

CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Holidays are always special in Alabama. December found us at the Alabama Theatre with Walt Winn performing his fourth annual Christmas Show, a perfect holiday celebration, as always. The Alabama Theatre celebrated its 58th birthday on Christmas Day — this year with heat! Steam has finally been re-connected in the theatre for the first winter in over four years. Paint and plaster are grateful!

The Atlanta invasion continued in January as Rick McGee and John Alford performed a most enjoyable program. These two always provide novel entertainment, and this performance topped all.

Our spring concert has been set for April 27 and Hector Olivera has been confirmed for what we know will be one of our biggest concerts ever. *The Phantom of the Opera*, accompanied by Tom Helms, has been confirmed for October 26 as our fall concert. Make your plans now to attend and visit Birmingham, the "Magic City."

Work is progressing on additions to the 4/21 Wurlitzer. Currently, Larry Donaldson and crew are installing the offset chests for the 16' Violone and busily refinishing and rebuilding the two grand pianos slated for lobby and stage use. Things are looking up!

GARY W. JONES



ALOHA Honolulu

808/696-4533 or 808/523-9079

Highlights of 1985 included a series of mini-concerts by members at the start of each meeting. Inaugurated by Chairman Lou Underhill, this series was well-received, and the artists included Betty DeRosa, Frank Loney, Phil Dooley, Dan Dirksen and Norman Kelley. A one-year Honorary Membership was awarded to John McCreary in recognition of his contribution to the goals of our society. As organist for St. Andrew's Cathedral, John produced and played — at talking speed, mind you — the entire Cecil B. deMille production of *Ben Hur* at the cathedral: a truly magnificent two-hour and 20 minute tour de force by one of Hawaii's best organists and composers.

In March we participated in the American Cancer Society's Fund Raiser by presenting silent movies, *Teddy at The Throttle*, starring Gloria Swanson and Wallace Beery, and *The Adventurer*, starring Charlie Chaplin, in the Aloha Chapter Theatre. Both films were loaned by Bob Alder and were accompanied exquisitely by Bob Alder and Frank Loney on the Allen 425 generously provided by Chairman Underhill. During the Fund Raiser,

members and guests tried their hands at the Baldwin in our booth which was provided through the generosity of Bill Sanders, owner of the Baldwin Studios. Member Betty DeRosa's students, Maylynn Leao, Saint Pule and Lauao Fuamoto, performed for the enjoyment of the crowd. A special videotape of the history of theatre organs in Hawaii was shown — and heard — continuously. A great big "TOOT" of the Hawaii Theatre's Post Horn to booth-sitters Claire Watson, Mary and Jim Chandler, Raphael Ai, Doug Dauterman, Bob Jewell and every other member who helped! This is an excellent way to increase the visibility of ATOS, and we recommend it to all chapters: get involved in fund-raising for charitable organizations.

Dave Kelsey presented a whopping concert for us in September on the 4/16 in the Hawaii Theatre. If you've never heard Dave play the "Flight of the Bumblebee" and "Poor Butterfly," you're in for a real treat! Thanks, Dave, for a terrific performance.

In September, as part of the Ho'olaulea (Mardi Gras, Hawaiian style) in Downtown Honolulu, Bob Alder and Frank Loney captivated audiences with their accompaniment and concertizing on the 4/16 Robert-Morton in the Hawaii Theatre. John McCreary was featured in an original score accompanying *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

In December, the Aloha Chapter received a donation of a 2/6 Wurlitzer, the first Wurlitzer ever in Hawaii. A special thanks to Lou Underhill and Steve Herbst for going to California and hauling it back — a monumental task!

To Chairman Underhill and his over-worked Allen, for hosting many meetings, and to Handy and Barbara Hancock and their beautiful Baldwin and home for their sayonara party for outgoing Chairman Underhill, and to John Berengue for encouraging us to play (and for finally playing for us!), and to all the members who contributed to 1985, thank you! The only member who managed to sneak through '85 without playing for us was Chairman Underhill — harrumph! Both Robert-Mortons in Honolulu are playing.



Atlanta's Walt Winn at the console of the Alabama Theatre's Purlux 1. (Gary Jones photo)



Rick McGee (left) and John Alford at the January meeting of the Alabama Chapter.

(Gary Jones photo)



Workmen secure connections from ladders.

The one at the Waikiki is played on weekends by Bob Alder. The one at the Hawaii is played for special occasions and is under constant repair/revision by Scott Bosch and his crew. The organ is used every Sunday morning by members who wish to practice on it.

If you are ever visiting our lovely state, please give us a call. We're mighty proud of our organs and organists. ALOHA!

N. R. KELLEY

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9676 or 319/396-5653

We received our wish for Christmas with the new replica Paramount Theatre marquee completed by mid-December. Although it was ready before the holidays, it was evident that Santa's sleigh was not to be the means of transportation as its two steel support arms and cantilevered steel frame support tons of stress. Instead, the early signs of the approaching installation were the strands of multi-colored cable flowing through the theatre's hallways. The advanced electrical design enables a safer maintenance fusing plus the appeal of multiple sequential lighting programs. Thirteen electrical boxes handle the supply for the hundreds of bulbs, including the colors gold, orange and red with conventional black-on-white sign lettering. The marquee was premiered in front page coverage and has become the focal point of the theatre in area nightlife.

Now that much of the original design incorporated in the Paramount's restoration is in place, the process is near completion, with the major exception of the organ grille scrim curtain designs. Acting as a member of the Paramount commission, George Baldwin was an early pioneer of the original conception of the marquee design. It was due largely to this commitment that the Chicago firm which designed the original 1928 version was again contracted for the replica. Then the arduous 14-month process began, leading to the local construction and installation of the monolith. It joins the recently installed lobby ticket booth and replica print carpeting as major successes.



The Cedar Rapids Paramount marquee after installation.

The Weiler residence was our holiday meeting site in December. Hostess Joy was joined by son Jeff, home from his studies at Northwestern University. Jeff has long been active in organ projects. His rescue of the original Englert Barton, along with the progress of the Weiler 2/6 Style D Wurlitzer as original, reflect his interest in authenticity.

MICHAEL VANCURA



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

Indianapolis
317/255-8056
or 317/546-1336

The Humane Society Benefit Concert will be held April 4 in the Manual High School

Auditorium. Ken Double will be the emcee, and Virginia Byrd Rechtoris will present a style show of clothing from the 1920s. Martin Ellis will be the featured organist, and Tim Needler will accompany a silent film.

The Motor City Chapter visited Indianapolis on November 29, 30 and December 1. Their itinerary included the Finkel home in Shelbyville, the Paramount Music Palace, Hedback Theatre, Manual High School, Pipe Dream restaurant in Kokomo and the Long Center in Lafayette. Brian Holland, Larry Bonebright, Martin Ellis and Rob Richards provided great organ music.

Martin Bevis of Dayton, Ohio, was the guest artist for the December meeting and Christmas party held in the newly renovated Manual High School Auditorium. He opened the program with "That's Entertainment" and ended with a "White Christmas" sing-along. As usual, open console followed, and a bounteous goody table was enjoyed by all.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

It is always a pleasure to visit the organ installation of a man who knows how to build 'em from scratch, and our October meeting was held at the home of Ralph Charles where a building attached to his dwelling houses his 4/20 organ modeled after a Robert-Morton.



GRACE E. MCGINNIS.

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.

Type photo captions on Scotch (3M) Post-it Note sheets (#654 - 3" x 3" or #655 - 3" x 5") and attach to *back* of photo. DO NOT use any kind of tape or rubber cement to attach captions to photos, and DO NOT attach photos to sheets of paper.

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
Phone: 503/654-5823

The chambers are split, and the stereo effect is plainly evident. Many of the percussions are located outside of the chambers. Among the more spectacular features is a recording and play-back device using organ rolls. When recording the notes, the ranks, pistons and swell shade setting appear as lines on an uncut roll. When the roll is processed by a Cleveland, Ohio, colleague, the appropriate punch marks are made and more and more reproductions of the original selection result. We were spellbound when a playback roll activated the organ, not unlike an invisible man rendering a tune complete with all orchestral and percussive effects. Following our business meeting, we were treated to a mini-concert by a dear friend and long-time member, Lois Hayes, whose selections included many favorites ranging from "Basin Street Blues" to the theme from *The Apartment*. Open console followed. For a rainy afternoon, 75 members and guests had a most enjoyable time.

Larry Krueger hosted our November meeting at the Cabaret Room of the Student Activity Center at the Capital University in Columbus. Some 35 members and guests heard his beautifully voiced 2/12 Wurlitzer. Larry played a mini-concert following the short business meeting, after which there was open console. In addition, we were impressed by a video-tape presentation of organ registration featuring Lowell Ayars. Lowell, ultimate diplomat that he is, was certainly instructive to those of us who seek to program the right registrations for our combination actions.

It was a festive occasion on December 22 when we convened at the Worthington High School for our annual Christmas party. Fifty members and guests were present for this event which celebrated both the Yuletide season and the intonations of our gorgeous Wurlitzer with 12 ranks playing. Following the business meeting, President Mark Williams presented a program of organ selections appropriate to the Christmas holidays and the beautiful winter wonderland that prevailed at that time. Before open console, he called long-time member Willard Ebner to the stage and presented him, on behalf of the chapter, a plaque in tribute to his contribution to our organ installation. Willard's many hours of toil, concern, and standards of workmanship are everywhere reflected in the mechanical assembly of our instrument. While members rotated at open console, we were treated to a superb array of food and drink prepared by our membership. It was a delight to welcome long-term member Charles Prior, Jr., who delighted us with a musical rendition at the console.

Plans are in progress for releathering four regulators in our Main chamber and rewinding certain ranks which will be more appropriately grouped according to their wind pressure requirements. Recommendations of members Bob Cawley, Trent Sims and Don Reighart are being implemented during January and February. Winding will require the acquisition of more regulators and a tremolo.

The first of the Ohio Theatre Organ Concert Series was held December 29, having been rescheduled because of the misfortune of

Please vote. Your **BALLOT** is in this issue.

Dennis James who fractured his toe. It was with real pleasure that we welcomed him back to the Robert-Morton console where his deft left foot seemed to perform as well as ever. The concert spotlight was shared by former Ohio resident organist Roger Garrett, to the delight of the senior set who turned out en masse to see this charismatic performer once more. Dennis' silent movie accompaniment and Roger's sing-alongs provided a wide variety of theatre organ styling at its best. The central theme of the concert was built around the history of Old Columbus Town in the days of the twenties and thirties.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/470-0743 or 312/627-3245

Our Christmas show evolved when we joined forces with the Copernicus Foundation to present a program at the Gateway Theatre on December 1 which resulted in an excellent program of holiday entertainment. Freddy Arnish, staff organist at the Hub Rink for many years, headed the program which included a silent movie, a Christmas sing-along, a barbershop quartet and the Elmwood Dancers in *Peter And The Wolf*, accompanied by the organ. This great bill of fare delighted the entire audience.

Enthusiasm and energy continue to be expended on theatre organs and theatres by dedicated ATOS members. The Arcada Theatre in St. Charles is getting much attention in upkeep and improvement. The Maine North High School building in Des Plaines has been sold. We own the 3/10 Wurlitzer which was installed just a few years ago in the auditorium. Its future home is debatable. It could stay where it is or go to the Aurora Paramount. We are watching and waiting for developments. A dedicated group of organ buffs is appearing at the Chicago Theatre on Sunday mornings. They're not on stage. No, they are on the theatre floor removing seats and carpets and doing what they can to further the renovation of this magnificent theatre. The Wurlitzer is being worked on, also, and is used during the work sessions.

The Oriental Wurlitzer is still getting attention, and a February banquet will be held again this year to enhance that organ's fund. This popular and financially rewarding affair has wide appeal.

We were fortunate to have Rosemary Bailey at St. Marys of The Lake Seminary in

Mundelein for a social on December 8. She certainly is in command of the organ, and in her super program did the "1812 Overture" in her grand style. It is an absolutely outstanding rendition as Rosemary does it. The only things missing are the cannons!

ALMER N. BROSTROM



Milwaukee
414/463-2365
or 414/771-8522

On December 8 our annual meeting was held at St. Marks Lutheran Church. Election of officers and board members was held, and a program was played by Gary Hanson featuring traditional Christmas music. A social hour with treats provided by members was held in the church basement following the program.

Our January social was hosted by Ralph Conn at Kipps Supper Club. Ralph is the regularly featured organist at the restaurant and always provides us with a good time. He also played a short concert at the Avalon console during the month. The Main chamber has been rewired to the console and a lift added. We are all looking forward to having the instrument fully operational in 1986. The Strassman Barton committee is still seeking a location for the donated Barton. Many sites have been mentioned, but they have not been acceptable. It is hoped that with luck and some hard work, an appropriate auditorium can be located to house the organ.

BILL CAMPBELL



Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055

We met at Babson College on November 24 with member Peter Krasinski as featured organist. While his classical training has been based on church playing, Peter quickly grasped many of the unit orchestra's unique features. A rapid-paced "Lullaby of Broadway" got his well-executed program underway during which several favorites were heard, including a fine piece he had written for the piano. Thanksgiving was remembered with the most appropriate hymn, "We Gather Together." A highlight of Peter's performance on our Wurlitzer was his accompaniment to a non-existent silent movie with each of us free to imagine our own actions and plots. Our guest was well-received and had to return to the console. "The Impossible Dream" was his encore. There is good "home-grown" talent right in our midst if only we would recognize and nurture it.

We had a nice Christmas assured us, on December 22, member Tim Bjareby was our artist. With colorful tables decorated in a Christmas theme and our favorite instrument



Alice Norris, retiring secretary/treasurer, displays her plaque for service to the chapter. (Jinny Vanore photo)



Henry Appenzeller at the Möller console, Trenton War Memorial. (Jinny Vanore photo)

before us, a happy, relaxed atmosphere prevailed. Tim can always be counted on to supply something out-of-the-rut, and this was no exception. With the Perry Mason theme as his opener, he gave us 11 highly different numbers interspersed with Christmas selections. Tim puts his own novel stamp on each number he plays, besides utilizing the organ's total resources. Humor is in his comments as well as his arrangements and brings many a chuckle. His "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" got mixed up with a mean "Alley Cat" and came off intact. Long applause gave us a romantic "It Had To Be You," concluding a thoroughly satisfying mini-concert.

STANLEY C. GARNISS



**GARDEN STATE
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**New Jersey
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or 201/445-1128**

Our thirteenth annual installation dinner was held on October 25 at the Trenton War

Memorial. The large, spanky-clean stage and orchestra lift was the dining area where pre-dinner wine and cheese were followed by a delicious catered buffet. New Chairman Joe Dorsey was introduced, and Alice Norris, retiring secretary/treasurer, who did an outstanding job for two years, was given a specially designed plaque which holds a Tibia pipe and is inscribed with the name and years of office. A similar plaque for Michael Cipolletti, who was in Europe and unable to attend the banquet, will be given to him at a future meeting. Joe Vanore, vice-chairman and program chairman, complimented the outgoing officers and thanked the 60 members for attending. The dinner was followed by a mini-concert featuring young member Henry Appenzeller, who is an up-and-coming organist. The applause indicated that all enjoyed the concert. Each year we have featured a young artist at our installation dinner. We feel that the future of ATOS is in the hands of these young organists.

A meeting was held on November 23 at the Olde Rahway Theatre in Rahway, New Jersey. It was an especially interesting meeting as it was a first in several years. After years of poor management, with roof and water prob-

lems endangering the structure, the theatre was boarded up and no one was allowed inside. The "biggest little Wurlitzer" remained silent and uncared for until interested individuals organized Landmarks. It has been an uphill climb, and funding has been difficult, but the hard work of many has finally proved successful. The theatre has become the Rahway Landmarks Union County Arts Center, and extensive restoration is underway.

Our meeting was held in the lobby, which is now quite beautifully restored. Gone is all the old wallboard with its ugly paint and dust of the years. Members were delighted to see a bright, airy lobby with a glowing gold frieze of dancing girls bordering the walls close to the ceiling. All this had been hidden for years. Bob Balfour, who helped to restore the organ and who has maintained it for many years, told the members of the future plans, and that much money is still needed. Members voted to financially assist in this project. Another important part of this meeting was the signing of a long-awaited contract with United Artists. This is the first contract we have had involving the Pascack Theatre in Westwood, even though we have restored and maintained its 2/8 Wurlitzer for many years. The theatre



Signing United Artists contract, L to R, Joe Vanore, George Anderson and Joe Dorsey (chairman).



Rahway Theatre marquee. 'Play A Part' in restoration.

(Jinny Vanore photo)

is being divided into four small ones, but the safety of the organ is assured as the contract provides for a new Solo chamber on the stage in the same theatre housing the Main. Our crew will supply the technical know-how, and

United Artists the wherefor. Intermissions with organ music will continue every Saturday night.

The Rahway meeting closed with open console. The "biggest little Wurlitzer" sounded

forth with verve and was enjoyed by all the members. My, it was good to return to the Rahway after so many years!

JINNY VANORE



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY
LO'LTOS
St. Paul-Minneapolis

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

The Organaires were invited, on October 20, to see, hear and play the three-manual Devtronix organ located in a very interesting, spot-lighted room in David and Barbara Kern's home in Buffalo, Minnesota. Dave, a psychologist, said it took him about four years to put together his electronic organ, including the building of a French-style console (beautiful to behold) and all the assembling and wiring of the electronics, making it equivalent to a 21-rank pipe organ. It is always a marvel to me that an "ordinary" person can build an instrument such as this!

A group of us journeyed to Fargo, North Dakota, on November 2 to take in the musical spectacular featuring the Fargo Theatre Big Band All Stars and the silent movie, *Feel My Pulse*, accompanied by the one-and-only Lance Johnson at the 2/15 Wurlitzer. Lance made arrangements for us to tour the theatre and chambers on Sunday, affording Mike Erie an opportunity to try the organ. As a result, Lance invited him to play for the Red River Chapter meeting on January 18. It was a long trip, but worth it!

Our annual election, with a social hour in the atrium by the pool and a bountiful buffet preceding the election, was held November 17 at the Sheraton-Midway Hotel in St. Paul. The Ken Visser Keyboard Center furnished a Wurlitzer spinet for the occasion and Mike Grandchamp, popular organist in the Twin Cities, delighted us with his tunes during the dinner hour and following the election.

In the November/December 1984 issue of *THEATRE ORGAN*, I mentioned that one of the few places we could hold our mini-concerts was D.J. Brady's in Mendota. Well, now, the present owners are again renovating D.J.'s for a supper club and no longer wish to have the little 2/5 Robert-Morton on the balcony . . . so, the organ was offered to our chapter and was gratefully accepted. A few of us got together for a final "curtain call" and open console on December 7. Don Johnson and Bob Scholer, key persons involved in rebuilding the organ, have dismantled the pipes and "works" which are now in storage. We are presently negotiating for a home for this little "jewel," and chapter members are looking forward to this new and exciting project.

Our longtime friend, Paul-Wesley Bowen, now working and living in San Jose, California, was in Minnesota for the holidays and, on December 29, following a brief social time, gave a concert at the beautiful Cedarhurst Mansion in Cottage Grove. There was an excellent turnout, with everyone exchanging cheery good wishes for the New Year.

VERNA MAE WILSON



Garden State business meeting in the lobby of the Rahway Theatre.

(Paul Szabocsik photo)



Garden State member Bob Reilly tries out this Mighty Wurlitzer. He said it really produces the Big Band sound!



Members and guests at the dedicatory concert of the LATOS Wurlitzer in its Standard Industries warehouse home in La Mirada during the annual Christmas party/brunch and business meeting. (Zimfoto)



**LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY**
California
818/792-7084

Our annual Business Meeting and Christmas Party in the La Mirada home of LA's newest (and some say, best) Wurlitzer was a smashing success! Admission was an unwrapped toy for the Children's Hospital, and a station wagon could hardly hold all the toys. Over 150 came for the meeting (125 joined us for the lavish Honeybaked Ham buffet dinner) and to enjoy Bob Mitchell and John Brown as they presented preview mini-con-



Initial concert for LATOS Board of Directors at Standard Industries, La Mirada, California. Our "angel," Ross Reed, owner of Standard Industries, who died suddenly January 3, stands in center of photo (light shirt). (Zimfoto)



Gaylord Carter was the artist at the initial concert for the Board of Directors. (Zimfoto)



John Brown, one of six guest organists at the LATOS Christmas party/business meeting. (Zimfoto)



Bob Mitchell, famed director of the Mitchell Boys Choir, plays as one of six guest organists at LATOS Christmas party/business meeting. (Zimfoto)

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Herbert Geisler, Jr., director of the Concordia College Bell Choir, with organist Walt Strony after Motor City's Annual Christmas Show at the Redford Theatre.

(Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)



Director Herbert Geisler and one of the two bell choirs that entertained at the Redford Theatre on December 7.

(Bill Vogel photo)

certs on the fabulous 3/27 Wurlitzer which is nearly complete, thanks to the efforts of Peter Crotty, Carl Nebe, Ken Crome and a host of chapter organ technicians who all pitched in to have the organ ready for its debut. Board member Ross Reed and his wife, Virginia, were our hosts for the day and received our warmest appreciation for all they have done to provide a suitable home for this great instrument.

It is with the greatest shock and sadness that we add a footnote to this story; Ross passed away on January 3. He was so proud of the organ and had but a few weeks to enjoy its music . . . but ours is a far better organization for his many contributions to our efforts to preserve theatre pipe organs.

RALPH BEAUDRY

MID-FLORIDA

Our charter meeting in September had 22 persons present. These folks are very enthusiastic theatre organ buffs, and some are very good performers; in fact, Don Baker of New York Paramount days and his wife, Anne, are members.

We had our November meeting in the home of Walter and Hallie Kimble where we heard a program of theatre-style favorites on a three-manual Conn 653 from several members.

On the night of November 22, many of us went to Lakeland where a sister theatre of the Tampa, the Polk Theatre, is currently being

restored. We were treated to an evening of nostalgia with Walter Kimble at the console of a 652 Conn, courtesy of World Music Center of Orlando. The organ was used to entertain during the pre-curtain time and to accompany the 1927 silent movie, *The General*, starring Buster Keaton. The Polk Theatre has the chambers, but never had a pipe organ installed. Our immediate goal is to locate and install a theatre pipe organ in the greater Orlando area, and we would appreciate any help in locating an organ.

MIKE WELLS



MOTOR CITY
Detroit
313/537-1133

Fr. Jim Miller's unique blend of wit and music pleased a very enthusiastic audience at the Royal Oak Theatre on November 9. Rounding out the program, the 32-piece Dearborn Accordion Orchestra, founded and directed by Lana Gore, performed a variety of music ranging from classical to Big Band stylings complete with bobby-soxers. Featured artists included Peter Soave, the 1984 World Champion Accordionist, and Pam Manos and Tammy Boyar, winners of U.S. Championships in the American Guild of Music. We were pleased to welcome guests of the Detroit Theater Organ Club who were at-

tending the Royal Oak as part of their Wurlitzer Weekend.

Proceeds from our Christmas Bazaar, held during the three-day run of the film, *The King and I*, will go toward restoration projects at the Redford.

Our annual Christmas party, held at the Redford Theatre on December 1, was chaired by Irene Fitzgerald and featured Margaret Tapler, son Nick Tapler and Homer Warren at the 3/10 Barton. With appropriate music by Lou Behm at the organ, Don Lockwood read *The Little Girl in The Yellow Dress*, a perennial favorite about Santa Claus written by *Detroit News* columnist H.C.L. Jackson and first published in 1937.

Our annual Christmas Show attracted 1000 people to the Redford on December 7 to hear Walt Strony at the Barton organ and the Concordia College Bell Choir. Walt's program was well-received and included seasonal and traditional melodies. Two of Concordia's three bell choirs, directed by Herbert Geisler, Jr., performed music appropriate to the Christmas season using four octaves of handbells.

During the showing of *The Bishop's Wife* at the Redford on December 13 and 14, the audience was invited to join in singing "Happy Birthday" to Ethel O'Leary, who keeps thousands of Detroiters informed about Motor City activities in her Saturday morning on-the-air phone conversations with WJR personality Bob Taylor. Ethel celebrated her eightieth birthday on Christmas Eve.

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Lance Luce

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Organists for our biweekly movie series at the Redford in November and December were Stan Zimmerman, Tony O'Brien, Lou Behm and Norm Keating.

Don Haller presented "Music That Makes You Want to Sing" as our featured artist for our Fourth Sunday Show at the Royal Oak on November 24.

We welcomed Lou Behm, who was ill last year, back to the console of the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton as our Fourth Sunday artist on December 22. The organist for the Wyandotte Masonic Lodge, Lou featured a program rich with Christmas favorites.

We are looking forward to Gaylord Carter's farewell concert to be held at the Redford on May 10 and are honored that he has chosen Detroit for this occasion.

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

DON LOCKWOOD



Emcee Don Lockwood leads a Redford Theatre audience in singing "Happy Birthday" to Ethel O'Leary, the radio voice of the Motor City Chapter, who celebrated her eightieth birthday on Christmas Eve. (Bill Vogel photo)



NYTOS Chairman Tom Stehle playing during Open Console. Gathered round are, L to R, Biff Buttler, Bob Walker, Ashley Miller and Eddie Layton.

NEW YORK THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY New York 914/343-1756 or 201/694-0779

Carnegie Hall Cinema was the site of our November meeting which featured organist Eddie Layton and the 2/5 ATOS/Ben Hall Wurlitzer. As a change of pace from our regular monthly concerts and open console sessions, program chairman Dave Kopp arranged to have Eddie present a workshop, and those who attended were treated to a most delightful and informative Sunday morning of theatre organ music and playing techniques.

As the New York Yankee's organist for nearly 20 years (he has outlasted countless Yankee managers), Eddie Layton is probably heard at the organ by more New Yorkers than any other organist, but seldom do we get a chance to appreciate his real musical talent as we did at this program. After warming up with a medley of theatre organ standards, Eddie demonstrated the use and technique of counter-melody, playing such old favorites as "Over The Rainbow" and "Blue Hawaii." Several musical tricks mastered in his eight years of study under the late Jesse Crawford, including three-handed playing, were also demonstrated. A highlight was his arrangement of "Begin The Beguine" intertwined with Ravel's "Bolero" theme. Eddie's talent as an organist and a master of harmony was

evident throughout the program, and his wit, personality and teaching skill combined to create a pleasant, memorable, and for us amateur organists especially, productive morning. The intimate setting of the Carnegie Hall Cinema proved to be perfect for this kind of informal program, and the "Little Mother" Wurlitzer was in fine voice.

Following Eddie's program several members took advantage of the opportunity to play at open console, some trying out new



Eddie Layton at the 2/5 ATOS-Ben Hall Wurlitzer in Carnegie Hall Cinema, where he conducted a November workshop for NYTOS.

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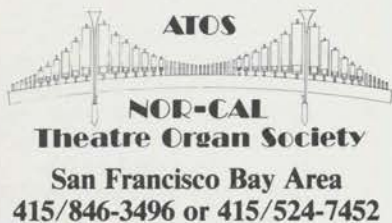


techniques learned at Eddie's workshop while others enjoyed the Danish and coffee and the good fellowship. The only sad note was Ashley Miller's announcement that the organ will need to be removed from the Cinema while Carnegie Hall undergoes major renovation. Where the organ eventually would go was the question of the morning.

Meanwhile, Bob Seeley and crew continue to make progress on the chapter's 2/10 Style H Wurlitzer being installed in the Middletown Paramount, and several ranks are now playing from the console, yet much work still needs to be done. The crew is looking toward the summer as a completion date for most of the instrument.

Although not sponsored by the chapter, Lee Erwin's "Sounds of The Silents" programs at the Beacon Theatre proved very popular. Many members enjoyed the weekly performances of silent classics accompanied by the Beacon's beautiful 4/19 Wurlitzer.

TOM STEHLE



On November 17 we were invited to hear the Oakland Grand Lake house organist Jim Riggs. Jim rode Ernie Wilson's 3/13 Wurlitzer console up playing "Livin' in The Sunlight, Lovin' in The Moonlight." He charmed the audience with "Deep Night," which he phrased in a manner reminiscent of graceful ballroom dancing music. The way he played Sidney Torch's version of "Twelfth Street Rag" demonstrated the excellent craftsmanship of Ernie Wilson, Wesley Cavett and Bill Petty on the Wurlitzer installation. Jim puts so much feeling and positive energy into his playing that he can get any listener into the swing, as demonstrated by his medley from the 1935 Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers hit, *Top Hat*. My favorite number was John Philip Sousa's mighty march, "Nobles of The Mystic Shrine," which creates the imagery of nobles marching proudly in procession. Other great numbers were his concert version of Fats Waller's "Honeysuckle Rose," and his



Jim Riggs played for Nor-Cal at the Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland, California.

(Rudy Frey photo)

own favorite, "She's The Girl Friend of The Whirling Dervish." Jim played, for Aura Edwards, an untitled piece that he composed many years ago when playing the theatre pipe organ at her house. Aura got Jim started on this marvelous journey into the Golden Years of the Mighty Wurlitzer and those wonderful tunes that Jim plays so well.

Jim has just released his first recording which contains several popular hits recorded on the Grand Lake Wurlitzer. Once you hear this record, you will know why Jim is loved throughout the Bay Area. He is slated to accompany Cecil B. DeMille's *King of Kings* on Easter Sunday at the Grand Lake.

Our December meeting was held at the Berkeley Community Theatre, our new "home," and had as its guest artists, two very special and talented ladies, Lee Lees at the Rodgers 33-E and Eunice Steele at the Baldwin concert grand piano. They opened with a medley from *La Cage aux Folles* as they rode up on the orchestra lift. Lee played several solos on the Rodgers including "A Dancing Tambourine," which she played especially for Ray Taylor. Lee and Eunice played a really fun piece entitled "Brazilian Sleigh Bells," and closed the concert with a medley of Christmas

songs which got most of us into the true non-commercial Christmas mood. The style, love, enthusiasm, teamwork and respect that Lee Lees and Eunice Steele give to their arrangements and to each other are really incredible. If you ever get a chance to hear Lee and Eunice together, you'll have a great time because they make their audiences feel comfortable and happy right from the start.

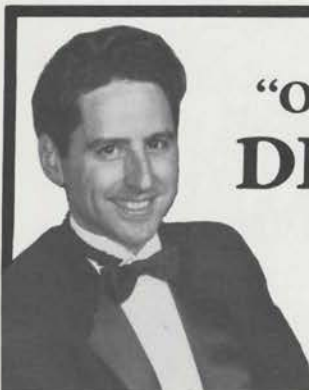
MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

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

The Christmas season provided the occasion for showing off our newly installed 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas. We welcomed the suggestion of the theatre management that we have members play short programs at the opening of the evening shows. Several of our experienced organ-



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Vernon P. Bickel

"You are in the select category of Artists who are highly revered by the Rochester Theater Organ Society, and as such you have been invited back many times. Your appearance this fall (1984) will bring the total to eight, which is more than any other Artist who has played for RTOS."

Russ Shaner

"Congratulations on your fine concerts at the Akron Civic Theatre. I have heard from many of my friends concerning the concert and they have all raved about it. It's been quite awhile since I've heard so many favorable comments on one of our programs."

Larry Krueger



Lloyd Hess plays a duet with himself on his recorder-equipped grand piano.



Lloyd Hess, host and performer for North Texas November meeting, at his Allen organ with the ornamental pipe facade which he built.

ists volunteered their talents during the holiday season. Charles Evans, Dale Flanery, Bill Flynt, Lloyd Hess and C.B. Sutherland played for at least one performance. We believe that this contributed to the "record season attendance" reported by the manager. We are anxious to have the theatre be successful — we also benefit from that success. This organ installation represents a significant in-

vestment of time and money by both the Lakewood and our chapter. We are pleased with the results and now want to share it with the community and build an enthusiastic following. We look forward to plans for a public concert and trust that this exposure will help to build an audience for our concerts.

This has been a year of many "firsts" for us, and our November meeting continued this

trend. Vice-Chairman Lloyd Hess invited us to his home for our first opportunity to hear and play his vintage Allen organ. What we found was both visually and tonally pleasing. We were surprised to find that Lloyd's many talents include fine cabinet-making skills. We found that he had embellished the Allen console with display pipes and cabinetry that transforms it, in imagery, into what I am cer-



North Texas chapter members enjoy their Christmas party following the program in John Beck Hall.



Gil and Sylvia Swift hosted the North Texas Chapter Christmas party. Organ is from the El Paso Plaza, now in their John Beck Hall studio.

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Paul Quarino waits to greet those hardy Oregonians who brave the rain for the Christmas Show. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Fantastic Roy Fritz keeps the audience alert for the next trick while his wife, Jan, attends. (Claude Neuffer photo)

tain Lloyd would like it to be — a glorious pipe organ. With Lloyd's talented ministrations on the keyboard, it comes as close as these electronics will allow (and that's mighty good). The high point of the program, though, was the "premiere" of Lloyd's new grand piano with Pianocorder attachment. Lloyd began by having the instrument reproduce music that he had played and captured earlier. He then began to add his live duet performance to the playback. Now — a live piano performance by Lloyd Hess is remarkable, but two Lloyds playing masterful piano duet arrangements is breathtaking. We thank you, Lloyd, for your gracious hospitality and for a wonderful musical experience.

The pairing of our annual Christmas party with the facilities of John Beck Hall and its El Paso Plaza Wurlitzer has become a holiday tradition. The popularity of this combination is apparent from the capacity attendance again this year. This year, open console was substituted for a more elaborate program. This gave us an opportunity to hear many of our talented members perform on the Wurlitzer. It also provided more time for conversation and getting to know one another better.

Both formats are enjoyable, so change off is probably in order.

IRVING LIGHT

OREGON Portland

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

A dinner/membership meeting and Christmas Show set our holiday mood. The Sherwood Odd Fellows Hall was the site of the dinner/meeting after which we walked around the corner to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre for an afternoon of magic, music and movies.

The magic was created by member Roy Fritz and his lovely wife, Jan, who graciously allowed her husband to suspend her in mid-air, giving a new dimension to the word "trust." Roy made things appear from nowhere and disappear into nothing, and we loved being baffled by the whole thing.

The music was created by Paul Quarino at the 3/8 Wurlitzer and included a sing-along of holiday songs plus favorites such as Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride." Paul's Christmas

music is always received enthusiastically by our members and guests.

The movies were ideal for a rainy start-the-holidays-right kind of Saturday afternoon. We saw Charlie Chaplin in *A Night at The Show* and our perennial favorite, *Big Business*, with Laurel and Hardy. Both films were artfully cued by Paul Quarino.

This year, Paul instigated something novel at the Organ Grinder. Christmas sing-alongs replaced the Old Time Gospel Music for the two Sundays before Christmas. Booklets with the words were distributed so all could participate — and they did! A number of patrons were heard to comment that they would be pleased to see this become a tradition.

PIKES PEAK AREA Colorado Springs

303/687-6530 or 303/633-4407

Our monthly First Sunday Open House/Open Console sessions at the Colorado Springs City Auditorium have been very successful. After three meetings, we have begun to increase our membership and interest is



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high. Out-of-town members and visitors are welcome to drop in and share our fun.

The Colorado Springs City Council has recently voted to rename the Little Theatre in the City Auditorium Building after former Colorado Springs resident Lon Chaney, Sr. Mr. Chaney was born in Colorado Springs in 1883. A dedication is planned for this spring when two Chaney movies will be shown with accompaniment on the 3/8 Wurlitzer.

Our chapter organ installation project is beginning to pick up speed. We have set a target date of Labor Day weekend to have this organ completed. This instrument is a 3/9 Wurlitzer and is being installed with additions that will make it a 3/? when completed. More later!

The first phase of restoration of the Pueblo Memorial Hall 4/58 Austin is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the organ will be featured in a concert this spring. About \$40,000 has been spent on this project so far, and it is hoped that a complete restoration can be accomplished over the next few years. A citizens' committee hopes to raise over \$100,000 to complete this project.

DAVID N. WEESNER



POTOMAC VALLEY
Washington, D.C.

We had a variety of programs/meetings in 1985. Since we are in the area of the National Capitol, we are fortunate to have members who are affiliated with the renowned military



Potomac Valley Chapter member Lou Hurvitz at the Dick Kline Wurlitzer.

bands. Vice Chairman Floyd Werle, recently retired from a distinguished career as chief arranger for the Air Force Bands, always enlivens our open console sessions. Lou Hurvitz, now returned to our area from a tour of duty with the Army Bands in Germany, is also an accomplished theatre organist. He presented a great concert for us at Dick Kline's residential installation of the Fox/Capitol Wurlitzer in October.

Thanks to the inspiration and promotion by Doug Bailey, Dick Kline and his magnificent installation were featured on the local TV program, "Capitol Edition," this fall when veteran theatre organist Art Brown was reunited with this instrument after some 40 years. Art had played to packed houses during the war years and had some nostalgic memories to share. The interviews with Dick

described the "labor of love" required for rebuilding and installing the organ and building his house around it.

We were invited to tour the facilities of Trivo Company in Hagerstown, Maryland, in July. Trivo is a builder of quality reed pipes, and we saw first hand the many steps and the craftsmanship required to design and build pipes, from casting the boot to final voicing. Trivo also restores existing pipes, and we saw some of that work in progress.

Work continued during the year on the installation and improvements on the two chapter organs. The Kimball at the University of Maryland suffered some water damage which is being repaired. Installation of the Wurlitzer at George Mason University is nearing completion.

DONALD D. FAEHN

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Dick Schrum with guest vocalist Beryl Brandmarker.

(Diane Whipple photo)

**PUGET SOUND
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The invigoration of overcoming the ravages of a morning blizzard brought us to Dick Schrum's November program at Bellevue Pizza & Pipes with a heightened sense of appreciation for the good music and warm hospitality enjoyed that afternoon. Dick's manner is relaxed and entertaining, and this day he presented a great many renditions influ-

enced by his keen ear for instrumental jazz as heard on recordings of all periods, as well as his long-time associations with local jazz performers. "No Moon At All," done in the style of Art Van Dam, was outstanding, as was Tommy Dorsey's "Opus One." An old and inventive friend, "Martha Lake," recently completed studying arranging with Spike Jones and coached Dick for his presentation of "Cocktails for Two," which retained all the fresh and zany quality of the original.

Following intermission, Tom Hobbs joined

Dick on the vibes for a set of jazz favorites. The surprise of the afternoon was an appearance by another friend, Australian-born vocalist Beryl Brandmarker, who did several tunes of the early 1900s with verve and good humor, accompanied by Dick at the organ.

DIANE WHIPPLE

**The River City
Theatre Organ Society
Omaha, Nebraska**

402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

Our November meeting was held at the home of ATOS President Jack Moelmann near Offutt Air Force Base. Fifty members and guests enjoyed a buffet supper with baked ham furnished by Jack. Before the main event, 11 members played Jack's customized Hammond organ during open console. Jack was the featured performer playing a short concert, a sing-along and accompaniment for the Laurel and Hardy silent *Liberty*.

On November 17 a contingent from our chapter traveled to Hastings, Nebraska, to attend an organ concert at the Masonic Temple Theatre presented by Ernest Yeagley on their 3/21 Kilgen concert organ. Mr. Yeagley's program also included organ/vocal duets with Mr. Dick Hall. At the conclusion of the program, Jack Moelmann addressed the audience on the objectives and goals of ATOS, pledging support for the preservation of the-



Warren Piper entertains at the Markworth's 3/13 Kimball.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



With Harold Kenney looking on, Jack Moelmann admires his new cable car bell.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

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River City members and guests listening to Jack Moelmann playing the Markworth Kimball. (Tom Jeffery photo)

atre organs and their music.

Penny and Bob Markworth hosted our December 14 Christmas party at their home in Omaha, with Vice President Harold Kenney chairing a short business meeting. The Markworth's 3/13 Kimball, an excellent home installation, was originally in the Leona Theatre in Pennsylvania. Since our last visit, Bob has added more novelty sound effects to the toy counter including an authentic San Francisco cable car bell and several duck calls. During the meeting, Bob Markworth presented Jack Moelmann with his own cable car bell, complete with pneumatics designed by Bob. Obviously delighted, Jack noted that he may need a larger blower to wind his percussions. We continue to grow, with 59 members and guests attending this meeting. During open console, 11 members put the Kimball through its paces. Before the evening's program started, we enjoyed a festive buffet supper organized by Carol Ring and Mary Kenney while Warren Piper, a well-known Omaha organist, entertained us. Afterwards, Bob presented a short dissertation on his installation and played one selection. The formal program by Jack Moelmann featured music of the Christmas season, a sing-along and *Two Tars*, a Laurel and Hardy comedy. Guest

Jean Turner played the piano in a Christmas medley duet with Jack. It was announced at the meeting that we are planning another organ concert for April 13 at the Orpheum Theatre, a benefit for Western Heritage Museum.

TOM JEFFERY

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

Members of the Denver Chapter AGO were our special guests for a special post-holiday concert and reception held at the historic Paramount Theatre on December 29. Over 150 persons enjoyed a variety of music performed by Paramount staff organists Bob Castle, Dorothy Retallack, Patti Simon and Joel Kremer. Music included such favorites as "I Love to Hear You Singing," "Sleigh Ride" and "The Secret." Joel Kremer closed the program with his rousing rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Following the program, a catered reception was held on stage for members, guests and performers. It was a delightful afternoon of good music performed by the Paramount

staff, who are also valuable members of our group.

Our members are hard at work planning a spring concert at the Paramount and a four-day regional convention to be held in Denver next October 10-13. Details on the convention will be released shortly.

DONALD ZELLER

ST. LOUIS Missouri 314/968-1940 or 314/631-1495

Belated New Year's greetings from St. Louis, home of the Fabulous Fox Theatre. Our members enjoyed a fine Christmas party at the home of retiring Chairman Paul Coates, with a sensational program played by Mark Gifford of Bybee Church Organs Inc. of St. Louis. This was on the Coates' 4/15 (slated to become 40-rank) instrument. We'll have to keep our eye on Mark, for he is definitely an up-and-coming theatre organist.

We are completing the installation of the club's 2/14 enlarged Wurlitzer in the lobby of the Fabulous Fox Theatre. The organ was originally in the Majestic Theatre in East St. Louis, Illinois. Marlin Mackley, of Mackley Organ Company, is doing the installation for the club. Marlin is a past chairman of our chapter and performed the superlative restoration of the Fox 4/36 Crawford Special Wurlitzer. The lobby organ will soon be in use with Jack Jenkins at the console. At special events and during the summer movie series, Jack entertains to packed houses with his spellbinding performances on the auditorium organ. Now we can enjoy him on both instruments. He is also installing the Bill Oberg 3/18 Wurlitzer (from Memphis) in his home, and it should be playing by May.

We are planning a formal public dedication of the Fox lobby organ in May or June, and anyone interested in this or the summer movie series and the silent movie should contact Chairman Dennis Ammann, Rt. 1, Box 330, Highland, Illinois 62249, or phone 618/654-7855. All correspondence with our chapter may also be directed to him.

We are also planning more theatre organ installations in our area. One will be at the Wildey Theatre, soon to be renovated under the ownership of the Madison County Arts Council. The 3/14 Barton came from the Paramount Theatre in Lynchburg, Virginia, and was originally redone by Dave Junchen

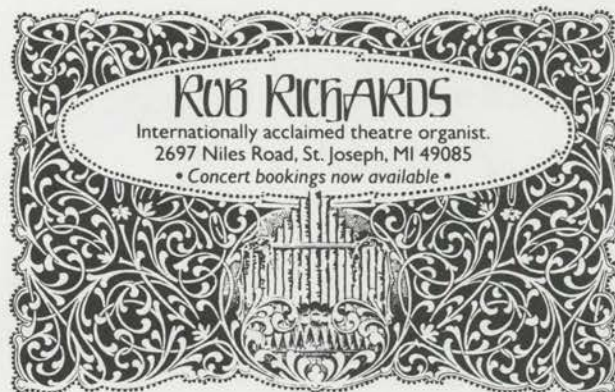
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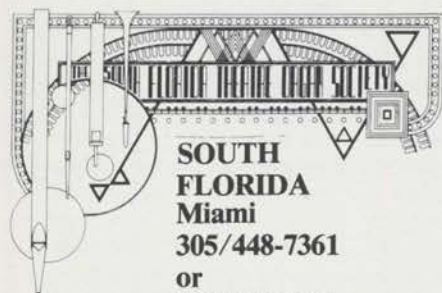
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for the now closed Old St. Louis Noodle and Pizza Company. The second one is in the Lincoln Theatre in Belleville. Members Richard and Betty Wright are owners of the theatre. They are installing a Wicks 2/8 theatre instrument with percussions and also have an 18-rank Kilgen they are considering as a possible separate installation in the theatre for classical performances. Both of these promise to be unique installations.

DENNIS AMMANN



**SOUTH
FLORIDA
Miami**
305/448-7361
or
305/443-2651

We held a combination annual meeting/Christmas concert on December 8 at the home of Millie and Calvin Jureit, who have hosted the chapter's Christmas party for 18 consecutive years. Lew Williams of Phoenix, Arizona, performed on the Jureit's restored organ which has a Kimball console and mostly Wurlitzer pipes. There is also a Yamaha grand piano in the Jureit's spacious living room, and Lew played several piano/organ duets as well as numerous holiday songs and classical works. While playing a medley of requests from the large audience, Williams gave a new meaning to the word "transition" when he moved from Bach's "Tocatta in D Minor" to "Tico Tico." A resident organist at the Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix, Williams played for the ATOS National Convention in Chicago last summer.

During intermission a short business meeting was held, and the Bylaws were amended to change the election of officers from December to June. This was done because the chapter's program season runs from September to May, and the officers were changed in mid-stream.

In November, David Kopp, organist at Madison Square Garden in New York City, entertained members at Andre Hall. An officer in New York Chapter, Kopp extended greetings from his chapter to ours before



Mildred Jureit, Lew Williams and Cal Jureit pose after Lew's concert for a capacity audience at the Jureit home. The organ uses a Kimball console to control mostly Wurlitzer pipework. (G. W. Gerhart photo)

tackling the Mighty 4/15 Wurlitzer which Bob Andre has restored over the years. An arranger as well as a musician, Kopp played a great variety of music, including a delightful spoof on songs known by wrong names.

In October the renowned showman, Gaylord Carter, gave one of his most interesting performances at Gusman Hall. He joked about retiring, but judging from the way he played, he doesn't seem ready to stop.

On January 14, organist Ty Woodward included Miami on his multi-city concert tour and performed to an enthusiastic audience at Gusman Hall.

JO WERNE

**SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
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There were so many organ events during November and December that our members scattered in all directions trying to take in as

many as possible.

On November 3 and 10, Mike Kinter invited us to his unique gift shop, The Mole Hole, in downtown Marshall for a Christmas open house. He has installed a Barton organ that originally came from Marshall's old Garden Theatre. Victor Barz was guest organist.

Our regular November meeting was held at Evelyn Sherman's home in Kalamazoo. Evelyn accompanied a sing-along on her Conn classic organ, and open console concluded the afternoon's activities.

Hector Olivera gave a concert on Kawai organs at Stannard's Music in Kalamazoo on November 19. He treated the audience to a full hour of fine organ playing interspersed with his usual humorous comments — a very enjoyable performance.

Some members attended the Carlo Curley concert at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids on November 29. Afterwards they took a side trip to Noodles Restaurant to hear Charlie Balogh play the Mighty Wurlitzer and Yamaha FX-20 and accompany singer Kitty Holloway.

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Because of his impressive performance during *Articipation*, Neil Johnston II was asked to play his Technics organ for the Christmas shoppers at Crossroads Mall in Portage on December 7.

A few members made the trip to the Detroit Theater Organ Club for the Lyn Larsen concert on December 8, as guests of Ken Butela. Others were occupied that same afternoon at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo where an Old-Fashioned Christmas Show was being held, sponsored by the State Theatre Vaudeville Association. Bill Mollema was at the console of the 3/13 Barton that day. Bill has helped restore and maintain the organ for the past 25 years. He and John Catherwood will continue their care of the organ even though the theatre has changed owners.

An evening of lively organ music was provided by Father James Miller on the Rodgers Custom 340 theatre model at the Sturges-Young Auditorium on December 10. Neil Johnston was master of ceremonies and Neil II was invited by Fr. Miller to play some numbers for us during the second half of the program.

Our final activity for 1985 was the annual Christmas party on December 15. It was held in the board room at McLeier Oil, Inc., in Kalamazoo. The program featured Christmas selections by Mike McLeier and Ken Butela at the console of the Conn 653 which is a custom installation including two additional speakers and four sets of pipes. Ken accompanied a Christmas sing-along, and the 31 people who attended enjoyed an abundance of tasty refreshments during open console.

L. DIANA HASKINS

gan enthusiasts from 24 states, Washington, D.C., and Edmonton, Canada. Artists included Tom Hazleton and Walt Strony in concerts at the Organ Stop in Phoenix, Lowell Ayars at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall installation, and Lew Williams at the Bill Brown residence organ. Ron Rhode performed at the Mesa Organ Stop, and Lyn Larsen and Carlo Curley presented a duo concert at the Valley of The Sun Center. Some of

Please vote. Your **BALLOT** is in this issue.

the organists participated in a Saturday morning panel discussion which included an interview with Hall of Fame organist Betty Gould. Conventioneers enjoyed a bit of Old West with a Sunday night dinner at Rawhide, an authentic 1800s town. Our regional convention was so successful that we were able to donate \$1000 to the ATOS Young Organists Competition.

Our December meeting and Christmas party was held at the home of members Glen and Barbara VanDiver. Following a potluck dinner, Walt Strony played songs of the season on the VanDivers' theatre organ. Some of our members then participated in open console.

We finished 1985 on a positive note, and we look forward to 1986 with a lot of enthusiasm.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

ended with a great crescendo. House organist Lin Lunde came in on the final chord, swelling the organ to its full brilliance making a wonderful transition as the Christmas lights came up. David Barnett stepped on stage and made a snappy introduction of Lin Lunde, David Newman at the piano and tenor Chuck Rhode (Ron's brother). Chuck, David and Lin rendered a couple of Christmas numbers; then the console sank to picture level, the lights went down and "A Christmas Song Fest" came on the screen as the curtain went up. The sing-along ended with "White Christmas" led by Chuck Rhode, David at the piano and Lin at the Wurlitzer. This was followed by a Bugs Bunny cartoon and finally the movie *White Christmas*. The film had not been seen in a theatre for 25 years and was greeted as though it had just been released. It was a new print and everything about it was excellent. The show ran for three days, December 13 to 15, with two matinees. The crowds were excellent; the evening shows sold out. Radio advertising really pays off! All who were involved in this show, even the projectionist, were club members.

On December 20 our annual Christmas party was held at the home of David Barnett who owns a fine little 2/8 Wurlitzer. Everyone had a great time and, considering the first snow of the season, the turnout was not too bad.

Paul Harris and his crew are busy re-covering the regulators on the Byrd Wurlitzer. One is finished, and there are seven to go. It takes about 20 hours to cover one of these huge pieces of equipment, and Paul and his crew deserve a great deal of credit for their work.

Although our chapter is new to ATOS, we were founded in 1957 as the Richmond Organ Enthusiasts Club. The club has been very active since its conception. In the last three years we have presented six silent films at the Mosque Theatre and at the Byrd and have featured nationally known organists. Our club maintains the Wurlitzers in the Mosque and Byrd Theatres.

MILES RUDISILL



VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

We survived our first regional convention over the Thanksgiving weekend, and had a good time doing it! We hosted about 300 or-



Christmas at the Byrd Theatre was spectacular this year. Thousands of gold lights decorated the auditorium from dome to floor, and two ten-foot gold trees filled with hundreds of lights were on each side of the stage. All of these lights were "tied in" with the blue footlights giving a most beautiful effect when the house was all in blue. The show started with some exciting holiday music on tape which

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE QUIZ ANSWER

Question from page 40.

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