

While THEATRE ORGAN is a dandy publication which tells of national happenings and occasionally delves into historical matters (such as the illustrious series years ago involving Dan Barton), it seems to me that the ATOS would be well-served if a companion publication were started, perhaps on the order of Tom B'hend's *The Console* which enjoyed a long publication run until it was suspended a year or so ago. Such a publication, if presented in an informal manner (as *The Console* was), could give information on instrument relocations, restoration techniques, hints for hobbyists, gossip (which is always fascinating to read), etc. There are ample precedents for this. The Musical Box Society International, for example, has two publications. One is printed on glossy paper and contains research articles and information of a more permanent nature, while a newsletter is more human-interest and deals primarily with current events. The formula seems to have been successful.

While some ATOS members, particularly those in larger cities, can regularly go to concerts, there are others whose enjoyment of the hobby, and knowledge of what is happening in the hobby, is more dependent upon what appears in print. Just an idea.

Sincerely yours,
Q. David Bowers
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire □

Closing Chord

Basel Cristol, a leading Chicago area theatre organist in the great era, died on April 7. She was 86.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, she began piano study at an early age, her father, brother and sister being talented musically. After emigrating to America, Basel studied at the Chicago Musical College, winning the Diamond Medal for proficiency.

After organ study, she began her professional career at Chicago's Central Park Theatre. Other theatres in which she played were the Circle, Roosevelt, Riviera, Tivoli, Uptown and Chicago. In the '30s, Basel went into radio, performing on WMAQ and WCFL, using a Hammond. An engagement in the Marine Dining Room of the Edgewater Beach Hotel, occasional stints at the Chicago Theatre for stage shows, and a 17-year stint at Iglor's Restaurant kept Basel Cristol busy into her eighties. While at Iglor's, she had a heart attack in 1973 and Hall of Famer Edna Sellers subbed for her. She retired from there in 1980.

For the definitive biography on Basel Cristol, see the March/April 1985 issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

LLOYD E. KLOS

Buddy Nolan, whose career playing theatre organ spanned more than 50 years, died on April 13, 1986, after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 68. A native of Norristown,



Buddy Nolan

Pennsylvania, Mr. Nolan started playing professionally while in the ninth grade. His mother was a pianist, organist and vocalist under whose guidance Buddy learned to love music. "I dropped out of school in the tenth grade," he once said, "and played professionally from then on." He served in the Army in

WWII. In 1952, he began a long association with the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he celebrated his fiftieth year in entertainment with a 1982 concert.

For many years Nolan played "Midnight Concerts" at the Embassy, which became a very popular attraction in Fort Wayne during the '50s and '60s. He recorded "Midnight at The Embassy," which has long since become a collector's item. In addition to his theatre work, Buddy Nolan was well-known in the Fort Wayne area for his nightclub and supper club engagements.

It was his long association with the Embassy that helped save the theatre in the early '70s when it was threatened with destruction. Buddy gave several well-publicized concerts and rallied support among the Fort Wayne public, who did not forget the years and years of theatre pipe organ pleasure given them by this very talented performer.

Surviving Mr. Nolan are a sister, Marcella, of Norristown, Pennsylvania, and a brother, Eugene, of Ellentown, Florida. Services were held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne with burial in the Catholic Cemetery.

TIM NEEDLER

Rocky Mountain Chapter was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its long-time, very active members. **Jerry Cutshall**, husband of our secretary, Alice Cutshall, passed away on March 21 following a heart attack. Jerry donated many hours of his time working with chapter members to maintain the Paramount Theatre organ in downtown Denver. He retired from the Rio Grande Railroad after 48 years of service and, in addition to our chapter, he was active in Colorado Live Steamers, the Mile High Railroad Club and the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

DONALD ZELLER □

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