

CATOE Paying For Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer Restoration; Will Use Own Funds To Start Work

by Jim Koller

Restoration of the historic Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer organ is being financed in a rather unique fashion—civic endeavor—with all monies spent on the project to be realized from "profits" made by Chicago Area Chapter-sponsored shows at the famed movie house.

Contracts have been negotiated giving the ATOS unit six future show dates at no rental cost. Initial funds are being advanced by CATOE so that the first phase of restoration work on the 4/29 Wurlitzer can commence. The massive project to restore the famed instrument will be under leadership of Jim Gruber, noted organ technician in the Chicago area.

Volunteers from CATOE will begin work soon after the holiday season. Initial phases of restoration include dis-

mantling the lower solo chamber, cleaning, painting chamber walls, floors and ceilings, re-leathering the ranks, moving two more ranks into this chamber from the upper solo chamber, installation of a new Petersen Digital Relay and Multiplexing system, stripping and refinishing the console back to its original dark wood finish—which has been requested by management to ward off glare from spotlights and thus permit it to remain uncovered.

This phase is expected to cost approximately \$52,000. It is estimated the cost to refurbish each rank of pipes will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000; depending, among other factors, on the number of volunteer manhours put forth. Work should take anywhere from six to 12 months, depending on volunteers, availability of time and access to the theatre. Total job cost—about \$90,000, maybe more!

You Can Visit Long Center

ATOS members visiting in the Lafayette, Indiana area who would like to see, hear and play the Wurlitzer in Long Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Mars Theatre) should contact Carroll H. Copeland in advance of their intended visit. He may be reached at the center (317) 742-5664 or at home (317) 423-1264. His mail address: Long Center, Box 26, Lafayette, Indiana 47902. Be sure to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a prompt reply.

4,000 See Show In Four-Day Run

Christmas Spectacular, a lavish show featuring the organ and Byrdettes on stage at the Byrd Theatre, Richmond, Va., produced by management and Virginia Theatre Organ Society, proved to be an entertaining and financial success, it was reported in the January issue of VTOS News. The show ran for four performances and was seen by over 4,000 people. Lin Lunde was the organist.

'Mickey' Wants To Find His Mama!

At Denver's Regional, a member asked Eleanor Biggs, also a member, to send her a copy of the song *Mickey*—and gave money to defray the costs involved. All went well—the copy was prepared—then Eleanor discovered she had misplaced the address of the woman who gave her the order.

So, if the person who ordered the piece will drop Eleanor J. Biggs a note at 306 Allen St., Walbridge, Ohio 43465, the music will wend its way to the proper destination.

Dairyland Given Wurlitzer

Donation to Dairyland Chapter of the Milwaukee Riverside Theatre 3/13 Wurlitzer organ was announced January 16. Presentation of the instrument was made by Joseph Zilber, Chief Operating Officer of Towne Realty, owners of the theatre, at a special 11am press conference in the theatre. Fred Wolfgram accepted the organ for Dairyland Chapter and presented Zilber with a Certificate of Recognition Award and lifetime membership in the chapter.

"Under terms of the gift the Wurlitzer will remain in the theatre to be held in public trust," Wolfgram noted. The organ is listed in the Wurlitzer list as opus 1865, 235 Special, shipped 3/24/28. "Dairyland members had been discussing acquisition of the organ for approximately three years," he explained, "and at one juncture made an overture to Towne Realty, but the company said it was not ready to donate it. Continued informal discussions finally resulted in its donation," he added.

Tech Book Out Soon; Want Name

There are 274 indexed subjects with keywords for quick reference in the newly compiled ATOS Technical Notebook, it was announced by Allen Miller, who heads the project of assembling a technical manual for ATOS.

Over 70 articles, many no longer available, have been compiled and are now in the editing phase. "We plan to include other important information for technicians which has not been previously published," he said. It is planned to try and have the publication available at the Los Angeles '87 National Convention.

Want Catchy Name

"We are looking for a catchy and appropriate name for the volume," Miller noted. "Anyone with ideas is urged to send them to the Technical Committee, 167 Carriage Drive, Glastonbury, Conn. 06033," he added.

You Can Play A London Wurlly

Any ATOS members visiting London who would like to see and play the South Bank Wurlitzer (originally installed in the the Trocadero, Elephant & Castle cinema) should contact David Lowe, 18 Spruce Hills Road, London E17 4LD, England. He will be glad to make necessary arrangements to visit the instrument.

Anyone Know Carrie?

Information is being sought by the NEWS about an organist by the name of Carrie A. Melody. Believe it or not, the name apparently was known to Los Angeles theatregoers in the early 1920s. She was associated with the late Earl Abel at Miller's Theatre in downtown L. A. Anyone having knowledge of Miss Melody, please contact the editor.

Eight Ranker In An Eight Screen House

Ralph Bartlett, well-known British organ buff, is placing a 3/8 Wurlitzer from the Ritz Cinema, Chatham, in a new cinema venture of some eight screens in Shropshire near Shrewsbury. The organ, ranks of which was the brain child of the late Harold Ramsay, are: Diapason, Tibia, Trumpet, Sax, Gamba, Gamba Celeste, Flute and Clarinet. The organ has an illuminated console. Bartlett did not say how large the one cinema will be in which the Wurlitzer will be installed.

Two Donors Hope NEWS Is Continued

Devtronix Organs, Inc., of Sacramento, Calif., through its President, Ray DeVault made a substantial contribution to ATOS International NEWS last Dec. 29. "We sure want to see it continued," he said.

On the same day, Eugene M. Dolloff also sent a sizeable donation saying, "I have been a member of ATOS nearly 20 years and am retired and living on a very small fixed income, but I can afford to double my ATOS dues to help prevent ATOS International NEWS and Theatre Organ from going under."

LATOS INKS NEW PAPER

All problems confronting Los Angeles Chapter over installing the unit's 3/27 Wurlitzer in Pasadena City College Sexton Auditorium were resolved and a contract signed Wednesday, January 7. Work of erecting the organ will get underway as soon as the instrument can be moved from Standard Industries in La Mirada to the college.

LATOS Immediate Past President Ralph Beaudry and Susanna Maelic, President of the Board of Trustees, Pasadena Area Community College District, signed the contract.

Commenting briefly, Beaudry said, "The contract covers all things we desired, and it reduced insurance requirements—the main problem that held up negotiations last November. This great musical project should prove advantageous to both parties."

It is estimated total installation costs will amount to around \$80,000. The organ is expected to be playable late this year.

Largest Juicer To Go In Residence

A contract for one of the largest Allen Digital Theatre organs ever built has been negotiated by J. Nelson & Company, Oakland, Calif. piano and organ firm, for a residence in Carmel Valley.

Specifications for the three-manual, approximately 19-rank organ were written by Tom Hazelton. Cost of the instrument is in excess of \$100,000.

Digital technology is a prime factor—every stop is a complete independent computer system, and the heavily unified organ will play through 23 channels of audio.

According to John Nelson, head of the firm, it will require six to seven months to build the organ. He also noted that it will be presented in a Bay Area public concert prior to installation in the residence.

Organ Builders Plan Electronic Manual

American Institute of Organ Builders is planning to produce a manual on all known electronic relays for use in repairing them. The idea behind the project is to have ready reference for various makes in the event a manufacturer goes out of business without leaving repair information readily available.

Lanterman Organ In News Again

The death of Lloyd Lanterman, January 9 in La Canada, Calif., once again brings the famed San Francisco Fox Theatre 4/36 Wurlitzer organ into the theatre organ world spotlight.

Almost a forgotten instrument since the 1981 death of Lloyd's brother, Frank, who bought and moved the huge instrument to the family mansion, it had been heard infrequently since then, and almost never at all during the past two years due to the deteriorating health of the surviving brother. The two shared ownership of the residence.

Under terms of Lloyd's will, the mansion, including the organ, becomes the property of the City of La Canada/Flintridge.

In the interest of preserving the organ and promoting it as a cultural addition to the community, informal talks are underway between the trustee and several ATOS officials representing both National and the local chapter.

When the trustee turns over the property to the city, it is expected a complete proposal can be disclosed concerning the future of the organ.

Artist Has Fan Club

German organist Franz Lambert has a fan club in England. Frequent newsletters carry items of his doings and often a personal note from him, and the group has its own tape club.

Playing Theatre Organ Locations

●Tampa

Recently, R. B. Price happened to be in Tampa with time on his hands. He could find nothing about the Tampa Theatre—local performing arts center. For those who might find themselves in the same predicament, the theatre is located at 711 Franklin Street Mall, and the telephone number for information is 223-8981.

●Detroit

Motor City Chapter operates its Redford Theatre most Friday and Saturday nights as a motion picture theatre with pre-show organ concerts. The organ is heard at 7:30 and the feature is screened at 8 o'clock. Call (312) 537-2560 for information, Monday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm.

●San Francisco

Visiting San Francisco or other Bay Area villages? You can enjoy Wurlitzer music at the Castro Theatre—call (415) 621-6120 for times and other organ related shows). In Oakland, at the Grand Lake the Wurlitzer is played Friday through Tuesday. Call (415) 465-7586 for times.

Nor-Cal Seeks Grant For Organ Project

Nor-Cal Chapter has formed a committee to pursue foundation grant monies to allow the unit to expedite restoration of the former Toledo Paramount 4/20 Wurlitzer which is being installed in Berkeley Community Theatre.

Move Cuts Music Delay

To eliminate the great time lag for organists, the keydesk of the Wurlitzer in the 3,000-seat State Cinema in Kilburn district of London has been moved from its lift/turntable at the extreme rightside to a dias almost beneath the chamber area on the left side of the house. All 16 ranks of the four-manual organ are located there.

Rosa Rio Appraises T.O. Future

Asked her opinion about the future of theatre organ, Rosa Rio, who has experienced the instrument in many of its facets— theatre, radio, concert and teaching— had this to say:

As you know, I have been a teacher of organ and piano music for quite some years and have been responsible for a number of male professionals in the field of music. It disturbs me that female musicians can only find a career in teaching, not concert work. The American Theatre Organ Society and its many chapters are male oriented. Thumbing through back issues of national conventions or regional chapter events, it is very rare to find a female organist on the program.

I was delighted in playing organ concerts and the joy of sharing music with all who will listen. Today, my playing is up to date and my appearance is youthful and I plan to stay active in music but I get few calls for theatre organ concerts. When it is discovered that Rosa Rio is female, programmers look for male artists.

Theatre organ concerts are not pointed toward young people. When I sit in an audience and look around me, I see senior citizens. I recently did the premiere of the Shelton (Conn.) High School organ—a 3/12 Austin theatre organ—and was pleasantly surprised that half the audience were young people. And they loved what they heard! It was a terrible night, but they came to the opening despite the snow and ice.

This is not meant to be "Sour Grapes" but a suggestion on how to keep the movement alive. Nothing quite takes the place of the mighty theatre organ. I love it and hope enough interest can be activated among young people, middle-aged and senior citizens so that the sound can live on and on.

FOR THE RECORD

It was noted in a recent story about the Ben Hall Memorial organ that it could not go back into Carnegie Hall Cinema since the house has been twinned. New Yorker Alfred Buttler advises the theatre has not been twinned, is closed and no plans have been announced concerning its future. He explained that the Little Carnegie Theatre, located west of Carnegie Hall Cinema was demolished and moved to its present location in what was formerly the Lincoln Art and later Bombay Theatres. This house possibly has been identified as Carnegie Hall Cinema.

As a means of identifying ATOS *International NEWS* issues published during the trial period, the first one was mailed separately—September 1986. The second issue was distributed as part of Theatre Organ Sept/Oct issue. Issue number three was mailed separately November 1986. Again, number

Silents Regress To Piano Background

"Before Hollywood," a traveling exhibition of more than 60 films from the silent era, has been set to tour the country starting early this year. It will premiere at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Live piano accompaniment is planned for the screenings.

Video To Enhance ATOS Archives

ATOS Archives will be much richer in content one of these days. Los Angeles Chapter member Bob Pasalich has made video cassettes of many famed organists who have appeared in concert for the club. These tapes eventually will go to the Archives.

Record Releases —And Tapes, Too!

Artists wishing to announce new record and tape releases are urged to send names of releases, where recorded, price and address where orders may be sent. Reviews of new releases are published in *Theatre Organ Journal*.

Bill Yaney has released his new album, *Front Row Center*, digitally recorded on a 3/18 Wurlitzer. It is available in cassette only for \$11. Order from Bill Yaney, Great Escape Music Productions, 5212 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio 43623.

Backseat Players

In the early 1900s, Daniel Young patented an organ for automobiles. The keyboard attached to the back of the front seat, and backseat passengers could play the organ as they motored through the countryside. It really wasn't a bad idea, except the music produced was earshattering due to the 'washboard' roads so common then.

There apparently were two auto organs—the one noted above and another built by the William Schuelke Organ Co. of Milwaukee, Wisc. The latter-named firm's instrument is described briefly in *Volume II of The Encyclopedia of the American Theatre Organ* which is currently being readied for publication in 1987.

Played Half Organ By Patron Demand

During the summer of 1933, there was an increase of 25 percent in the employment of organists in theatres, according to Harry Blair, president of the Noon-Day Club, a New York organization servicing organists in all states. This was the dark depression era.

One New York house, RKO 86th Street Theatre received persistent demands by patrons to reinstate the regular organ solos. The instrument was found to be in impossible condition due to water damage and an estimated \$1,000 would be needed for repairs. Management decided to forego musical interludes.

The delay was wiped out by continued demands, and organist Dolph Gobel was hired and played half an instrument while the damaged chamber ranks were repaired.

four was mailed as part of Theatre Organ Nov/Dec issue. The January issue, number five, went out separately. This, the final issue in the trial run, is number six and appears with the Jan/Feb issue of Theatre Organ.

Club Has Library

Rochester Theatre Organ Society maintains a library for its members and has a regular borrowing system which permits members to check out items on loan. It was disclosed recently a radio program that paid tribute to the RKO Palace Theatre and its 4/21 Wurlitzer, which became the property of RTOS and was moved to its present home in the Auditorium Theatre, when the Palace was razed, was taped during the broadcast.

Members who never heard the show over the air can now check out the recording and listen to it, or make a copy for personal use.

New 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, Ill. 60176.

Juice Expert To Help On Project

Rob Richards' sprouting organ garden will have the help of Frank Droughy, who created the custom organ division for Conn Organ during its halcyon days. He pioneered work in multiplexing and pipe organ tonal imitation with electronics, but has been out of the industry for the past 15 years.

In addition to overseeing installation of Richards' studio organ, he will once again engineer and build electronics for the organ, creating a new division for his company, Circle Tool and Machine in Berrien, Mich.

Richards' studio organ will house the pipe organ, plus his \$20,000 Yamaha digital FX-20 organ. The two will be paired with a specially-designed organ computer which allows him to play both instruments simultaneously.

Two of the four consoles pictured at a rakish angle on the front page of the NEWS January issue have been sold. Rob would like to find homes for the other two. An inquiry about them will bring price quotes. Write him at 2697 Niles Road, St. Joseph, Mich. 49085, or call (616) 429-0396.

Kids Get In Free To Gain Their Interest

To attract young people to the theatre organ, New South Wales Division of Theatre Organ Society of Australia is admitting all children under the age of 15 free of charge.

Another Aussie Rebuffs Ledwon

Another Australian organ buff disagrees with the article authored recently by John Ledwon on how to interest youngsters in theatre organ. He is Stephen Bosanquet of Sydney who submitted the following letter to *TOSA NEWS*:

"As I was reading 'Wherein Lies Its Future' by John Ledwon, I felt motivated in writing to express my disagreement in most of the things he said. May I quote from the magazine, 'The theatre organ must be made to appeal to a much larger potential audience if it is to survive.' Also he asks 'What about the 16 to 35-year-old group? They are the future audience, and their music has been largely ignored. The fact is the theatre organ in its current configuration cannot compete musically with todays 'sound' without the assistance of other instruments.

"The addition of a rhythm section, percussion and electric bass and an accent section (brass or synthesizer) will do wonders to the overall sound. Many theatre organ purists will fight tooth and nail that this practice of adding other instruments to their beloved theatre organ. However, for the theatre organ to survive in the 80s and beyond, it must be done.

"The theatre organ movement is static and living in the past. Either it moves forward towards the present, or it is doomed to gradual extinction. Today's audience must compromise some of their views and tastes, and allow a good portion of a concert to be music of today registered for today."—end of quote.

"I would like to see ALL cinema and church organs be left as mechanical sounds. When an artist plays a cinema organ at a concert and gets magical sounds out of it, I think how amazing that a pipe organ has capabilities, if, when electronic bits like synthesizers are added to organs as John Ledwon would say, I think it would absolutely spoil the original sound. If people like that sort of thing, why don't they go and listen to an electronic organ that has all that sound.

"You won't get me to a concert if a cinema organ is as John Ledwon wants it—I'm a purist.

"I, myself, am under the 40 age group. As John says, 'the Big Band era is a thing of the past.' I can't see how that can be, because there are at least some young people who like classical music, baroque music and there are new reproduced and classic organs around that are baroque in the period of the early 17th and 18th century era. I could say all this is living in the past.

"The Wurlitzer organs, like the one in Marrickville Town Hall, and ex-Capitol organ and other cinema pipe organs are left original without electronic sounds added to them. I hope it will never be changed. I never did like the idea of the Compton having the melotone or electone added to it, even in early days. The patent, I believe, put on Compton may have stopped other organ builders from doing it. I thought—*Thank Goodness!*"

Doesn't Anyone Have An Idea?

Apparently no one can answer the question asked by L. Diana Haskins of Kalamazoo, Mich.—"What Is Theatre Organ Music?" It was published in the December issue and to date not one theatre organ buff has sent ATOS *International NEWS* an explanation. Doesn't anyone know what it is?

New Prexy For Organ Supply

Organ Supply Industries, Inc. of Erie, Pa. recently announced the retirement of Fred Gluck as President and General Manager effective December 1, 1986. Formerly President of Astatic Corporation of Canaan, Ohio, he acquired Durst & Co. in 1971 and Organ Supply Corp. in 1972. Under his direction, the two firms were combined to form Organ Supply Industries, the largest and most complete pipe organ supply house in North America.

Dennis Unks, who joined the firm in 1972, has been elected President and CEO. Randall Wagner, a member of the management team since 1976, is the new Vice President.

Pickwick Has Solos

Organ solos have returned to the Pickwick Theatre, Park Ridge, Illinois. Ted Gyson plays the 3/11 Wurlitzer during weekends. He is currently studying under Tom Wibbels.



"GEE DAD, IT'S A WURLITZER!"—Hal Sanguinetti, Los Angeles Chapter member, shown here in one of the studios at KPCC, Pasadena, Calif. during the broadcast of his weekly Sunday night theatre organ show, *Gee Dad, It's A Wurlitzer!* He was photographed January 11 with organist Rob Calcaterra whom he interviewed during the broadcast. Rob had presented a concert for LATOS that morning at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles. Sanguinetti is currently preparing a master program plan for a taped theatre organ show for possible nation-wide distribution that will advertise ATOS.

Sell Tapes To Help Rebuild Pipe Organ

To help obtain funds for restoring a well-known residence organ in the city, Atlanta Chapter on Jan. 18 held a posh pipe organ presentation amidst an opulent twenties setting. Samuel P. Warren was presented in concert at the console of the three-manual Aeolian organ at "Callunwolde," the lavish home of the first president of the Coca Cola Company. Cassette tapes of this organ were sold and profits will go to the rebuilding of its console which is slated to be started very soon.

Convention Music Is Available On Tape

Tape recordings of all 1986 Richmond Convention performances are available from John Stenstrom, 2107 Hanover Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23220. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for complete information.

Wilson Doesn't Mix His Voicing Work

I have noted with interest, in the current *ATOS International NEWS*, the item stating that Steve Leslie of Newton Pipe Organ in San Jose, Calif. and I "taught each other" voicing. While this may be true to the extent that we apprenticed at the same time with Schantz Organ, I feel that my abilities with high-pressure theatrical tonal work should be kept a separate matter and in no way associated with classical work. The two encompass very different techniques and styles and one should not be confused with the other.

—Clark Wilson

Discovery of Organ Gets New Member

News of an organ being returned to its original theatre location prompted quick exchange of letters between Seattle and Raymond, Washington, and the NEWS office. It was learned that Bryan Monahan has been busy restoring Wurlitzer organ, opus 1934, a Style B Special, shipped 4/28/29 that was first heard in the theatre and will be going back in again. From other sources it was learned that Raymond is a small town in the lower left corner of the State.

It was also learned that Bryan is a young organ nut who had never heard of ATOS. He does now. In fact, he's a member of Puget Sound Chapter.

The organ was donated by Mrs. Al Bice, widow of an early Puget Sound member.

Will Retire To A Musical Life

Beth Adkinson, a night supervisor of the Neo-natal Unit, Tacoma General Hospital, plans to retire one of these days. She's planning ahead for a musical life. Already in hand is a lot and plans for a new house in Kitsap County across Puget Sound from Seattle. Packed away until chamber space is ready is a 2/7 Wurlitzer that will provide the music—that she plans to play on it.

'Pipedreams' List Available By Mail

Program brochures for *Pipedreams* organ shows may be obtained by writing to: PIPE DREAMS, Minnesota Public Radio, 45 East 8th Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

Aussies Convene At Bonnet Time

Organ buffs in the Land Down Under have their big annual organ bash just at the time Easter bonnets are trotted out for an airing. This year the Theatre Organ Society of Australia will hold **The Festival Fifteenth** in Adelaide, the capitol of South Australia from Friday, April 17 to Monday, April 20—with an afterglow event Tuesday, April 21.

According to Ted and Helen Lloyd, upwards of 300 visitors are expected, with several buffs from the U. S. expected. Donna Parker, well-known organist of Paramount Music Palace, Indianapolis, will be one of the featured artists.

ATOS members are invited as special guests. Those interested are requested to write: Theatre Organ Society of Australia, S. A. Division, Box 595 G.P.O., Adelaide, South Australia 5001.

Big Bell Makes Bang On Church Exiting

For a breath-taking few moments early in November there was doubt that the Kimball Theatre Organ Society of Milwaukee would have a 10-note set of Deagan Tower Chimes. Organist/organman Clark Wilson reports that a five man crew from the society rigged the chime set down and removed it from the tower of a church on Chicago's South Side after the largest bell (12 feet long and weighing over 500 pounds) broke loose from its moorings and crashed through three levels of the tower, finally embedding itself at an angle through a floor and into a wall.

"It didn't hurt the chime, but made a mess of the church and shook the congregation up plenty," said Wilson.

The chimes will become part of the Kimball organ going into Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre.

There's Organ Music In Erie

Theatre organ is alive and making Sunday music in Erie, Pa. Three shows are planned by Erie Area Theatre Organ Society and will be played on the theatre instrument at Gannon University.

Bob Arndt is slated to perform April 26; Fr. Jim Miller will be heard May 17. And Fr. Bill Biebel, of Erie, will be heard June 14. The programs start at 2pm.

This Is Final Issue In Trial Run

This is the final issue in the trial six month period of *ATOS International NEWS*. ATOS' Executive Committee announced a meeting set for January 25, the day this issue was scheduled for press. A decision concerning the future of the *NEWS* was expected to be disclosed at the conclusion of the meeting which was held in Sacramento.

In all the letters received regarding acceptance of *ATOS International NEWS*, there was only one opposed to its publication.

The editors and contributors have enjoyed their brief stint attempting to bring you news of theatre organ activities and appreciate the interest shown in the publication. We sincerely look forward and hope it is continued.

Shuffle Off To Buffalo In Oct.

Get ready to Shuffle Off To Buffalo over Columbus Day weekend—October 10-12—to hear some fine Wurlitzers in Buffalo, Tonawanda and Rochester, and also have the romantic Niagara Falls gushing in as a regional extra.

Buffalo Area Chapter has announced its regional convention which is to be centered around the beautifully restored Shea's Buffalo Theatre (for the performing arts) and its renowned 4/28 Wurlitzer. Also in the three-day deal is the Riviera Wurlitzer in Tonawanda and Rochester's Auditorium Theatre 4/21 Wurlitzer and the 3/8 Wurlitzer in Eisenhart Auditorium. There will also be a big classical box of whistles, a tour of the QRS Roll factory, a look-see at the Wurlitzer factory (no longer used), plus the general friendliness of the "Queen City" which should make this a memorable shuffle off to Buffalo.

Silent Film Music On CDs and Cassettes

Two silent film scores have been issued by the Library of Congress on compact discs. They are—*Gloria's Romance*, 1916 feature with music by Jerome Kern; and *The Fall of the Nation* with music by Victor Herbert. The former is played by a small orchestra and the latter is played by Musicrafters Orchestra conducted by Frederick Fennell. CDs are \$14.95, cassette tapes, \$8.95. Order from Public Service Office, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Wilson, Hanson Buy Old Demo Kimball

Clark Wilson and Gary Hanson, both associated with Organ Piper Pizza restaurant in Milwaukee, Wisc. recently purchased a 39-rank Kimball organ from a Wisconsin church. Originally installed in Kimball Hall, Chicago, the instrument dates from around 1917 and is made up exclusively of orchestral and theatre-type pipework. It was noted the voicing is extremely fine, no doubt due to the fact that the organ was a demonstration instrument.

Although plans are not final, Wilson and Hanson indicated they would like to keep the Kimball together as a complete instrument, if possible.

First Timer Enjoys Regional Meet

Last month Pat Lajko described what he thought he would experience attending his first ATOS National Convention. This month we publish his observations about his attendance at his first regional event—the Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting Oct. 10 through 13.

"To me, this show was better than Richmond because there was an excellent variety of organs, although only one theatre, the Paramount, was involved.

"Home tours added a great deal to the regional show. All were quite impressive. And transportation seemed better organized in Denver. Everything moved quickly; buses were always found where announced. In fact, the entire meet was well organized.

"One thing that tended to become tiresome was the fact that every organist, somewhere in concert, turned around to the audience and said, almost verbatim, 'The theatre organ is such a versatile instrument it also is quite suitable for playing classical music. I will now play a classical number for you to show how versatile the theatre organ can be.' This began to wear thin after a few times."

About Those Jam Sessions

"One thing I neglected to mention regarding Richmond was the jam sessions. I had thought they were a time for people who normally don't get to play the instruments featured at conventions.

"I attended the last session at the Byrd Theatre. It was announced we had to sign up, so I did. Unfortunately, I was near the end of the list and was told there might not be time enough to play. My heart sunk—this was one organ I really did want to try out.

"Then I saw how the session was being run. The contest winner and second place winner were given console time—each about 15 minutes. In fact, anyone who got on the bench played about the same amount of time. Most of those who played had played it before, and when there's only an hour and a half for the session, many were disappointed not being able to try out the organ.

"I would like to see jam sessions given over to those who have never played the particular organ before; at least one selection per person so that most would have the opportunity to get on the bench. It would be feasible to have someone who knows the organ confer with each player about registration, etc. before they get to the console.

"It would be fine to have a professional artist open the session to build excitement—and perhaps close the session. I hope Los Angeles jam sessions are organized differently—with preference given visitors who haven't played the instrument."

Finds Train Travel Cheaper, More Fun

Air fares being what they are—as high as planes seemingly can fly—convention-goers are reminded that current special rates offered by Amtrak provide a pleasant ride, filled with all kinds of scenery, to Los Angeles for the 1987 National Convention, at rates below what the fly birds are crowing about.

Mark Gifford, St. Louis organist, found he could travel from the Mississippi River to the land of Golden Sunshine and have two other stopovers for a round trip fare of \$200, just about half the price of winging it.

Call your local railroad track salesman and ask about the special specials being offered for early summer travel.

Same Story The World Over!

In Camden Town, Hampstead, England a recent report revealed the Parkway cinema was to have a Wurlitzer installed. In fact, the console and pipework were already in the building awaiting action. Then the local paper announced the lease wouldn't be renewed because the owners wanted to raze the movie house and build a super store there. Now local notables and the general public are mounting a campaign to preserve the house and install the organ, is was reported by Neil Malcolm of nearby Keats Grove.

Theatre Starts Fund Club For Patrons

by Jim Koller

A new idea to raise money for the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, Ill., has been started to bring in \$300,000 annually. It is the *Curtain Raisers Club*.

Individuals may contribute and in return gain benefits ranging from having their names listed in programs to invitations to backstage parties. Donors also receive the Rialto's quarterly publication *Backstage*.

There is also a new marketing image: "Bring Back The Magic," which is recognized by a debonair rabbit emerging from a top-hat with a fireworks display in the background. This cute and handsome fellow is also available at the theatre, 102 No. Chicago St., Joliet, Ill. 60434 on T-shirts and sweatshirts for kids and adults; prices range from \$6.50 to \$13.

Theatre Buffs Can Get Palace Feature

"American Picture Palaces," a 28-minute color film or tape documentation on theatres built during the golden era of architectural fantasy, is available from the Office of Telecommunications, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, (202) 357-2985. Cost of the 16mm film is \$400-the video cassette version is \$135. Gene Kelly narrates and Gaylord Carter furnishes background organ music.