the dust had settled after our return from Chicago, a social was held at Cedarhurst, formerly the home of "Goldie," our favorite Wurlitzer. The Robert-Morton, installed after "Goldie" was shipped to Schenectady, suffered water damage, and extensive repairs were made by Terry Kleven, who also added 16' extensions to the Bourdon rank. Chairman Mike Erie and Vice-Chairman Tom Needle each played several selections combining their talents with Tom at the piano and Mike at the organ. Even Verna Mae was on the program, with Tom at the organ and Verna Mae at the piano in a duet. After intermission, Jim Kennedy, old-time silent film performer, surprised us with a visit and seemed to make himself right at home on the organ. Jim recently re-dedicated the Barton in the Ironwood Theatre in Ironwood, Minnesota, where he had been among the first to play it when it was originally installed.

Labor Day weekend found several members at Indian Hills with the famous organist/teacher/composer Rob Calcaterra, as guest artist, conducting two seminars with three evening concerts. Bob Schmidt, owner of Indian Hills, has finally seen his dream come true as he now has a lift for his custom Rodgers. What a thrill for the performers and audience alike to see the organ rise from the basement to the Evelyn Schmidt Music Room with the stage set with a picket fence and Bob's beautiful plants decorating the whole room. Normally there is a switch on the organ that can be operated by the organist, but in this case the "man in the basement" had to be cued when to raise and lower the organ! Other artists appearing on the program were Mike Erie and Bill Eden, each taking the trip up and down. The weekend included a pontoon ride on Sunday, a gorgeous day, with Don Taft and his accordion on board so we could sing.

That's it for now!

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Rob Calcaterra in a happy mood at the Granada Harrow London Chapter concert. (John Sharp photo)



Adjudicators for the London Chapter Young Theatre Organist Competition, L to R: Janet Dowsett, Louis Mordish, Graeme Wright and Len Rawle. (John Sharp photo)



**LONDON
&
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8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

A characteristic mixture of hard work and enjoyment has been the keynote of our activities during the first half of this year as we have celebrated our eighth anniversary with our fine society. However, this happy situation has been tinged with sadness at the passing of veteran member, much loved Bert Quaddy, and of the legendary Reginald Dixon. Two quite exceptional bastions of the theatre organ fraternity, we have enjoyed our great love of theatre organ that much more because of their truly monumental contributions, albeit in radically different ways, over so many years.

With a crisp and constructive Annual General Meeting held at the end of March at Les and Edith Rawle's hospitable Wurlitzer Lodge, during which a wide cross-section of members contributed much helpful discussion, our officers reported an excellent year of activity and pleasure, together with a most healthy balance sheet.

Chapter Club Nights at the Rawles' magical 3/19 Wurlitzer have continued to be varied, popular and appreciated. In April we welcomed Trevor Bolshaw from the West country, and well-known in the U.S.A. (especially at his favorite stateside organ, the 4/42 Möller

in the Atlanta Fox). Our May meeting brought "surprise artist" Byron Jones from Wales for a typically lighthearted evening. Graeme Wright, a long-standing theatre organ enthusiast and now a professional electronic organ demonstrator with Farfisa and Bontempi, played our June night in fine style.

Janet Dowsett and Dena Cooper, two of our popular young organists, together with several other of our budding young console stars, arranged and provided a spectacular event at Wurlitzer Lodge during which they presented a thrilling musical extravaganza centered on the Wurlitzer and provided a marvelous supper interval as well. This was their way of saying "Thank you" to the chapter for supporting them while providing a thoroughly commendable fund-raiser at the same time. We are understandably very proud of them all.

Another outstanding event, also aimed at fund-raising in support of our young people, was a "Forty Years On" party staged by much-loved members Beck and Terry Parsons at their delightful home. This was their way of also celebrating with older members the fortieth anniversary of VE Day. Centered on their Conn organ, played by Paul Sheffield, Dena Cooper and Janet Dowsett, and supported by numerous other attractions, including a delicious buffet supper, this was really a "great ATOS night out."

Following a superb concert at the Granada Harrow 3/8 Wurlitzer by Doreen Chadwick in February, we returned to Harrow in May

for our Eighth Birthday Concert which featured brilliant Rob Calcaterra in a magnificent concert at this small, late-model instrument. Handling it with the artistry and theatricality of his all-around musicianship, keyboard dexterity and dedication to his calling, Rob's highly applauded program covered a broad musical repertoire. His most enthusiastic audience included the Mayor and Mayor-ess of the Borough of Harrow. A truly memorable musical afternoon was complemented by an enjoyable meal in a nearby restaurant. As is now our practice, foyer musical interludes were provided by our young organists on a Yamaha electronic, this time by Maria Wisdom before the concert, Chris Theobald at intermission and Dena Cooper to "play us out."

Beginning in late July with another "Barbeque Funday" at Edith and Les Rawle's, held indoors alongside their 3/19 Wurlitzer because of the unusually inclement weather, our summer holiday period culminated in our eighth "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" competition at the brilliant 3/8 Wurlitzer in the nearby Granada Harrow. Raising more than \$200 toward our major organ restoration projects, the happy atmosphere, together with the pleasurable cameo spots at the Wurlitzer by numerous chapter members, completely overcame the inability to be outdoors.

This great success was followed by an equally enjoyable "Musical Supper Evening" at the lovely home of members Beck and Terry Parsons at Walton-on-Thames. This

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featured the magical combination of Doreen Chadwick's captivating talents at the Conn electronic and Terry's superb refreshments. Doreen and her sister, Melba, were house guests of the Parsons prior to a concert at the Compton at the Regal Henley.

Fifteen youngsters traveled from many parts of the country to participate in our Young Theatre Organist Competition. Ranging in age from 11 to 16 years, they exhibited exceptionally high standards of both ability and presentation, hence a most happy day for the audience of 300 enthusiasts. The hardest worked of the day were our four adjudicators; Janet Dowsett, who had herself participated in one of our early competitions; Graeme Wright, now of the Bontempi company; Louis Mordish, an all-time great theatre organist of the British cinema and theatre scene; and, Chapter Chairman Len Rawle playing his usual non-voting role.

Winner of the handsome, silver-inscribed Chain-of-Office was 12-year-old Peter Holt from Wetherby in Yorkshire whose selection from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* exhibited professionalism and musicality well beyond his



The London Chapter "Younger Generation" entertains in a fund-raising evening. They collected the money, ran the raffle, baked the cakes and washed up. A truly fabulous effort.

tender years. Two of our well-known young ladies, Suzanne Hancock, 15, from Stevenage and Karen "Budgie" Groom, 14, from Edge-ware, took second and third prizes respective-

ly. With attractive prizes for everybody, including Edward Perkins, 10, from South Wales, there were certainly no "losers." A special highlight of the program was the "adjudicators' interlude" provided by last year's winner, ebullient Paul Sheffield, who, despite recent ear surgery, was playing his heart out to cheer his father who had been allowed out of the hospital for the day especially to hear his popular son play.

Third winner of the Dean Herrick Trophy, also presented on this occasion, was "Budgie" Groom who joyously received it from last year's winner, David Redfern of Belper, Derbyshire, who had traveled down with his father. Now presented annually to the contestant in the previous year's competition who, in the view of the chapter committee, has made the greatest contribution and achievement during the year, this special trophy commemorates the late ex-patriate American console star who made such a significant impact on the South African theatre organ scene.

As usual, this happiest of days, during which we were also pleased to have many of our other young proteges with us, was rounded off by newly announced winner Peter Holt playing us out with his sparkling rendition of "Orpheus in the Underworld."

Beginning the autumn season of popular Club Nights at Wurlitzer Lodge, saw a most welcome return of the great Douglas "Mr. Brighton" Reeve to the console with his dis-



The 15 competitors in the London Chapter's 1985 Young Organist Competition are pictured at the Granada Harrow, L to R: On the bench the three winners, Karen "Budgie" Groom, 3rd; Peter Bolt, 1st; Suzanne Hancock, 2nd; seated on stage apron, Richard Bury, Darren Ward, Kieran Fallone, Matthew Huddleston, Beverley Johns, Hayley Jones, Joanna Freer, Karen May, Jayne Darley; standing in front, Craig Boswell, Rachel Francis, Edward Perkins. (John Sharp photo)



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January 12, 1986 — California Theatre, San Diego
January 17 — Church of the Redeemer, Kingston, Ontario
January 25 — Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
January 26 — Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady, New York
February 21 — Strand Theatre, Shreveport, Louisiana
February 22 — I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
March 1 — Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, Indiana
March 8 — City Hall Auditorium, Portland, Maine
March 15 — Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
March 25 — South Carolina Philharmonic, Columbia, South Carolina
April 3 — Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria

tinative brassy style that has delighted millions for over 40 years, but which was ours alone for two hours of sheer magic at our favorite Wurlitzer. We were also delighted to have with us again our long-standing stateside friends and members Fred and Joy Mitchell and, for the first time, our worthy journal editor, Bob Gilbert, and his wife Beth. All of this was further enhanced by the presence of Alan Smith of BBC Radio 4 who was recording our activities for a 20-minute program in a forthcoming series to be called "The Enthusiasts."

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



Detroit
313/537-1133

Our annual picnic on July 21 was held again this year at Murray Lake, a private reserve near Ann Arbor. Activities for everyone included open console at the organ provided by Stan Zimmerman and Smiley Bros. Music Company and canoeing on Murray Lake on

the S.S. Stanley, also furnished by Stan. Thanks to Ray and Dorothy Van Steenkiste, there were games for young and old climaxed by a good old egg-toss. A fresh idea. Fresh eggs, too!

Our twelfth annual private-charter moonlight cruise on America's oldest passenger steamer, the 83-year-old Columbia, on August 20, attracted our largest crowd yet. Over 1300 passengers enjoyed the dance music of organists Stan Zimmerman, Don Haller and Dennis Minear plus the Harmonica Varieties on the second deck, open console and the



Motor City members engage in an egg toss at the picnic at Murray Lake.

(Bill Vogel photo)



Bob Mills tries his hand at the organ while Wayne Lathrop looks on during Motor City's annual picnic.

(Bo Hanley photo)



Oren Walther, Redford projectionist, and son Will paddle Stan Zimmerman's S.S. Stanley on Murray Lake at the Motor City picnic.

(Bill Vogel photo)



The barbershop quartet Four-of-a-Kind serenades passengers on the Columbia during Motor City's moonlight cruise.

(Hugh Hammerstrom photo)

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Dennis Minear was one of the three dance organists for Motor City's annual moonlight cruise on the Columbia. (Hugh Hammarstrom photo)



Dave Kopp performed for the New York Chapter's July meeting at the Trinity Methodist 2/6 Wurlitzer.

song stylings of Fran Carmody on the third deck and the harmony of the Four-of-a-Kind barbershop quartet on all four decks. The two organs for this cruise were provided by Stan Zimmerman and Smiley Bros.

Monthly organ workshops and Club Days were held at the Redford Theatre on July 7 and August 4. These events are coordinated by Gil Francis and offer members a chance to get better acquainted.

Members who provided overture and intermission music for our biweekly movie series at the Redford were Newton Bates, Grace Joslin, Evelyn Markey, Stan Zimmerman and Tony O'Brien.

Sigmond Ross, veteran Detroit theatre organist, performed at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak for our Fourth Sunday program on July 28. Another Detroit entertainer, Wilma Steslick, who now resides in Florida, was featured artist for our Fourth Sunday concert at the Royal Oak on August 25.

Our Grand Drape Committee, headed by Irene FitzGerald and Donald Martin, is in the process of choosing the material for a new main curtain for the stage of the Redford Theatre.

A Young Peoples' Concert, to be planned and presented entirely by chapter members 30 years of age and under, is scheduled for the Redford on March 1. The group has been given guidelines and a budget and has selected Tony O'Brien and Donald Martin as co-chairmen of the event.

Gaylord Carter, who began our long-running series of public organ concerts when he accompanied *The Mark of Zorro* at the Redford on October 24, 1967, has announced that he plans to retire and has chosen the Redford for his final performance, ending a long and distinguished career. The date of Gaylord's farewell program is May 10, 1986.

The chapter will also present Ron Rhode in concert at the Royal Oak on April 12.

For more information write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD

**NEW YORK
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
New York
201/573-9567 or 201/473-0559**

We met on July 27 at the Trinity Methodist Church in Clifton, New Jersey, where members had an opportunity to enjoy a short concert by Vice-Chairman Dave Kopp, Madison Square Garden organist, and to play at open console on the church's unique 2/6 Wurlitzer. The organ was installed by Wurlitzer in 1932, and is housed in two chambers on either side of the chancel. Dave's mini-concert included music from *Forty-Second Street*, a bouncy arrangement of the "Twelfth Street Rag" (the church members present seemed to enjoy this musical fare which they don't generally hear

from their Wurlitzer), as well as a beautifully performed "Sleepers, Wake" by J. S. Bach. A surprising number of members braved the steamy hot afternoon to enjoy the program and play at open console. In spite of the weather, it proved to be a successful, pleasurable day.

On September 8 we joined with Garden State Chapter for an open console session at the Carnegie Hall Cinema in New York. Situated in the basement of the famous concert hall, the attractive 300-seat cinema is the home of the ATOS-owned 2/5 Wurlitzer that formerly belonged to Ben Hall, theatre historian, author and charter member of ATOS and NYTOS. Opus 2095, the organ is the last Style 150 built by Wurlitzer and was originally installed in the Lawler Theatre in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Thanks to the efforts of National Directors Ashley Miller and Allen Miller, members from both chapters had an opportunity to spend a pleasant Sunday morning playing and listening to the "Little Mother" Wurlitzer, as Ben Hall affectionately called the instrument. After all who wished to play had taken their turns at the console, we prevailed upon the musical talents of Allen and Ashley as well as those of Rob Calcaterra, who stopped by during the morning, to play several selections for us, allowing us to enjoy the Wurlitzer in most capable hands. Rob stayed on to play-in the crowd for the matinee while board members moved on to other quarters to hold a business meeting. The early



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Middletown, New York, Paramount crew members Bob Welch (left) and Bob Seeley prepare to install junction board and cable for the main chamber.

Sunday morning trip to Carnegie Hall Cinema proved to be well worth the effort for all who attended.

Meanwhile, progress on the chapter's 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Middletown Paramount continues, but in spite of the best efforts of Bob Seeley and crew, the organ will not be ready for the gala opening of the theatre on September 21 when the Orange County Arts Council will present jazz trumpeter Dizzie Gillespie as its premiere performer. With most of the organ in place in the chambers, effort is being directed to winding and wiring the instrument. The crew expects to have the organ playing later in the fall.

TOM STEHLE


ATOS
NOR-CAL
Theatre Organ Society
San Francisco Bay Area
415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Our annual picnic was held on July 21 because of the shift of the National Convention to August this year. We met at the Wurlitzer-equipped residence of Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Harold Solderstrom, and it was obvious that Harold had been working on the instrument as it had a beautiful sound. It was played throughout the afternoon by a succession of



Bob Vaughn at the Castro Theatre 4/19 Wurlitzer for the September 6 show. (Ed Mullins photo)

organists. Over sixty guests thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and won't hesitate to accept the next invitation from Harold and Mary Anne.

San Francisco's Castro Theatre presented "An Evening With Bob Vaughn" on September 6 to a packed house. Bob, a charter member of ATOS and Nor-Cal, accompanied six silent comedies at the Taylor brothers' 4/19 Wurlitzer. Featured in the merriment were Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd, Langdon, Our Gang and Laurel and Hardy's classic *Two Tars*. Aloha Chapter members Claire and Al Watson were there en route to Hawaii after attending the Chicago convention.

Nor-Cal member Martin Lilley was in Japan in August. He stopped at the Tsukuba Expo '85 World's Fair and saw the organ-playing robot. The robot reads very carefully laid out simple music. It played a Yamaha

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Castro's marquee reads: "WURLITZER SPECIAL! AN EVENING with BOB VAUGHN" for September 6 silent comedy show. (Ed Mullins photo)

electronic organ. It is claimed that it can play faster than a human, for example, a fifteen-note-per-second trill. Lilley said that it played Bach too slowly. Martin also visited the Mitsukoshi Nihombashi department store in Tokyo and heard organist Hiroshi Matsuzawa's concert on the 3/10 Wurlitzer installed in the store. It is the only Wurlitzer ever shipped to the Far East. Lilley reported that he enjoyed Mr. Matsuzawa's playing more than he did the robot's.

ED MULLINS



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth
214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108**

While some of us were enjoying the ATOS Convention in Chicago, work continued here in Dallas on our installation of the chapter 3/8

Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre. Under the leadership of Chairman Gordon Wright, the many volunteer restorers/installers have been making great progress toward their goal of having the organ playing this September. At the end of August, wiring and winding are virtually complete, and most of the pipes are in place and making sound. The restoration of the remaining 14 pipes of the mangled Tuba rank has been relegated to professional help — in the interest of both time and temper. This has been our main focus and has received help from a list of members that is too long for these notes. Gordon commends, though, the trio of Past Chairman Gene Powell, Richard Cooper and Fred Garrett, that spearheaded the installation planning and chamber construction; the thousands of hours that these dedicated men have contributed have been a major impetus to reaching our objective. Their lead has now been followed by many more who have been doing pipe restoration and installation under the guidance of Gordon Wright and Earl McDonald. The chapter acknowledges and applauds the dedicated work of all of these volunteers that now permits us to anticipate the pleasure that this organ will soon bring to the chapter and to the community.

We did take time out in June to listen to



"Bride's Special" at June meeting of North Texas Chapter. (Wally Eakins photo)



Lloyd Hess played for North Texas Chapter in June. (Wally Eakins photo)

theatre organ music as part of our regular meeting. Program chairman Lloyd Hess discovered a theatre organ we had not yet had the pleasure of hearing, and it is in a delightfully air-conditioned edifice. This is a 3-manual Allen electronic in the Trinity Temple Assembly of God Church. Lloyd learned of this organ from a pupil of his who also happens to be the associate pastor of the church. Because of the circumstance, Lloyd also agreed to play the program.

Lloyd is an accomplished organist and pianist, always busy with professional engagements. His programs are always a pleasure, and we look forward to any opportunity to hear him play. Our June meeting happened to fall on Fathers' Day, so Lloyd keyed his music to the Dads as well as to the "month of brides." For his opening medley of "songs I am asked to play for weddings," Lloyd made good use of the lush Tibia sound and his own theatre styling to enhance our enjoyment of these familiar songs, concluding with "I Love You Truly." As he closed the medley it seemed natural to hear the familiar strains of the "Wedding March," but it came as a big surprise to see a formally dressed wedding couple come down the aisle in step with the music. When they turned at the front of the church and exited through the side door, we realized that Lloyd was having some fun at our expense, he having persuaded two friends to help him heighten the effect of his June theme. The varied program that followed in-

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Paul Quarino gives Leonard Vernon's Robert-Morton a workout at open console.
(Claude Neuffer photo)



Ken and Doris Ensele treat Oregon Chapter listeners to special music at the annual picnic.
(Claude Neuffer photo)

cluded selections on the grand piano, some rousing gospel stylings on the organ and a moving Fathers' Day anthem. A masterful performance and a delight for all. The chapter is grateful to Pastor Rich and to the Trinity Temple for their generous hospitality and to Lloyd Hess for a most enjoyable program.

IRVING LIGHT

OREGON Portland

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

Our August picnic was held in the small community of Pleasant Hill, just east of Eugene, at the home of Ken and Doris Ensele. The Enseles have installed a 2/9 Wurlitzer in a large, barn-like building which is large enough to hold our entire chapter if it rains — which it didn't. The Wurlitzer was in continuous use by our members and guests from the Eugene Organ Club throughout the afternoon. Just before time to close, Ken and Doris entertained us with a swinging accordion/organ duet. It was a wonderful afternoon of fun for the more than 60 people who attended, and we are pleased that Ken and Doris chose to bring their Wurlitzer from California on a flatbed truck. We also wish to thank them for their hospitality and the delicious carrot cake they served.

On September 14 we were invited to return to scenic Astoria for an open house at the

home of Leonard Vernon. Leonard's house is located high on a hillside with picture windows providing a spectacular view of the town and the harbor where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. It is a beautiful drive to Astoria from Portland, and some of our members stayed overnight to visit the famous Maritime Museum and dine at the fine seafood restaurants.

It was open console all afternoon with music provided by Organ Grinder organists Paul Quarino and Don Feely. The 2/12 Robert-Morton sounds clearly into the large living room and is not overbearing or too soft. The Chrysoglott is outstanding and loud enough for many unusual effects. Bob Rickett was there with his new video camera, so some of us will be making unscheduled appearances on his TV screen. We also enjoyed Leonard's fine collections of railroad pictures and ship models. Thanks to Leonard Vernon for this most enjoyable afternoon of music and friends.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Many old and new friends attended a July picnic at the home of Bert and Frankie Lobbergt where we enjoyed lunch in the shade of tall evergreens on an unusually hot day. Those touring the museum for the first time

were enthralled with the meticulously restored automobiles, music machines and other miscellany, while others congregated amidst a collection of well-chosen antiques in the living room of the massive, timbered and stone home to enjoy open console on the pipe organ and grand piano. Twenty-three British Columbia friends came in rented vans, and others came from all corners of the state to

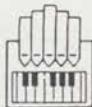


Organ crew chief Don Myers enjoying the fruits of his labors at the Seattle Paramount.
(Ken Gallwey photo)

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make this a pleasant reunion. Favorite organ tapes were played outdoors throughout the afternoon over the recently acquired public address system.

Approaching the fall concert season, work continues on the Paramount organ and on the installation of Mike Wallace's organ at the Neptune Theatre in Seattle. Andy Crow is starting to install his enlarged Wurlitzer in the new Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia, formerly the Liberty/Olympic Theatre.

Although a group of dedicated volunteers has regularly worked at the Paramount, Don Myers and Gennie Whitting have served as the catalysts, being largely responsible for gaining access to the organ, arranging a maintenance agreement with the theatre's owners and planning and carrying out the improvements to the organ. They have teamed their talents on many restorations in the Northwest, with Don applying his technical knowledge and experience and Gennie learning any required skills as a project unfolds, even to replacing the gold leaf on a console. Together, they epitomize the challenge and spirit of the ATOS.

We are sorry to report the passing of Sandy Balcom, whose wife, Mary, preceded him in death by just three weeks. A suitable tribute to this early technician and organist will appear as the information is available.

DIANE WHIPPLE



Gennie Whitting and "friend" in the lobby of the Roseway Theatre, Portland, Oregon.

RED RIVER ATOS
218/287-2671
or 701/232-6325



As usual, the Fargo Theatre is alive with projects, aside from the daily double-feature movies. Our "new" piano is in the orchestra pit and is operational from the console. We expect to add two more ranks and a Marimba in a few months. Expression shades are being added to the new percussion chamber. Next year the new organ grilles with lighted fountains, copied as faithfully as feasible from the original blueprints, will complete the return of the auditorium to the Moderne style.

Design work and remodeling of the lobby are also in progress. Along with all the restoration, a booklet on the history of the theatre is being prepared to aid in the fund-raising.

The Wurlitzer and stage facilities get much use, too, with school programs, public variety shows and our own Fargo Theatre Big Band All Stars, to mention a few.

In 1986 we look forward to our new artist series as Father Jim Miller appears on February 21. On Saturday he will conduct morning and afternoon master classes in playing technique.

SONIA CARLSON

**The River City
Theatre Organ Society
Omaha, Nebraska**
402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

We were fortunate, indeed, to hold our July 20 meeting in Omaha's beautifully restored Orpheum Theatre, now a heavily booked performing arts center. The Orpheum's 3/13 Wurlitzer is an original installation and is maintained in mint condition by George Rice and Stanley Gross. George presented a short history of this instrument, its installation and rehabilitation. The objective of the meeting was twofold, to give members an opportunity to play the Wurlitzer and to scout the theatre and start advance planning of our August benefit concert for the Western Heritage Museum. Nineteen members took advantage of open console time. During the meeting, Director Bob Markworth presented Jack Moelmann with a slide whistle which he had designed and handcrafted. It was attached to the console windline for a demonstration of its sound and the pneumatic action.

On August 25 we presented an organ concert, "Those Were The Days," as a benefit for the Western Heritage Museum, Omaha's historical museum. Starring Jack Moelmann, newly elected ATOS President and a founder of our chapter, this was an ambitious undertaking and a first for us since we were formed less than one year ago. Held in the beautiful 1927 Orpheum Theatre, it was truly an after-



River City Chapter board members and officers, L to R: Tom Wolfe, Vice President Harold Kenney, President Ann Gabelman, Secretary-Treasurer Penny Markworth, Bob Markworth and ATOS President Jack Moelmann.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

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noon of nostalgia, musical memories, sing-along and a silent film with organ accompaniment. Jack skillfully cued Buster Keaton's 1926 classic, *The General*, to the delight of the audience of over 1300. To conclude a most enjoyable program, Jack played a medley of patriotic songs while screening a color film of Air Force jets flying at high altitude. As the opening bars of "The Star-Spangled Banner" were heard, the screen was flown to reveal a gigantic American flag, brilliantly illuminated. His encore included "My Way" and "Goodnight, Sweetheart." This concert raised over \$6000 for the Western Heritage Museum.

TOM JEFFERY

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Denver, Colorado
303/797-2232 or 303/233-4716**

On May 19 we gathered for a celebration at the newly opened Organ Grinder Restaurant and heard staff organists Patti Simon, Ed Benoit and Keith Kendall. The new owners of the Organ Grinder encourage the organists to have their own individual styles and to use the microphone to make the customers feel welcome. The Mighty 4/37 Wurlitzer suffered for its months of not being played, but it is gradually being brought back to its original grand sound, and all theatre organ enthusiasts are glad to have it playing again.

On June 29 we again gathered at the home of Dr. Bruce and Sally Belshaw for a potluck



Staff organist Keith Kendall at the Denver Organ Grinder.

(Ed Zollman photo)

supper followed by a concert performed by our host. Bruce treated us to the lush "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and "We'll Gather Lilacs." He showed his versatility with an Irving Berlin medley and a brassy, toe-tapping "Mame." This beautiful 3/22 Wurlitzer originally was installed in the Chicago Nortown Theatre and has been lovingly restored by Bruce and his son, Don Belshaw. It is a work of art!

PATTI SIMON

**SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
THEATRE ORGAN CLUB
Southwest Michigan
616/649-2742 or 616/388-4605**

On March 24, as guests of the Albion Theatre Organ Club, we met at the Bohm Theatre in downtown Albion where Dr. R. C. Rowan gave a history of the theatre and a tour backstage. During open console, members from both clubs played the 3/8 Barton. The organ, in its original location, has sustained water damage, but much hard work by the organ crew resulted in four ranks that were playable that day. Our second stop was at Goodrich Chapel at Albion College. Dr. Albert Bolitho, head of the Organ Department, told about the 4/81 Möller and played one number, then allowed members to have open console. Afterward, most of the group made their way to

the Rowan home where refreshments were served during the showing of a Buster Keaton silent *One Week*. Dr. Rowan has a 2/7 Wurlitzer that originated in the Elm Theatre in Philadelphia and which many people played during open console to conclude a wonderful afternoon of organ music.

A trip to Detroit was taken on April 14 for Ann Leaf's farewell concert on the Detroit Theater Organ Club's Wurlitzer.

May's meeting began with a concert at Kalamazoo's State Theatre featuring local organist John Durgan at the console of the 3/13 Barton. After the program we adjourned to Hobie's restaurant next door for refreshments and a business meeting.

A meeting was held on June 9 at the Roaring '20s in Grand Rapids. Charlie Balogh, featured organist at the restaurant, presented a delightful program of theatre organ favorites. Neil Johnston, Jr. played the numbers he had prepared for the ATOS Young Organists Competition. He was one of the ten finalists. Open console on the Mighty Wurlitzer concluded an afternoon of very enjoyable music.

The annual picnic was held on July 21 at the home of Ken and Dorothy Butela at Kimble Lake in Vicksburg. Following a potluck dinner, the program began with taped selections by some well-known theatre organists. Ken then played some numbers on his Conn 650 and accompanied a sing-along. During open



Staff organists Ed Benoit and Patti Simon at the 4/37 Wurlitzer, Denver Organ Grinder. (Ed Zollman photo)

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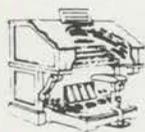
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console, members performed on the Conn and a Conover grand piano.

DIANA HASKINS



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We are happy to announce the premiere program on September 7 of the restored Marr & Colton theatre pipe organ formerly installed (1925) in the Rivoli Theatre in Toledo. In the heyday of silent movies and vaudeville, the organ was played constantly, but it fell into disrepair in the late 1930s and was all but forgotten until plans for demolition of the Rivoli were announced in the late 1960s. The organ was then placed in storage in an old firehouse on Summit Street, and it became apparent how much deterioration and water damage had taken their toll and what a massive job it would be to restore the instrument. Subsequently, St. Hedwig's Church, owner of the Ohio Theatre, offered to allow the society use of the theatre to install the organ. The Ohio was built in 1921, and was an ideal place for the organ to play again. After several years of setbacks and seemingly unsolvable problems, the project was all but stopped until 1983 when some new personnel devoted hundreds of hours to rebuilding and assembling the organ. Thanks to this group of dedicated people, we now have a beautiful theatre pipe organ in a newly renovated historic theatre in Toledo. Much credit goes to Father Paul Kwitkowski, Pastor of St. Hedwig's, who has been instrumental in the renovation of the Ohio Theatre, now also known as St. Hedwig's Cultural Center.

Tom Wibbels played the dedicatory concert, and, according to a review written by Tony Britz, Tom has the rare talent to hold 1100 people in a theatre where the temperature exceeded 95 degrees. Tony's review also says that "even though Tom only had four ranks to work with, he filled every corner of the theatre with lush, rich sounds. Tom's classical abilities were evident in his rendition of Grieg's 'In The Hall of The Mountain King,' when he introduced the piece with contrasting two-part pedal rhythm which developed into a four-part fugue." Tony reported also that the audience really proved their feelings when all of them returned after intermission to a

very warm theatre to hear Tom accompany a silent movie and sing-along and complete his concert — earning him a long and enthusiastic standing ovation.



VIRGINIA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

We are now officially a chapter of the ATOS, the sixtieth in this prestigious group which extends around the world, and it is felt that the club will benefit greatly from this association with such a well-respected and established group of people.

The vice-president of Universal Studio and his director visited the Byrd Theatre on August 16 to explore the possibility of using the building for a scene in a motion picture to be filmed in Virginia. Lin Lunde was present and gave them an earful of organ music. The two were extremely impressed with the building.

The Byrd Theatre really came alive on August 22 when over 600 eager movie-goers began lining up in front of the elegant old theatre. All the bulbs had been replaced, the brass doors were shining, and the red velvet ropes were out front to guide the crowd. The show was about 20 minutes late starting because the people just kept coming, according to Duane Nelson, General Manager. The amber lights went down and the whole house turned fiery red as Lin Lunde rose from the pit on the bench of the red-covered console in a golden spotlight. After a brief introduction, the console sank to picture level and the house went dark as the picture came on the screen. For the next two hours the audience was taken back 70 years to see how one of the all-time great movies was made. After the show, Lin was called back several times to acknowledge the enthusiastic applause.

Work is progressing at a fast pace on the Byrd's 4/17 Wurlitzer. A Post Horn was installed by David Barnett, Lin Lunde and Miles Rudisill. The Post Horn came about when Ron Rhode was here and it was mentioned that the club would like to have one. A few days after Ron returned to Phoenix, a call came that he had found one which he thought might be suitable. Within a week it had been installed. Some people move fast!

Paul Harris, with the help of John Stenstrom, has rebuilt the Glockenspiel and is now working on the Chimes. When they are finished, Paul will start to rebuild the Toy Counter. Gary Cowardin has replaced the old generator with a rectifier. This enables the organ to respond more readily to the player. Lin Lunde says it gives the organ more "zip!" The Wurlitzer grand piano was tuned by Ed Jones, and Bill Enos, who has been extremely helpful in the rebuilding of the console, recently repaired the motor controlling the maskings of the screen. John Stenstrom has rebuilt the heaters in the chambers to maintain the even temperature which keeps the organ in tune. This crew, no doubt, is one of the busiest groups in the country.

When the Byrd Wurlitzer is finished, the crew will turn its attention to the 3/17 Mosque Wurlitzer.

MILES RUDISILL



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

**Central & Lower Michigan
313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118**

It has come to pass! We have found someone who can play the accordion better than the organ. Well, at least as good. At the home of member Lester Hamilton, Dennis Minear gave a good playing of Lester's accordion. But wait, there were no hands on the accordion! Les finally had his accordion "on line," i.e. playable from his Devtronix console. Dennis demonstrated. Real novel — especially the accordion/toy piano duet. Dennis also accompanied his friend, Fran Carmody, who sang "Frankie and Johnny" and "Hard-hearted Hannah," plus some other songs. Many of us made our first acquaintance with the rising star of Melissa Ambrose, a recent winner in the Young Organist Competition, who demonstrated her musicianship beautifully. It was a most enjoyable July afternoon at Lester's lakeside home.

In August, our good friends Gary Montgomery and H. C. Scott, of Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes, hosted our picnic at their home in Bloomfield Hills. After giving our hosts' windless organ a workout, most Wolverines adjourned to the restaurant to hear John Steele play his ever-popular selections on the Wurlitzer.

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