

'86, has had a very active technical committee, presented several private and public concerts, received an anonymous donation of a Post Horn, and was given the George R. Meek collection of theatre and organ magazines and memorabilia. **Western Reserve, Wolverine:** Dorothy Van Steenkiste reported that the chapter has many co-members with the Motor City chapter, does not own or operate theatres or organs, but has fun enjoying many theatre organ installations in the area, mainly in homes; the chapter feels it is necessary to change attitudes in order to involve more young people.

14. Adjournment. President Moelmann asked if there was any further business to be brought before the meeting, and there being none, the meeting was adjourned sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, *National Secretary* □

**AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
The Mosque — Richmond, Virginia
July 8, 1986**

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks. President Jack Moelmann called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 1986, from the stage of The Mosque Theatre, Six North Laurel Street, Richmond, Virginia. He then introduced Directors Vice President Russell Joseph, Secretary David Barnett, and Treasurer Dale Mendenhall; he recognized retiring Directors Lowell Ayars and Ashley Miller; he then introduced Directors Lois Segur, Richard Sklenar, John Landon, John Ledwon, Allen Miller, and Catherine Koenig; he then introduced THEATRE ORGAN Editor Robert Gilbert, Co-Editor Grace E. McGinnis, Advertising Manager Len Clarke, Executive Director Douglas Fisk, and Archivist/Librarian Vernon Bickel. The President then noted the resignation of Fr. Jim Miller from the Board, and the absence of Director Tom B'hend due to illness.

2. Approval of Minutes. On a motion made by Tim Needler, seconded by Joe Lucky and passed with no opposition, the members approved the minutes of the August 3, 1985, Annual Membership Meeting as published in the September/October, 1985 issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Mendenhall reported that the society was able to pay all 1985 bills by the end of the fiscal year, thereby leaving 1986 income to pay 1986 expenses. He reported a 1985 surplus of \$10,000, and projected a similar surplus in 1986, noting that sufficient funds had accumulated to provide additional funding for programs. He thanked members for renewing at a higher amount that the required \$20, and remarked that ATOS would be actively seeking support from grants.

4. Executive Director's Report. Executive Director Fisk gave an overview of the organization, likening it to a large tapestry of chapters and unaffiliated members. He emphasized that the parts form a single entity with the Board of Directors setting the rules, but with the work being done by all members. He stated that membership has grown to more than 5400 members which gives the organization sufficient money to put into new programs. He challenged all members to find a place in the tapestry, and to work together toward the society's goals.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Committee Reports.

a. Young Organists Competition. Chairman Lois Segur reported that 11 entrants competed in the 1986 competition in three age levels, and announced the three winners as well as the overall winner: Junior, Neil H. Johnston II; Intermediate, Colleen Feldpausch; Senior and overall, Dwight M. Thomas. She acknowledged the competition judges: Richard Purvis, Tom Hazleton, Dennis James, Gwen O'Connor, and Grant Whitcomb, announced the increased prize money, and encouraged chapters to sponsor competitions on the local level.

b. Nominating. Russell Joseph advised the members that the committee for 1986 consisted of three members from different areas of the country: Rudy Frey (Northern California), Margaret Ann Foy (Rocky Mountain), Richard Neidich (Washington, D.C.), and himself (Ozark Country). He stated that the number of returned ballots (1162) was not a good showing and encouraged more participation in the election process. He noted that Directors are responsible for leadership in the organization, but that it is the members' responsibility to choose good Directors.

c. Convention Planning. Convention Planning Coordinator Tim Needler expressed appreciation to Richmond, to the Virginia Theatre Organ Society, and to the Convention '86 Committee. He then announced the lineup for future conventions: 1987 in Los Angeles during the last full week of June, 1988 in Portland, 1989 in Detroit, and 1990 in San Francisco. He encouraged chapters to consider hosting a future convention. He then introduced the *Convention Policy and Procedures Handbook*, encouraging chapters to request them for review.

d. Library/Archives. Librarian/Archivist Vern Bickel thanked those members who had contributed items to the collection. He mentioned the need for a 78-RPM transcription turntable, and re-

quested that members donate to the collection books, pamphlets, photos, and other items relating to the theatre organ in order that they may be preserved for posterity.

e. Technical. Chairman Allen Miller advised that a technical manual will be published this year composed of reprints from previously published articles.

NEW BUSINESS

6. National ATOS Newsletter. President Moelmann announced that the Board had voted to publish a newsletter for a six-months trial period.

7. THEATRE ORGAN Journal. Moelmann then expressed the Board's thanks to THEATRE ORGAN Editor Bob Gilbert who had announced his retirement; he then introduced new Editor Grace E. McGinnis.

8. Bylaws Revisions. The President then related to the members changes which the Directors had made to the Bylaws. (See Directors Meeting minutes.)

9. Promotion and Publicity. President Moelmann announced plans for increasing the visibility of ATOS, including a public radio broadcast series, a television production, improved communication of news to chapters, and his up-coming "spot" on the ABC Television program "Good Morning America."

10. Closing Remarks and Adjournment. The President expressed the Society's thanks to the Virginia Theatre Organ Society, host chapter for Convention '86; the announcement was followed by a round of applause. The President then asked members to present any additional business. There being none, on a motion by Deke Warner, seconded by Gene Davis and passed without opposition, the meeting was adjourned sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, *National Secretary* □



**ALABAMA
Birmingham**

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Our May event was held at the Alabama Theatre with Jay Mitchell of Atlanta at the console of the Publix # 1. Jay was instrumental in getting our chapter formed, and it was very good to have him back "home." He has also been working with some of the reeds in the Wurlitzer. Cleaning, voicing and tonal finishing has been in process, and the sound is fabulous!

A special June surprise was another of our chapter founders, Alleen Cole, from Tampa, Florida, who brought her friend, Marlon

Scott, with her. Both Alleen and Marlon performed, and each brought along a "special" guest. "Minnie Pearl" (aka Alleen) arrived and played, for the first time in her career, the theatre organ. She had no problem with the "four-layered piano" but had never used "those sticks on the floor!" Minnie's organ debut was brought to an end as "Liberace" (aka Marlon) made a spectacular entrance from the rear of the auditorium. Liberace charmed the crowd and performed on the Wurlitzer with candelabrum, of course.

We are currently producing a summer movie series which is enjoying tremendous success. Plans are in the making, with owners Costa and Head, to keep the series going



"Liberace" (Marlon Scott) and "Minnie Pearl" (Alleen Cole) perform for the Alabama chapter. (Gary W. Jones photo)



Gary Jones "in the pit" just prior to playing a classic movie at the Alabama Theatre.

(Larry W. Donaldson photo)

through fall and winter. By far the most successful movie was *Gone With The Wind* which played to a full house on a Sunday afternoon. It is a grand sight to see a full auditorium! The Wurlitzer is being played before and after each movie and for an hour prior to the Sunday matinees.

The most exciting news in these parts is the new Wurlitzer theatre organ that has been purchased by member Freeman Andress to be installed in his "Birmingham Wedding Chapel." Owner Andress has set out to make this one of the finest installations in the area. Scheduled to become a 3/16-19, the basis for the installation is a Style H which is being installed by volunteers from our chapter with Gary Jones as crew chief and Larry Donaldson as technical director. Watch as this Wurlitzer emerges to be one of the finest!

GARY W. JONES

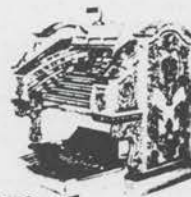
Buffalo, New York
716/937-3592 or 716/826-2081

With a mighty fanfare and crashing of cymbals leading into "The Best of Times," Ron Rhode opened his long-awaited concert at Shea's Buffalo Theatre last May. Ron commented that he had last played the organ here in the early '70s, prior to the organ's restoration. At that time, he "had to put down every stop tab to play it, and it was gross. It was so gross I knew it was going to be wonderful some day, and it is!"

Ron's program was one of contrasts and variety. The stirring "March and Procession of Bacchus," from Delibes' ballet *Sylvia*, was followed by a delightful "Teddy Bears' Picnic." Tunes from the thirties contrasted nicely with a contemporary Christian song, "You Are There," inspired by the 139th Psalm. His medley combining the "Star-Spangled Banner" with "Oh, Canada," not only paid tribute to the Memorial Day holiday, but also was a Victoria Day salute to the 42 northern neighbors from the Kingston Organ Society who bussed some 450 miles to attend the concert. Ron closed with a medley from *Carousel* which definitely left a lump in the throat of the very surprised lady to whom it was dedicated. A Meet-the-Artist reception in the theatre's Louis XIV lobbies followed the concert.

We are eagerly awaiting the concerts scheduled for the 1986-87 season at Shea's, Lyn Larsen on September 21, Robert Wolfe on October 19, local artists Tim Schramm and Carlo Annibale in a holiday concert on November 30, Lance Luce on February 22, Lou Hurvitz on March 22 and Chris Elliott on May 3. An extra attraction will be the showing of the original *Phantom of the Opera* on October 31, with organ accompaniment by Rob Calcaterra, following a costume ball in the theatre's Grand Hall. This concert series promises to be very special since Shea's Buf-

**CENTRAL
FLORIDA
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY**



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/734-5721

We have been concentrating on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer and have been very interested in preserving any information regarding theatre organs for future generations. The Chairman of our club, Al Hermanns, has been instrumental in getting publications for our archives, and much interest has been shown.

Cathy (Hoffman) Blanchard played Ken and Ruth Hunt's 4/17 Wurlitzer in Clearwater at our April meeting, playing many old and new favorites. Cathy has been playing the organ in this area since she was five years old, and she is now employed as a church organ consultant for the Rodgers Organ Company. She has given concerts throughout Florida and has played at the Alabama Theatre several times, once when she was 14 years old.

We are very proud to have a master musician as our Chairman this year. Al Hermanns is a native Pennsylvanian with a Masters Degree in Music from Temple University. He spent 17 years teaching and playing in roller rinks in Pennsylvania. In 1966 he started writing a complete course in keyboard harmony, arranging popular music for the organ. He was asked to become organ solo arranger for the Big Three Music Corporation, succeeding Jesse Crawford in that position which he held from 1966 to 1978. Al and his lovely wife, June, moved to this area in 1979. This area has been growing fantastically, and our organization is moving with it.

PAUL AND BAMBI DANIELSON



Al Hermanns plays the 4/17 Wurlitzer at the home of Ken and Ruth Hunt.



Cathy (Hoffman) Blanchard at the Hunt organ in Clearwater, Florida.



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

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

On June 13 we presented the "Pipes for Pets" benefit for the Humane Society of Indianapolis. This musical variety show was a great success! Ken Double, the Indianapolis Pacers' sportscaster and an accomplished theatre organist, was master of ceremonies. He opened the program with a medley of organ songs. Martin Ellis, 1985 ATOS Young Organist Competition winner, then played several selections. Gospel songs by the Joy Chorale of the Light of The World Christian Church were a "joy" to hear. Virginia Byrd Rechteris presented a style show of the 1920s for which she provided the musical accompaniment on the organ. Tim Needler accompanied a Laurel and Hardy silent comedy. A sing-along, accompanied by Ken Double, concluded the program. Kevin Aikman was the stage manager. Not only did the show net the Humane Society a nice amount of money, but it also introduced many people to theatre organ music.

Donna Parker, one of the principle artists at the Paramount Music Palace, was the guest artist at our May meeting which was held at the Hedback Theatre. Donna played a wonderful variety of tunes on the Page theatre organ. Even though it was Mothers' Day, there was a large turnout for the meeting.

The Central Indiana Chapter History is now in print, and individual copies are available for \$5.00. Nina Barron was presented the first copy.

We are very proud of two of our members, Brian Holland and Dwight Thomas. Brian has been accepted to a Piano Academy Workshop at Indiana University in which the participants, pre-college-age students, were selected from all over the world. Dwight was the winner of the 1986 ATOS Young Organist Competition. He not only won the 19-21 age group, but was also the overall winner of the National Competition.

Dwight was the featured artist at our June meeting at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ. All enjoyed the wonderful concert this young artist presented on the marvelous pipe organ.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

CENTRAL OHIO Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Our April meeting was held at the home of Tom Hamilton. Tom is a long-time member who has recently installed an electronic replica of all the ranks and sound effects of the Ohio Theatre's Robert-Morton, even down to an exact duplicate of the console. The total effect is orchestrated through a system of 36 speakers housed in enclosures to the right and left of the listener. Twenty-four

channels of sound are heard, each with 85 watts. Some 30 members attended this meeting and were witness to this electronic marvel.

The third in a concert series at the Ohio Theatre on April 19 featured James Roseveare and Peter Mintun in an organ/piano concert which was truly a fusion of two skilled artists. How a pianist can intuitively sense the time delay in sound reaching him from two organ chambers high on either side of the proscenium and keep cadence is more than the audience will ever know. In any event, it was a highlight of the series, and we were afforded the opportunity to catch the essence of the concert on a record featuring both artists.

Talk about a holiday weekend! May 25 was a real celebration. We hit the trail, 25 strong, to visit three installations. At 10:00 a.m. members Larry Blumenshine and Bob Cauley hosted us at Springfield State Theatre which houses its original and still playable 3/7 Wurlitzer. Installed in 1927, the organ has always played to movie audiences and is maintained in fine fashion by Larry and Bob. Through the years, its assortment of pipes has changed to include a rank of a Kimball trumpet and one of a Gottfried Tuba. The console has recently been revamped to include new manuals and syndyne electromagnetic stops. Soon to be included, we understand, will be electronic 16' extensions of the Tibia and Tuba ranks. House organist Larry Blumenshine opened our session with a mini-concert after which many of our talented members traipsed to the bench for open console. We are indebted to Bob and Larry for their hospitality.

After a noon repast, our caravan proceeded to Cincinnati's Emery Theatre where we were courteously received by Jim Teague and organ crew chief Tote Pratt. Their impressive 3/27 Style 260 Wurlitzer is a tribute to its devoted ten-member crew. The tremolos, all located below the chambers, give the

organ, especially the Tibias, a pulsating, vibrant quality that lives up to Tote's description in the March/April THEATRE ORGAN. An introductory demonstration of the organ by host Pratt preceded a lively procession of artists from our membership who provided us with continuous musical entertainment. All agreed that the organ was "user friendly" and unusually fast in response time.

For a wrap-up, a large segment of our party ended the day with a visit to the Music Palace where old favorite Karl Cole entertained us with music appropriate to Memorial Day.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

September heralds the beginning of another great theatre organ season. No doubt, the ink will be dry on this issue as the beautiful Chicago Theatre experiences its rebirth. The opening program is to feature Frank Sinatra in a stunning presentation. Mr. Sinatra has always had a warm spot for Chicago, thus his appearance on the program is quite significant.

We have been given the opportunity to present the second program during the second week of the theatre's new operation. The plan is to have Rob Calcaterra and Lew Williams share the solo spotlight on the Wurlitzer and the grand piano. Hal Pearl, a very popular local organist of long standing, has consented to do the sing-along. The master of ceremonies will be Chuck Shaden who is well-known in our area as a versatile master of old-time radio programs and movie memorabilia, and

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
4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
Phone: 503/654-5823

who has a weekly radio program which features radio shows of the past. Much work has gone into the refurbishing of the Chicago Theatre and, now that it is ready for full use, we are all looking forward to future activities in this jewel of a theatre.

Our 1986 Spring Show was at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles and featured Bill Tandy at the Geneva/Marr & Colton pipe organ. Bill is a versatile young chap who delved into pipe organs during his teens. Presently he is Musical Director of the Pipe Dreams Restaurant in Kokomo, Indiana. He also performs at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois, and the Frankfurter-Hoffbrau in Frankfort, Illinois. His versatile program at this concert was very gratifying.

Al Morgan also appeared on this program. He is a welcome addition because of the wide variety of music he presents and his interesting stage presentation. We are always assured a large audience when Al Morgan is presented.

Our fall schedule is fixed and full of appeal. The Patio Theatre is being lovingly cared for by Bill Reiger and crew, including some tarring of the roof. Those leaks always know where the chambers are! But Reiger and Company find the holes, and that is that!

ALMER N. BROSTROM

DELAWARE VALLEY

Philadelphia
215/566-1764

On May 31 we journeyed, for the first time in more than 20 years, to the 19th Street Theatre in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to hold open console on that theatre's 3/7 Möller. More than 20 members turned out for this event, and it was refreshing to note the return of a number of long-absent faces. This speaks well for the popularity of the event, and, in addition, it gave the "regulars" an opportunity to hear a fresh musical approach to much familiar material.

In addition to open console, we were fortunate to have as our guest artist, Dwight Beacham of the Allen Organ Company. Mr. Beacham presented a program designed to please a wide spectrum of his audience — and that he did admirably.

The theatre itself deserves a comment. As a Center for the Performing Arts, it is very much a going concern and has been kept in good repair. Perhaps the most striking ele-

ment of the architectural design is its elliptical dome. The console is located well to the right of the proscenium, with the pipe chambers located on both sides of the opening. It is always exciting and pleasurable to play a theatre organ, and that excitement and pleasure is enhanced and intensified when the organ is *still* located in a *theatre!* We look forward to returning soon to this theatre.

EARL E. STRAUSSER



Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055

Our enthusiastic secretary, Carolyn Wilcox, graciously hosted an open house in her Burlington home on May 25. With no rain and mild temperatures, the good food and fellowship made this outing most enjoyable. Music time had the living room, stairs, hall and kitchen overflowing to the front lawn as Carolyn demonstrated her Rodgers Kent 705 prior to open console. Time passed all too quickly, and afternoon melded into evening before the last of the "diehards" bid adieu to our hostess.

June 22 at Babson ended the season with member Cheryl Linder as artist. This gifted young lady has this spot yearly on our calendar and commendably acquitted herself again in her playing of our Wurlitzer. With appropriate drums, cymbals, flutes, etc., Cheryl stepped off with "His Honor March." Her brief, diverse program included some Richard Rodgers, a hymn, some old favorites and a tribute to the late Benny Goodman. Miss Linder then introduced her fellow student at the New England Conservatory of Music, Kevin Birch, who is new to theatre organ but showed a nice touch with different arrangements of "Tea for Two," some Victor Herbert and Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," a tribute to Kate Smith which had all present on their feet singing. We hope to see and hear more from this young man!

Rosalie and Pat Fucci kindly hosted our chapter at their sumptuous Waltham home on June 29. It was a clear, hot day as we congregated on "Mt. Fucci," joined by many from Connecticut Valley Chapter as invited guests. This was their twenty-fifth anniversary and our thirtieth, so it was a banner day

as Rosalie so announced on a large, lettered device across the organ studio. The gastronomical delights were all present to fill the "inner man" before repairing to hear Bob Legon at the four-manual console of Pat's Robert-Morton. Twelve of the twenty ranks are now playable, and Bob utilized all as we sat back for some nice listening. Pat showed some beautiful colored slides of America as Bob played — sort of a preview to the approaching Fourth of July celebration. Before the concert ended, John Cook played the Rodgers as Bob set the pace on the Robert-Morton in duets. As the last notes died away, we knew that our season had closed until September, but with pleasant musical memories to carry us through until then.

STANLEY C. GARNISS

HUDSON-MOHAWK VALLEY New York

518/869-2090 or 518/372-1534

We're one year old! We were, however, "to the manor born" in the elegant Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, New York, and we are growing strong, being nurtured by having a 3/18 Mighty Wurlitzer with eleven percussion instruments and a full complement of sound effects for silent movies. The organ, affectionately known as "Goldie," is played often and is kept in great repair by our members. We are growing in status, also, because nationally acclaimed Allen Mills, who is organist-in-residence at Proctor's, is an active member. He not only adds his talents to our meetings, but also assists the struggling amateur members to have a moment of glory at the console!

Our meetings are well-attended. Nobody was singing the blues when we enjoyed a sing-along and open console at the home of Stanley L. Jones. His Allen ADC 3500 was the center of attention with John Weisner and Ned Spain supplying the inspiration for a warm gathering on a cold February night.

Midst icons and Old World splendor and exquisite ornamentation came the "Sound of Music" and similar tunes wafting through the edifice of St. Cyril and Methodius, and unusual Slovak Catholic Church. In March we were honored to be permitted to experiment with their Wurlitzer church organ.

As spring came, it was over the river and through the woods for a regular meeting at John Wiesner's where he showed us the mer-

ashley miller
a.a.g.o.

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its of his three-manual Allen theatre organ in his lovely home in Clifton Park.

It was at an Open House that devotion unparalleled was exemplified by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wood whose large 3/20 Wurlitzer is installed in a more-than-a-century-old farm house in rural Salem. Although the console is in the living room, the pipes are installed in the ancient cellar which had to be excavated five additional feet to make room for them. Because of a water problem in the rainy season, they have installed sump pumps and emergency generators to assure that they will work. Also, I am told that, during that season, the Woods never leave the house unattended. It was a fascinating visit for everyone!

The rafters rang when we invited the AGO to an open console gathering at Proctor's in May. Ken Kroth, a well-known church organist, showed his versatility by playing music with a great jazz beat. Magical moments emanated from a duet by our own Cathy and Carl Hackert, she with a new custom-made cello and he at the console. They opened with Handel and closed with a rouser from *Chorus Line*. Gus Pratt handed over the gavel to our new Chairman, Ned Spain, and, as always, we enjoyed the luscious repast prepared by Karen Russell.

Forgive our immodesty if we say we are proud of our programs, our talented members and our beautiful "Goldie" as we blow out the one candle on our cake!

RUTH McDOWELL

KIWI
Auckland, New Zealand
540-919

The past year has been a busy one for us with many visitors from overseas, first being Warren Lubich commencing his Australasian tour. He presented concerts at Auckland, Tauranga and the Southward Museum near Wellington. It is here that, in conjunction with a wonderful vintage car museum, the 3/16 Special Wurlitzer, Style 260 (Opus 2075), ex-Civic Theatre in Auckland, has been installed.

Member Len Southward is an untiring gentleman and inventive genius who has done much in this country to help disabled persons, so it was great news to learn that the Queen had bestowed him with a Knighthood. Warmest congratulations to Sir Leonard and Lady Vera.

The Pipes Down Under tour group was hosted at the Hollywood Theatre where brilliant young organist Brett Morris presented a grand program. This was followed by a wine and cheese function, and, later, several members joined our visitors at the Sheraton for dinner. The following day, as an afterglow, the party journeyed 30 miles south to the home of Ian and Hazel Davis at Pukekohe. Ian, and electrician by trade, has assembled a three-manual Devtronix, and this magnificent machine with its console finished in white with gold trimming and its exposed toy counter, received great praise from the group. They were entertained in style by professional organist Bob Vaughan of San Francisco, who was traveling with the party.

Our first meeting for the year was at the home of Bruce and Glenys Batkin which entailed a pleasant drive through lush farmlands. It was, as usual, a very happy meeting, and when it was suggested that we make a pilgrimage to Paraparaumu to hear Dennis James in concert, all were delighted at the idea, and on the morning of May 31 a specially chartered coach departed on the 400-mile journey to hear a flawless concert that night and return the next day. How's that for enthusiasm and endurance? So, now the Kiwi bird must sleep for the winter. KIA ORA.

NORMAN DAWE



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY

St. Paul-Minneapolis

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

On May 15 the Organaires met at the home of Verna Mae Wilson, and on June 12 at the home of Judy Torgerson, Larry Koch's daughter, which concluded our friendly musical sessions until September.

Memorial Day Weekend found several members attending Bobby Schmidt's Musical Festival which featured Mike Erie, from our chapter, at the custom Rodgers and Dr. Kerry Grippe, Professor of Music from the University of Iowa, at the grand piano. Wonderful music, friends and food!

Lyn Larsen was guest organist at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, on June 6 and 7, playing to almost full

houses. Some of us attended both nights — seems like we just couldn't get enough!

The Phipps Center instigated a program of "Summer Silents" commencing on June 21 with Philip Brunelle at the Wurlitzer accompanying several movies featuring Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy. On June 29 Jim Kennedy performed for us as a chapter event. Jim is one of the premiere theatre organists in the Upper Midwest and was one of the first artists at the Ironwood Theatre in Ironwood, Michigan, in the twenties. Member Bill Eden was his commentator and recited the famous poem, "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus — "with silent lips, give me your tired, your poor" — while Jim played the "Miss Liberty March."

At a meeting of the officers and board at Verna Mae's home on June 2, Jim Moe, President of the Minnesota Theatre Organ Association, was present to propose that, with our help, the 3/21 theatre organ (originally from the Texas Theatre in San Antonio) could be installed much faster in the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul. The World is the site of the famous "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show hosted by Garrison Keillor. The MTOA is especially in need of financial aid to procure a mechanical lift for the organ. Because President Ralph Doble was absent from this meeting because of illness, it was decided that we would hold a special meeting the following week. This took place on June 9 at the home of Glenn and Harriet Bateman, at which time we voted to lend our assistance and to send letters to all of our members soliciting contributions for this special project — a mechanical lift. A committee was formed to investigate the procurement of a lift, and contributions, in response to our plea, have been rolling in to the chapter. In the meantime, work is progressing on the installation at the World Theatre by willing volunteers and, of course, "kibitzers."

VERNA MAE WILSON



LONDON
&
SOUTH
OF ENGLAND

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Our spring program began with a welcome return to the Granada Slough to feature its superb 3/8 Wurlitzer with local favorite Arthur

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Len Rawle re-opening the State Wurlitzer at the Top Rank Club. (John D. Sharp photo)



Edith Rawle and manager Brian Doggett cutting the ribbon at the re-opening of the Kilburn Wurlitzer. (John D. Sharp photo)

Lord, a veteran member of Harold Ramsey's team of the Union/ABC circuit from the 1930s through the 1950s, at the console. Still presented to the audience on closed-circuit television, this brilliant instrument sounded as good as ever in Arthur's highly articulate style combined with his vintage theatre organ repertoire. Complemented by our popular young member, Dena Cooper, playing a Wersi electronic in the foyer during pre-concert and mid-program intervals, this was yet another remarkable visit to this happy venue. Thanks, also, to genial house manager David Simpson.

Youth really came to the forefront for our April Chapter Club Night at Edith and Les Rawle's when our young members organized and presented a fantastic multi-talented evening centered on the famous 3/19 Wurlitzer. Violin, guitar, ballet, cabaret and community singing from 11 fine young people, together with their handling of all our other favorite Club Night features, demonstrated once again the great pride and satisfaction that we continually derive from our mandate to sponsor and support new, young talent as much as possible.

Despite the unusually prolonged inclement weather, our Technical Team, led by the indefatigable Les Rawle, has resolutely continued to trek weekly to Barry, in South Wales, to mount a truly monumental effort to re-install our chapter's 4/15 "Torch" Christie in the magnificent Memorial Hall in this delightful Welsh resort town where we already have a strong and keen local group of chapter mem-

bers and friends.

The most spectacular and exciting highlight of the year was the re-opening of the famous 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer in what is now the Top Rank Club at Kilburn by our own international broadcasting and recording star Len Rawle. Manager Brian Doggett and Edith Rawle together first symbolically "cut the ribbon," and then Len came forward to inaugurate a new musical era for this historic theatrical edifice. With an enthralled audience of over 700 from many parts of the world combined with the spectacular restoration of the Italian-Renaissance-style auditorium, Len vividly recreated the distinctive voice of this historic instrument to our sheer delight. Typifying his acute sense of musicality and his long-standing affection for the Kilburn Wurlitzer, because its unusual specification excludes Saxophone, Clarinet and Krumet, Len invited Duke Batchley to provide them live in some particularly sensitive numbers — with magical effect. Completing the spectacle of this truly remarkable day was the welcome sight of the massive chandelier in the theatre foyer that is said to be a replica of the one in the Banqueting Suite of Buckingham Palace. For Len, the event represented his second "Opening" concert in less than a year, and on opposite sides of the world. Last fall, he re-opened the ex-Madame Tussaud's/Blackpool, Palace Ballroom/Yeovil private residence Wurlitzer now in Tasmania, Australia.

Our May Chapter Club Night, held at the Rawle's, featured Dudley Savage, one of the all-time great names of the British theatre or-

gan scene, at the console of the 3/19 Wurlitzer. Having started his career in the 1930s, at the age of 16, by touring the Union/ABC Supercinema circuit billed as the "Cornish Wonder Boy Organist," Dudley became best known for his long association with the Theatre Royale at Plymouth which houses a powerful 3/8 Compton, complemented by a Melotone electrostatic unit of which Dudley became the absolute master. It was here that he won widespread acclaim for his long-running post-war series of Sunday morning broadcasts to hospital patients entitled "As Prescribed." Indeed, so dedicated was his following that, when the BBC decided to abandon the series, a nationwide petition amassed more than 40,000 signatures which saved the program for several more years. So it was that his first Club Night performance was characteristically varied and superbly played by the heart and hands of a true master of his craft.

Our June Club Night at Northolt brought good friend and member Paul Kirner to the console for a most polished program, with metronomic precision in his dance numbers in particular. This latter stems from the fact that Paul is custodian of a fine transplanted Compton theatre organ in the Midlands guest house which he and his wife, Hazel, operate with understandable success.

The third home venue "night out" was provided by Chairman Beck Parsons and his charming wife, Terry, at their lovely home at Walton-on-Thames. Dedicated to encouraging our now large team of talented young keyboard artists, they invited Michael Wool-

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The new look at the Gaumont State Wurlitzer in Kilburn.

(John D. Sharp photo)

dridge to play their Conn for members and friends. Michael's dazzling performance once again vindicated our efforts and our pride in our young stars. A further reminder came in a surprise mid-evening cameo spot by the Parsons' grandchildren, Miles (9) and Sarah (12), playing organ and clarinet respectively. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable event which also brought about \$150 to our young organists support fund.

Looking ahead, we are now beginning to see, with keen anticipation, the impending return of the famed 4/14 "Torch" Christie being restored to full concert voice in its new home in Memorial Hall in Barry. Now back on wind, the first sparkling sounds have been heard, played with great enthusiasm by Len Rawle, in this happy new venue.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES
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It is always a pleasure to attend a Sunday morning organ concert at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles, the only in-

stallation in its original location. We are proud of this 3/13 Wurlitzer, so well-maintained by Gene Davis and his crew. On May 18 we heard a very fine artist, Jack Gustafson, who delighted the large group of members and friends for two hours with a variety of beautiful selections. Welcome back, Jack!

The Centennial Celebration of the City of Pasadena had a great beginning on June 15 at the Pasadena Playhouse when auditorium manager Doris Stoval invited master organist Tom Hazleton to perform in a free public concert. From his opening "Everything's Comin' Up Roses," to "Happy Birthday, Pasadena" and his tribute to Benny Goodman and Alan Jay Lerner, the capacity audience seemed to be captivated by the sound of the famed five-manual Möller. We want to thank Tom Hazleton for a super performance and the City of Pasadena for making it possible!

On June 21 we sponsored a concert featuring everyone's favorite, Candi Carley. A very large audience gathered at San Gabriel Civic Auditorium to hear Candi at the Mighty 3/16 Wurlitzer. Candi is very gifted; her wit excels and keeps her fans laughing through the whole program. Candi, we all love you and wish you well!

MARIA OLIVIER

**NEW YORK
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
New York
914/457-5393**

We welcomed the summer season with a concert at the beautiful Beacon Theatre on Broadway and 74th Streets in Manhattan, with a concert featuring Dave Kopp at the 4/19 Wurlitzer 250 Special on June 23. This truly opulent motion picture palace, built by Roxy as a smaller version of the famous theatre which bore his name, provides a perfect setting for its original Wurlitzer installation.

Dave brought the console up with a fine arrangement of "Cherokee." As always, he presented an extremely well-balanced program including traditional theatre organ standards, some contemporary songs and orchestral transcriptions of light classical favorites, all of which demonstrated the versatility of both the instrument and the artist. Dave played both the complete "Wedding March," by Mendelssohn, and Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," both frequently heard in the month of June, but seldom with the musical precision and majestic orchestration that Dave and the Beacon Wurlitzer were able to provide. As a consulting editor of *Sheet Music* magazine and as director of organ publications for Columbia Pictures and Warner Brothers, Dave has published more than 500 popular arrangements for the organ. His Beacon concert again proved his ability as a first-rate theatre organist. Open console followed,



New York Chapter Vice-Chairman Dave Kopp at the Beacon Theatre 4/19 Wurlitzer during his June performance.



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October 25	Knight Auditorium, Babson College, Wellesley, Massachusetts
October 30	I. U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
October 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
November 1	Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
November 15	Senate Theatre, Detroit, Michigan
January 10	California Theatre, San Diego, California
February 7	I. U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
February 14	Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio
February 22	Church, Portsmouth, Ohio
February 28	Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, Michigan
March 13	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
April 11	Church, Oakbrook, Illinois
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May 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
June 6	John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware
October 17	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York

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On May 17 Larry Vannucci demonstrated his expertise and vast repertoire on the 3/21 Wicks/Wurlitzer (the organ is Wurlitzer, but the horseshoe console is a Wicks) at the Salinas Baptist Church. Larry's selections included "Fly Me to The Moon," "Rollercoaster" and "Have You Met Miss Jones?" He closed the first half of the program with a beautiful waltz entitled "I'll Take Romance." After intermission, Larry chose the classical "Lullaby of Birdland" and, for Ray Taylor, "Lady, Be Good" in an upbeat, jazzy style which put everyone in the mood for open console. He gave us one more treat, however, when he persuaded his friend, David Kelsey, to play "Zing, Went The Strings of My Heart!" I consider this to be one of David's best arrangements. All in all, it was a great afternoon of fun and was well worth the trip to Salinas!

On June 29 Dennis James played for our chapter on the marvelous 4/21 Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer which house organist James Roseveare keeps in perfect condition at all times. Indeed, it is one of the best organs in the Bay Area, and Dennis James certainly proved that, not only with his organ solos, but also by accompanying Thom Gall, a fantastic tenor from Columbus, Ohio, who is touring with Dennis throughout America, Australia and New Zealand.

Dennis opened with "Beautiful Ohio," and then asked Thom to come out and sing "Take Your Girlie to The Movies If You Can't Make Love at Home" and "Just An Old Love Song." The dramatic highlight of the dual performance occurred when Thom came on stage in a complete clown costume and makeup, imitating Lon Chaney, and sang Ted Theoretto's "Laugh, Clown, Laugh," accompanied by wonderful Dennis at the Wurlitzer. Other organ highlights were Dick Liebert's "Radio City Music Hall March" and "Melody Mack," by Dennis's teacher, Leonard McClain, plus several classical pieces. His encore was "Baby Face." Thanks, Dennis and Thom, for a program that was very enjoyable!

TOM STEHLE

MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



The Beacon's Grand Rotunda designed to replicate the Roxy Rotunda downtown.

(Ronnie T. Stout photo)



The interior of New York's Beacon Theatre, recently repainted and re-lamped. The Beacon is the last movie palace on Broadway with a Wurlitzer.

(Ronnie T. Stout photo)

and members also contributed to the "Save the Beacon" campaign by buying buttons and signing petitions in an effort to prevent the theatre from being converted to a disco-restaurant. At this time, the fate of the theatre is awaiting the decision of the New York Landmarks Commission.

Meanwhile, the chapter's 2/10 Style H Wurlitzer made its public debut at the Middletown Paramount Theatre with crew chief Bob Seeley at the console playing to an enthusiastic audience before and during intermission at the Paramount's fifty-sixth anniversary show. Although the organ is incomplete, (percussions, traps and combination action are not yet installed), all ten ranks are playing and fill the theatre with a wonderful Wurlitzer sound. June 15 marked the first public performance of the organ in more than forty years since it was last heard in its original home, the Clairidge Theatre in Montclair, New Jersey. During the same week, Bob played the Wurlitzer for a full house of school children from Middletown, who came for a production of *Snow White*. Although a sing-along had not been planned, the kids spontaneously joined in singing "It's a Small World" with such enthusiasm that they nearly drowned out the Wurlitzer.

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Lloyd Hess and baritone Solomon King entertained North Texas Chapter in June.



**NORTH
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Much of our activity now centers on the Lakewood Theatre and our 3/8 Robert-Morton now playing there. This has included intermission music on Friday and Saturday evenings for which most of our members who

have professional organ experience have volunteered their services. Response has been very favorable and has brought some new members into our group. We thank all who have given so generously of their time and talents to further public interest in our installation in this beautifully restored, 1100-seat theatre.

The theatre management, with our support and encouragement, used the organ for a presentation of the silent *Phantom of The Opera* for a fund-raising event. Member Dr. Bill Flynt was engaged to play the organ for this gala event which included a prize competition for authentic 1920s costumes. Dr. Flynt has a good deal of experience playing accompaniment for silent movies, and he used this experience deftly for this performance. That the capacity audience (at \$25 per couple) enjoyed his playing was evidenced by a standing ovation.

In April, members were treated to a masterful program at the Lakewood by nationally known theatre organist Byron Melcher. Byron has recently returned to the Metroplex after a long affiliation with the Thomas Organ Company, and we are delighted to have him back with us. Many of our members know Byron's fine talent from his prior activities here and his association with the Goodman Music Company. From the moment of his opener, "Keep Your Sunny Side Up," it was obvious that we were in for a most enjoyable musical experience. Byron's playing is rich in harmony, yet remains true in melody and tempo, and we were delighted with his authentic theatre organ stylings, rich with coun-



Marquee and tower of Lakewood Theatre, home of North Texas Chapter's 3/8 Robert-Morton. Re-lighting of this tower required a search for lost craft of working with neon lighting.

ter-melodies, smooth mordants and percussive accents. His "Birth of The Blues" was a real foot-stomper! We can't wait to hear Byron again on these magnificent pipes.

We returned in June to the home of the late Dale Flanery, as guests of Rod Keener, to en-



Byron Melcher at the North Texas Chapter's 3/8 Robert-Morton in the beautifully restored Lakewood Theatre in Dallas.



Dr. Bill Hanson played for North Texas Chapter on residence Wurlitzer of late Dale Flanery.



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joy Dale's fine home installation. Members Lloyd Hess and Bill Hanson shared the bench for this Father's Day event. Lloyd opened with a rousing "I Got Rhythm," establishing the promise of the high level of entertainment we could expect for the afternoon. As his closing selection Lloyd played a rousing "Faith of Our Fathers" as a tribute to the dads. He then introduced baritone Soloman King who sang "Danny Boy." Mr. King was visiting from Seattle and graciously consented to share his fine vocal talent with us. We have learned to expect beautiful music from every Lloyd Hess performance, and this one certainly lived up to the promise. The next performer was Dr. William Hanson, one of our newer members. Bill only recently discovered our chapter, and we his fine talent. A practicing dentist, he has been playing keyboards since his youth in Wisconsin and has a rich musical background. He is currently organist for the new Prestonwood Baptist Church in North Dallas where he plays a Rodgers electronic/pipe organ. Bill proved that he is no stranger to pipes as he played numbers ranging from the "Air Force March" to the theme from *The Sound of Music*. Thank you both, Lloyd and Bill!

We have learned from member Bill Tunstall in Shreveport, Louisiana, that the 2/14 Robert-Morton in the Strand Theatre there has been sufficiently restored that they recently had a dedicatory program in which Dennis James accompanied the silent movie, *Robin Hood*, starring Douglas Fairbanks. Both Bill and member Lawrence Birdsong, Jr. from Longview, Texas, are playing the organ prior to the evening shows during their Summer Film Festival. The restoration has been under the capable leadership of Gene Powell, who

has also been responsible for much of the restoration of our Robert-Morton. Bill invites all members and friends to come to Shreveport and hear this fine installation.

IRVING LIGHT

OREGON Portland

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On May 17, at Benson High School, we traveled 62 years back in time to see Douglas Fairbanks in *The Thief of Bagdad* as it was



Bob Hansen at the Benson 3/24 Kimball where he accompanied *The Thief of Bagdad* for Oregon Chapter.
(Claude Neuffer photo)



Miki Geuder (standing) and Marti Lynch entertain at open house at Bud Abel's.
(Claude Neuffer photo)

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Oregon Chapter members enjoy refreshments at Bud and Hazel Abel's open house.

(Claude Neuffer photo)



Herman Hill playing the 3/11 Kimball at Maryland University.

School and to Bob Hansen for this trip to a bygone time.

On June 21 Bud and Hazel Abel hosted a chapter meeting at their Milwaukee home near Portland. The notice in our newsletter that Marti Lynch would be here to play for us brought members from as far away as Grants Pass, Bend, Corvallis and Seattle. Also, from Salem, were Lynn and Ralph Bell; Ralph was one of the founders of the ATOS some thirty years ago. Also here were Bob Hansen and Organ Grinder staff organists Paul Quarino, Dan Bellomy and Don Feely.

Marti's familiarity with the Conn 652 was evident in her tasteful use of the percussion division. A special bonus was several songs by member Miki Geuder (who sang professionally as Sonny Gale). Marti made her concert rather short to allow time for open console. Perfect weather enabled members to enjoy snacks outdoors as well as in the house. Thanks to Marti Lynch and Miki Geuder for an excellent program. Thanks also to Don Lacey and Chairman Terry Robson for providing and moving extra chairs.

BUD ABEL



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About 35 members and friends assembled at the home of Jack and Sarah Gallagher in Culpeper, Virginia, on June 29 to hear our own Floyd Werle present a most enjoyable concert on the Gallagher's Rodgers Trio. Floyd included something for everyone, from



Potomac Valley Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle presented the June program on the Gallagher's Rodgers Trio organ.



Potomac Valley members enjoy Eddie Weaver during open console at Gallagher residence.

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Young Organist winner Chris Halon giving pointers to brother David at open console at the Seattle Paramount. (Diane Whipple photo)



Silent film organists honored at the Seattle Paramount: (front) Doris Miller, Edna Bemis, Art Smith; (back) Louise Brown (representing husband, Grant), Frank Mankin, Doris Cooley and Laverne Little. (Diane Whipple photo)

familiar tunes to lesser known compositions of John Phillip Sousa, such as "Nobles of The Mystic Shrine." To everyone's delight, he also flawlessly played "Sleepers, Awake" by J. S. Bach. Open console and refreshments concluded the afternoon. We were very pleased to see many of our long-standing friends and members at the meeting, including "Mr. Entertainment," Eddie Weaver, who participated in open console along with several other guests. Thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Gallaghers and the fine musicianship of our artists, it was a truly pleasurable afternoon.

In May we scheduled an impromptu open console session on our 3/11 Kimball at the University of Maryland, and seven members played for our entertainment. We have begun re-leathering portions of the instrument, replacing the failing Perflex, but most of the organ was playable for open console.

DONALD FAEHN

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

As many former movie accompanists as could be located in the area were honored at a reception hosted by our chapter at the Seattle Paramount in June, an especially memorable day for members and guests alike. The eleven musicians, some of whom are still actively employed, represent many, many years of interesting and challenging experiences. Although not always playing houses as grand as the Paramount, their pride in their jobs as organists in the silent film era was apparent.

The honored guests who played for us were

Thelma Barclay, Doris Cooley, Laverne Little (92 years young), Frank Mankin and Doris Miller of Vancouver, B.C., Art Smith and Eddie Zollman. Other honorees were Ron Baggott, Edna Bemis, Sybil Rubini and Grant Wood, who was unable to attend because of illness, but was represented by his wife.

As it was a day for remembering, and also for looking to the future, souvenir programs included biographical sketches of each veteran organist, as well as of fourteen-year-old Chris Halon, winner of our 1986 Young Organist Competition. Chris displayed considerable poise at his first appearance for our group, playing both a lyrical and well-arranged "Over The Rainbow" and some upbeat jazz.

Much has been accomplished by the volunteer crew working on the Paramount organ. There has been a general upgrading of the chamber areas; walls have been washed down, lighting improved, ladders and walkways repositioned, and three new heaters have been installed. Pipes and chests in the Main chamber have been moved to improve both sound and access. Missing Marimba bars have been replaced with new rosewood pieces to match both tone and volume of the originals, and a new Wind Chime and Surf have been added. A vibraharp attachment for the Kimball Harp has been invented and installed; the pedalboard has been rebuilt and the piano recovered. The Solo 16' and 8' Tibia has been re-winded and re-wired. An Oboe Gamba has been purchased and installed, and the organ now has 21 ranks. Cleaning and shellacking of the wood pipes has begun.

DIANE WHIPPLE

The River City Theatre Organ Society Omaha, Nebraska

402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

By popular demand, the Best Western Holiday Lodge in Fremont was the location of our May 10 meeting hosted by member Lois Thomsen who regularly plays her Hammond there. During the dinner hour, Lois entertained with her easy-listening organ stylings. Following a short business meeting, ATOS President Jack Moelmann played a mini-concert and sing-along and cued the 1916 silent film, *Total Loss* starring Ben Turpin.

On May 18 Jack Moelmann presided at the console of a three-manual Conn during Omaha History Museum's annual "Soda Jerk Reunion" held in conjunction with international Museum Day. More than 4000 visitors enjoyed Jack's theatre organ stylings while touring the museum in Omaha's restored Art Deco Union Station.

Thanks to Tillie and Gen Jones, who paid for the rental of the facility, our June 7 meeting was held in the Strauss Performing Arts Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Their recital hall boasts a magnificent \$300,000 Casavant pipe organ (Opus 3603) that made its debut in February, 1986. The organ weighs 17 tons, utilizes both tracker and electro-pneumatic action and has a computer combination system. Its resources include a 61-note *Trompette en Chamade*. Jack Moelmann was the featured artist. His program included hymns and other religious compositions and Purcell's "Trumpet Voluntary" to showcase the *Trompette*. In an age of electronically synthesized music, this Casa-

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Jack Moelmann at U.N.O.'s new \$300,000 Casavant in Strauss Performing Arts Center.

vant, complemented by the nearly perfect acoustics of the hall and the skill of a fine organist, once again proved that the pipe organ is truly the King of Instruments.

Our June 17 meeting was hosted by Jack Moelmann at his home near Offutt Air Force Base. During open console, nine members entertained on Jack's highly customized Hammond. Vice-President Harold Kenney presented Jack with a commission as an "Admiral in the Great Navy of Nebraska," an honor bestowed by Nebraska Governor Robert Kerry. The membership presented Jack with two sets of pipes for his Hammond, 24 Flutes and 24 Calliope pipes, as a token of appreciation for all he has done for our chapter. Jack concluded the evening with a sing-along and a Laurel and Hardy film, *Wrong Again*.

On June 19 Jack Moelmann presented a concert on the Orpheum Theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer as part of the Engineers' Day observance by the Omaha District Headquarters of the Army Corps of Engineers. This was his third annual performance for the Corps. The audience of 1000 enthusiastically received the program and, at the conclusion, the Army Corps of Engineers presented Jack with a leather briefcase.

TOM JEFFERY



Denver,
Colorado
303/773-3124 or
303/233-4716

Nearly 1000 enthusiastic concertgoers crowded into Denver's historic Paramount Theatre on May 17 to hear Hector Olivera on the 4/21 Publix Wurlitzer. Olivera was in fine form as he performed such crowd-pleasers as "It Might As Well Be Spring" and "Prelude and Liebstd" from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. He also included his special arrangements of the "Trolley Song" and "The Flight of The Bumblebee." People shook their heads in disbelief that one man could move so quickly and accurately. "Dazzling" and "Musically superb" were frequently overheard describing this concert which was sponsored by Rocky Mountain Chapter.

On June 17 nearly 75 members and guests journeyed to the Parker, Colorado, home of Joel and Jerri Kremer where our host was also our star performer on his magnificent instrument. Joel's unique stylings were enjoyed by all. His program included favorites such as "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" and Bach's "Fugue in G minor" plus a medley from *West Side Story*. As an encore, Joel favored us with his rendition of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," complete with a piccolo-like stop mounted above the console. Open console and delicious refreshments followed.

DONALD ZELLER



L to R: Howard and Ann Gabelman and Mary and Harold Kenney in front of Fremont's Best Western marquee welcoming River City Chapter.

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As summer draws to a close, work is in full swing on the Wurlitzer that we are installing in the gorgeous Granada Theatre, the last of the famous vaudeville houses in St. Louis.

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Mark Maxfield and Laura Van Eyck, students of Cheryl Seppala.

has four keyboards and puts out over 700 watts of power through 35 speakers. We have temporarily put the Yaeger organ in the orchestra pit at the Granada, and Gerry Marian, local professional organist and radio and television personality in the St. Louis area, introduced it to the surprise and delight of theatre audiences. For nine years, Gerry was assistant organist at the St. Louis Fox and was house organist when it closed in 1978. He still appears as special guest from time to time. A very talented musician, he has performed quite regularly in the Midwest, including a stint at the now-closed Old St. Louis Noodle

& Pizza Co., St. Louis' only attempt at an organ/pizza restaurant. Anyone interested in contacting Gerry may do so through the St. Louis chapter.

We are seeking a Barton four-poster lift for a fair price or as a donation for the Granada installation. We also need a good-condition or new Grand Drape (red) for the stage. Please call for the size if you have one you would donate. Also, we could use a number of "Angels" who may be interested in helping fund this installation which will be very open and accessible.

DENNIS AMMANN

SAN DIEGO California 619/746-3581

The highlight of our June meeting was the presentation of awards to the winner of our local Young Organist Competition. Laura Van Eyck, a student of Cheryl Seppala, was presented with a plaque and a check for \$200 by Vice-President John Dapolito, Chairman of the local competition committee. Laura was our entrant in the senior division of the National Competition. Following the presentation, Laura and six other young students, ranging in age from 12 to 20, performed on the California Theatre 3/22 Wurlitzer. Their teachers, Cheryl Seppala and Leslie Wolf, were there for support. Cheryl and Leslie are fine teachers and are to be commended for the extra hours they have spent tutoring their students on the use of our Mighty Wurlitzer. Before a late afternoon of open console, we enjoyed a delicious barbeque dinner in the lobby of the theatre.

MARY JANE HYDE



Gerry Marian at the formal introduction of the J. Harvey Yaeger organ, Granada Theatre, St. Louis.

SIERRA Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

We tried something a little different for our concert on May 30. Instead of our usual Sunday afternoon program, we presented a Friday evening "Champagne Pops Concert" at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse where Emil Martin and His Friends gave us an evening of fine entertainment. The program

WALTER STRONY DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

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Emil Martin rehearsing on the Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer for the Champagne Pops Concert.

was opened by Chairman John Pico who introduced the emcee for the evening, Dave Moreno.

Emil is one of the outstanding former theatre and radio organists in Sacramento. His fine technique and interesting arrangements, as he put the Wurlitzer through its paces, showed many of us what was required of a good theatre organist. Mr. Martin was joined by two very fine vocalists, soprano Annette Martin and baritone Warren Brown, whose renditions of musical comedy and operatic melodies throughout the evening thrilled the audience. Emil's program had an Oriental theme in both his classical selections and pop tunes. We heard many fine selections of the twenties and thirties that we have not heard in years. These brought the house down with applause, and, I am sure, brought back many fine memories. It was a treat to hear

selections from *Kismet* and *The King And I* sung by the two fine singers.

This is a once-a-year concert for our chapter featuring Emil Martin at the console. He always proves that he can draw a large audience for his programs. We are fortunate to have such a talented organist in our area. Thank you, Emil, for making this an eventful and happy evening.

BUD TAYLOR

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our May meeting was held in the home of Perry Catts where Lynda Burns presented a program on Perry's custom Rodgers organ. She played a delightful variety of music, from "Skylark" to a New York City medley which took us from "Forty-second Street" to "Shuffle Off to Buffalo." Music at Perry's always includes his fabulous Bösendorfer grand piano, and Lynda played "You Don't Know Me" and the theme from *Terms of Endearment*. "This piano practically plays itself," she commented. Luther Eulert proved the point with a beautiful "The Old Refrain." Several other members also played both instruments.

Our June meeting, at the magnificent home of Bill McMahon, opened with reports from those who had attended the George Wright Organ Workshop in Fort Collins, Colorado. Seven members of our chapter had participated, a record number from one chapter, we think. All agreed that the workshop had been

fabulous, with special mention of Gordon Kibbee's presentation of chord sequences to use for introductions, Patti Simon's concert, and blind Kevin Utter's accompaniment to a Charlie Chaplin silent movie. What we missed (we found out later) after Bob Cavarra's demonstration on the brilliant French-style classical organ at St. Luke's church in Fort Collins, and more music by Kevin, was George playing "Itsy-Bitsy, Teeny-Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini!" The program for the meeting included selections played by our host on his 2/4 "Petite Ensemble" Kilgen pipe organ, followed by open console.

We are saddened by the death, on May 19, of Catherine Averill. Active in her church, she also worked with handicapped children. She had discovered our group a relatively short time ago, but in those several years her delightful sense of humor had totally endeared her to us. She served as chapter secretary for the past two years. As Chairman Lee Smith put it, "She were a good kid." And we shall miss her.

DOROTHY SMITH



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Ohio

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On June 14 Melissa Ambrose played a concert at Toledo's Ohio Theatre. Her choice of music was excellent, ranging from marches to



Annette Martin and Warren Brown join Emil Martin in rehearsal for the Champagne Pops Concert for Sierra Chapter.



Melissa Ambrose is presented a bouquet of roses by Toledo Chapter President Evan Chase.

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A grand opening was held for the newly installed home theatre and 3/6 pipe organ in the residence of Evan Chase.

novelty to classical. The enthusiastic audience of nearly 500 gave Melissa a standing ovation! It is encouraging to see a young artist generate so much excitement. Also included in the program were some on-screen classic movie previews and a Big Band short.

The June meeting marked the grand opening of the home theatre of President Evan Chase. This is complete with old theatre fixtures and a snappy 3/6 theatre pipe organ. The console (Kilgen opus 3911) was formerly installed in the Strand Theatre in Crawfordsville, Indiana. What made the organ unusual was the addition of a Mills Violin Player. Through the years the console and the rest of the organ parted company, and the present organ is a mixture of choice Barton and Wurlitzer ranks which include a Tibia, Flute, Diapason, two Strings and a Vox. A Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Cymbal and Toy Counter provide percussions and effects. Our own Bill Yaney played for the June meeting and accompanied a short silent comedy. A few weeks later, Cleveland's Bill Taber and special guest Melissa Ambrose also helped to "break in" the new installation.

Our projects continue as we are enlarging the Ohio Theatre organ and planning a silent film festival for late fall. Interested organists who may be passing through the Toledo area are welcome to give us a call!



WOLVERINE CHAPTER
of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

A March hearing of the Burk's Wurlitzer in Taylor, and an April testing of Brewer's Marr & Barlitzer in Dearborn, were followed in May by a safari to Fowlerville, Michigan, to the Summers' "Church of the Second Spirit" for a real treat.

The Summers' organ started life as a two-manual Austin in 1905. In 1937 it matured into a three-manual instrument. It now speaks with the authority of 42 ranks. A few of the ranks are real arm-twisters; they stand 16' tall in the bell tower of the church-converted-to-residence. The console is in the chapel, but in an alcove to his living quarters Dr. Summers gleefully points out his resident organist, who never plays a bad note, at a slave console. Our "Program Management" had seized the opportunity to introduce brand new Wolverine Brian Carmody as organist/entertainer. Brian played an unusual, entertaining program. He sprung a very effective surprise when suddenly, from above, a near-heavenly trumpet spoke of "Edelweiss" and merged with the other ranks — a Trumpet rank too good to be true. Indeed, the trumpet was real and was being played by Brian's brother, Terry, who was on the balcony. Beautifully effective! New member Dennis Minear serenaded our dear Janet Lathrop who celebrated her seventieth birthday that day.

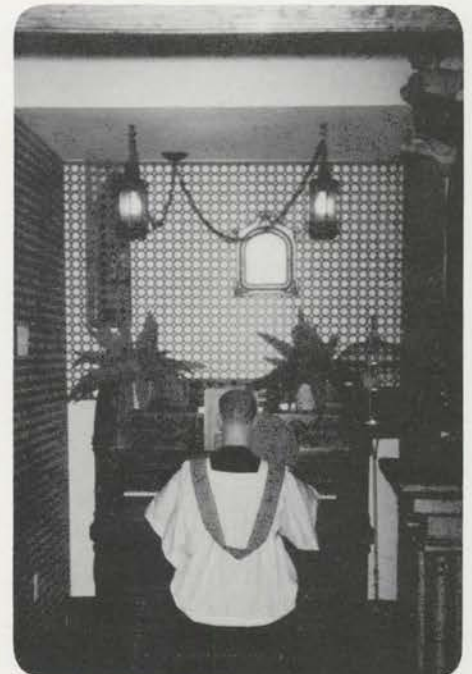
In June we traveled to Brighton to a visit to Don and Shirley Jenks and their Rodgers 33E.

We were saddened twice in the last few months by the passing of two dear ladies. In May, Helen Cahuff's death was an unexpected loss to the Greater Detroit organ community. She was very active in the Macomb Theatre Organ Society as well as Motor City and Wolverine groups. That gal with the flower in her hair will be missed. On June 24 Lois Page passed away. Many ATOSers will remember the wife of our current President, Fred Page. The Pages used to be right in the middle of the action at National Conventions, and we, personally, shall always remember their "hand of welcome" when we joined the ATOS at the 1974 convention in Detroit.

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