

## Hall Console Is Back On Track

Without fanfare, the prompt (left) side console at Radio City Music Hall was returned to its niche for the first time in over two years on Friday, November 14 in the new Christmas Show that opened. The show runs through January 8.

The keydesk had been removed and taken to a large basement dressing room where it was completely restored—all new wiring, keys recovered by Lance Johnson in Fargo, No. Dak., and all worn parts replaced—then brought back up and mounted on its track.

Even the transport system that brakes the console was given attention; a new motor and brakes were installed. The console rides its short distance in and out in well-balanced fashion. It has a three-way safety system: limit switches; if they fail, then the brake system; and finally, if that doesn't keep the big four decker from trying to be seated in the audience, there is a hefty chain attached to the back of the console to yank it to an abrupt halt. Replacement parts for the rebuild came from Arndt Organ Supply and Schantz Organ Co.

The 5,000-circuit main cable was replaced from the console to a new junction that will take care of problems previously encountered, according to Ron Bishop, who directs maintenance of the 58-rank Wurlitzer. He noted the right niche console is still in fairly good shape and will not be rebuilt for several years.

Music Hall management is continuing its on-going maintenance plan for the organ so that the huge music maker does not have to be "down" at any time. This insures that it is available as required for any production in the theatre; Liberace requested its use for his show, as have several other producers.

## Xmas Music For Kalamazoo Mall

Ken Butela, Betty Darling and David Moore will play Christmas music Dec. 5, 6 and 7 at Crossroads Mall in Kalamazoo, Michigan, it was announced in Southwest Michigan Chapter's November newsletter. Member Neil Johnson is loaning his Allen organ and Keyboard World Music is supplying a Technics organ for the three-day music fest.

### "Singing" In Duet

For those who direct glee clubs, choirs and big heavenly bodies, Dallas Public Library has a vocal duet arrangement for the tune, *I Love To Hear You Singing*, it was disclosed by ATOS member A. Howard Pettigrew.

## Nor-Cal Donates \$500 For ATOS Int. NEWS

Nor-Cal Theatre Organ Society has donated the sum of \$500 to help defray cost of publishing ATOS *International NEWS*, it was announced by National President Jack Moelmann. He thanked the chapter on behalf of the Board of Directors and all members of ATOS. "It is organizations and people such as you that allow ATOS to venture on with new projects such as ATOS *International NEWS*," he said.

Also during November, member Bill Exner of Puget Sound Chapter donated \$25 for the NEWS.

## Granada To Have Two Premieres

Granada Theatre Historical Society is presenting two dedication programs for the recently installed Barton organ. On November 22, Kay McAbee played a concert for an audience composed of those who were involved in rescuing the former movie house and turning it into a non-profit performing arts center.

Lyn Larsen plays the second dedication show on Dec. 13. This will be open to the public and features, in addition to the organ premiere, a giant Christmas show on the stage.

According to Robert J. Maes, society president, the newly opened performing arts center has been getting excellent TV coverage. "This draws attention to our efforts to once again bring theatrical entertainment back to Kansas City, Kansas," he said.

## CRATOS Given Fund Donation You Can Visit Castro Wurly

Geogre Kuba has given \$10,000 to Cedar Rapids Area Theatre Organ Society to establish the Ruth Kuba Scholarship Endowment, it was reported in CRATOS, official newsletter of the society.

A \$500 scholarship will be provided each year for qualified members or children of members based on terms and conditions of the agreement drawn up for the donation. A local bank administers the fund and a scholarship committee made up of members will select the yearly recipients.

## Theatre To Open Organ March 9

St. Paul's World Theatre will dedicate its organ on March 9, 1987, it was learned this month.

When visiting San Francisco—one of the nation's great cosmopolitan centers—you can embellish your stay with a trip to see, hear and possibly play the famed Castro Theatre Wurlitzer 4/(we refuse to give a rank count since it seems to increase without warning).

Dick Taylor and Ed Stout, the two who are mainstays of maintenance and tender lovers of care for the fabulous instrument, enjoy having visitors. However, due to their heavy organ business schedules, they are not always at the Castro on Saturday and/or Sunday mornings, the normal time devoted to this great warbler.

To arrange your personal appearance, call Taylor and Stout at the organ shop—(415) 541-9211. You will hear one of two things: (1) the voice of either man, or (2) an answering machine voice. If it's the latter, don't give up hope yet. You can call Dick's dad, Ray Taylor. He's an excellent tour guide. His number is (415) 944-0547. If a woman answers, don't hang up—It's Doris Taylor, Dick's mother. She as helpful as papa and can assist in arranging a time for your visit.

At the present time the two organmen are re-leathering the Great Division at Grace Cathedral. That's another tremendous box of whistles well worth touring, even if they are classical.

Dave Hegarty plays the Castro Wurlitzer five nights a week; Jim Riggs comes over from Oakland on occasion for two nights, and from time to time other organists take over the two-night spot. Call the theatre for organ interlude time.

## Want A Posthorn?

A reasonably new Trivo Posthorn set on 20 inches wind pressure is offered for sale by Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society. For complete information contact President Ralph Beaudry, 12931 Haynes Street, North Hollywood, Calif. 91606.

## Candi Still Playing

Candi Carley, popular blind organist, married Mark Roth last August 30, and the couple now live in Canyon Country, Calif. Although she could not be reached for comment, it is understood Candi will continue to concertize in the future. She is slated to appear at the National '87 Convention in Los Angeles.

## Newsletter Needs Support

Our ATOS *International NEWS* is off and running. This will be the fourth issue since we've started publishing. I hope that you saw the October issue in the center of THEATRE ORGAN JOURNAL. Distributing it in the Journal saves quite a deal of postage and also means that you can keep it with the Journal or remove it from its center position.

We have appreciated receiving all the mail appraising the newsletter in both content and format. Almost all of the letters we have received have been positive, and some have even included ways of improving the publication.

We are in a trial and error period for six months (six issues). Your Board of Directors then has the task of evaluating it and seeing if it fulfills a need for ATOS members and probably more important, can we afford it?

I do want to thank those of you who have made financial contributions to the newsletter. We don't want to increase dues and we don't want to start subscriptions as the latter would be very complicated administratively.

With the majority of ATOS members renewing in the next couple of months, please consider a few dollars additional for this new project. ATOS is moving and we need not only your moral support but your financial support as well. We thank all of you for your help.

Sincerely, Jack Moelmann

## Rosa Rio Taped Over 250 Features

Every Tuesday Rosa Rio records original music scores to great silent photoplays, and to date she has completed over 250 films for Video Yesterday, Sandy Hook, Conn. Recently BRAVO TV network featured *Birth of a Nation* with her original score. "This film proved such a hit with their audiences that BRAVO now presents silent film fare quite often," she said.

## Raymond Bohr III

Raymond F. Bohr, one of the top organists at Radio City Music Hall during the many years the house operated as the leading New York City deluxe film and stage show mecca, is seriously ill, it was learned this month. It is reported he appreciates receiving cards from those who know him and those who heard him at the Music Hall Wurlitzer. His address: 585 Newark Avenue, Apartment 14-B, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208.

## Organ Out At N. Y. Garden

A 50-year-old tradition has come to an end in the Big Apple. Organist Dave Kopp reports that Madison Square Garden no longer uses 'live' organ music at sports events. In fact, they no longer have an organ on the premises. A radio cart machine is now used to cue up tape segments during hockey and basketball games. The National Anthem is performed accapella.

Live organ music started at the "Old" Garden in 1935 when Gladys Gooding (also of Dodgers baseball fame) and her Hammond B-3 entertained at events.

The present Garden (over Penn Station) originally had a large Rodgers with Eddie Layton, Tobey Wright and Ashley Miller at the console. In later years a new Hammond was used by Miller and Kopp.

The recent change was, according to Garden officials, "made to improve game events." Baseball fans might also have noticed the absence of "live" music at Shea Stadium (N.Y. Mets) during the World Series. 1978 was the last year Jane Jarvis played there. Tapes have been used since that time.

## Berry Beast Dodges Damp Damage

by Jim Koller

During Sept. 26 through Oct. 3, Chicago metropolitan areas suffered record high water levels and flooding. Hardest his area was suburban Park Ridge, which just happens to be the home town of Leon and Mildred Berry, and their famous "Beast in the Basement." Fortunately, only two or three inches of water seeped into the basement and did not ruin or damage the organ. Mildred claimed that "strong prayers, strong arms and four Kawasaki pumps, running 24 hours per day, saved her from dampened spirits."

The "Beast" had entertained Windy City Organ Club on Sunday, August 10; Leon, its trainer, put it through paces reminiscent of Chicago Hub Rink days. The crowd was so large two shows were presented. The 2/10 Wurlitzer was reported showing no signs of wear and was expertly tuned by the master.

## Drop In On Kay For A Sunday Brunch

For all you Sunday drivers out for an interesting time, drop in at Ramada Classic Hotel, 6815 Menaul Blvd. N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico and listen to Kay McAbee at the console of the five manual Kimball (former New York Roxy Theatre) play during the Sunday brunch hours. Kay has at his command 27 excellent organ ranks and the five manuals to please your ears while the brunch satisfies your tummy.

## It Takes A Good Man To Know A Good Man!

Any organist who, by virtue of his musical genius, is able to create an aura of sophistication—which in other words boils down to pleasing and thrilling his audiences—is deserving of all the accolades tendered. In the same vein, any organist who is a leader in the concert field, who can highly recommend a fellow-organist, has definitely carved a lasting niche in the theatre organ world.

It is a pleasure to report that such an organist exists. He has well established his own stature as a concert artist and on a recent concert tour in England it was his pleasure to hear and meet a young artist who is on his way to becoming a superb concert star—he is already considered one of the finest young theatre organists in Great Britain. His name is Simon Gledhill.

"I know that chapters are always looking for new organists to present to our membership, and frankly there aren't too many good ones," our well-statured organist wrote recently. "I have run into an extremely talented young man in England named Simon Gledhill. In my opinion he is amongst the most talented young organists I have ever heard. He is currently studying at Cambridge University, and I think that you would agree he has all the qualities necessary to become very popular . . . talent, looks, and enthusiasm. Many people I respect think he is the best living organist in England.

"If he had been submitted to our National Competition he would have probably won this last year. That's how good he is.

"I recommend him without reservation. It would be an excellent opportunity to introduce him in the United States at the 1987 Convention, either by giving him a slot or by having him make a cameo appearance (I would be honored to have him play at my concert) . . ."

Thus did Walter Strony write to the committee of "L.A.'s The Place 1987 ATOS National Convention" in recent weeks.

## Three Shows Left In Shea's Show Series

Lance Luce will present the next Wurlitzer concert at Shea's Buffalo Theatre February 22. Lou Hurvitz follows with his program on March 22, and Chris Elliott closes the present series next May 3.

## Phantom Frazzled; Rests This Year

This has been a dead year for Lon Chaney's classic silent horror film, *The Phantom of the Opera*. There were less showings than in past years, according to Organist Jeff Weiler. He played the film last year in a combined silent film and rock show to an audience of over 4,000 at Chicago's Navy Pier. "It was a howling success," he noted.

However, this year the photoplay was shown only in a few places across the county. Next October Weiler may accompany the film in the Chicago Theatre.

## Good "Organkeeping" Seal For Paramount

If there was such a thing, Seattle's Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer organ would undoubtedly have the 'Good Organkeeping Seal of Approval'. Since January 1985 Puget Sound Chapter maintenance crew has been accomplishing a general upgrading of the chamber areas. Walls have been washed down, lighting improved, ladders and walkways re-positioned, three new organ heaters purchased and installed.

## BE IN THE NEWS

Not that we have received complaints about failure to include all regions in our news columns, it is, nevertheless, noteworthy to advise all chapters and members at large that ATOS International NEWS' news gathering agency is dependent on members being reporters when items of interest develop within their areas.

Where but within ATOS is organ news generated? That's right—organists, organ buffs are "in the know" and make the best reporters because they understand what they see and hear. Every member of ATOS has a high intelligence quotient and therefore has the ability to convey information, either by phone or mail. Keep your area in the NEWS.

## Rebuilding Organ

Organman Richard Villemin of Porterville, Calif., is reported to be refurbishing the 4/15 Page organ in Catalina Island's Casino Theatre.

## ATOS Libray Has Music, Fair Prices

Are you looking for old music? The recent offer made by the 'NEWS' to send out an old tune has prompted some members to suggest publishing a "Songs Wanted" column.

Concurrent with this suggestion is the announcement by ATOS Archives Curator Vern Bickel that the Library-/Archives is now equipped to copy all music on hand for those who want it. The new catalogue, which lists all song titles in file, is currently available. Complete information may be obtained by writing Bickel at 1393 Don Carlos Court, Chula Vista, California 92010.

There are also firms and individuals dealing in old sheet music. One dealer sends out monthly lists of available pieces. His prices range from \$10 to \$40 per single copy. Contact Bickel for the best prices!

## Some Mail Loss Is Inevitable, P.O. Says

Postoffice officials admit that some loss in the delivery of third class mail is inevitable. This fact is borne out by some ATOS members who are not happy because they haven't been receiving their copies of ATOS International NEWS. Rosa Rio discovered that she had never heard of the publication and thought the inserted issue in the Sept/Oct issue of Theatre Organ Journal was just that—part of the magazine. She was sent the September and November issues.

The NEWS is issued separately every other month. If you fail to receive your copy by the end of the month, write Executive Director Doug Fisk about it.

P.S.—The postoffice department says it is trying to improve third class mail distribution so that everyone will receive what is sent to them.

## Encyclopedia Author Writes For Dictionary

Organman David L. Junchen has just completed an article on theatre organs which he has written by request for publication in the new Groves Dictionary of American Music. The dictionary is published in four volumes and sells for \$450 per set, it was learned.

recovered.

The Solo 16' and 8' Tibia has been re-winded and re-wired, and Chryso-glott and Solo shutter winker re-located.

An Oboe Gamba has been purchased and installed. This brings the Wurlitzer up to 21 ranks. Cleanup and shellacking of wood pipes is underway. The instrument, a 4/20 Publix No. 1, is opus 1819 and was shipped from North Tonawanda Dec. 22, 1927.

Discs 'N Tapes  
Be Of Good Cheer,  
ProArte Is Here

Cheer up kids, news from ProArte concerning Lyn Larsen's CDs is very positive—they are now available in stores (if you're there when shipments come in), and if you can't find them you can order direct from the record firm.

Ever since it was announced the discs were done and ready to be delivered to stores, there has been a mad scramble to find them. Telephone calls and letters have rained on NEWS staffers from readers asking where and when they could expect to scoop up numbers 280—*Filmtrax*, 281—*Up & Away* (marches), and 282—*Pipes of Christmas*.

In the meantime, reports dribbled in that a few of the discs had been found and purchased in the Los Angeles area. Tower Records on Sunset Strip and Canterbury Records in Pasadena received token shipments that were snapped up before they were put in sales bins. In fact, Irv Eilers bought three copies of #280, leaving the store five on hand. Two of these were quickly dispatched to Clearview, Australia in response to a phone call made to the NEWS office by Wayne Bertram. He had been unable to locate a sales outlet since reading about the platters in the first issue of ATOS *International News* last September.

ProArte's letter, in answer to the one sent them by the NEWS requesting information about distribution and where mail orders might be sent, explained that major stores now (middle of November) have Larsen's CDs, cassettes, but no LPs.

ATOS members can order direct by calling (612) 559-4166 or writing ProArte, Attn: Customer Service, 14025 23rd Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. CDs are yours for \$15.98 each; cassettes cost \$10.98.

### Dickinson Has An On-Going Project

John Dickinson High School Kimball organ offers an on-going project for members of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society in Wilmington, Del. On the agenda is finishing installing new ranks and traps and the rearrangement of tablets on the Solo stop rail. Discarding plans for an ethereal chamber has made available nine tablet positions on the console which allows the addition of voices and pitches to the Solo division. Next summer it is planned to rebuild the organ console.

News items appearing in this section were prepared by Tom B'hend, P.O. Box 40165, Pasadena, Calif. 91104, and Jim Koller, % Mari-Anne Travel 9435 W. Irving Park Rd., Schiller Park, Illinois 60176.

### City May Keep Kimball Organ

An appropriation of \$250,000 has been made by the City of Minneapolis for removal and storage of the 100-rank dual console Kimball organ from the civic auditorium. It may be re-installed in the 3,800-seat auditorium that will be constructed on the site of the present structure.

### Elm Rink Has 30th

by Jim Koller

Owner William F. Fuchs welcomed a large crowd of theatre pipe organ enthusiasts, skaters and spectators Sunday evening, Oct. 5 to his Elm Skating Rink in Elmhurst, Ill., in celebration of its 30th anniversary. He introduced his staff organists, Bill Kuczek and Don Springer, organ crew chief Jim West and his teaching and floor staff. Your reporter is an alumnus—1971-'79—of that famous green door spa.

Handshakes, congratulations and big smiles were exchanged, but there is a spectre hovering over Elmhurst Rink—liability insurance. With the skyrocketing of this type of insurance it has forced many places of entertainment and amusement centers such as park district swimming pools, bowling alleys and carnivals to close. And insurance to cover skating rinks is no longer available at any cost. This may be the "last hurrah" for the Elm.

The reason insurance cannot be purchased at any price? A far too law-suit happy public. So the rest of the public and owners are the losers. It is hoped there will be some kind of salvation to keep the rink around.

### Tell 'Em What You Have Or Need Now

Chapters having organ components, theatre materials to trade or sell, desiring an organ for installation in a non-profit location, or having an organ to donate are invited to advertise the fact(s) in ATOS *International News*.

### Montclare Gets Second Organ

by Jim Koller

A 'new baby' was introduced by Crew Chief Art Fike to about 75 members of Chicago Area Theatre Organ Society and their guests in a 'Stage Door' social October 5 at the Montclare Theatre. It is a three-manual Kimball now sporting 16 ranks, but still growing. Featured artist was former Hub Skating Rink organist Freddy Arnish.

The original Montclare organ, a 3/10 Barton, was sold several years ago to Sally's Stage—A Musical Eaterie—located in suburban Lombard. The new instrument came from the Egyptian Theatre, Bala (Cynwood), Pa. It has transplanted pipe-work (considered somewhat rare) that

### Rodgers Taps New Top Tabber In Ore.

HILLSBORO, ORE.—Robert Ulery, 43, a 15-year high tech executive with Hewlett-Packard Company of Corvallis, Oregon, has been named president and chief executive officer of Rodgers Organ Company. The announcement was made by Bruce Stevens, president and chief executive officer of Steinway Musical Properties, Inc., parent to the organ firm. Prior to joining Hewlett-Packard, Ulery sold computer systems in the Los Angeles area, and with that company managed all field sales in Orange County, Calif. He studied and holds degrees in Marketing and mathematics.

### Longfield Backs Theatre Research

Robert Longfield, who maintains membership in ATOS and the Theatre Historical Society, is a staunch advocate of theatre research and mapping their locations.

"In 1977 I started my Sacramento theatre project and spent hundreds of hours on it until 1981 when I moved to Morro Bay. Now I have just finished locating theatres in San Luis Obispo County for publication in *Marquee*, THS' official journal," he said.

In his research Longfield lists the organs that were installed along with other pertinent information. He endorses the NEWS plan which urges all members to prepare similar maps and information about the theatres that are still in their areas as well as the ones that have been razed.

### Organ Lit Has New Catalogue Available

Organ Literature Foundation, 45 Norfolk Road, Braintree, Mass. 02184, has just issued its newest catalogue. In it are listed 601 books and 338 theatre organ records. The catalogue is available for \$1, or four international reply coupons, sea-mail; eight coupons for air mail, and is refundable with the first order received.

### Montclare Gets Second Organ

was displayed in the solo registration; a Cornopian (from the Hub Rink); Clarinet (part of the Chicago United Artists Theatre Wurlitzer); Vox Humana from the Southtown Wurlitzer; and a home-grown Fife and set of Doppie Flutes from Freddy's Garden (workshop).

The Montclare crew is making a national plea for Kimball stop tablets, tablet holders and assemblies. "It doesn't matter if the tabs are blank or engraved," Fike said. "We need them for the ranks that are to be added." Either Arnish or Fike may be contacted about the items. Fike's address: 2365 No. Neva, Chicago, Ill. 60635; Fred Arnish: 346 West Sunset, Lombard, Ill. 60148.

### Insurance Snags Organ Project

Insurance snags in the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society project to install its J. Ross Reed Memorial 3/27 Wurlitzer in Pasadena City College Sexton Auditorium has prompted LATOS President Ralph Beaudry to ask National President Jack Moelmann if headquarters has a policy offering blank coverage for all chapters. If such a policy exists it would be of help in the dilemma facing the society. A requirement for three different high-priced policies may force abandonment of the installation. Beaudry has advised his Board of Directors.

Contractual requirements calling for the three policies was discussed at a meeting in November between society and school officials. The three types of insurance deal with liability—one to cover organ personnel parking on the school property; personal injury liability; and workmen's compensation.

With the estimated figure of \$80,000 for installation and purchase of a new electronic relay, the added insurance policies cost would increase total expenses to a point chapter officials consider prohibitive.

Another meeting is planned for club and school officials to discuss any alternate ideas that might be suggested to permit the project to get underway.

### Rio, Malone Bring Back 'Bookends'

Organist Rosa Rio and announcer Ted Malone re-created their famous *Between The Bookends* program Saturday, Oct. 25 at the 11th annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention which was held at the Holiday Inn, North Newark, N. J. The duo received a standing ovation. Each year these conclave honor those actors, actresses and technicians who made the age of radio truly golden.

### FOR THE RECORD

In the first issue, under the heading *Organs In Demand*, it was stated the Style 260 Wurlitzer from Warner's Erie Theatre is owned by Western Reserve Chapter. This is incorrect. Gray's Army in Cleveland, Ohio owns the instrument. Western Reserve Chapter maintains and has unlimited use of it, according to Dick A. Shepherd, Western Reserve secretary.

In the same issue another news item disclosed that discussion is being held regarding restoration of Philadelphia's Convention Hall dual console Moller organ, and that previously some work had been commenced then halted.

Delaware Valley Chapter has been working on the instrument since the '76 ATOS Convention as chapter finances have permitted. The unit has restored the theatre portion of the organ which is about 21 ranks. It is reported there are between 89 and 91 ranks in the Moller.

## T O Radio Show In Fla

Central Florida Chapter member John Otterson presents a series of one hour programs of recorded theatre organ music every Sunday at 5pm on WBVM-FM 90.5 from St. Petersburg, Fla. The station is owned by the Catholic Diocese.

## "Built-In" Organ

Sale of the former Harold Lloyd mansion in Beverly Hills, Calif., by Everest Record Group owner Bernard C. Soloman to Ted Field, Chicago department store heir, in October was noted in the press. Describing the mansion, one item listed was "It has a built-in pipe organ and projection facilities." The "built-in" is a 2/32 Aeolian Duo-Art organ.

## Classic Add For Hollywood Organ

Ralph Sargent and Alan Stark, owners of the 4/18 Wurlitzer that has been played by Gaylord Carter in accompanying famed silent Paramount photoplays for home video cassettes, have purchased the Principal and Mixtures ranks formerly part of the J. Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer, it was announced this month by officials of Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society. The classical ranks are wanted by the pair to add greater sound dimension to their instrument.

## State Theatre Saved

Minneapolis' State Theatre will not be razed, according to Jim Moe, Land O'Lakes Chapter member. Auditorium size and seating will be reduced but organ chamber space will remain and plans to install an organ are under study.

## Organ For Center

Olympia, Washington's former Olympia Theatre has been completely refurbished—even to adding three shallow balconies to the house—and the organ formerly in the theatre, which was removed during refurbishing work, will be re-installed in what is now the Washington Performing Arts Center. It is understood the instrument is an over proscenium installation.

## PROVACATIVE QUESTION

"What Is Theatre Organ Music?" This provocative question is asked by L. Diana Haskins of Kalamazoo, Michigan. She isn't the first person to pose the question, but she is the first one who has forwarded it to ATOS International NEWS with the request she would like to have it answered.

So would the staff. How many readers have an answer?

## Only 400 Can Go

Two outstanding artists, lunch and then cocktails and dinner while cruising the ship-filled harbor has been planned and finalized for the 400 organ socialites who attend the "Encore" event following the 1987 National Convention in Los Angeles next June.

Keith Chapman opens the event playing the large outdoor Austin organ in Balboa Park. His concert will be followed with a box lunch munched in the park area.

Later in the afternoon buses will transport Encore socialites to the California Theatre where they will hear George Wright in concert on the Wurlitzer organ. From the theatre they will be taken to the harbor where they will embark on three ships for no host cocktails and dinner while sailing in and around the interesting ship and dock scene.

Around 8:30 the ships return to dockside and passengers then load buses for their return trip to Los Angeles.

As noted above, this event will be limited to the first 400 ATOS members who sign up for it at the Los Angeles meeting. Cost of roundtrip bus fare and Encore events is \$60 per person; boat elbow bending is not included.

## Billboard Boosts Organ

*Billboard*, one of the nation's leading theatrical trade magazines, publishes its top 30 best sellers in CDs each month. In the issue of Nov. 15, Lyn Larsen's organ CD was 22nd in that listing.

## Some 78s Command Big Prices

Old records get scratchy and seem worthless. But, surprisingly, there are some that are worth much more than their original selling price if they can be found today. Several that have become valuable collector's items involve the late Bing Crosby. He recorded on four 78 sides with theatre organ accompaniment.

The four—with Helen Crawford at the N.Y. Paramount Studio Wurlitzer, on Brunswick label—"Can't We Talk It Over" #6240, and "I Found You" #6248. Both were recorded Dec. 21, 1931. The others featured Eddie Dunstetter at the 3/18 Wurlitzer in Warner Brothers Sunset Blvd. Studio, Hollywood, on Decca label—"Little Lady Make Believe" #1794, and "When Mother Nature Sings Her Lullaby" #1874, both recorded April 25, 1938.

Originals of these fetch whatever owners think the traffic will bear.

It is also interesting to note the Warner organ was sold to the CBS network and moved into Columbia Square, about eight blocks west of Warner's. Then actor Joe Kearns bought the organ and moved it one block above Hollywood Blvd. to a home he built almost due north of Columbia Square. Subsequently the

## First Timer Assesses Conclave, Regional

What are the impressions of a first-time convention and regional goer? Next month the NEWS will publish the thoughts of a member, who is 34-years-old and has been an organ nut since age 10, who attended his first national convention (Richmond) and first regional meeting (Denver).

## Vaughn Still Is Active At 75!

Since closure of San Francisco's Avenue Theatre, some organ buffs have wondered if Bob Vaughn is still actually playing silent film shows. The answer is a definite "Yes".

Vaughn recently put *Phantom of the Opera* through its horror run at the Berkeley Unitarian Church. He played the score on the 3/about-50-rank Skinner organ. On Oct. 31 he piloted a two-manual Baldwin electronic to play the score for *Wings* at U. C. Berkeley Theatre, and Nov. 17 saw him at the Wurlitzer keydesk in the Castro Theatre goading Garbo and Gilbert in their *Flesh and the Devil* dealings.

He also fired up *The Iron Horse* recently for a private showing. His present schedule includes mortuary, church and wedding dates. "At my age—75—I find it pleasurable to do some volunteer playing for senior citizen groups locally. So while I may not go travelling into the 'big time,' I keep busy and everyone seems happy," he said.

late Robert Carson moved into the house and Lyn Larsen recorded a number of LPs on it. Carson later married organist Helen Dell and she recorded many platters on it. Johnny Duffy turned out two discs while the organ was at CBS. This instrument is now in the Renaissance Theatre at Mansfield, Ohio.

Now we go to England and other foreign countries that undertook to record the famed "groaner". Crosby, Capt. Eddie Dunstetter, on an electric organ, and his West Coast Air Force orchestra produced several discs. The selection "By The Light Of The Silvery Moon" was issued in England and India. "But Not For Me" went only to India. Also, "I Found You" was released only on the Japanese Lucky label, Lu J 5006, and is one of the most sought after 78s in the world.

In 1968 a mint copy of the original Brunswick or Lucky labels was fetching around \$100 or more since they were the only ones ever made.

Bing also recorded with Dunstetter on a Hammond organ and these records went to Italy, Germany, England and Australia; some were re-issued as many as five times. Bing also recorded with Ethel Smith and Buddy Cole on electronic organs.

## Buff Puts Organ In Warehouse

Organ buff Jim Spahn, who lives in Tehachapi, Calif., has the former California Theatre (Glendale) Robert-Morton organ installed in a warehouse in the Bakersfield area of Sumner. Built in 1926 as opus 2471, it was a 3/7 instrument and played to thousands of silent photoplay theatregoers.

In 1938 it was moved to Radio Station KFOX, Long Beach, and stayed there until pre-recorded music resulted in it being sold to the First Baptist Church in Long Beach. Here it lost all traps and percussions. In 1939 the Church of Latter Day Saints in Porterville, Calif. bought the organ. This is the hometown of Richard Villemain, well-known organ builder. He added five ranks to the organ. In 1983 the church moved to a new location, ordered an electronic and put the Morton up for bid.

Villemain notified Spahn about the organ. His bid was accepted and he started looking for a suitable building with at least a 12-foot ceiling; he found it in Sumner. Next a search for missing traps and percussions that ranged as far east as the Moller Company and as local as Villemain's shop was successful. In the 18 locations he contacted he replaced all the components. Many original units were found.

### Vaughn Frequent Visitor

A description of the organ as installed was given the News by Organist Bob Vaughn: "My son lives in Bakersfield and I get down there from time to time and when there I have a go at Jim's mighty 'wunder' Morton. It has a fine sound, and as long as it is in its present spot it will always be a MIGHTY Morton—there are no swell shades and 17 ranks does contribute to making its presence felt.

"When he has finished—it will top out at 21 ranks—it should be quite a baby!"

The organ is equipped with a Style R player. Two 3-horsepower and one 5-horsepower Spencer blowers supply the wind.

Spahn also owns the former 3/33 Robert-Morton console from Miller's California Theatre in Los Angeles.

## Weiler Leads A Double Organ Life

Organist Jeff Weiler can also be addressed as Technician Weiler. He is an experienced organ beater and builder. During November, working as an installer for Cassavant Organs, he was in Indianapolis at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church helping erect a 3/62 classical giant. Shortly after completing this job, he hurried down Houston way where he is currently assisting David L. Junchen on the installation of a large Rodgers. It is expected this job will be finished during late spring 1987.