

gree. He offered to Virginia, and she accepted, his staff position with WISH-TV, a new station started in 1943. Her first program was in 1949 from the Indiana State Fair WISH studios. Virginia had many commercial programs while at WISH (with studios located in the Board of Trade Building).

Virginia Byrd Rechteris has a number of firsts with WISH and WISH-TV. By playing at their inaugural program, she was the first organist to play at their new studios at 1440 North Meridian Street. On July 1, 1954, almost four years later, Virginia played the background music for the dedicatory program of the second television station of WISH-TV, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Virginia Byrd Time, an all-request program, was on radio for several years. Virginia was featured soloist on *The Catherine Daniels Show*, and the *Laugh With The Ladies* show.

Chapel Door, a 15-minute interdenominational religious program, debuted on television in 1954. It ran for a full 16 years, becoming the longest running religious program in the Middle West. Virginia was co-director of the show and played for the respective singers who assisted the minister with the program.

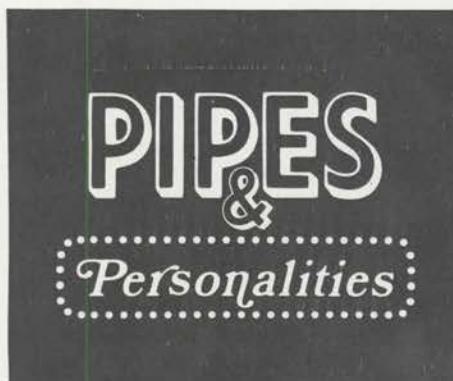
Currently, Virginia is heard on *Meditation*, a sign-on and sign-off program for WISH-TV. Each week Virginia programs ministers of different denominations, taping seven three-minute sign-on and seven sign-off programs. Virginia plays a piano background for the programs, which are taped on Monday. They are viewed 14 times the following week. On occasion, Virginia also appears on the current *Indy Today Show* with Alpha Blackburn.

Along with her musical association with WISH-TV, Virginia has found time through the years to devote many hours to civic work. She received the TSP Award for her many civic and volunteer projects. "TSP" stands for "Those Special People," and is an honor conferred by the Women in Communications group.

Presently, Virginia is a member of the Civic

Theatre Board of Directors, Repertory Theatre of Christian Theological Seminary, American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

Husband Stephen Rechteris is treasurer of Hugh J. Baker Steel Company. □



Silents Set for TV Showing

Subscribers to Bravo cable service were delighted last summer when they tuned in and viewed the most complete version of D.W. Griffith's controversial *The Birth of a Nation* yet to be seen on TV. Best of all, it had a fine organ score but failed to credit the organist who improvised an original musical setting rather than use the now-dated score issued at the time of the film's original release in 1915. A little digging revealed that the scorer was Rosa Rio, and the only sour note was that the score was played on a Hammond. Rosa explained that she would have preferred a pipe organ, but since the Marr & Colton in the Thomaston Opera House is not available, and the Austin in Shelton High School can't be rented on a regular basis, there are no pipe organs near enough to her Connecticut home for practical use, so she settled for the Hammond B3000 which, she says, "has two kinds of piano and a snazzy Post Horn."



Rosa Rio

(Photo courtesy Stu Green)

Bravo Cable Service reveals that it plans to run six or eight silent classics each year since they received such favorable comments about the first one. These films are distributed in video cassette form by Video Yesteryear, Sandy Hook, Connecticut, which we hope will locate some suitable pipes for Rosa so her work at the manuals and pedals will be that much more authentic.

Good News from Hawaii

Honolulu, a magazine published in and for Hawaii, ran an excellent article in August about theatre organs and the Aloha chapter of ATOS. The author, Ben Hyams, writes a column entitled "Classical Music," and the occasion for this article was a joint meeting/concert for Aloha Chapter and Hawaii Chapter AGO which featured John McCreary at the Hawaii Theatre Robert-Morton. McCreary introduced long-time ATOS member Frank Loney who played music from *Show Boat* plus the introduction to the third act of *Carmen* with "an unbelievably realistic flute sound," which turned out to be a real flute played by Bob Alder. Aloha Chapter is, according to Mr. Hyams, the "caretaker, repairer, restorer and, in general, foster parent of the organ."

Carillon Player Chimes in to Play Rock Songs, Requests

Can you imagine "Material Girl" being played on a carillon? How about the theme from *The Jetsons*?

It's happening every day on the DePauw University campus at Greencastle. Martin Ellis, a freshman music major from Monrovia, plays the 37-bell carillon atop the Performing Arts Center between classes and varies the music menu to include popular rock songs and old TV theme songs.

"It's something I thought was interesting and kind of fun," Ellis said. "Sometimes I just go up there and klunk around; it depends on how I feel."

Traditionally, the carillon is programmed

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986

Dessa Byrd at the piano in her home in Indianapolis; Virginia Byrd Rechteris, her sister, standing beside her.

(Virginia Byrd Rechteris Photo)



electronically to play a standard piece at certain times of day.

Now, the fare has been spiced and Ellis even is willing to take music requests from other students.

From *The Indianapolis Star*

Note: Martin Ellis is the 1985 winner of the ATOS Young Organist Award.

Editorial from COS Newsletter

The upright piano was stacked high with cards. The fireplace looked like a Flower Boutique. The place? Florence de Jong's flat in Kensington Church Street. The occasion? Her ninetieth birthday on August 1. The first lady cinema organist in the land sipped a little whiskey as her friends gathered around to wish her "Happy Birthday," and many more. Friend Yvonne Smith brought a beautiful cake with nine candles, and sister Ena Baga and COS members Joan and Bill Hiscock organised the tea. Ena entertained for a brief while at the piano, and a very jolly time was had by all. Your editor did the washing up.

TONY MOSS

John Barlow gets Ian Sutherland Award

The Ian Sutherland Award, named after the former editor of the Cinema Organ Society Newsletter, is presented annually to a young organist who deserves encouragement. The award includes a cup to be held for one year, a concert alongside a "big-name" organist and the production of a cassette of the young artist. The 1986-87 Ian Sutherland artist is John Barlow, from Gomerall in West Yorkshire. His year-in-office began with a concert with veteran theatre organist Bobby Pagan on the Christie organ at the Granada Theatre, Walthamstow, London.

Ian Sutherland Award-winner John Barlow joins veteran Bobby Pagan at the 3/12 Christie in the Granada Walthamstow. (John D. Sharp Photo)



Buster and Betty Matteson with Allison and Hector Olivera at the console of the Mattesons' Wurlitzer.

John Barlow has been involved with theatre organs since 1980, when he played the Three J's Compton which was situated only 200 yards from his home. John's style fuses traditional and modern aspects in both his repertoire and performances. He believes strongly in the theatre organ as a musical instrument capable of great expression. His cassette, entitled "Music in the Dales," features the COS Northern Wurlitzer at Hamps-thwaite and is available from the COS, 23 Aveling Park Road, London E17 4NS, U.K., for \$8.00 postpaid.

Hector in Texas

Recently, Hector Olivera gave a superb concert at the Miller Open Air Theatre in

Houston. However, the evening before the concert date, Hector was honored at a reception at the home of Buster and Betty Matteson. During the party, Hector played the Matteson's 3/13 Wurlitzer for the 100 guests, and all agreed that the organ had never sounded so good. Harry Heth and Rick Mat-



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thews spent a couple of days fine-tuning the instrument, and it really paid off. Open console was also enjoyed by the guests. We really feel we were blessed to be able to attend such an event. There's only one Hector Olivera, and we were able to enjoy his music as well as sharing conversation with him and his wife, Allison. We hope to be able to present him in concert at the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont next spring.

FLOYD BROUSSARD

Larsen and Curley in Convention Overture Program

Two of the organ world's top stars will join forces for a spectacular Overture to the 1987 ATOS Convention in Los Angeles when Lyn Larsen and Carlo Curley play solos and duets on Pasadena Civic Auditorium's 5/28 Möller and Allen Organ Company's top-of-the-line classical organ. This unique event is scheduled for eight o'clock on Sunday night, June 21. All seats are reserved and conventioners will be able to choose either main floor center or lower balcony center. This event will be open to the public, but ATOSers have the best seats reserved for them at just \$17.00 which includes round-trip bus transportation from the Biltmore.

RALPH BEAUDRY

The Chicago is Back

On September 18, the star of Chicago Area's show in the newly restored Chicago Theatre was the grand old 4/29 Mighty Wurlitzer, breathing heavily as she adapted to the three distinct styles of Rob Calcaterra, Lew Williams, and Hal Pearl. It was a magical night in the old movie palace which has been saved from the wrecking ball to reign once more as the Grande Dame of the Chicago entertainment world.

Some 3000 fans trooped into the magnificent lobby, which was filled with the sounds of Tom Gnaster's piano artistry. TV celebrity Buddy Black welcomed the audience, and the show began with Rob Calcaterra's gentle nurturing of the Wurlitzer's dulcet tones, utilizing every rank in an expert mixture of the tender and the passionate. Next, Hal Pearl captured the nostalgic in the crowd with a



Rob Calcaterra, Lew Williams and Hal Pearl opened the Chicago for CATOE in September.

(Bill Lamb Photo)

rousing sing-along and accompaniment of a silent Laurel and Hardy movie. Hal got so carried away that he played right through the intermission! Lew Williams tantalized us with exotic arrangements of little-known compositions, with a few standards added for balance. The highlight, if one could top all this, was a duet with Lew Williams on the Wurlitzer and Rob Calcaterra on the grand piano offering a concert version of Gershwin's immortal "Rhapsody in Blue." All three artists joined in the finale, Williams on the organ, Pearl on the piano, and Calcaterra enthusiastically belting out "Chicago."

Yes, the Chicago is back with a bang — and so are the organ fans!

HAL PRITCHARD

CORRECTION

Mr. Leonard Santon, Chairman of the Cedar Rapids Area chapter has requested that we correct an error in the article entitled "There Is A Way" on page 14 of the September/October THEATRE ORGAN. The article states that his chapter "donated the instrument to Kansas City (Missouri) Theatre Organ, Inc.," and Mr. Santon would like it made clear that this instrument was not

donated, but was hurriedly removed and an agreement was later reached on terms of payment agreeable to both seller and purchaser. Mr. Santon says that the Cedar Rapids Area chapter does not wish to be erroneously looked upon as a heroic benefactor for they still retain the title to the instrument, and they want the record to be correct and to experience the fulfillment of the contract terms.

□

Rodgers Organ Names New Chief

HILLSBORO, OR — Robert Ulery, 43, a 15-year high tech executive with Hewlett Packard Company of Corvallis, Oregon, has been named president and chief executive of-

The Chicago Theatre ready for theatre organ buffs.

(Bill Lamb Photo)



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ficer of Rodgers Organ Company.

The announcement was made by Bruce Stevens, president and chief executive officer of Steinway Musical Properties, Inc. Newton, Massachusetts, parent to Rodgers Organ Company, Steinway & Sons, Lyon & Healy harps, and Gemeinhardt flutes.

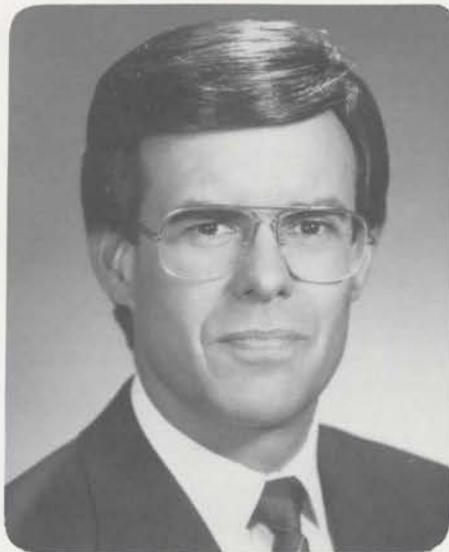
The ten-month search to find a successor for Allen Harrah, former Rodgers president who moved to Atlanta to become administrator of the Walter & Emilie Spivey Foundation, Inc. was headed by the Boston-based recruiting firm, Organization Resources Incorporated.

Rodgers' new CEO has been a key executive with Hewlett-Packard (HP) in several of the company's strategic moves which have brought increased market share and worldwide attention to the California-based computer and electronics equipment firm.

In the early 1970s, Ulery sold commercial and technical computer systems in a variety of territories in the Los Angeles area. He was a member of the \$1 Million Club, and Hundred Percent Club (for achieving in excess of 100% of quota), and was a member of HP's Field Advisory Council to the Business Computer Group.

From 1977-81 Ulery managed all field sales and support activities for HP's commercial computer systems operations located in Orange County, California. Over a four-year period, the business grew at a compounded rate of over 38%. The support business, including a new customer training center, matured into a profit based activity during this time.

Ulery, who has managed the development of new products — from identification of market demand through to introduction and



Robert Ulery

worldwide distribution, sales, and support — understands the importance of timely products, launched at the right price point for a particular market segment, with the features needed to be competitive.

For the past two years, Ulery has been HP's technical marketing manager at its Portable Computer Division in Corvallis, Oregon, and has managed all elements of the division's technical support including service engineering, software support, product documentation and service manuals, localization of products for major international markets, and internal/customer training. He was also the Product Marketing Manager responsible for the development and worldwide introduction of the market's first MS-DOS based, battery-

powered portable personal computer for HP.

Robert Ulery holds a M.S. in Marketing from the University of Arizona, and a B.S. in Mathematics from California State Polytechnic College, Pomona Campus. He is married, and his wife, Ewa, is presently a doctoral candidate in psychological foundations at Oregon State University.

Steinway Musical Properties officials were at the Rodgers factory in Hillsboro, Oregon to make the announcement. Bruce Stevens said, "I know the search has seemed long, but now I know the time was worth it. We have located the best possible candidate for our needs."

First official occasion for dealers to meet Rodgers' new president will be December 8 at the Hillsboro facility when Rodgers Executive Partnership (REP) members convene to hold their second dealer panel meeting.

According to Rodgers' director of marketing, James Walls, the newly-formed REP Panel has already proven to be an invaluable tool in marketing assessment of field needs in an organized network of dealer feedback. REP members include: Fred Buch, Buch Church Organ Company, Ephrata, PA; Robert Daffer, R.A. Daffer, Inc., Fulton, MD; R.D. Roberts, Roberts Music Center, Columbia, SC; Gerald Daynes, Jr., Daynes Music Co., Salt Lake City, Utah; John Green, Green & Associates, Lincoln, NE; and Pat Phaneuf, Scott's Piano & Sound, Grand Forks, ND.

Ulery, who himself served on HP's Field Advisory Council, told reporters he strongly supports dealer feedback, and looks forward to getting a hands-on grasp of the organ business through REP members, other Rodgers dealers, and future NAMM shows. □

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