

perfect beat, no adjustment required.

Mr. Hedberg stated that "with all this weight on the poor tremulant valve and skimpy manual chest feed lines, it's a wonder it works at all! . . . some professional organists say it doesn't." Please be advised that only two prominent organists have played this organ in its present trem/feed-line configuration which has only been operative the past 18 months. Previous organists played it with shorter original Wurlitzer trem lines and large wind trunks which did not work! As to the "weight on the poor trem valve," the valve opens against pressure so it is not detrimental to the valve hinge — so much better than umpteen pounds on a regulator, destroying the regulator's pressure control and rebound.

To further support this system, Dan Barton, in a THEATRE ORGAN article in November/December, 1985, advocates the same system; i.e., long 3" trem lines up to 30 feet, numerous elbows, etc., and weights on trem. In reference to the comment criticizing my use of the word "reverses" of air in the trem lines during operation, I should more properly have said "surges" caused by the continuing movement of air to the trem valve which suddenly closes causing the air pressure to temporarily build up in the wind box and results in a jerky, uneven regulator action. The long windline to the trem acts as a cushion to absorb this and results in a perfect balance and harmony between the regulator and the trem. The key word in this trem reaction is "sine wave," like a good coloratura voice rather than a "Bert Lahr-cowardly lion" unmusical quaver and forced uneven beat. A short windline requires much added weight on the regulator to satisfactorily achieve any trem at all (there are no weights in the Emery installation), so the only way to achieve any beat is by throwing more weights on the regulator — sometimes 100 pounds — which automatically destroys the fluidity of the regulator movement.

In conclusion, Mr. Hedberg seems to complain about many theatre organs in which he has not had a hand, inferentially insulting to many organ buffs; after all, the average organ buff is responsible for the resurgence of interest in theatre organs, without which many professional theatre organists would not have jobs. Those in the know should help them as a gift to their fellow hobbyists.

Mr. Hedberg says he will write an article with a different slant than mine on trem. I will look forward to reading it. Mathematical proof is not the factor in music — it's the feeling a beautiful, lush, even trem imparts.

As to my qualifications, I designed, sold, planned and supervised installations for a leading American pipe organ builder for 20 years and have been a consultant for 45 years. I have played, serviced and enlarged organs since I was 14 years old in the '30s, so I am hardly a newcomer to the field.

My suggestion to Mr. Hedberg, if he has an open mind, is — try it, you'll like it.

Sincerely,
Everard S. (Tote) Pratt
Cincinnati, Ohio □



ALABAMA Birmingham 205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

We are based in Birmingham, and being from the "Heart of Dixie," take great pride in our Southern heritage and way of life. We also hold to the belief in "southern hospitality" — even for those from the North. The months of July and August were no exception as we extended our hospitality to two Northerners — Bill Snyder and Jim Wright, both from Tennessee (that is north of Birmingham!), marched southward into Alabama to perform at the Alabama Theatre. These two are certainly not strangers to our chapter, and in July, Dr. William (Bill) Snyder graced our console for the first time in several years. Bill is house organist at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville, the sister theatre to the Alabama. The Tennessee's Wurlitzer, a 3/14 Balaban 2, is decorated in the same style as its sister organ here (did I just call him a Northerner?), and Bill felt right at home. Dr. Snyder is Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, and we are always very pleased and fortunate to have him as our guest.

August found Chattanooga Jim Wright on vacation from college and right at home at the keydesk of the Publix #1. Jim is an organ major at Bob Jones University and is well-versed in both theatre and classical organ. He just keeps getting better year after year —

watch as he emerges into one of the finest theatre organists in the Southeast.

Work is progressing steadily on the Wurlitzer going in at the Birmingham Wedding Chapel. A three-manual console has been procured, rebuilding is coming along nicely, additional pipework and chests are being gathered and alterations to the pipe chambers have begun. Work crew foreman Gary Jones is very pleased with results, so far.

We wound down the Alabama Theatre's



Artist Jay Mitchell at his May concert for Alabama Chapter. (Gary W. Jones Photo)



Dr. William (Bill) Snyder at the Wurlitzer Publix #1 console — Alabama Theatre. (Gary W. Jones Photo)



Organist Jim Wright at Alabama Chapter meeting in August. (Gary W. Jones Photo)

very successful Summer Classic Movie Series with *The Sound of Music* and kicked off the fall/winter series with *The Student Prince*. Fifteen movies have been scheduled for this second series. If you are passing through the Birmingham area, chances are that something will be happening — give us a call!

GARY W. JONES

**CENTRAL
FLORIDA
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY**



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/734-5721

Our September meeting was held at the Tampa Theatre where many of our members have been working on the organ for months, and we are looking forward to the many events in the future that will include this instrument. Lee Erwin will be the guest organist at the theatre's sixtieth anniversary celebration in October. There has been a silent movie presented almost every month accompanied by this magnificent organ.

At our May meeting, Mr. Charles Stanford, who is a well-known organist, played the Tampa Theatre organ for our members, and we heard many of our favorite songs. This was followed by open console.

Our June meeting was held at the home of Ed and Ginny Lawrence in Seminole where member Al Hermanns played an excellent concert on a Conn 651, with open console afterwards.

Our club is proud that one of our members, Mr. John Otterson, who has been instrumental in the installation of the Tampa organ, now has a radio program airing locally every Sunday. With the interest being shown in organ music in this area, this fall and coming year should be exciting for our club.

PAUL T. DANIELSON



**CENTRAL
INDIANA
CHAPTER**

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

The beautifully restored Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne was the site of the August meeting at which Bob Goldstine presented a wonderful concert. Home of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the ornate Embassy Theatre has been totally restored to its original appearance. The 4/15 Page organ was installed in 1928, and has been in almost continuous use since then, with many concerts presented every year. Major restoration work was begun in 1960. Local interest in this instrument was inspired by the effort and talent of the late Buddy Nolan, whose name became synonymous with the Embassy. A dedicated group of technicians maintains this organ.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH



To top off Central Ohio's August meeting, Cliff Pollock proudly presents his Wurlitzer Band Organ.

(John R. Polesley Photo)

**CENTRAL OHIO
Columbus**

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

We are abuzz with the rumor that one of our members is installing a 4/24 Wurlitzer in his home — nothing we can pin down yet, but what an installation that would be!! Our sleuths are out with their bloodhounds, and we'll have more details later.

The spectre of the silent movie — August 29 — it happened. The fabulous, the seductive Greta Garbo teamed with handsome John Gilbert in *The Flesh And The Devil* accompanied by none other than our own Dennis James at the Ohio's Robert-Morton. Dennis composed and arranged the music to set this epic in motion. It was, indeed, a gala evening which attracted a nearly full house. Maybe this format could be adopted on a

**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



Member Bob Cowley lets loose with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at the Polsley's August social.

(John R. Polsley Photo)

broader scope as a popular offering of the theatre organ in today's entertainment market.

Our August 24 meeting was hosted by John Polsley and his wife. No more perfect day could have been ordered for 41 members and guests to enjoy this occasion. Downstairs in the studio we were privileged to hear member artists Margo Burkhart and Bob Cowley present an opening program which began with a brisk rendition of "Entertainment" and ended with a toe-tapping "Battle Hymn of The Republic." Then followed open console with options to play the 3/8 hybrid (mostly Wurlitzer) or the Baldwin Studio II. The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of members Clifford and Mary Pollock with their Wurlitzer Band Organ. Parked in our driveway, complete with trailer and Honda generator, this carousel gem peppered the neighborhood with rousing band-tempo music. The afternoon potluck offered every conceivable edible we could imagine — our chapter does not lack for culinary talent! After dinner the focus switched back to downstairs where member Henry Garcia, at the organ, teamed up with Martha Hoyle in an organ/piano duo which played some crowd-pleasing rhythmic numbers.

The Main chamber of our Worthington installation has rewinding virtually complete with acquisition of an additional regulator. The Vox Humana will be wound from this regulator after the leathering task is done. We look forward to several winter meetings at the high school.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

It just so happened that Ty Woodward was coming our way recently, and we heard about it. There wasn't much time for publicity or for arranging a social, but we were fortunate and received permission to use the facilities of WGN Studio and its 3/11 Wurlitzer. It was a grand July Thursday evening which is unusu-



Featured organist Margo Burkhart plays a mini-concert for Central Ohio Chapter at the Polsleys.

(John R. Polsley Photo)

al for us as we rarely hold a social on a week night. Ty gave a stunning performance, allowing us to experience his vast talent and training in a program which covered classical, popular and contemporary numbers, all in Ty's professional styling. Thank you, Ty, for a great evening of organ music.

Past President Jim Shaffer was honored with the presentation of a plaque by new President Jim West. This was a token of appreciation by the membership for Jim Shaffer's outstanding effort during his two year term. All of our past chairmen are worthy of similar recognition as are the many dedicated people who have served on our boards of directors.

Conventioneers will remember the Music Box Theatre from the 1985 tour. A fundraiser for the Chicago Theatre organ restoration was recently held there by co-owners Bob Chaney and Chris Carlo. The program was a showing of *Citizen Kane* and *The Magnificent Ambersons*. Chaney, Carlo and Bob Coslett were scheduled to play the super three-manual Allen theatre organ during intermission. There were two showings on this one-day, well-attended affair. CATOE extends sincere appreciation to Bob and Chris for this and their numerous other efforts on our behalf.

The grand, old Auditorium Theatre has been getting some use lately. In July the crew restoring the theatre's murals was treated to an impromptu concert by our own Barbara Sellers at the console of the Saville Electronic classical organ. Using her famed theatre organ stylings, Barbara really brought life to this instrument — a real treat.

Bill Kuzcek and Don Springer presented mini-concerts at the Elm Roller Rink August social. It was an evening of organ music which was greatly appreciated by those in attendance. This hybrid organ is always a delight to hear. Our sincere thanks to Bill and Don for their generous efforts.

Chicago Mayor Harold Washington was present as the Chicago Theatre's lights went on after many weeks of darkness. The theatre's restoration progress has been reported extensively by the news media, which is good publicity. The results of the scheduled programs will be known soon, and we all believe the outcome will be excellent. The Chicago Theatre organ restoration crew was recognized by the mailing of a special four-page presentation of gratitude. CATOE members

and this crew assisted wherever possible in the restoration of the theatre, and there is still more to be done. Dedicated people are a huge asset to any organization! If you are going to be in this area soon, try to include a visit to the Chicago Theatre.

Happy Holidays to you all!

ALMER N. BROSTROM



CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.



Thomaston

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

On June 29 we traveled to the home of Patsey and Rosalie Fucci in Waltham, Massachusetts, for a joint meeting with Eastern Massachusetts Chapter. We thoroughly enjoyed the picnic provided by our hosts, the camaraderie of our neighboring chapter and the 4/20 Robert-Morton installed in the "Crystal Palace" addition to the Fucci's home.

The August meeting, as has been our annual custom, was held at the home of Gen Roberg in Plymouth, Connecticut. Ample time was allowed for open console on Gen's exceptional, mellow-voiced, hybrid pipe organ which her late husband, Jack, spent over five years constructing and refining. Several outdoor grills were fired up, and members and guests enjoyed picnic fare on the rolling lawns. After a brief business meeting the concert duties were handled by members Ed Crew, Brian Colton and Allen Miller.

Bill Hastings and Joe Colliano held open house in their North Truro, Massachusetts, home on September 13. It began with open console, followed by a concert by Alden "Mitch" Mitchell on certainly one of the best-sounding installations anywhere. After a dinner break in which the 90 guests wandered off to a number of Cape Cod dining spots, the evening program began with Bill Hastings stating how their weekly concerts during the summers have raised over \$14,000 for the Truro Historical Society. He also explained that his programs consist of what he considers musical put-togethers, for example, combinations of favorite songs with a singular theme which are continually interwoven throughout his performance. He began with a spring theme, moved to a Gypsy combination and then to a trip to London. Between the tolling of "Big Ben" and the hoofbeats of the horses during the trooping of the colors, it seemed that the room was filling with London fog. Bill was then joined by Joe Colliano at the grand piano for a series of masterful duets. The program concluded with a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful" and the unfurling of Old Glory which brought everyone to their feet, madly applauding, and many had tears in their eyes.

The Shelton High School organ crew,



Jack Moelmann and Chairman Joe Dorsey on stage of Rahway Theatre.

(Jinny Vanore Photo)



Jack Moelmann at Möller console, Trenton War Memorial.

(Jinny Vanore Photo)

under chief Norm Turner, has been working incredibly long hours to prepare the Austin 3/12 theatre pipe organ for our 1986-87 concert series. Allen Mills will appear on December 6 and Ron Rhode on February 28.

BARRY GOODKIN



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

Our annual summer picnic was held at the estate of Jasper Sanfillipo in Barrington Hills, Illinois. The artist for the day was Don Springer who provided us with a short program on the wonderful Wurlitzer. The organ is well-suited to its space and does not blow you off your seat. Jasper also has a collection of antique mechanical musical instruments, some of which were demonstrated after the concert. There was also a tennis court and swimming pool available for those who wanted to further enjoy a beautiful August afternoon.

On August 17, Dairyland presented Don Jenks at the Racine Theatre Guild Wurlitzer. Don's variety of music was enthusiastically appreciated by all in attendance.

BILL CAMPBELL

DELAWARE VALLEY
Philadelphia
215/566-1764

On September 7 we traveled to the Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, for a delicious Sunday Brunch made even more enjoyable by the music of house organist George Batman playing the 3/11 United States Pipe Organ Company instrument installed in the Ballroom on the fiftieth anniversary of its Grand Opening in 1931. The organ is played every Sunday during Brunch and at special concerts. George Batman shares the position of house organist with Don Kinnier, who appears monthly.

In the past, Sunnybrook was one of the main stops on the Big Band circuit featuring virtually every big name in the musical entertainment world, and even today the remaining big name bands on tour are booked at Sunnybrook.

Brunch was followed by open console with nearly all of our members participating. Our program concluded with the unexpected pleasure of hearing guest artists Joe Fernandez, Andy Kasparian and Joe Dorsey, President of Garden State Chapter.

EARL E. STRAUSSER



Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055

We proudly hosted a theatre organ evening on July 23 for the National Convention of the National Railway Historical Society. Their "Minuteman '86" included this theatre organ concert and railroad movies expertly played by Lee Erwin on our 3/13 Babson Wurlitzer. There seems to be an affinity between many railroad hobbyists (particularly steam) and theatre organ buffs, so this event was a "natural." Lee's format was a short concert which included a medley of railroad songs, a movie and a longer group of Gay Nineties tunes. After intermission, many questions were asked by our guests about ATOS and our organ, and President Dick Johnson did his best to answer all of them. Mr. Erwin then superbly fitted sound effects and music to a silent comedy which left the audience howling with laughter. Other popular selections, ending with "I Could Have Danced All Night," brought the program to a close, but the audience had M-O-R-E in mind, and a short group of tunes finalized by "Goodnight, Sweetheart," evoked happy memories for all present. Lee's long-established popularity didn't just happen—he earned it!

Several of our members were involved with

organ events during the summer, including a concert on August 9 on the nice 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Berlin (New Hampshire) Middle School where member Jim Martin is its mentor. John Cook, Cheryl Linder and Bob Legon did the honors for our chapter, and Bob ended with a sing-along. Berliners appreciated this evening out with the former Albert Theatre organ which has been kept in their town during its entire existence — a rarity indeed!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



GARDEN STATE
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY, INC.

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

On June 27 we presented a free concert with Jack Moelmann playing the 3/16 Möller in the Trenton War Memorial. Colonel Jack, our National President, has maintained many friends in our chapter, and all were delighted to attend his concert which was lively and lots of fun. Amusing, off-the-cuff quips interspersed with a nice variety of music, plus a silent film, made the evening most enjoyable. After the concert, Jack greeted friends, some of whom he had not seen since leaving New Jersey. We thank him for his generously donated talent.

On June 29 members gathered at the Rahway Theatre (now called the Union County Arts Center) for a business meeting. Because he was spending the weekend in New Jersey, Jack Moelmann attended the meeting and answered questions relating to the separate National dues and local chapter dues. Bob Balfour pointed out the growing number of improvements in the theatre, and open console followed.

The National Convention in July attracted 16 members from our chapter. Everything was enjoyable — the hotel, the air-condi-



Garden State members enjoying picnic at Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

(Jinny Vanore Photo)

tioned busses, and the beautiful Byrd and Mosque theatres. The artists were top notch, and it was difficult trying to decide who was best. The Virginia chapter is to be complimented on a smoothly run convention. The visits to the beautifully restored Jefferson-Sheraton Hotel for cocktails and to Williamsburg for the Afterglow were wonderful extras.

A summer meeting at the Jersey shore, with open console followed by a picnic, is always fun, and August 16 was no exception. The unexpected sun, which had been hiding all week, made a glorious appearance and added to the pleasure of the members. The business meeting and open console were held at the Asbury Park Convention Hall which houses a 3/7 Kilgen theatre organ which speaks into a large auditorium from chambers on either side of the large stage. The sound rolls around with delay and heavy reverberation, and our members enjoyed the open console. The convention hall is on a pier jutting out into the ocean. It has covered promenades on either side, running the length of the building. The organ music poured out the open doors and many of the senior citizens and visitors enjoyed it —

some even came in to investigate. After the meeting, members drove to nearby Point Pleasant for a lively picnic supper at the home of Michael Cipolletti. The evening came to an end after everyone enjoyed a walk on the Boardwalk. It was a most pleasant day.

JINNY VANORE



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

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

As usual, the Music Festival over the Labor Day weekend, sponsored by Bob Schmidt at his Indian Hills Resort at Stone Lake, Wisconsin, was a fun-filled musical weekend with Jack Olander, from Chicago, at the console of the custom Rodgers on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Mike Erie, from our chapter, played Sunday evening between Jack's programs. Jack has a Masters Degree in Music and is in charge of the musical programs in the Main Township high schools; he is also a church organist. After both concerts, we

gathered around the player-piano with Jack at the keyboard and Don Taft playing his accordion — a great twosome. The player-piano was kept busy with several individuals taking turns and the rest of us singing all the old songs we know so well. For once, the weatherman cooperated, and we had sunshine the whole weekend and the lake sparkled like jewels.

Member Ed Hirschhoff is busy preparing a special feature article for THEATRE ORGAN concerning the history behind the preservation of the State Theatre in Minneapolis (Yes, it has been saved from the wrecker's ball!), a story about the chapter's organ installation at the Olivet Baptist Church and one about the installation of the 3/21 Wurlitzer in the World Theatre in St. Paul, home of Garrison Keillor's radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Gaylord Carter made his fourth appearance at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, on September 6 and 7. He accompanied that funny silent film, *The General*, with Buster Keaton. That film would not be anything at all without Gaylord's expert interpretation at the organ. What a performer!

One of our members, Bill Yunker, who lives in Madison, Wisconsin, sent us the following note which we would like to share with readers of the journal: "Every 14-year-old boy should have an 'Auntie Mame.' Mine was one Emma Dutton, an English lady in the grandest tradition, a milliner (you young folks look it up) by trade, a good neighbor, a dear friend.

"I remember the first of many wonderful trips to Chicago. We took the electric train from Elgin to the Loop, walked from the depot to the Berghoff for a pleasant lunch, had dessert in the Walnut Room at Marshall Fields and then were off to a place called the Chicago Theatre — supposed to see a stage show and movie. As we entered, I was overwhelmed by the size and beauty of the place. We took our seats. I'd never seen such a grand room (the Grove Theatre would fit on the stage).

"Soon the lights dimmed and all of a sud-



Mike Erie at the player-piano, Indian Hills Resort.



Jack Olander acknowledging applause at the custom Rodgers — Evelyn Schmidt Music Room, Indian Hills Resort.

den that huge room came to life — its very fiber vibrant with the most beautiful sound I'd ever heard! Up out of a dark pit came a delightfully lit musical giant. A spotlight showed a man in a tuxedo seated at the console. This kid's eyes almost popped out. I looked at Mrs. Dutton — she smiled approvingly. What a program! I went to the moon! Probably the stage show was nice. I don't remember. It seems to have paled.

"Each time I hear one of these old beauties, I experience that same thrill, except now I cry a little as I look next to me and think of you, grand lady. Thank you for introducing me to a lifetime of enjoyment."

VERNA MAE WILSON

LAND OF LINCOLN

Rockford

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

Our chapter and ATOS were well represented by the LOLTOS booth at the On The Waterfront festival over the Labor Day weekend in Rockford, Illinois, on the banks of the Rock River. We offered a prominent display of literature describing the Grande Barton organ and its "home," the Coronado

Theatre. Also available were records and tapes featuring the Barton organ along with "stop tablet" key chains, "I Love Theatre Organ" buttons, post cards of the Barton and the newest printing of the LOLTOS booklet describing the Barton and the Coronado.

After a quiet summer, our Grande Barton organ music "fast" was broken on September 21 by concert organist Ty Woodward. Our fall/winter schedule includes Father Miller on November 16 and our Fourth Annual New Year's Eve Celebration on New Year's Eve, of course.

RICHARD HULL



LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Our summer program of events provided an exceptionally enjoyable combination of "at home" and "in theatre" attractions to preface an equally attractive fall season.

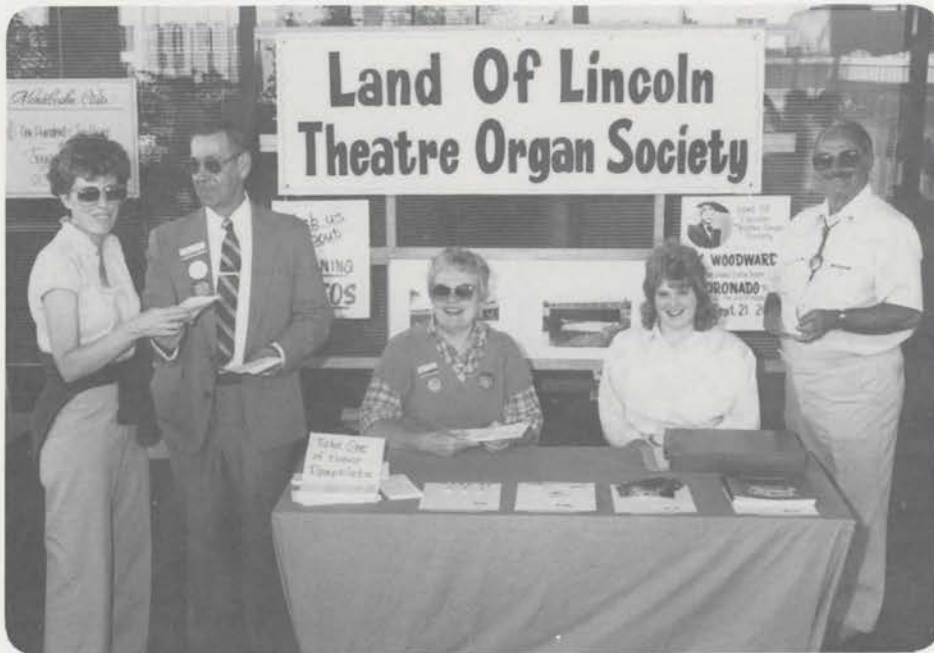
Popular member Desmond Jenkins arranged a superb fund-raising Open House

Meeting and Tea at his delightful home at Radlett, just north of London. Attended by 42 members and featuring three organs and piano, culminating in a concert by George Blackmore, a \$100 contribution was made to our organ maintenance fund — in good time for Les Rawle and our indefatigable technical team to acquire a substantial topping up of stocks of leather for their extensive program of restoration work.

As good as the weather was for Desmond's party, so it was just the opposite for our annual "Barbeque Funday." Kindly hosted by members Alan and Maureen Jordan at their lovely home at High Wycombe, about 20 members thoroughly enjoyed a superb indoor feast — with several also sampling the heated swimming pool and, of course, Alan's Eminent organ. Again, another \$100 raised.

Our annual summer outing took in a short cruise (a 20-minute ferry ride!) from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight for a three-organ crawl featuring top artists Len Rawle and Nigel Ogden. First stop was at Monks Farm at Freshwater, the home of Arthur Stark and his Harrison and Harrison Organ that was originally installed in London's famed Westminster Abbey and later in St. Alban's Abbey to the north of London. The much appreciated hospitality was perfectly complemented by happy music from Nigel Ogden. On, then, to East Cowes where we were re-united with the ex-Ritz Aldershot 3/7 Wurlitzer that Len Rawle knew well during his National Service days in this famous Hampshire Army Barracks town. The organ has been carefully preserved by Peter Coles and, again, Nigel was in command for our enjoyment. Meanwhile, Len Rawle was awaiting our coach at the exceptionally fine, 1934 vintage Walker concert organ in Ryde Town Hall. A characteristically special day out, organized efficiently by Edith Rawle, this happy excursion was another memorable chapter achievement.

Our in-theatre highlight was the second of our series of spectacular concerts at the Top Rank Club in Kilburn. Our "Transatlantic Harmony" presentation featured well-known ambassadors Searle Wright, from the USA, and our own George Blackmore playing the sparkling and popular 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer now happily restored to full voice and in perfect complement to the beautifully restored Italianate-style of this famed and loved venue. Their contrasting styles, ranging



Land of Lincoln President Don Milne, daughter Lyn and wife Carole, and treasurer Vernon Barger, give a listing of the fall/winter schedule of Barton Organ concerts to one of the festival's 250,000 visitors. (Don Bissell Photo)

ashley miller

a.a.g.o.

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Searle Wright at Gaumont State concert.

(John Sharp Photo)



George Blackmore at the Gaumont State for August 31 program.

(John Sharp Photo)

over many great theatre organ standards, were highlighted by George re-creating his imaginative "ATOS Convention March" which he composed for the 1980 Silver Anniversary Convention in London and which premiered at the (then) Gaumont State.

After our usual summer break at Convention time, our August Club Night featured talented, 12-year-old Peter Holt, current holder of our "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" title and Chain of Office, playing the 3/19 Wurlitzer at Les and Edith Rawle's. Coming with his parents, Arthur and Pat, from Wetherby in Yorkshire, Peter provided

an exciting evening with a capability well beyond his tender years. With a full public and charity concert diary complementing his school priorities, Peter has already appeared on radio and television in the UK and the USA, and cut his first LP disc. We shall doubtless be hearing and seeing much more of this outstanding young artist.

As we are looking forward to the ninth edition of our Young Organist Competition, we are also enjoying a fabulous new disc cut by our own Len Rawle. Dubbed "Rawle at the Hall," this features the magical Publix-style 1930-vintage, 4/20 Wurlitzer in the Free

Trade Hall under the enterprising auspices of the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust. This is the latest in their exceptional LP disc series, the proceeds of which have enabled them to restore and maintain numerous fine organs in the Manchester area. Recorded by Len some years ago in its original venue, this new platter is a must, not only for the joyous sounds that this magnificent instrument has always breathed, but especially for Len's truly outstanding handling and fullsome renderings in its new home, combined with the best of modern recording techniques.

Finally, great news to report of the massive restoration and re-installation of the ex-Regal Edmonton 4/15 "Torch" Christie in the Memorial Hall in the South Wales resort town of Barry — now nearing completion, and with lift also installed to complement the understage pipework, we are coming within sight of a grand civic and chapter opening.

Happy season, happy sounds and happy prospects with a happy and confident chapter.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



Members of the Ladies Team of London and South of England Chapter: (Top row — L to R) Muriel Jackson, Jean Pitteaway, Suzanne Hancock, Joyce Taylor; (Middle row) — Marie Watts, Veronica Bosson, Vera Crook, Mavis Sharp; (Front row) Terry Parsons, Dena Cooper, Edith Rawle. (John Sharp Photo)



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY

California
818/792-7084

A Gala Champagne Benefit was presented by our chapter on July 20 at Standard In-

Lance Luce
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Gaylord Carter



Stan Kann



Dan Bellomy



Hal Sanguinetti was master of ceremonies. (Zimfoto)



John Ledwon



Chris Elliott



Bill Wright

dustries in La Mirada. The purpose of this gala event was to raise additional funds to be used for the re-installation of the Ross Reed Memorial 3/27 organ into its new establishment, the Pasadena City College, by May of next year.

Hal Sanguinetti, from radio station KPCC, was the MC for the program which was one of the most enjoyable we've had in a long time. Six prominent artists donated their time and talent for the cause, Billy Wright, Gaylord Carter, John Ledwon, Stan Kann, Chris Elliott and Dan Bellomy. We would like to thank the LATOS committee for sponsoring the event and the full audience for their generous support.

The six artists who played the final concert on the Ross Reid Memorial Organ.

(Zimfoto)

MARIA OLIVIER



View of the audience at the final concert on the Ross Reed/La Mirada organ belonging to Los Angeles Chapter. (Zimfoto)

MAGIC ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF DAN SEMER

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

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Removing the console from the Punch and Judy Theatre.

(Van Steenskiste Photo)



Gaylord Carter arrived at the Redford Theatre in a 1931 Packard Phaeton. With Gaylord are Harold Bellamy, Bob Mills and Evelyn Markey. (Bill Vogel Photo)



**MOTOR CITY
Detroit
313/537-1133**

May 10 marked Gaylord Carter's farewell performance for our chapter at the Redford Theatre. Gaylord's arrival at the theatre in a 1931 Packard Phaeton was reminiscent of October 24, 1967, when "Flicker Fingers" and his partner, Jim Day, arrived in a vintage motorcade for Motor City's first public program.

The film Gaylord chose to accompany this time was the Harold Lloyd comedy *Kid Brother*. Although he has returned to Detroit again and again during the intervening years, there were people in the audience who were experiencing a Gaylord Carter program for the first time. As expected, he left them spellbound. There were also former members and friends in the audience we hadn't seen in years — a tribute to Gaylord and his magic.

The second pipe organ to be restored by our chapter (the Redford's was the first) was the 2/5 Wurlitzer in the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Point Farms. The first of several chapter programs there was presented to a sold-out house on May 10, 1968, with Bill Buswell accompanying *The Covered Wagon*. On April 27, 1986, the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer was removed — a victim of changing times. Originally shipped to the Wurlitzer

Company in downtown Detroit where it was a demonstration instrument, it was subsequently installed in the Punch and Judy in time for its gala January 29, 1930, opening. Used infrequently in the early years, the organ blossomed in Motor City's hands and was heard regularly during Friday evening intermissions and, more recently, in free morning concerts on the first Sunday of the month. Chapter improvements to the organ include the addition of a Diapason rank and refinishing of the console. However, since it had ceased operation as a classic film house after a succession of managers, the building owners decided that conversion to retail and office space was the only solution for the vacant building. The Wurlitzer has been donated to the chapter and was removed by chapter members in April. Because of a lack of storage space and our desire to keep the instrument intact, the organ has been moved to the home of one of our members.

Shirlee Schenk was featured at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Theatre for our Fourth Sunday program on May 25. Shirlee has appeared at the Macomb Theatre and Detroit Theater Organ Club and is a substitute church organist who also teaches organ and piano.

Our Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak on June 22 was Grace Joslin who, in addition to being heard at the Redford, plays with a four-piece combo at fashion shows and parties and has also been a church organist.

Over 100 attended our annual picnic on July 20 at Murray Lake as guests of Norm and Gena Horning. In addition to picnic activities, there was open console at an Allen organ furnished by Stan Zimmerman and Smiley Bros. Music Company.

Our thirteenth annual moonlight cruise on the 84-year-old passenger steamer, the Columbia, attracted just over 1000 people for a three-hour cruise under a full moon on August 19. Two organs, one on the ballroom



Shirlee Schenk was the Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak Theatre in May. (Jim Ambrose Photo)



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February 22	Church, Portsmouth, Ohio
February 28	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
March 28	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
April 4	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
April 11	Church, Oakbrook, Illinois
April 25	Cleveland Gray's, Cleveland, Ohio
May 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
June 6	John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware
June 22-26	ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Los Angeles, California
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Frauenthal Center, Muskegon, Michigan
October 16	Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
October 17	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York



Grace Joslin was featured at the Royal Oak Barton in June. (Fred Page Photo)



Motor City members participating in the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in July were: (back row) Claudette and Faith Sunman, (front row) Gloria Sunman, Margaret Tapler, Gil Francis and Jim Fox. (Fred Page Photo)

deck and another for open console on the bar deck, were provided by Stan Zimmerman and Smiley Bros. Dance organists were Stan, Steve Schlesing, Fred Bayne and John Lauter. This marks the twelfth year that Don Lockwood has organized these cruises.

Our congratulations to Colleen Feldpausch who won the Intermediate Division in the National ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition.

The Fourth Sunday Show at the Royal Oak

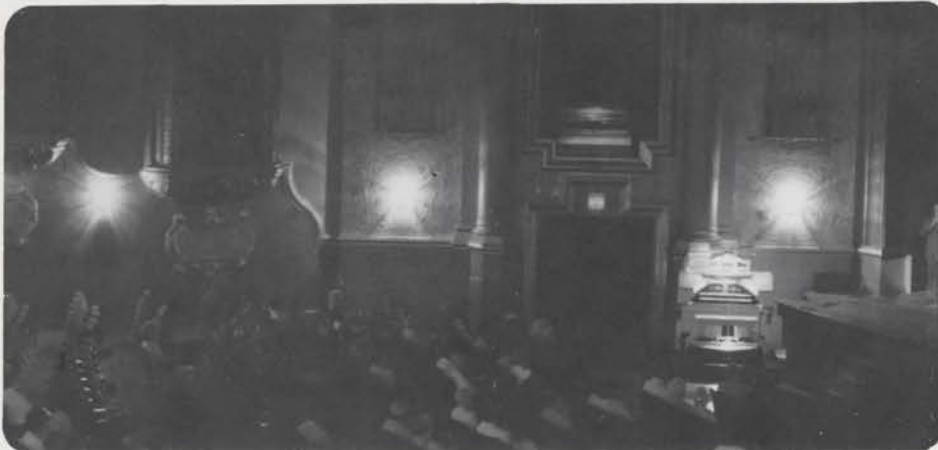
Theatre on July 27 featured Gloria Sunman and daughters Faith and Claudette, Margaret Tapler, Gil Francis and Jim Fox at the console of the 3/16 Barton. Steve Stephani, a long-time member and supper club organist, was featured at the Royal Oak on August 24.

For more information, write Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD

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

Organ music lovers from the mid-Hudson area joined our members and took a break from the summer heat on August 23 when they attended the first public concert on the chapter's newly installed Style H Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, New York. Organist Frank Cimmino was featured artist and put the Mighty (though not quite complete) Wurlitzer through its paces with a



Interior of Paramount Theatre in Middletown, New York, showing chapter 2/10 Wurlitzer.

(Walt Brunke Photo)



New York Chapter's Style H, 2/10 Wurlitzer now playing at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, New York.

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L to R: Bob Seeley, Lowell Sanders, Bob Welch and Tom Stehle after unloading the Ben Hall Wurlitzer onto the stage of the Middletown Paramount for temporary storage.



Frank Cimmino at the New York chapter's Wurlitzer in Paramount Theatre, Middletown, New York. (Walt Brunke Photo)

program of traditional theatre organ selections that left the audience wanting more.

Frank opened his program with a rousing "Strike Up The Band." He included a medley of tunes associated with Radio City Music Hall. The "Washington Post March" made good use of the snare drum which, along with some other traps, had just been installed the day before the concert. He closed with an inspirational arrangement of "God of Our Fathers," and as an encore, played a novelty tune, "Loco Locomotive," requested by a member of the audience. Despite the absence of the train whistle, bell and steam which are yet to be installed, the enthusiastic audience thoroughly enjoyed their musical train ride.

Both the artist and the instrument performed splendidly, and all who attended the debut of our chapter's Wurlitzer seemed to agree that it was worth the more than two-year wait to hear the organ finally play. The instrument fills the 1100-seat auditorium with a sound far bigger than would be expected from its 10 ranks, a tribute to the instrument, the installation and the excellent acoustics of the house.

The luxury of unlimited open console time induced several members to stay and enjoy more music. In all, it was a successful day and a most rewarding one, especially for Bob Seeley and his Paramount crew, Bob Welch, Bill Istone, Lowell Sanders and Tom Stehle, who have spent the past two-and-a-half years rebuilding and installing the organ since its

donation to our chapter from the Clairidge Theatre in Montclair, New Jersey. The Arts Council of Orange County, which owns and operates the Paramount, is planning to use the organ regularly for concerts as well as with its own programs.

Meanwhile, on a very short notice, our chapter was requested by Carnegie Hall to remove the Ben Hall Wurlitzer from the Carnegie Cinema to make way for construction work which is part of the overall renovation of the hall. A crew, headed by Biff Butler and Tom Stehle, dismantled the instrument and removed it from the Carnegie Cinema amidst incredibly dusty and difficult working conditions and the heat of July and August in New York City. Thanks to chapter members Warren Laliberte, Bob Welch, Lowell Sanders, Phil Yankoschuk, Joe Vanore and Dave and Ronnie Kopp, all of whom did yeoman service, the 2/5 Wurlitzer, which belongs to ATOS, was removed in three working sessions. Member Bob Seeley constructed pipe trays, and Frank Dunhuber and Mark Erickson assisted with transporta-

tion. The organ is temporarily in storage at the Middletown Paramount while plans to re-install it are under consideration.

TOM STEHLE



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

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We had suspended playing weekend intermission music at the Lakewood Theatre for the summer because the summer schedule emphasized children's matinees and because of summer vacations. However, in mid-summer we were advised by the theatre manager that he had received many inquiries about when the organ would be playing again, showing the interest that our volunteer professional organists had generated this past year with their performances on our 3/8 Robert-Morton installed there. Secretary Lorena McKee put out a call to the volunteer group and found willingness to continue the activity immediately, rather than wait for the fall program season to begin. The chapter owes a debt of gratitude to those who have given so generously of their time and talent to promote the enjoyment of theatre organ, especially Charles Evans, Bill Hanson, Mark Kenning

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Five artists who played for North Texas at their August meeting; Top, L to R: Byron Melcher, Charles Evans. Bottom, L to R: Bill Hanson, Irving Light, and at right host Gordon Wright.

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and Lloyd Hess. This exercising of the organ has also helped to identify problems needing correction, and Chairman Gordon Wright wants only to have some professional tonal work done before we begin presenting public concerts on this chapter organ.

In August, our members gathered in the beautiful residence of Gordon and Evelyn Wright for a stimulating afternoon of theatre pipe organ music from their fine Wurlitzer played by some of our chapter members, including our host. For many of our members, this was the first time they had heard Gordon

play, and now that they have experienced his talent, he will not get away without performing for our chapter in the future.

Bill Hanson says that his brightly flowered, red shirt has become his "costume" when he plays at the Lakewood Theatre. He feels that this informal attire creates a much more receptive atmosphere for his playing there than would a suit and tie. He attributes the friendliness of the audience and their requests for favorite selections to his informality. Well, that's show biz!

IRVING LIGHT



**OREGON
Portland**

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

Our annual picnic was held August 17 at the beautiful country home of Jerry and Nickie Gaylord, located in the rolling hills southeast of Portland. With each of us contributing, and our chapter providing coffee and dessert, we enjoyed a fine variety of delicious food. Perfect weather allowed eating either indoors or out, punctuated by appropriate bugle calls by member Gary Zenk.

Gaylords' 2/7 Wicks sounds directly into a very large recreation room and has a fine compact console built by original owner Bob



Appreciative audience in Gordon Wright listening area, North Texas Chapter meeting.



Oregon Chapter member Bob Rickett records the open console and picnic.
(Claude Neuffer Photo)



Oregon Chapter members enjoy the sun and fun at their annual picnic at the Gaylords.
(Claude Neuffer Photo)

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Rickett. Extensive unification, including full Tibia mutations, make this a joy to play and hear. Open console included many members and a surprise visitor, the famous Kurt Von Schakel from Indianapolis, who gave this organ a very strenuous workout.

Thanks to our gracious hosts, Jerry and Nickie Gaylord, for a most enjoyable afternoon.

BUD ABEL



Members Keith Roberts, Gene Mignery and Ken Davies rebuilding the four-poster Barton lift for the Pikes Peak chapter Wurlitzer at Mount St. Francis.

PIKES PEAK AREA
Colorado Springs
303/687-6530 or 303/633-4407

It has been an extremely busy summer for our chapter as we have been preparing for the Rocky Mountain Regional Convention in October. Our members have been hurrying to complete the installation of our chapter instrument, a 3/20 (mostly Wurlitzer) theatre organ. This organ is a combination of a 3/9 Wurlitzer and a 2/8 Wurlitzer with some extra additions from other sources. Our Technical Chairman, John Grunow, designed the specifications, and he and his brother, Bob, have literally been living with the instrument to assure that it gets finished on time. Many of our members have worked long and hard on this project. Denver theatre organ technician Ed Zollman has been generously lending assistance with voicing, regulating and other finishing. The organ will be featured in a sneak preview, private concert for our chapter and Rocky Mountain Chapter on September 28, with our special guest artist, Mr. Joel Kremer, at the console. In addition to the organ work, the entire auditorium has been repainted by chapter members, and the organ lift has been rebuilt and improved by Keith Roberts and his crew.

Meanwhile, down at Colorado Springs City Auditorium, our 3/8 Wurlitzer has been kept busy at our First Sunday and mini-concert sessions. We are planning a Christmas event which will feature the organ, instrumental groups and local choirs.

DAVID WEESNER



Crew member Mary Lou Becvar in Main chamber, Seattle Neptune Theatre.

PUGET SOUND
Seattle
206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

In a continuing effort to vary chapter events and to give old and new members the chance to become acquainted, the September meeting was a series of home tours with time allowed for socializing and open console.

The first organ to be visited was the former Whitting/Myers 2/10 hybrid which began as an Estey Minuet in a grand piano case and grew to its present size as a result of the efforts of Gennie Whitting and Don Myers. It is presently being installed in the Neptune Theatre in Seattle's University District by owner Mike Wallace, to be used regularly in an ambitious schedule of art and classic films. The chamber size and accessibility in this theatre are highly unusual as there is only a short flight of concrete steps to the Main chamber and a newly built bridge across to the Solo. Other components are on the stage behind the screen. Plans are to bring the organ to 12 ranks.

Russ and Joanne Evans, owners of Evans' Music Stores, have recently completed installation of a Wurlitzer Style B in their Kenmore home which included organ chambers when it was built. The organ, originally a 2/4, was installed in the Empire Theatre in Anacortes in



John Grunow at the 3/20 Pikes Peak Chapter organ at Mount St. Francis.

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Backstage at the Seattle Neptune Theatre, showing components installed behind the screen and walkway built for access to Solo chamber.

1925. In the late '30s it was purchased by Finley's Mortuary in Portland, Oregon, and was later acquired by Stan Smith whose son, Greg, now plays regularly at Bellevue Pizza & Pipes. Russ has brought the organ to ten ranks, and it proved to be a delightful installation.

Wes Spore, also of Kenmore, had long nursed an ambition to own a pipe organ and

jumped at the chance when he heard of one for sale next door to a construction job where he was working. It was a 2/4 Wurlitzer, first installed in the Montlake Theatre in Kelso in 1924. It was later installed in the Dyer residence in Mt. Baker in 1936, and after that in the Blue Ridge Drew residence in 1941. Wes and Bev completely restored the organ, in addition to enlarging their home. Joining the "Sweep and Buy" fraternity has enabled them to increase their organ to eight ranks, a combination of Flute, Morton Tibia, Salicional, Vox, Diaphonic Diapason, Gottfried Tuba, Horn Diapason and Flute d'amour. This organ was also a pleasure to play and to hear, and everyone who participated on this tour felt that it was very successful.

DIANE WHIPPLE

tainment which included our own stage band, the Fargo Theatre Big Band All-Stars, who recently played for an enthusiastic crowd at the Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, Water Carnival in the heart of the resort area. At this writing, we are at the halfway mark to our goal of \$460,000. One of the unique donations has been the free use of a 1929 Ford Roadster replica, courtesy of Bill Wallwork, owner of the Fargo Ford dealership.

At the end of August, Cinecon, the convention of cinephiles, took place in Minneapolis. It centered around a tribute to Dorothy Gish, with Lillian Gish appearing in person. The movie, *Orphans of the Storm*, starring Dorothy and Lillian Gish, was scored by Lance Johnson at the State Theatre on a three-manual Conn.

The Fargo Theatre's rigging and flyloft have been rebuilt during the summer and are ready for future stage presentations.

SONIA CARLSON

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



Our main event for the summer occurred on August 27 when we held a three-hour telethon at the Fargo Theatre to help our fundraising efforts toward restoration. WDAY, the ABC affiliate, televised the varied enter-

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

Our July meeting was hosted by Bob Markworth at his home in North Omaha, and was attended by 73 members and guests. During open console nine members took turns on Bob's expertly installed 3/13 Kimball theatre



Popular Jeanne Cooper entertains River City with a mini-concert. (Tom Jeffery Photo)



Guest Rich Oberle from St. Louis Chapter tells River City members what his group is doing. (Tom Jeffery Photo)

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pipe organ, originally from the Leona Theatre in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Special thanks are due Lillian White for organizing the bountiful picnic supper, and to Bob Markworth and Jack Moelmann who furnished the hamburgers. Among our guests, we were pleased to have Rich Oberle and his family from St. Louis Chapter who told of some of the activities of that group. During a brief business meeting, Bob Markworth in-



Wendall Hall, well-known Omaha musician, joined Jack Moelmann in a banjo/organ jam session.
(Tom Jeffery Photo)

roduced member Joe Hogya who presented Jack Moelmann with a cast-bronze plaque that Joe had made. It bears Jack's family crest, Air Force insignia and an appropriate verse and will be mounted on the chest of Flute and Calliope pipes which were presented to Jack by the River City family at a recent meeting.

Our program included a special treat — new member Wendall Hall, who plays banjo with Bill Bailey's Banjo Band, joined Jack Moelmann for a banjo/organ jam session, including a sing-along with slides. Jack then concluded the meeting by cueing the silent film, *The Big Shot*, starring Snub Pollard.

On August 18, Marv Frey and his staff hosted our meeting in a spacious facility near their Baldwin dealership, with two Baldwin organs for all to try. Seven members took advantage of open console. President Harold Kenney welcomed the many guests and called upon Mike Riley to demonstrate the features of the large Baldwin theatre organ. Later, member Jeanne Cooper, organist at Casio's Steak House, joined Jack Moelmann in an organ duet after which she played a mini-concert.

Jack Moelmann introduced Stanley Gross, a long-time member of our chapter who has not been able to attend before. In 1963, Stanley and member George Rice restored the Omaha Orpheum's Wurlitzer to mint condition and have maintained it since then. That's real dedication! Once again, we were treated

to a foot-tapping banjo and organ duet and sing-along, with Wendall Hall on banjo and Jack Moelmann on organ. Jack concluded the program with his tribute to America.

TOM JEFFERY

ST. LOUIS Missouri 618/654-7855

Joyous Holiday Greetings from St. Louis Chapter! We hope your New Year's plans are as full and exciting as the ones we are making.

Late winter should find the installation of the 3/20 Wurlitzer in the Granada Theatre about finished and ready to dedicate. Work has been progressing at a good rate, thanks to our members and the cooperation of the owners of the Granada. It promises to be a fantastic installation.

By the time you read this, the 2/10 Wurlitzer that we installed in the lobby of the fabulous Fox Theatre should be in somewhat regular use. Although we own the lobby organ, we really enjoy playing the 4/36 Wurlitzer in the auditorium of the Fox. Thanks to Marlin Mackley, of Mackley Organ Service, for arranging for us to do that in October at our monthly meeting. His superb restoration and continuing maintenance really shows.

One of our performing artists, Mark Gifford, has quite a varied life. As a sales consul-



Joe Hogya (left) presents his cast bronze plaque to Jack Moelmann as Bob Markworth watches.
(Tom Jeffery Photo)



Mark Gifford (left) with composer/artist Robert Hebble at the console of a Rodgers classical organ.

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tant for Bybee Church organs, Mark calls on churches throughout central and southern Illinois representing pipe and electronic organs and playing frequent concerts. Mark is both a classical and theatre organist, and Halloween



Martha Eitel adjusts chef Charlie Porter's hat at San Diego Chapter picnic.

night found him center stage at the fantastic, restored Union Station playing spooky music on our chapter's traveling organ. While in London, England, Mark played the "Duchess" at the Odeon Theatre in Leicester Square for the premiere of the movie, *The Man Who Would Be King*. He has also served as organist for the Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri.

DENNIS AMMANN

SAN DIEGO California 619/746-3581

Kathie Eitel, Social Activities Director, arranged a lovely August picnic for us away from the city in beautiful, rustic Deer Park. Hamburgers and hotdogs were barbequed by our own renowned outdoor chef, Charlie Porter. Charlie looked the part in the apron and hat designed and made by Martha Eitel especially for the occasion. And we certainly couldn't do without theatre organ music, so Chuck Kramarich dismantled his stereo, hauled it to the park and put it back together under the trees. This provided us with taped music of many organ greats which really added to our enjoyment of the picnic. No one went away hungry for food, good music or

fine fellowship.

Two members of Garden State Chapter visited us while on vacation in San Diego. Dan and Elaine Dawson came down to the theatre and shared a morning of open console. They are a neat couple, and we hope to see them again.

Guest artist for our September 6 concert was Jim Roseveare, staff organist at the Oakland Paramount. This was Jim's first appearance at the California Theatre, and we hope not the last! He is an excellent musician — his phrasing and coloring are exceptional.

Under the able direction of crew chief Bruce Burkett, maintenance and additions to our organ are going as planned. We have completely rewired the Solo chamber and rebuilt the swell bumpers. The additions include a Harp, Sleighbells, 16' Tibia and a 32' Diaphone. Voicing and tonal finishing will be done by Chris Gorsuch, our tonal consultant. This will bring our organ to peak performance for the 1987 Convention Encore which San Diego Chapter will host.

MARY JANE HYDE

SIERRA Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

Dale and Maryann Mendenhall's beautiful home was filled with organ music on August 3, the day of our annual picnic. Benches and seats were placed out under the trees which gave shade for the many guests while they chatted in a temperature of 104 degrees. Pop, punch and a beautiful cake with the ATOS signature in the frosting was served throughout the day, a donation of our hosts. The 3/15 Wurlitzer and a Gulbransen Rialto theatre organ plus a beautiful Yamaha grand piano were the stars of the day as guests seated themselves on the benches to entertain the 63 or so organ fans who enjoyed the picnic. Artists during the afternoon included Jerry Nagano, Warren White and Chet Smith. The big surprise was the beautiful music played on the Yamaha in duets by our hostess and Judd Walton — a bundle of talent! We were pleased to have so many from the Nor-Cal chapter join us in the festivities.

Overheard during the gabfests was a discussion about the Z-tronic device which Sierra Chapter is interested in putting on their Wurlitzer to replace the relays. Also, we learned that a 3/12 Wurlitzer is being installed



Chow time under the old oak tree at San Diego picnic.

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in the home of Steve Restivo and Roy Dawson in San Jose. A great loss to our chapter is the news that Randy Warwick and family will soon move to Fresno where Randy will work as sales manager for radio station RFRE.

It was a great day for all, and we want to thank Maryann and Dale for a most joyous time.

BUD TAYLOR

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

There was nothing to indicate that our July meeting at Tulsa's Assembly of God Church was anything other than the usual fine performance we have come to expect from Lorene Thomas. She coaxed much easy-listenin' music from the 4/14 Robert-Morton, including "Stardust," "Sunrise Serenade" and "Sleepy Time Gal." Then, at open console, we heard from a number of our playing members.

Imagine our surprise, then, to read in the paper a few weeks later that the Central Assembly congregation had decided to sell their building and move to a yet-undetermined site toward the south part of the city. The organ is to be put in storage until a new auditorium can be built, and the word we got is that it might be as long as five years before this takes place. Plans are for the organ to be renovated during this time, and when it is re-installed it will be augmented with additional ranks and a toy counter. Our Phil Judkins is to oversee the project.

In such circumstances, there is only one thing to do — hold a farewell concert. Ours was to be more of a "Sleeping Beauty" concert, on our regular meeting night, with our playing members performing. Perhaps, we thought, we could get a story in the newspaper; after all, this instrument is the only one left in Tulsa from an original Downtown Theatre, the Rialto. Member Don Kimes, who works for Newspaper Printing Corporation, said he'd see what he could do.

The *Tulsa World* sent Tom Carter to the church a couple of nights before our program to interview Chairman Lee Smith, Harry Rassmussen and organist Lorene Thomas. The story he wrote, accompanied by a picture of Lorene at the console, was absolutely fabulous! What's more, it appeared in the paper

the day before the program, which gave people time to make plans to attend.

And attend they did! The church seats 1000, and there were an additional 200 folding chairs placed in the auditorium. We put the overflow up front, in the choir seats, and still had some standing in the foyer in the back. They came from miles around, even from as far away as Fayetteville, Arkansas. The "Power of the Press" was truly remarkable.

Our chairman was master of ceremonies, and he was delightful. Lee told the audience a little of the history of the organ, then introduced his Uncle George, who had been manager of all four of the Downtown Theatres at one time or another, and his Aunt Sedalia, George's wife, who had been a box office cashier. He told them about our chapter-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton, and they started to applaud before he finished telling them about its nearly complete installation at the Broken Arrow Campus of the Tulsa Vo-Tech High School. He told jokes — and they laughed at all of them.

Suffice it to say that our performers gave them a good program. Phil Judkins, who opened with the RKO "Paramount on Parade" newsreel march, and Jerrye Beard had to be the bravest as they had TV cameras staring over their shoulders (Channel 6 News had seen the story, too). Luther Eulert and Don Kimes added much with their distinctive styles, and the audience even clapped for this writer — and I've never played for that many people in my life!

At intermission the audience was invited to climb the stairs to view the south chamber of the organ. The number who did so was unbelievable! We also took lots of names of interested persons, most of whom exclaimed, "I didn't know you existed!"

Dick Van Dera began the second half of the program, and they loved him. He started by saying that if he'd known there would be so many people there he'd have worn his tux instead of his jeans and work shirt. He had them all singing "Has Anybody Seen My Gal" and "I'm Looking Over A Four-Leaf Clover" and all we were missing was a bouncing ball. Sam Collier was next, playing nicely and bemoaning the fact that Dick "sure was a tough act to follow." Lorene Thomas was last, and when she presented 80-year-old Margaret Crawford at the grand piano, it brought down the house. They closed with "I'll See



Sooner State's Program Chairman, Phil Judkins, opened the "Sleeping Beauty" program on the 4/14 Robert-Morton at Tulsa Assembly of God Church.

You in My Dreams."

Of course that wasn't all — is it ever? Lorene kept right on playing as many people gathered around the console. We heard two superb singing voices, a man and a woman (who sing in their respective churches) were singing hymns and then some selections from *Oklahoma* as Lorene accompanied. We got their names as both are interested in theatre organ music. We think the "playing member" concept for this concert was a tremendous idea, one that other groups might want to try. A paid professional might have shown the instrument off to better advantage, but for our audience to hear ordinary people play for the sheer pleasure of it, with all gradations of skill and expertise, surely must have stirred some thoughts of, "If they can do it, maybe I can, too." The interest is there — all we have to do is keep it going!

DOROTHY SMITH



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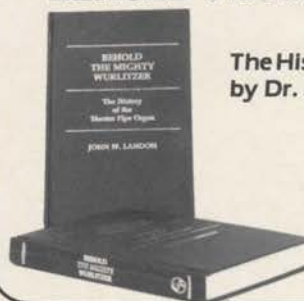
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the recent installation of a larger main wind regulator. Members present were shown some pipe organ films from the 1930s and '40s on the Ohio's big screen.

Our organization is expanding its operations as membership grows, and our next meeting is scheduled at the beautiful Ritz Theatre in Tiffin, Ohio. The Ritz originally had a 2/7 Wurlitzer in 1928, but has had empty chambers for many years. The theatre is undergoing restoration and is successful as a performing arts center. The talented Bill Yaney will accompany a silent film on an electronic organ. We will be assisting the Ritz organization to find another theatre pipe organ for possible donation. For more information, call Evan Chase at 419/381-6730.

Motor City Chapter has generously donated several ranks of pipework and chests for our installation in the Ohio Theatre, and some are up and playing now. We thank them for this spirit of helping one another reach the goals of ATOS.

EVAN J. CHASE

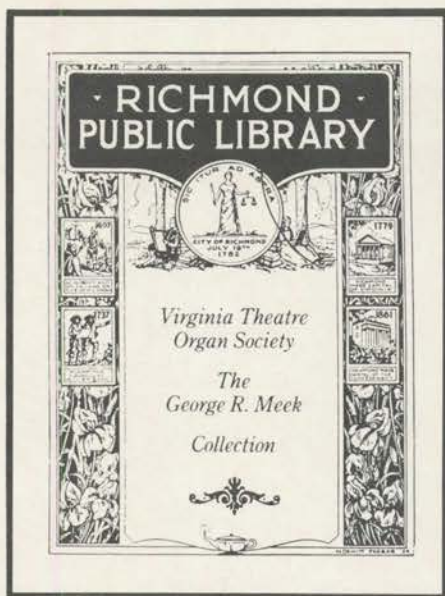


We kinda skipped over the month of July for a formal club meeting because we were so involved with the convention, and it left little time for anything else. It was, however, a lot of fun, and we enjoyed arranging concerts and events for all of the wonderful people

who came to Richmond.

On August 29 we met at the Richmond Public Library to present to the city the private collection of George R. Meek. George was from Roanoke, Virginia, and had been a member of ATOS since its beginning. At that time, Roanoke had the beautiful American Theatre with a fine three-manual Wurlitzer — which explains George's interest in the theatre organ and movie houses in general.

Anne Meek, George's lovely wife, turned the material over to VTOS, and we arranged for the public library to house this extensive collection so it will be safe and available to the public and to scholars doing research on



Copy of label placed in each item in the George Meek Collection donated to the Richmond Public Library.

organs or theatres. The material includes all the issues of THEATRE ORGAN, *The Console* and *Marquee* (the journal of the Theatre Historical Society). There are also organ manufacturers' catalogs, Wurlitzer shipping lists compiled by Judd Walton, souvenir books of great movie palaces plus many interesting and valuable papers and photographs. The accompanying bookplate was placed inside every publication so whoever uses the material will know where it came from. We are indebted to Anne Meek for this generous contribution which will be remembered for years to come.

Our club was recently informed that the owner of the Colonial, State and Towne (National) Theatres in downtown Richmond will give to our organization anything we want out of the theatres. The theatres have been closed for several years, and all date from the middle '20s. The Towne and Colonial are large houses, and the Towne had stage shows right up to the '50s. We are busy making our list and checking it twice, 'cause Santa Claus is coming to town!

MILES RUDISILL



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

Central & Lower Michigan

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In July we once again gathered on the shore of Commerce Lake, Michigan, to hear and play the Devtronix which Les Hamilton and Bob Kynaston have installed in their lakeside home. Once again, Melissa Ambrose set the pace with Schubert's "Marche Militaire" and the "A&W Song" ("Root Beer Rag"). Many



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Fred Bane at the Wurlitzer in the Voydanoff home.

(Fred Page Photo)

others took turns playing three-selection cameos. And where there is Fran Carmody, there will be some songs. Fran sang some old favorites, accompanied by Margaret Dixon.

In August, two cherished friends hosted the chapter picnic in their new location. David Voydanoff and Glen Rank relocated in 1985, from Detroit to Algonac at the head of Lake St. Clair. Their Lady Wurlitzer was readied

for her latest coming-out party. On hand to help celebrate were a handful of nationally known talents, including John Steele, Dennis Minear, Fred Bayne, Steve Schlesing, Steve Stephani and Gary Montgomery. Also, Fran Carmody provided the vocals, her son Brian manned the console and son Terry played some golden trumpet. It was particularly gratifying to have Gary Montgomery back with



Accordions on wall moves, and keys move when played from Devtronix console at Hamilton residence.

(Fred Page Photo)

us after his recent illness; he and H. C. Scott virtually waged their own reunion of Theatre Organ Pizza & Pipes people at this Wolverine event.

CHARLES AND BETTY BAAS □



Sign outside Voydanoff residence, Algonac, Michigan.

(Fred Page Photo)



Melissa Ambrose at the console of the Hamilton's Devtronix special.

(Fred Page Photo)

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