



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Invasions from the East gave way to a rising West as Dolton McAlpin arrived from Starkville, Mississippi, to perform for our chapter in February. Dolton provided a wonderful program, brought along his own "fan club," and personified "entertainment" as he performed on the Alabama's Mighty Wurlitzer.

March found us back at a cool, but comfortable, theatre with Chapter President Cecil Whitmire at the helm of the Publix #1. Cecil and wife Linda are two of the driving forces of our chapter, and Cecil's familiarity with both organ and theatre only made a fine pro-

gram even better.

Work is progressing at the Alabama as the house opens its doors for the first scheduled public performances in almost four years. We have been the primary user of the theatre while local developers (and owners) Pedro Costa and Nelson Head have been making plans for the new downtown area. With the opening of the new house, local opera, children's theatre, ensemble and church groups have already begun booking dates for performances.

Watch for details as we get closer to producing a chapter-owned recording of the fabulous 4/21 Wurlitzer. Details, contracts, terms and recording dates are being worked out for what is rumored to be a fall release!

GARY W. JONES

ac/atos

atlanta chapter, american theatre organ society

Atlanta

404/963-6449 or 404/457-4731

The fall and holiday seasons have been very busy, and we have truly been blessed with some outstanding artists. We began in September with our own Walt Winn at his 4/17 Page. Walt is not only a gracious host to our chapter, but also is an excellent theatre organist in his own right, and his selections and registrations are a purist's delight.

October brought us Saenger Theatre organist Tom Helms. For the past two years, Tom has been busily installing the Saenger's much enlarged 4/20 Robert-Morton. Tom has a fresh, clean approach to theatre organ, and he entertained our chapter at the Winn Warehouse 4/17 Page.

Halloween found 15 members on the Roy Davis Annual Tennessee Organ Crawl. Open console was offered at the Chattanooga Tivoli 3/13 Wurlitzer, Bert Allee's 4/11 Estey, Roy Davis' 2/9 Wurlitzer and the McKinney's 2/6 Wurlitzer. The weekend's highlight was a ride and lunch on a real steam train in the Chattanooga area, offered by the Railroad Historical Society. You haven't lived until you've eaten dinner 300 feet underground under a crystal chandelier with organ dinner music in the background.

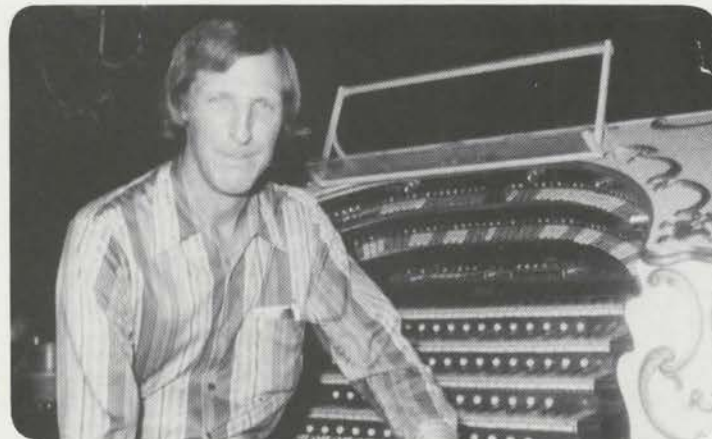


Alabama Chapter President Cecil Whitmire "piloting" the Alabama Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer. (Gary Jones photo)



Mississippian Dolton McAlpin at the Alabama Theatre.

(Gary Jones photo)



Walt Winn seated at his 4/17 Page at the September concert in Atlanta.



Tom Helms at the 4/17 Page in the Walt Winn Warehouse.



Tom Wibbels at the Excelsior Mill 3/23 Wurlitzer.

November brought us Indiana organist Tom Wibbels. Tom was a 1985 Convention artist who so impressed us with his playing that we invited him to Atlanta where he performed on the Excelsior Mill 3/23 Wurlitzer.

Bob Van Camp gave us our annual Christmas holiday treat at the December meeting at the Winn Warehouse. Bob has a style all his own, and one never tires of hearing his uncluttered playing.

January and New Year's Eve brought us several concerts by Bob Ralston, culminating with a gala New Year's Eve party at the Excelsior Mill. Walt Winn began the evening's entertainment with Bob bringing in the New Year on the highly tuned and well-regulated 3/23 Wurlitzer.

January was open console again at the

Winn Warehouse with several members surprising everyone with their new-found talent. There are two new Wurlitzer organs, both 2/7 Style E, playing in the Atlanta area; they are owned by Ron Carter and Gordy Johnson and are coming right along.

RON CARTER

BEEHIVE
Salt Lake City
801/278-6028 or 801/486-9098

We kicked off the holiday season by joining with the Salt Lake Organ Club for a Christmas dinner and dancing party at the famous Organ Loft. Artist for the evening was Linda Carlisle who played a good mixture of Christmas and pop selections on the 5/36 Wurlitzer. Larry Bray provided his usual excellent catering service along with a great organ to make for a very pleasant evening. Following the dinner, dance music was provided by Linda Carlisle and Scott Gillespie.

We next got together at the home of JoAnn Harmon to discuss chapter activities for the coming year and to install new officers and board members. We were treated to a silent movie, *My Best Girl*, starring Mary Pickford and accompanied by JoAnn, which provided a considerable amount of nostalgia and charm from the early days of movies. Open console followed with most members present trying their hands (and feet) at JoAnn's Hammond Elegante.



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

We have been co-sponsoring a series of four silent movies with the Organ Loft. The first was on February 13 and starred Buster Keaton in *Seven Chances*; it was accompanied by member Blaine Gale. Academy award winner, *Wings*, was shown on March 13 accompanied by Mike Ohman. The other two, *King of Kings* and *My Best Girl*, will be cued by Mike Ohman and JoAnn Harmon respectively. Chapter member Paul Hansen has spent many years accumulating silent movies and memorabilia from the silent movie era and has been gracious in sharing his hobby with the people in Salt Lake City and surrounding areas. We are fortunate to have his talents available to us.

Ken Double, announcer for the Indiana Pacer professional basketball team, took advantage of a recent team road trip to the Utah Jazz to stop by the Capitol Theatre and play the recently refurbished 2/11 Wurlitzer. According to reports, he can really put a pipe organ through a good workout and is an accomplished organist. He is a member of the Central Indiana Chapter, and we would like to invite him back to the Capitol Theatre any time he is in the vicinity.

O. WENDELL HANSON



Buffalo, New York
716/937-3592 or 716/826-2081

"The Friendly Friar from Fenton, Michigan," Father James Miller, brought his unique styling to Shea's Buffalo Theatre in March and walked away with a standing ovation from a very appreciative audience. In spite of a last minute problem with the lift, which fortunately was in the raised position for the concert, Father Jim presented an entertaining program of blues, rags and jazz that turned the grand old theatre into a New Orleans night club for a few hours. Admittedly a bit intimidated by the size and sound of the organ, having rarely played a house as large as Shea's, he nevertheless mastered the big 4/28 Wurlitzer to everyone's delight and approval. A visiting organ enthusiast from the touring company of *42nd Street*, scheduled to open at Shea's two days later, commented to Father Miller after the concert, "You're a great organist, but you're also one hell of a great entertainer!" Buffalo and western New York wholeheartedly agree.

MAUREN WILKE



**CENTRAL
INDIANA
CHAPTER**
Indianapolis
317/255-8056
or 317/546-1336

Two of our young members provided the program for the January meeting at St. Luke's

Catholic Church in Indianapolis. Martin Ellis, 1985 national winner of the Young Organist Competition, began the program with Schubert's "Marche Militaire." His other selections included several hymns and the "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" by J. S. Bach. Matt Dickerson then demonstrated his technique for making a classical organ sound like a theatre organ. He began with de Falla's "Ritual Fire Dance" and ended with "There's No Business Like Show Business." In addition to being a full-time student at Butler University in Indianapolis, Matt also helps repair pipe organs and is currently building his own pipe organ in his grandmother's basement.

The Hedback Theatre, home of the Footlite Musicals, was the site of the February meeting. The Hedback is a familiar place to our members as many of them provide pre-show and intermission organ music for the Footlite Musical productions. Members enjoyed a wonderful program of tunes from the 1920s to the present played by our good friend, John Ferguson. His selections included "You Took Advantage of Me," "Back Bay Shuffle" and "I've Got You Under My Skin." Not only did John play a beautiful concert, but he also provided interesting background material about his musical selections.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH



**Chicago Area
Theatre Organ Enthusiasts
312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136**

The Bears and Rams football teams played their championship games on the same day that we had a social at the Patio Theatre. Melissa Ambrose, who finished second in the Young Organists National Competition, was soloist and gave a great program on the Golden Voiced 3/15 Barton. It was a wonderful treat to hear Melissa, but a bit of a mystery why attendance was less than that at the Bears/Rams game! Both events will be long remembered.

The fund-raising banquet for repairs on the Wurlitzer from the "late" Oriental Theatre was very successful. Jack Olander gave a beautiful program on the Quigley Chapel three-manual Kilgen pipe organ. Jack played light classics, contemporary selections and some theatre styling in his inimitable fashion. Open console was afforded the eager organ buffs. Following the buffet a raffle was held for donated items, presentation of the restored Wurlitzer console and video highlights of the '85 Convention. All had a wonderful time, including Jim West!

There is plenty of activity in this area restoring and maintaining the available theatre organs. Some of the sites are the Montclare, Uptown, Chicago, Gateway, Arcada and St.

Charles theatres. The Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove is getting a 2/9 pipe organ (which is not a chapter project).

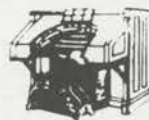
Chicago's south side is to get a boost from Mayor Washington with the restoration of the former Avalon Theatre which is to be a center for the performing arts. The name will be the New Regal Theatre in memory of the old Regal which was a venue for black entertainers. This new center should be a great assist to an area of Chicago which has been a bit neglected. The Avalon once had a 3/15 Wurlitzer, and there are thoughts of an organ for this new restoration. Our members will have to sanction such a move.

Jim Riggs performed at the Hinsdale Theatre to an overflow house on March 2. There is a special thrill to a full house for all concerned, and we wish all organ shows could be for full houses. Jim presented a great program which appealed to the appreciative audience. This excellent show was augmented by the ever-popular sing-along and silent film. Our deep appreciation to Jim Riggs for his superb program. Also, we extend our gratitude to the many accomplished soloists who make these shows possible.

ALMER N. BROSTROM



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.**



**Thomaston
203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269**

The Thomaston Opera House, home of our 3/15 Marr & Colton and center of many of our activities, was closed by the state fire marshall because of fire code violations. The Opera House opened in 1884 and is one of the oldest theatres of its kind in the country. Chairman Colver "Cog" Briggs is working with town and community leaders to develop a plan to correct the fire code violations and re-open the facility.

With news of the closing of Thomaston, work has accelerated on the installation of the 3/12 Austin (Opus 1512) theatre pipe organ in the Shelton High School in Shelton, Connecticut. The premiere and dedication of the organ was held on January 25 with our own internationally famous Rosa Rio in a concert which included a Laurel and Hardy silent film. Members of the award-winning Shelton High School band performed separately and jointly with the organ. Despite snow and ice-covered highways, almost 800 people, including city and school officials, attended the concert. Special recognition was given to Crew Chief Norman Turner and his assistant, Charles Putney, who have been involved for over ten years with the restoration and installation of the organ, and to Allen Miller, past chairman and ATOS director, who rescued the organ from the Allyn Theatre in Hartford when the theatre was demolished.

We celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary on February 8 with a full day of activities at Shelton High School. These included open console, meetings, a buffet dinner, a brief history of the chapter presented by Allen Miller, concert and dance music by Alden "Mitch" Mitchell and, finally, the serving of birthday cake and coffee. Allen Miller, who completed two years as chairman, was presented with a commemorative plaque recognizing his many contributions to the chapter during its 25 year history.

BARRY GOODKIN



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

Our February meeting was held at Bob Kames' Wonderful World of Music. This marks the first time we have met at an organ dealership. Several different models of organs, including Kawai, Wurlitzer and Hammond, were on display. Board member Bill Campbell provided the entertainment for the evening. Open console mixed with some sales demonstrations followed the entertainment.

On March 9 the Wisconsin Memorial Union Theatre featured R. Cameron accompanying *The Gold Rush*, a 1925 silent starring Charlie Chaplin. The organ is an Allen Computer model donated by member James Vaughan.

An interchapter social was held March 16 at the United Church of Christ in Lombard, Illinois. The Smith organ was originally installed in Milwaukee but was moved to its present location in 1945.

BILL CAMPBELL



**Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055**

Mrs. Robert MacNeur, otherwise known as Donna Parker, was the very capable concert artist on our Babson Wurlitzer on January 4. From her lively, bouncy opener, "Oh Gee, Oh Joy," to her finale, "Ritual Fire Dance," the music was upbeat with many a foot or finger keeping time. Jazz is prominent in a Parker concert, and she keeps the beat making it really come off on the rather unlikely medium of a theatre organ. This California native first studied organ at age seven, theatre organ at 11 and classical organ with Richard Purvis at 13, so she has a thorough grounding. For the past seven years her home base has been the 4/42 Wurlitzer in the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, so our 3/13 was a fun evening for Donna. Some nicely registered Gershwin, Youmans and Brubeck favorites were interspersed with a beautiful, light-hearted Robert Stoltz waltz, "Two Hearts in Three-Quarter Time." A completely different mood was created with Purvis'

"Fanfare" as one busy lady had feet flying across the pedalboard. Donna, only 29 years old, accompanied the silent Laurel and Hardy *Brats* like a veteran as she did the sing-along slides. Not one, but two standing ovations from her grateful listeners gave us a finger-busting Raymond Scott "Powerhouse" followed by what she termed "a slice of pizza music," "Hoedown." Donna undoubtedly gained several hundred additions to her growing list of fans after her first appearance here.

Many Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts folk know the console abilities of Bristol, Rhode Island's Earl Rounds and, finally, his schedule allowed us to have him at Babson on January 26. Those who have heard him at the big 5/21 Wurlitzer in the Providence Performing Arts Center and at the Columbus Theatre's Wurlitzer know that S-M-O-O-T-H characterizes his style. Earl is never bombastic and showy, but the sweet tonal combinations he registers make one want him to just play on and on. Kern's beautiful *Showboat* numbers flowed from the two chambers like honey, as did his two Rodgers waltzes. Our artist likes showtune medleys, and we had several featuring light-hearted, singable music which brightens one's day. Mr. Rounds earned long applause and "That's Entertainment" resulted. This man has a way with music that seems to fit theatre organ to the "T." We'll see you again, Earl, and many more will be in your audience next time!

Our February 23 meeting featured enthusiastic member Bob Legon. Bob, who can always be counted on to give us something interesting and varied, announced that it was "Potpourri" day. As a starter he played "The Wonderful White World of Winter." He explained that his introduction to theatre organ was 30 years ago when he heard some George Wright, Reginald Foort and Dick Liebert albums, and he proceeded to honor each of these artists with numbers they had made famous. What a wonderful, intriguing instrument we have in a theatre organ in the hands of a performer willing to experiment! Bob was given a book of agitated stomach music — belly dancing, to you — and he chose to play "Kel Whadee" from its varied contents.

Moving?

Send your change of address to . . .

ATOS Membership
P.O. Box 420490
Sacramento, Calif.
95842



Eight request numbers followed, and "Happy Birthday" closed the program serenading Pat Fucci who was adding another one the following day. Our artist was "coaxed" back to the console for just one more, and that we received in his encore, "I Just Called To Say I Love You." Thanks, Bob, for another good program by one of our most ready, willing and able long-time members.

STANLEY C. GARNISS



GARDEN STATE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.

New Jersey
 609/888-0909
 or 201/445-1128

The Christmas season started early with an enjoyable concert at the Trenton War Memorial on December 8. The featured artist on the Möller pipe organ was Jerry Nagano. Also on the program was the popular Greater Trenton Choral Society which sang many beautiful Christmas carols. This December concert is usually our best-attended, and many relatives of the Choral Society members experienced

for the first time the lush sounds of the pipe organ as it was handled so capably by Jerry Nagano. Following the concert, the stage was available and many members remained to enjoy the Christmas goodies and spirits plus open console. Chairman Joe Dorsey was finally able to catch up with busy, outgoing Chairman Michael Cipolletti and present him with his plaque for two outstanding years of service.

An open console and meeting took place at the Pascack Theatre in Westwood on January 25. This was the first time that our members had the opportunity to view the newly renovated theatre. From a 1220-seat, grand, old-style theatre with a large stage and murals on the walls, it has been turned into four small theatres. Theatres 1 and 2 are on the ground level, and 3 and 4 are in the balcony. Theatre 1 contains the Main chamber and the console of the eight-rank Wurlitzer. A new chamber on the stage will house the Solo chamber which was in Theatre 2. We hope there will be a balance, but unfortunately all the beautiful reverb is gone. The organ will speak into a small, 185-seat theatre. After four months of renovation, the newly quad theatre opened December 20, and the five ranks of the Main



Jerry Nagano at the Möller console at Trenton War Memorial. (Jinny Vanore photo)



Original 1200-seat Pascack Theatre in Westwood, New Jersey, with 2/8 Wurlitzer.



Theatre 1 of the recently remodeled Pascack Theatre. Screen is the width of this 185-seat theatre.



Garden State Chairman Joe Dorsey presenting plaque to out-going Chairman Michael Cipolletti.

(Jinny Vanore photo)

chamber are used every Saturday night for intermission. Just before the main attraction, the audience views an attractive trailer accompanied by taped music from the Wurlitzer, and credit is given to Garden State and its organists who play for intermissions. During the meeting, members toured the new complex, and many sighs were heard lamenting the loss of the big auditorium. However, open console was enjoyed by the playing members. Vice-Chairman Joe Vanore conducted a business meeting in which he asked for crew members to complete the Solo chamber. Coffee and sociability followed.

The Trenton Concert Series proudly presented Dick Smith at the Möller on February 9 when he returned for his third consecutive year. Many of his followers came to hear and enjoy. His concert was filled with pleasing, well-known music, and many of the endings were in the rousing "Dick Smith" style. The concert was followed by the usual "bring-your-own-food" which is so popular. Tables were set up on the stage and open console followed. It was a good Sunday treat deep in the heart of winter February.

JINNY VANORE



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

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

How we enjoyed the talent of Walt Strony, popular young theatre organist, who played the Mighty Wurlitzer for a capacity crowd at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, on January 31 and February 1.

Once again we are experiencing disappointment in that our negotiations have bogged down on our optimistic plans for a home for our 2/5 expandable Robert-Morton from Diamond Jim's. It seems that politics, funds, present ownership, etc. have entered into the so-far unsuccessful negotiations, but we haven't given up.

Another bit of sad news is that the Kilgen in the Sheldon Auditorium in Red Wing is out of commission because of water damage to the console caused by a loose sprinkler head. However, the city of Red Wing had recently voted to renovate the auditorium to its original glory with its gorgeous chandelier, and the organ will be removed and re-installed, perhaps with a brand new console. The renovation is scheduled to be completed in early 1987.

On March 12, Ed Hirschhoff, Mike Erie, Arno Marquardt and Verna Mae Wilson had a very pleasant meeting with Barbara Flanagan, well-known columnist for the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune*, concerning her "one-man" fight to save the State Theatre in Minneapolis from demolition. The *Star and Tribune*, under Barbara's by-line, will describe our chapter's efforts to search for a suitable home for a theatre pipe organ. Just recently the chapter had no choice but to turn down two theatre organs which had been offered to us by other chapters because we had no place to install one.

In the meantime, the Organaires have resumed their schedule for 1986, beginning with Joe and Ruth Vaes in January, Marge Shephard on Valentine's Day and Burt and Jean Frank's on March 13. Bill Lundquist often comments on how these sessions have encouraged him to practice and to offer his own arrangements. Our new Chairman, Ralph Doble, has expressed his desire to establish other home organ groups, and we hope we can get that program off the ground.

Members Don Johnson and Bob Scholer, assisting expert Terry Kleven, have just completed installing a new solid-state relay in the 3/13 Robert-Morton at the Powderhorn Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis. This great organ was formerly in the Annex Theatre in Detroit. We have been permitted to sponsor two concerts at the Powderhorn, one with Tom Hazleton producing tremendous sounds and the other with Ralph Kratzer, local pianist-organist, playing selections which required approval by the "powers" of the church who are quite specific about the type of program we could sponsor there, and who do not necessarily appreciate our theatre organ style of music.

At the invitation of Lance Johnson from Red River Chapter in Fargo, North Dakota, Mike Erie of our chapter was guest artist for their chapter on January 18 and was well-received with high praise from Lance and chapter members. How Mike loves that organ!

Work proceeds slowly on the installation of the 3/19 Wurlitzer by the Minnesota Theatre Organ Association at the World Theatre in St. Paul, home of the famous Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* show which is broadcast every Saturday night. The organ will be featured in every program when installation is complete and it is in playing condition. We hope to be able to host a concert in the beautifully refurbished theatre, renovation costing about 3½ million dollars. Who knows, one or two more installations may enable us to host an ATOS convention!

VERNA MAE WILSON



**LONDON
&
SOUTH
OF ENGLAND**

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Enthusiasm, energy, excitement and enjoyment were the cardinal factors that saw us through the last two months of our 1985 chapter program and into our highly promising 1986 bill of fare. Two superb in-theatre concerts were the highlights of this period.

First was that provided by veteran keyboard exponent Louis Mordish playing the popular 3/8 Wurlitzer at the Granada Harrow. Complementing his long-acclaimed orchestral stylings with bright snatches of equally captivating rhythm and ragtime, and culminating his marvelous program with a superb rendition of "The Caliph of Bagdad," his performance was nothing short of masterful. Having been one of the adjudicators at our Young Theatre Organist of The Year competition in September, Louis also graciously offered a cameo spot in his program to brilliant 12-year-old winner Peter Holt of Wetherby in Yorkshire, who emphasized why his quite exceptional talent for his tender age made him such a justifiable wearer of our coveted chain-of-office.

As is now our custom of featuring our young organists on electronic organ in the theatre foyer during concert interludes, this time smartly turned-out Karen "Budgie" Groom was seated at her own Eminent organ, complete with candelabra, to provide not only pleasure for our large patronage, but also clear vindication of the successful outcome of her tutelage by one of Britain's brightest console stars, John Mann.

Our last concert of the year featured the delightful Doreen Chadwick playing the British-built 3/12 Christie in the Granada Walthamstow which she had last played around 40 years earlier in partnership with her mentor at that time, the great Donald Thorne, playing the second console (which is still in situ, albeit inactive, under the stage extension). Doreen's characteristically majestic style at this magnificent instrument provided pleasure to our ears that was matched in the most welcome boost to our organ restoration fund by the generous and appreciated sponsorship of the concert by member Ken Newell who brought both these joys into appropriate confluence by presenting Doreen with a well-earned bouquet.

Our last Chapter Club Night of the year at Edith and Les Rawle's 3/19 Wurlitzer in Northolt featured ebullient Paul Sheffield from East Ham, our 1984 Young Theatre Organist of The Year, making what is now the traditional young winner's "handover" appearance.

The Christmas/New Year break witnessed several theatre organ programs on radio and television. Brilliant Bill Davies managed the unique feat of live theatre organ radio broadcasts on two successive evenings. First was as part of the BBC's "Friday Night Is Music



Los Angeles' 3/27 Wurlitzer at La Mirada showing console rolled out from its normal storage "cave." (Zimfoto)

Night" series (made so famous under the baton of the legendary Sidney Torch during his 21 years as its conductor) when Bill played the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust's 4/20 Wurlitzer in the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, which was the venue for the broadcast. On the following evening, Bill played the lively 3/8 Christie in the Astra Llandudno during the BBC's tribute to 40 years of broadcasting from North Wales, and he gave a fine tribute to the great Reginald Foort whose renowned traveling Möller was domiciled at the nearby Grand Theatre for the duration of WWII and broadcast almost daily by many well-known theatre organ stars of the day.

In a week of special TV programs devoted to jazz, that dexterous Statesider Dick Hyman provided a scintillating session (together with cornetist Ruby Braff) at the Balaban and Katz Style 4 3/19 Wurlitzer that is today the centerpiece of Cushings Steam and Organ Collection at Thursford in Norfolk. This was a long overdue taste of the clear visual attraction of the theatre organ to the home screen viewer.

The other highlight came with a 15-minute BBC radio program broadcast on New Year's Eve in a series called "The Enthusiasts." This had been recorded during our September Club Night at Northolt featuring Douglas Reeve at the Wurlitzer. Notably including interviews with Edith and Les Rawle, this little gem not only engendered much joy and interest with home listeners but has since also resulted in enthusiasts from Denmark and Germany wanting to come to see and hear the Wurlitzer for themselves.

Our young members, of whom we are so proud, also came very much to the fore during the holidays when our chapter was offered the opportunity to provide live cinema intermission music at the Granada Harrow. This resulted in polished and appreciated performances at the Wurlitzer by Paul Sheffield, Jayne Darley, Suzanne Hancock, Geoffrey Solman, Dena Cooper and our well-known mature member, Keith Evans.

The year began with exciting prospects on the organ restoration front with major projects for the Granada Tooting, Granada

Slough, Brentford Music Museum and Gaumont State Kilburn and the Christie at the Memorial Hall Barry in South Wales — all hoped to come to fruition during the year alongside our full and exciting prospective in-theatre and Club Night programs.

Despite the rough, if not exceptional, weather this winter, our Technical Team, led by the indefatigable Les Rawle, has given priority to traveling to Barry each week in an earnest endeavor to get this massive project, the 4/14 Christie, back to voice again just as soon as time and funds permit.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY
California
818/792-7084

On February 9 we had the pleasure of hearing Jim Riggs for the first time. His program at the Orpheum Theatre attracted one of our

largest crowds ever, and he proved himself to be a most accomplished artist. We hope he'll return soon.

At our February board meeting plans for the 1987 Convention in Los Angeles really got underway, and we'll be announcing the locations and artists soon.

After having the huge 4/37 Kimball in storage for nearly two years, and even contacting ATOS chapters from coast to coast to see if they could find a suitable home for it, we're happy to report that a church in the San Fernando Valley agreed to accept the organ as a donation and pledged to install it complete as it was in the Wiltern Theatre and permit us to hold concerts on it.

The 3/27 Wurlitzer purchased by the late Ross Reed was donated to our chapter at our Spring Membership Meeting which followed Lyn Larsen's gala "Premiere" concert on March 16. As Ross had spent many thousands of dollars completely rebuilding and upgrading the organ, we anticipate that, even though it will be removed from its present location, it can be installed and playing for the 1987 Convention. Our thanks to the Reed family for their generous support and contributions to preserving theatre organs. In appreciation, we have named Virginia Reed an Honorary Lifetime Member.

MARIA OLIVIER and RALPH BEAUDRY



MOTOR CITY
Detroit
313/537-1133

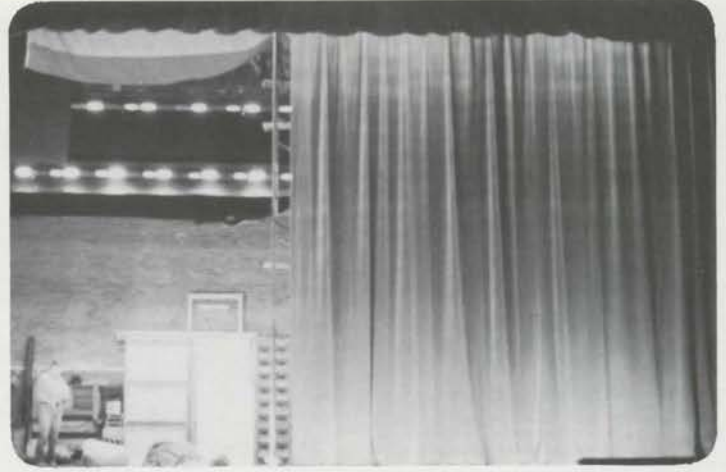
A wildly enthusiastic crowd of over 1200 attended a reserved-seat engagement at the Redford Theatre on March 1 to hear organists Lyn Larsen and Carlo Curley in concert. With Lyn at the 3/10 Barton and Carlo at an Allen placed on a platform in the orchestra pit to ensure eye contact during duets, the duo



The La Mirada Wurlitzer showing half the chambers and toy counter with console in playing location. (Zimfoto)



It was comedy and music with Chuck and Elaine Markey at Motor City's Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in February. (Fred Page photo)



Motor City fund raising efforts come to fruition as the new grand drape is installed at the Redford Theatre. (Tom FitzGerald photo)

gave the audience the best of the theatre and classical organ worlds in what can best be described as a sound spectacular. The entire program was produced by the young adults of the chapter, an idea conceived by Dorothy Van Steenkiste. Tony O'Brien was chosen to be chairman of the event by his peers, and the tireless efforts of Tony and his committee gave the chapter the most successful show we have had in years.

The Second Annual Young Organist Competition was held before a good-sized crowd at the Redford on March 9. Michael Oliver, a tenth grade honor student from Southgate, won in the Junior Division, and Colleen Feldspausch, an honor student in the eleventh grade at North Farmington High School, took top honors in the Intermediate Division. Colleen was chosen the overall grand winner, and a tape of her selections will be sent to National ATOS for judging. Other contestants in the Intermediate Division were Nordine Castine, a high school senior and member of the National Honor Society at Carl Brablec High School in Roseville, and Jennifer Candea, a freshman at Olivet College and violinist with the Battle Creek Youth Symphony. Chaired by Dorothy Van Steenkiste, committee members were Virginia Duerr, Gil and Penny Francis and Peggy Grimshaw. Judges were Victor Barz, Dan Dembicki, Herb Geisler, Henry Hunt and Dr. Chet Summers.

The Redford, aside from being the home of our chapter, is operated by members as a movie house every other weekend. In January, when *Detroit Monthly* magazine published its 1986 Best of Detroit Awards, the Redford was named Best Family Movie Theatre. A plaque commemorating the honor is proudly displayed in the lobby.

Years of fund-raising by Irene Fitzgerald and her committee came to fruition in February when a new copper-colored grand drape was installed at the Redford. New drapes of the same material now adorn all six exit doors, the orchestra pit railing and the foyer. The auditorium has been further enhanced by replastering and repainting the water-damaged areas in the atmospheric ceiling.

Organists for our biweekly movie series at the Redford in January and February were



Contestants in Motor City's Second Young Theatre Organists' Competition were (front row): Jennifer Candea, Norine Castine, Michael Oliver and overall winner Colleen Feldspausch. Judges (back row) were: Herb Geisler, Henry Hunt, Victor Barz, Dan Dembicki and Dr. Chet Summers. (Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)



Lyn Larsen at the Barton organ and Carlo Curley at an Allen rehearse for their concert at the Redford Theatre. To ensure eye contact during duets the Allen was placed on a platform in the orchestra pit. (Bill Vogel photo)



Paul Kline performed at the Royal Oak Theatre's Barton in January. (Fred Page photo)

Stan Zimmerman, John Lauter, Newton Bates and Don Haller.

Paul Kline, who has played at several area roller rinks, was at the console of the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Theatre for our Fourth Sunday program on January 26. On February 23 our Fourth Sunday concert featured Chuck Markey in a comedy song and

dance routine with wife Elaine at the Barton organ.

Our thirteenth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 84-year-old steamer *Columbia* will be held on Tuesday, August 19.

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
914/343-1756 or 201/694-0779**

Several hundred organ enthusiasts and some curiosity seekers flocked to the Westchester County Center in White Plains on January 5 when we presented organist Ralph Ringstad at the Center's 4/80 Grand Aeolian concert organ. It was a rare occasion, for this fine instrument, installed when the Center was constructed in 1930, has seldom been heard in recent years. The Center is a vast convention hall-auditorium, designed in the Art Deco style of its day, with a seating capacity of more than 5000 and is scheduled to undergo a \$15 million renovation this summer. Unfortunately, plans include the removal of the organ, and for the past several years county

officials have been attempting to find someone willing to relocate the instrument to a new home. Thus, our program was billed as a "farewell" concert, and in recognition of the event, the County Executive issued an official proclamation declaring January 5 to be Grand Aeolian Organ Day in Westchester County.

The real excitement came when the thundering sound of the organ, complete with its 32' Bombarde, filled the auditorium, and the console rose on its lift into the spotlight with Ralph Ringstad playing a stirring rendition of "Under The Double Eagle." Ralph, whose training and talent extend to both classical and theatre organ, provided a varied fare appropriate to the resources of the instrument; these included Purcell's "Trumpet Tune" (the Fanfare division of reeds, including Brass Trumpet and Post Horn), an excellent arrangement of Kern's "I Won't Dance" and, on the quieter side, several ballads. As the console rose following intermission the audience marveled at the realization that Mendelssohn's "War March of The Priests" was being played without the organist! Thanks to the efforts of Dan and Dave Kopp, the Duo Art player mechanism installed backstage was put into working order, and the Grand Aeolian made its entrance into the spotlight playing its own solo. Both the organist and the instrument demonstrated tremendous



Ronnie Stout holds two of the Duo Art organ rolls found in the Westchester Aeolian's player mechanism. Selections include Victor Herbert Favorites and Wagner's "Pilgrim's Chorus." (Walter Brunke photo)



Brothers Dan and Dave (back to the camera) Kopp repair Westchester County Aeolian's Duo Art player while Ronnie Stout looks on. (Walter Brunke photo)

ashley miller
a.a.g.o.

MILCO MUSIC CO.
P.O. Box 32 • Closter, N.J. 07624 • (201) 768-4450

RON RHODE
THEATRE
PIPE ORGAN
CONCERTS

KARL WARNER MANAGEMENT
3018 N. 62nd STREET
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
(602) 946-6892

Featured at Organ Stop Pizza - 2250 W. Southern, Mesa, Arizona

versatility with a wide range of music from a Bach "Fugue" to "New York, New York." Ralph took the organ down with the traditional "Auld Lang Syne."

The county is still seeking a home for the organ (anyone interested should contact Walter C. Schatz, Manager, Westchester County Center, White Plains, New York 10607), although some consideration is being given to keeping the organ in place as a result of the interest generated by our chapter and the very successful concert. A crew of members, including Gary Phillips, Dave and Don

Kopp, Roy Frenzke, Bob Seeley, Bob Welch and Tom Stehle, spent many hours and a good supply of duct tape to put the organ in presentable condition.

After more than two years of labor by Bob Seeley and crew at the Middletown Paramount, all ten ranks of the chapter's Style H Wurlitzer are playing and, although much remains to be done with de-bugging, voicing and percussions, the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer is filling the theatre for the first time in decades.

TOM STEHLE



Ralph Ringstad at the Westchester County 4/80 Aeolian concert organ played a January concert for the New York chapter. (Walter Brunke photo)



Bob Seeley tries the Aeolian during work session while crew members Tom Stehle, an unknown visitor, Bob Welch and Dan and Dave Kopp gather 'round. (Walter Brunke photo)

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

Nor-Cal Life Member Gaylord Carter's January 25 concert at the Oakland Paramount was sold out with standing-room only, and the 4/27 Wurlitzer had been fine-tuned by Bob Rhodes. Greeting the audience with "The Perfect Song" (his signature tune and the "Amos 'n Andy" theme song) as he rode the organ lift up, Carter held the audience in the palm of his "Flicker Fingers." He played a selection of mood music from Fairbanks' *Robin Hood* and demonstrated several of the dramatic accompaniments employed in silent films. "Hurry" music cued a segment from W.C. Fields' comedy of the same name. He delighted the audience with the Laurel and Hardy two-reeler, *That's My Wife*. Carter's precise following of the 1925 Harold Lloyd classic, *Safety Last*, was the main event of the evening. His background for this rib-tickler proved that he is still going strong at 80. *San Francisco Examiner* music critic Philip Elwood mentioned in his review that the "... organ freaks ... buy up the rest [of the tickets]."



Oakland Paramount Manager Peter Botto (left) and Gaylord Carter after S.R.O. performance on 4/27 Wurlitzer. (Ed Mullins photo)

Flicker Fingers Presentations
The Organ and the Silent Screen
Still Going Strong

Gaylord
Carter

1371 Paseo del Mar • San Pedro, California 90731
(213) 831-6360

Lance Luce

CONCERTS

33 Wood Street • Apt. 2104
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y2P8
(416) 597-8803

Jonas Nordwall played for us the following morning at San Francisco's Castro Theatre. His console-raiser was "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah." Three rock-and-roll tunes preceded Fritz Kreisler's "Liebeslied" and "Liebesfreud." An accordion transcription, Charles Magnante's "Tantalizing," was a nice diversion. Classical devotees were pleased with the first movement from Handel's *Fourth Organ Symphony*. Following intermission, two offertory tunes, "Pennies From Heaven" and "Put Another Nickel In," were literally an earth-moving experience. An earthquake, es-

timated at 5.5 on the Richter Scale, shook the building. Many in the audience were unaware of the tremor, and Jonas kept right on playing, not missing a beat. The audience demonstrated their approval with a well-earned standing ovation for this extremely talented musician. Jonas' encore was the "Colonel Bogey March." Nor-Cal expresses its sincere thanks to Jonas Nordwall for his fantastic concert and to the Taylors for making their wonderful Wurlitzer available to us.

Chairman Lowell Wendell, Rudy Frey, Bill Schlotter and Judson Owens travelled to Fairview Park, Ohio, to remove the 4/20 Wurlitzer (Opus 2006) from storage. The instrument is now safely stored in the Berkeley Community Theatre awaiting installation. The organ, originally in the Toledo Paramount Theatre, was donated to Nor-Cal through the generosity of Mr. Gary J. Brookins.

Member Martin Lilley is becoming quite a thespian. He recently acted in his fourth play, *See How They Run*, in Menlo Park. His portrayal of the Vicar, a straight-laced British clergyman, was one of the highlights of the play. Martin lost more than his dignity when he was running around in his underwear in the second act. An Englishman by birth, Lilley is installing a 2/7 Robert-Morton from San Deigo's All Saints Episcopal Church in his home. He also owns two electronic organs and collects reproducing pianos.

Another blustery, rainy day greeted our February concert-goers at the Redwood City Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes, but not to fear, our artist was Warren Lubich, who can play through any storm — inside or out. He opened his program with "Keep Your Sunny Side Up" and then played the song of the day, "Here's That Rainy Day." Warren is best known from the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco and, to bring back memories of the Avenue, he played "Constantinople," which was heard while people entered back in 1928. He continued to evoke memories for many, this time of the San Francisco Fox, with Cole Porter's "Allez-vous-en" from *Can Can*, which Kay Starr did on the final night at the Fox. Warren's Latin American medley gave the audience a warm, welcome feeling, and his closing number was a favorite of most everybody, George Gershwin's "Strike Up The Band." Warren Lubich certainly knows how to entertain an audience and make people feel good about being there.

ED MULLINS and
MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

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

We were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of our dear friend and fellow member Dale Flanery, just days following our February meeting in his home where we enjoyed the sounds of his beautiful Wur-



Jonas Nordwall at Castro Theatre 4/21 Wurlitzer for his concert that really shook up Nor-Cal. (Ed Mullins photo)



"The Vicar," a.k.a. Martin Lilley, unofficial chaplain of Nor-Cal, is praying for an early installation of the chapter Wurlitzer. (Ed Mullins photo)



DALE FLANERY

In loving memory of a friend and North Texas Chapter member.



Our apology for missing Michael Nauer's face in this photo. Michael played for North Texas Chapter, February 1986.

MAGIC ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF DAN SEMER

Detroit Theatre Organ Club — 4/34 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ
VRDS 10012 — STEREO

"Congratulations and bravo on your record." "A Fantastic Organist . . ."
— LIBERACE, pianist

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, tenor

"You created an artistic masterpiece that permeates with ingenious imagination."

RICHARD PURVIS, organist

A Grieg Fantasia • Piano Concerto in A Minor • Anitra's Dance
Wedding Day • Peer Gynt • Tea for Two • Evergreen
Hawaii • Miami Beach Rumba • You • And More

\$10.00 *postpaid* — \$12.00 *outside USA*

VILLAGE RECORDS • P.O. BOX 633 • LA VERNE, CA 91750

Dan Semer

ORGANIST-PIANIST

"Many good wishes for your career. God-Speed! You are a supervirtuoso that commands musical sensitivity with nuance."

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

The World's Favorite Tenor

M&J Enterprises

Personal Manager: Margaret Bonfiglio
P.O. Box 633, LaVerne, Calif. 91750
(714) 596-5024



litzer pipe organ. Dale had recently expanded the console to four manuals and enhanced its appearance with a gleaming white finish and glistening gold-leaf ornamentation. He was justifiably proud of this fine home installation and was most gracious in inviting individuals and groups to meet in his home to play and enjoy the Wurlitzer and the other instruments he had acquired.

Dale was not only capable at organ restoration but was also a talented musician and a successful businessman. His musical training started at an early age and included playing a wind instrument in his high school band. Among his professional credits are his playing the organ in his church and the Grande Barton in the Pizza and Pipes restaurant in Dallas (before it was closed). All of this was in addition to the management of his successful insurance agency.

Dale journeyed to Chicago last August with our chapter contingent to enjoy the ATOS National Convention — his first. And enjoy it, he did! He was in every audience, at every meeting and on every long bus ride. During those rare “times-out” from the convention, he managed to sandwich in some Chicago sight-seeing, including the view from the top of the Sears Tower.

When we assembled for our February 16 meeting in Dale’s home, we were shocked to learn that he had checked into the hospital, suffering from pneumonia. Not wanting to cause us any concern, he had entrusted us to family member Rod Keener to host the meeting. With assurance that the prognosis was good and that Dale’s confinement would be short, we were grateful to accept his hospitality *in absentia* and to settle back to enjoy the afternoon of Wurlitzer pipe organ music.

Program Chairman Lloyd Hess introduced us to organist Michael Nauert, new to our group, who played for us. Michael is an accomplished church organist who has been playing theatre pipes for only about a year — and loving it! He told us that he had had the opportunity to play for the Alabama chapter about six months ago on their “Big Bertha” Wurlitzer in the Alabama Theatre. His program was varied and included gospel and church stylings as well as traditional theatre organ fare. He opened with a brightly registered medley from *La Cage aux Folles* and ended with a rousing “They’re Playing Our Song” (which I particularly liked). We are looking forward to hearing Michael again



Dave Johnson demonstrated the wonders of the Yamaha FS500 and accompanying MIRAGE Keyboard for North Texas Chapter, February 1986, Dale Flanery residence.



View of Dale Flanery’s beautifully finished Wurlitzer console and five exposed ranks, acquired from a church echo organ. Dale was host for North Texas Chapter meeting, February 1986.



**1985 A.T.O.S.
“Organist Of The Year”
DENNIS JAMES**

**Resident Organist For
The Ohio Theatre**

55 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Bus. (614) 469-1045 • Hm. (614) 488-9032

“What a great performance! — professional and smooth, with variety, interesting selections and fast pace. And how it moved — not a dull second. We’re wondering what you’ll come up with next to keep up with that. Thank you for a stupendous, memorable evening. We’ve felt good ever since. It was all around perfection.”

Dave & Ruth Albaugh

“This is the first time I’ve ever written to any artist regarding their performance but I felt compelled to do so because I so enjoyed your concert recently at the Royal Oak Theatre. Your program was so well planned and so superbly performed it was truly ‘perfection personified’.”

Gladys Cheal

“Things are good and bad only by comparison — comparing your performance with the others is no contest. That’s the most professional performance and presentation I have ever seen and heard. Thirty years ago I would have attended it at least three times and probably five if I could have made two shows in a day.”

Tom Thornton



Jonas Nordwall at the console of the Rodgers organ and David Jones, owner of the Roseway Theatre in Portland, at the showing of *The General*. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Paul Quarino at the console accompanies Roy Stillwell, violinist, as host Harvey Scott watches. (Claude Neuffer photo)

soon.

Dale had planned to preview for us his recently acquired Yamaha FS500 and MIRAGE Sampling Machine keyboard, but in his absence had asked fellow enthusiast Dave Johnson to substitute for him. We were intrigued, not only by the many authentic orchestral effects of the Yamaha, but also by its capacity for storing and retrieving complex setups and by Dave's remarkable ability to negotiate the pedal board while wearing western boots. After we had enjoyed Dave's fine playing, Chairman Wright cleared the way for open console and refreshments. We all sorely felt Dale's absence, however, and wished that he had been there to share the music and to accept our genuine appreciation for the warmth of his friendship and the musical haven he had provided for our enjoyment.

We will miss Dale very much, as we have missed his wife, Margaret, who left us just a little over a year ago. Margaret and Dale were both long time supporters of ATOS and of our chapter — and dear friends.

IRVING LIGHT

OREGON Portland

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

In January, we were invited to a program at the First United Methodist Church in Port-

land. The featured organist was Jonas Nordwall playing the newly renovated 4/85 pipe organ. The sanctuary of the church has been completely remodeled, and the audience was treated to a demonstration of a new digital delay sound system installed by Dennis Hedberg. This amazing system enhances the natural acoustics of the sanctuary in a manner that adds clarity and expansiveness throughout the room. Combined with the organ, this is indeed one of the most impressive installations in the area. The program was a mixture of orchestral transcriptions and classical works and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Members had the chance to hear Jonas again in February, this time on the Rodgers organ in the Roseway Theatre. The program for the afternoon included *The General*, starring Buster Keaton. The organ at the Roseway is regularly featured before shows and on special occasions for silent pictures. Jonas provided a dynamic accompaniment to the picture, and the audience was most appreciative.

Our March meeting took place at the Portland home of Harvey and Virginia Scott. They have an original 1916 Estey residence installation which features 16 ranks plus a harp and an automatic roll-player. The main chambers speak through an ornate pipe facade into a large entryway. There is also an echo chamber that speaks into the living room. Members got to try their hands at the

organ plus listen to vintage rolls on the roll-player. An added treat was Oregon Symphony violinist Roy Stillwell who performed a number of selections accompanied on the organ by Gerry Gregorius, Paul Quarino and Don Feely. Thanks to the Scotts for opening their lovely home to our chapter and to Loren and Karen Minear for putting finishing touches on the organ.

DON FEELY



POTOMAC VALLEY Washington, D.C.

Our February meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Stratton in Alexandria, Virginia. Bob had installed a 3/12 composite ("mostly Episcopal") in his home a few years ago, having built some of the chests and all of the relay, using direct electric action. He had recently augmented the organ with three electronic pedal voices. The Austin console is replete with couplers (22) and combination pistons (34), so there is always something more the organist can add. Having been a professional theatre organist as well as an organ craftsman, Bob makes sure that everything on the organ works.

BARBARA SELLERS

"You heard her at the 1985 Convention,
now hear her locally."

For Concert Information and Availability

Richard J. Sklenar

3051 N. Clark, Chicago, Illinois 60657

(312) 248-5744 or 525-8658

Father James Miller

"Father Jim"
(313) 629-5400

401 Davis St.
Fenton, MI 48430

The program consisted of four mini-concerts by members Lou Hurvitz, Lee Prater, Bob Stratton and Floyd Werle, each playing in his own particular style. As an added attraction, Lou and Bob very capably performed "Hungarian Lustspeil," by Keller-Bela, as a duet on the grand piano. Open console and refreshments concluded the afternoon. It was a very pleasant day, thanks to our hosts Bob and Jean Stratton and to all who participated.

Work continues on installation of our 2/8 Wurlitzer at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. We had the Tuba pipes completely reconditioned at Trivo Company, and they are now being installed along with new pipe racks.

DONALD D. FAEHN

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Planned events at the Seattle Paramount may be of interest to anyone traveling to the Pacific Northwest or the Vancouver, B.C., Expo this summer. On Sunday, June 8, an afternoon of open console is planned with wine and cheese to be served in the lobby. Former theatre organists in the area have been invited as honored guests, and will also be given the opportunity to play the organ. On October 26 the chapter is planning its first public presentation at the theatre, a duo Halloween program by Jonas Nordwall and Tom Hazleton, for which a slave console, loaned by Mike Wallace, will be wired to the Wurlitzer.

A picnic at the home of Bert and Frankie Lobberegt is planned for July 28, and travelers are also welcome at this event. The Lobberegts operate a museum containing an extensive collection of meticulously restored antique cars and musical devices, and they open their Issaquah home, which contains a 2/8 organ, for an annual chapter party.

Dan Bellomy returned from Portland for a second Seattle-area performance, this one in February at the Tacoma Pizza & Pipes. The organ, a 1930 3/17 Style 260 Wurlitzer, is from the Paramount Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has recent additions of a high-hat cymbal and a set of Wind Chimes. Dan included several ballads in his program, always made interesting by occasional original and satisfying re-harmonizations and modulations. "Willow, Weep for Me" contained



Puget Sound officers and board members at the chapter's Marr & Colton: Back row, board members Adeline Hook, Mary Lou Becvar and Pearl Nelson; Front row, Vice-Chairman John Nafie, Treasurer Dan Raven, board member Ken Gallwey, and Chairman Mel Retzlaff. (Thelma Smith photo)

good jazz tempo, creative brass and Post Horn punctuations, and a bass line reminiscent of the best of Ray Brown — some of the most tasteful and well-constructed theatre organ jazz this writer has heard. "Stormy Weather," also very cleverly done, ended with the exciting creative abandon characteristic of Earl Grant.

Young English organist Pauline Dixon played a cameo spot in a surprise appearance at Bellevue Pizza & Pipes in March, a day prior to a benefit performance at the First United Methodist Church in Kent for the Kent Community Care Center. Mary Lou Becvar, a chapter board member, is director of the service center, and Pauline and her mother, Allison, were guests of the Becvars while in the area. Pauline, an energetic young musician, adds a spark to her playing by her own obvious enjoyment of what she's doing. "Swinging Shepherd Blues" was great fun for

everyone, as was "The Trolley Song." "Cry Me A River," given very tender and sensitive interpretation, featured beautiful registrations on this very well-voiced organ. Owners Jack and Betty Laffaw allowed use of the organ for open console, and several people had the thrill of playing it.

DIANE WHIPPLE

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



We began the year with a chapter social at the Fargo Theatre where we were nicely enter-



Tom Wibbels
Theatre Organist

impro international inc.

968 Kentucky Lane • Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
Telephone: (312) 894-7779



ATLAN

INSTITUTE OF ART & TECHNOLOGY, INC.

P.O. BOX 336
WHIPPANY, NJ 07981
(201) 887-3007

N. FRANCIS CIMMINO
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION

RALPH H. RINGSTAD, JR.
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS



Father Miller presiding at the organ workshop in the Fargo Theatre.

Father James Miller at the Fargo Theatre's 3/14 Wurlitzer.

tained by Mike Erie, an organist from Minneapolis.

Our next event focused on Father James Miller, who started off our new artist series with a thoroughly wonderful concert on February 21 at the theatre. The weather was not very cooperative, but there was plenty of warmth between the organist and the audience. You can't help but have a good time with Father Jim. The following day, he held a workshop and demonstrated as he talked about registration, use of the swell pedal, attack and release, phrasing with embellishments, playing musically and how the approach to theatre organ differs from classical organ.

In March the Fargo Theatre had its sixtieth birthday, and the Red River chapter its twen-

ty-first. To commemorate these events, a dinner was held at the new Radisson Hotel in downtown Fargo. In attendance were chapter members, Friends of the Fargo and many guests including Fargo Mayor Jon Lindgren. We also honored many of the individuals and businesses who have contributed to the restoration projects at the theatre. Our featured speaker was Herbert Scherer, the respected art librarian from the University of Minnesota. He discussed the career of, and showed a film about, Jack Liebenberg, the man who designed the Fargo Theatre changeover to streamlined modern in 1937.

Work is currently in progress on the Brass Saxophone rank and the rebuilding of the Marimba, the final additions to the Wurlitzer. These projects should be completed in

time for our spring silent movie nights, April 18 and 19, when the silent film star, Colleen Moore, makes a return appearance.

SONIA CARLSON

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

Our January 18 meeting was held in the Circus Room of the Holiday Best Western Motel in Fremont, where member Lois Thomsen plays her own Hammond every Friday and Saturday evening. Lois has a large and loyal following, and we were pleased to have a number of Fremont guests in atten-

Have You Heard?



Hector Olivera

and his 9 manual
"O-I Orchestra"

(National Tours Now Forming)
You Won't Believe Your Ears!

MPI

MUSIC PRODUCTION INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 86 • Newnan, Georgia 30264

Telephone: (404) 251-4704

GEORGE WRIGHT

"RED HOT AND BLUE" Compact Disc

*The 1st Theatre Organ Compact Disc. Plays
over 59 minutes with 6 more tunes than the LP.*

\$20.00 U.S. & Canada.
England \$22.00, Australia \$23.00 postpaid.

— ALSO —

"RED HOT AND BLUE"

George Wright and his new recording organ — a long awaited new LP record — 40 minutes — digitally recorded — exciting new arrangements — organ stoplist.

\$12.00 Postpaid in U.S.
\$14.00 Canada, \$18.00 England (U.S. Funds)

BANDA RECORDS

P.O. BOX 392 • OXNARD, CA 93032



Lois Thomsen was the perfect hostess at River City Chapter's January meeting.
(Tom Jeffery photo)



River City Chapter President, Ann Gabelman, takes a turn at the Sortino Technics.
(Tom Jeffery photo)

dance. The evening began with a social hour and dinner with Lois entertaining at the organ. Dick Zdan and Jack Moelmann spelled Lois at the console during part of the dinner hour. President Ann Gabelman conducted a short business meeting during which our secretary/treasurer Bob Markworth, was nominated for the national ATOS Board of Directors. Jack Moelmann, ATOS President, explained the activities and goals of the organization for the benefit of our guests. After open console, Jack played a sing-along and

accompanied the silent film *Lizzies of The Field* starring Billy Bevan. By any measure, this was a very enjoyable evening for the more than 55 members and guests. We are indebted to Lois Thomsen for hosting the event and making all arrangements.

Subby and Corinne Sortino hosted our February 22 meeting at their beautiful home. Their living room boasts two digital electronic organs, a Technics and a Lowrey, and five members put them through their paces during open console. A bountiful potluck supper fol-

lowed. Not content with two digital organs, Subby honored George Washington's birthday with a pre-programmed rendition of "Happy Birthday" on a Radio Shack novelty organ. After a short business meeting, Corinne Sortino and Ann Gabelman joined forces in an organ duet. Jack Moelmann, the featured artist for the evening, included a sing-along with lantern slides in his program.

Our chapter continues to grow as we become better known in the eastern Nebraska-western Iowa region. Our more than 60 mem-



Corinne and Subby Sortino hosted the River City Chapter's February meeting.
(Tom Jeffery photo)



Ann Gabelman (left) and Corinne Sortino join forces in a duet.
(Tom Jeffery photo)

Popular

English Theater Organist

Jeff Barker

Concerts and
Silent Films

201 Cross Street, Apt. 8H
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024
201-461-9246 201-944-6742



Lew Williams

featured at

Organ Stop Pizza
Phoenix

for concert information write or call
5109 N. 81st Street • Scottsdale, AZ 85253
(602) 941-9020



Dr. Bruce Belshaw at the console of the Arthur 2/10 Wurlitzer.

(Don Zeller photo)



Jack Jenkins, resident organist at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis, at the console of the 4/36 Crawford Special Wurlitzer in the Fox.

bers have a busy spring and summer schedule planned, including a June program on the new \$300,000 Casavant pipe organ in the Strauss Performing Arts Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

TOM JEFFERY

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Denver, Colorado
303/773-3124 or 303/233-4716**

We started the new year with a special program at Denver's historic Trinity Church. Professor James Bratton of the University of Denver presented a slide program entitled "Hook Your Hastings to A Steere," featuring historic organs of Colorado. Dr. Bratton has spent many years researching, recording and photographing the early instruments of the state and has assembled a very interesting program. Following his presentation, Dr. Bratton demonstrated the 1888 Roosevelt organ in the church. This organ will be one of the featured instruments during the Regional Convention to be held in Denver October 10-13.

The February program was also very special, particularly for long-time members of the chapter. Priscilla Arthur hosted 65 members and guests in her home for a dedication program on the recently completed 2/10 Wurlitzer which was formerly installed in Denver's Orpheum Theatre. The organ was purchased by Bill and Priscilla Arthur several

years ago, but, before the installation could be completed, Bill passed away. Priscilla decided to complete the instrument in his memory. The artist of the day was Dr. Bruce Belshaw, a close friend of the Arthurs. His program included "So Many Memories," "Our Love Is Here to Stay," "Anything Goes" and many other old favorites. A lavish reception followed the program, and many members played during open console. This instrument will be included in the Afterglow following the Regional Convention.

DONALD ZELLER

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

By the time this is published, the restoration and installation of our 3/15 Wurlitzer in the gorgeous Granada Theatre in St. Louis will be well underway. We were fortunate to be able to work out a permanent loan agreement with Granada, as it is the last vaudeville/movie palace in the St. Louis area that operates as a movie house. It is still basically an intact, 1200-seat neighborhood movie palace. We plan monthly concerts-silent movies and special programs about four times a year. The organ is being enlarged to 25 ranks, and formal dedication sometime in November of 1986 is projected. We plan for almost daily use of the organ before movies and during intermissions. A group of financial supporters is being organized, known as "The Friends of

The Granada Wurlitzer," with special privileges and considerations for their yearly support. Marlin Mackley of Mackley Organ Service is restoring and installing the organ for us. Marlin is past president of our chapter and is responsible for the superlative restoration and ongoing maintenance of the Fox 4/36 Crawford Special Wurlitzer.

The Fox lobby organ is almost ready for formal dedication later this summer or early fall. Use of the organ is scheduled to begin with the Fall Super-Star Series. The 2/12 Wurlitzer is being installed by Marlin Mackley; it is owned by our chapter and is on permanent loan to the Fox.

We are excited about the Summer Classic Movie Series at the Fox. Chapter Vice-President Jack Jenkins is the resident organist at the theatre and will preside over the Wurlitzer for pre-movie concerts. A guest artist will be brought in to play the only silent movie. For more information, call the box office at 314/534-1111. If you're in St. Louis this summer, you owe it to yourself to attend one of the Monday night movies. Jack Jenkins is a top-notch artist, and it is always a treat to hear him play.

DENNIS E. AMMANN

**SAN DIEGO
California
619/746-3581**

A first-time welcome was given to Jim Riggs at our February 15 concert. His relaxed

**ORGAN-IZING
POPULAR MUSIC
by
AL HERMANN**

A complete course in Keyboard Harmony and arranging popular music for Organ.

AVAILABLE AT MUSIC STORES OR DIRECTLY FROM
AL HERMANN

1398 TEMPLE STREET

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33516

ROB RICHARDS
Internationally acclaimed theatre organist.
2697 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085
• Concert bookings now available •

style, both at the console and with his audience, makes for easy enjoyable listening. The light show put on by the stage crew added a nice effect to the upbeat arrangements of the '30s and '40s tunes played by Jim. He is a star for good reason and we'll welcome him back any time!

The chapter's March membership meeting was held at the California Theatre. This was the first chance that the members have had to hear, individually, the four ranks that were added late last year. One of our members, Walt Slocum, demonstrated each of the ranks, Clarinet, Oboe, Horn Diapason and Quintadena. The organ now has 22 ranks. Walt also explained about the new capture system.

After the business meeting, a mini-concert was presented by two talented members, Russ Peck and Chuck Kramarich. Both young men have many years of piano and organ study behind them and both have played professionally. Russ' presentation included light, easy-going arrangements of nostalgic medleys. Chuck's program was varied in mood and made good use of "sound effects" for the "Syncopated Clock" and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." This mini-concert was the seventh in a series presented by members and free to all members and guests.

MARY JANE HYDE

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our November meeting was held at the home of Vic Thomas. The program was open console at Vic's Conn 652, and our host even



San Diego Chapter members Chuck Kramarich and Russ Peck after their mini-concert.



Jim Riggs at the San Diego Chapter 3/22 Wurlitzer.

played for us, something we don't hear very often.

Our December Christmas party took place at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Although sparsely attended, we enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner, good fellowship and music on their 4/14 Robert-Morton and grand piano. Dick Van Dera delighted us with an impromptu "concert" before we heard carols played as duets by Luther Eulert and

Dorothy Smith with each taking turns at both instruments. We've heard several of our members in unrehearsed duets, and they always amaze us — one would think they'd practiced together!

Vic Thomas graciously allowed us to meet at his home again in January. Our program, a videotape of the PBS program, "Voices in The Wind," was fascinating, especially seeing the tour through the organ factory. Open

Magazine Problems?

If you are not receiving your magazines, write to:

Douglas C. Fisk
P.O. Box 420490
Sacramento, California 95842

For back issues and binders, write to:

ATOS Back Issues & Binders
1393 Don Carlos Court
Chula Vista, California 92010



CHRIS ELLIOTT

Organist

Now booking 1986-87 appearances

Theatre Organ and Silent Film Presentations

For concert information, contact:

CHRIS ELLIOTT
P.O. Box 11571 • Santa Ana, CA 92711
Telephone: (714) 897-1715



Don Baker

"Mr. Theatre Organ"



A.S.C.A.P.

NOW BOOKING CONCERTS

111 Sea Fern Court, Lakes at Leesburg
Leesburg, Florida 32788
(904) 728-4683

console on Vic's Conn 652 followed.

In February we met at Phil and Laura Judkins' home for a program played by our host on his 3/11 partly Wicks hybrid. He gave us some suggestions on how to overcome the "seeming slowness" of a pipe organ pedal and played several selections by way of illustration before presenting the purely entertainment portion of his program. Open console followed.

We are making tremendous progress on the installation of our club-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton. The chamber is nearly finished at Vo-Tech High School. We had some marvelous publicity last November in the *Tulsa Tribune*, and our thanks go to *Tribune* writer Rebecca Martin and photographer Mike Wyte for a great story!

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN THEATRE ORGAN CLUB

Southwest Michigan
616/343-6491 or 616/344-1438

The weatherman was cooperative as 18 people made their way to the home of Don and Shirley Welsh at Long Lake in Portage for a regular meeting on January 19. The theme for the day was music of the '40s and '50s, and Don was the featured artist on his Model E Hammond. He opened with "You Can't Be True, Dear," a Ken Griffin number that brought back fond memories to this writer who roller-skated to this tune many times. Shirley provided a delicious assortment of refreshments which members enjoyed during open console. Don has built a special building to house his Kilgen pipe organ, and many of us took a peek at the array of pipes and parts he has gathered. We look forward to the day he has them all assembled into a working unit.

That same afternoon, Betty Darling played the 3/13 Barton at the State Theatre in Kalamazoo before two showings of *Gone With The Wind*. She also entertained during the intermissions.

On February 16 we met at the home of Al and Bertha Dinse in Kalamazoo. Al explained how he built his own bandbox, utilizing drums and other percussions he had played during his years with a dance band. He then played several numbers on the three-manual Artisan, demonstrating some of these special effects. Love songs were the order of the day as several members and guests took turns dur-



Ken Butela (left) and Mike McLeier performed on the Conn 653 at Southwest Michigan's Christmas party.

ing open console. Bertha, our charming hostess, tempted us with an endless supply of good things to eat during the afternoon. A heavy snowfall and worries of a treacherous drive home prompted a hastier departure from the gracious hospitality of the Dinses than some would have liked.

L. DIANA HASKINS



American
Theatre Organ
Society

VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Our chapter sponsored a concert on March 2 in Snider Auditorium which was "free" to the public. Sherman-Clay provided the two-manual Rodgers Asilomar electronic organ with pipes, and Walt Strony provided the artistry. This concert was presented to the public to widen the theatre organ audience and acquaint them with a special community project, the removal and rebuilding of the Kilgen theatre pipe organ in the Johnson Mortuary in Yuma. When this organ is rebuilt, it is hoped that it can be installed in the soon-to-be-refinished Yuma Theatre which is now

closed. The theatre was recently purchased by the Arizona Fine Arts Council and leased to the Cultural Council of Yuma. This organization will attempt to restore the theatre.

Walt Strony presented a superb program which demonstrated the versatility of the Rodgers organ. He opened with "Another Opening, Another Show" followed by "Memory" from *Cats*. An upbeat Fats Waller's "Handful of Keys" (and that it was) displayed another dimension of the organ and the organist's dexterity. The first half of the program was brought to a close with a medley of tunes from *Showboat*, one of this writer's favorite Broadway musicals.

During intermission Strony's records were available, and containers provided for donations for the "Save The Organ" project. Walt's records began disappearing and the fish bowls began filling up.

Member Harold Applin of Yuma coordinated the plans for the concert and also served as master of ceremonies. He briefly told the audience of the help needed to rebuild the organ and encouraged them to donate, not only money, but also time and labor.

The second half of the concert opened with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" which was most appropriate for this Lenten season. As a change of pace, Walt asked for requests and then proceeded to weave many of them into a fine medley. His closing number was the "Battle Hymn of The Republic," an all-around favorite! The Yuma audience showed

Now available from . . .

Don Baker
"Mr. Theatre Organ"



A.S.C.A.P.

Cassette recordings on
DETROIT SENATE &
BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA
Theatre Organs.
Post Paid \$9.50

Lakes at Leesburg
111 Sea Fern Court
Leesburg, Florida 32788
1-904-728-4683



Donald F. Overend

THEATER ORGANIST
THEATER PIPE ORGAN CONCERTS

RRI BOX 127, HASTINGS, NY 13076
(315) 668-6782



TATOS President Evan Chase, flanked by Wolverine Vice President Homer Warren and President Fred Page. At the OHIO console: Bill Yaney. (Bill Vogel photo)



In February, Guy and Elsie Kuhn introduced us to the TECHNICS. (Fred Page photo)

their appreciation with a standing ovation — well-deserved!

Thank you, Walt Strony, for a most enjoyable and fine concert. Thanks, also, to Harold Applin for the time and effort which made this concert a reality. May the dream of having the Kilgen theatre pipe organ installed in the Yuma theatre be achieved. If it is, Yuma will be able to boast of having the only pipe organ in a theatre in Arizona!

IONE DANFORD

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to this worthy cause may do so by sending it to: SAVE THE ORGAN PROJECT, 1415 First Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.



Ty Woodward gave a splendid concert for the club on January 6 at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond. Ty has played for us before, and it is a treat to hear his polished style. His classical training is evident, and he is equally at ease with the theatre organ as he is with its more

formal counterpart. Ty played for the regular movie audiences on Saturday and Sunday nights and was eloquently introduced by David Barnett. Remembering how well the piano/organ duo went over the last time with Tim Needler at the grand, this time Ty was at the console and Lin Lunde made the trek up the ladder to the piano box. Again, the audience thought this bit of showbiz was really great.

Our annual membership meeting was held at the home of Paul and Joyce Harris. The Harris' home is like a museum with every type of antique musical instrument one can think of, from a tiny music box to a giant Wurlitzer band organ. The new officers were presented to the membership, and we were treated to a slide show of Richmond, its theatres and its organs. The fun-filled evening was topped off with plenty of good food and conversation.

MILES RUDISILL



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

Central & Lower Michigan

313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118

After a visit to the Ohio Theatre in Toledo in November and a Christmas dinner at Theatre Organ Pipes & Pizza in Pontiac in December, we met on January 26 in the Redford

Theatre. For a few minutes it could have been 1931. For several members, many layers of dust were lifted from the long-dormant memories of old Redford when a short newsreel of that year, concerning a local event, was shown. Sigmond Ross, a veteran of silent movie accompaniment, brought the mute picture to life with his music. Sig played an hour of concert music prior to the business meeting. This meeting in the Redford was made possible through the gracious goodwill of Motor City Chapter.

On February 23 we had a lesson in computer science. Pat Feight of Keyboard World in Livonia brought a Technics sx-G7 "music machine" to the home of members Guy and Elsie Kuhn. Pat demonstrated the fantastic capabilities of PCM (Pulse Code Modulation), a superior way to reproduce a sound originally obtained by simply blowing a pipe. The gorgeous sound of the "big band" was impressive. The one thing we missed, however, was the knowledge that the Technics had ever accompanied a silent movie in the 1920s. We thank Pat and her family for the considerable time and effort that went into bringing the instrument to Mt. Clemens for our enjoyment. We acknowledge the success of a wondrous electronic technology, but a few of us will not be weaned away from the theatre pipe organ.

CHARLES and BETTY BAAS□

WALTER STRONY DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Just Released By The Dairyland Theatre Organ Society

Walt Strony plays Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre Wurlitzer pipe organ on the first recording ever issued of this fine instrument. The selections are Down By The Riverside, Kiss In The Dark, Bolero, Showboat, Malaguena, My Cousin In Milwaukee, My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice and Bacchanale. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Walt Strony at his best.

Available As Cassette Tape Only (DTOS 101)

\$10.00 Postpaid — \$12.00 Outside USA

DTOS Tape • 2420 Springdale Road #101 • Waukesha, WI 53186

"...a truly remarkable recording..."
Theatre Organ

SCOTT SMITH
AT THE
3/11 BARTON

MEMORIES OF THE MICHIGAN

Michigan Theatre
Lansing, Michigan

Available in stereo cassette only.

Send \$7.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling in check or money order to:
Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc., P.O. Box 26154, Lansing, MI 48909