

many civic functions and has been used successfully to provide the music for TOSAVIC's annual Balls for fifteen years. After April 1987 it will be used monthly for ballroom dancing on lines similar to those of the Blackpool Tower.

The State closed its doors as a cinema on June 29, 1986, when it was bought by the Revivalist Church. When the building was twinned, the smaller cinema was entirely enclosed in the balcony area, leaving the stalls almost intact. The original proscenium remains as it was in 1929, and the organ and orchestra elevators still sit at the bottom of their respective pits. It is understood that the church has no plans to alter the property.

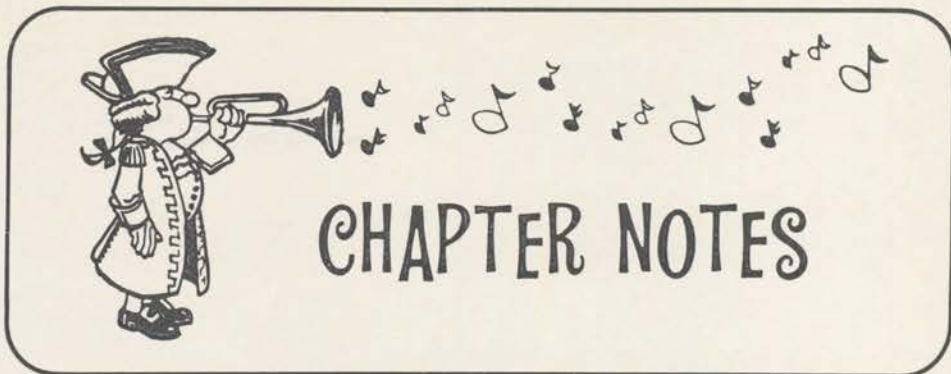
A bit of good news is the recent re-opening of the 3/15 Wurlitzer formerly installed in Hoyt's Regent in Sydney. John Atkinson purchased the organ in 1968, and for eighteen years has worked, with the assistance of friends, to restore this fine instrument to its former glory. The organ is installed in a 22 x 48 music room in John's specially constructed home in the Sydney suburb of Hurstville. The room has been decorated in theatrical style and will seat about eighty people. Restoration and regulation of the instrument have been carefully carried out with the idea of retaining the original sound that so delighted audiences at the Regent.

The sad news is the recent closure as a cinema of the great State Theatre in Sydney. There is a National Trust classification restricting any proposed alterations or redevelopment of the area, and the present owners are using it as a convention center. The 4/21 Wurlitzer, the only one left in Australia in its original setting, may be used on occasion. Alan Tranter, a fine organist, has been featuring and maintaining the instrument for the past five years, but much of the organ does not work because it has lacked professional care for the past twenty years and there has been much water damage to the Solo chamber.

Currently in Victoria, Bill Glasson and his team of dedicated volunteers maintain and are constantly adding to the organ in the Dallas Brookes Hall. A hybrid instrument, it is controlled from a three-manual Compton theatre console and has 14 ranks of theatre pipework. The latest addition is a set of Compton metal Tibias, which sound great. Much work has to be done before the organ can be considered complete, including a section of "straight" pipework. Dallas Brookes Hall, one of Australia's major concert auditoriums, was built as part of Melbourne's Masonic Centre. No effort was spared to ensure that the acoustics were as near perfect as possible. When completed, the organ should prove to be one of the most effective in the country.

At the Brighton Twin (formerly Dendy) Cinema, the famous 3/15 Wurlitzer is playing again in its new home. The organ switching was made solid-state during the renovation, and this is now working 100 percent. The only major job to be done is the regulation, to be started the end of February.

Goodbye, until next time. □



ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

February and March gave our chapter members an opportunity to relax and enjoy some very nice music amidst all the work going on in Birmingham.

February's meeting gathered us to hear local member (and new father!) Mark Landers at the Alabama Theatre's Wurlitzer. His jazzy styling and fresh arrangements brought life into some familiar tunes. Mark borrowed one of his infant son's newest toys and played several nursery rhymes and children's songs accompanying a musical "duck" on the Wurlitzer.

March brought one of our crew's long-time favorites, Rick McGee from Atlanta, back to the Alabama. An enthusiastic and relatively large crowd enjoyed Rick's fourth program in as many years as he played favorites and some requests of the audience.

GARY W. JONES



ALOHA Honolulu

808/696-4533 or 808/523-9079

Through the efforts of our capable program director, Raphael Ai, January 25 found guest artist Tom Sheen bringin' down the house at the Hawaii Theatre. Always a favorite with our chapter, Tom played an inspired concert which began with his console-up number, "Another Op'nin', Another Show," from Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate*, which has become somewhat of a signature tune for him. Tom's style and arrangements keep the listener on his toes wondering just how many chord progressions his left hand will infuse into the accompaniment of a relatively simple melody; his rendition of the jazz ballad, "Angel Eyes," demonstrated this to a point. At a reception in the club room following the show, he gave away a few secrets about his



Alabama Chapter member Mark Landers at the console of the "Red and Gold." (Gary W. Jones photo)



Rick McGee at the finale of his March performance in Birmingham. (Gary W. Jones photo)



Carole Pinches, visiting from Australia, tries the 4/16 Robert-Morton in the Hawaii Theatre.

technique, and we all took notes! For the most part, Tom plays pretty standard chord progressions for his theatre organ audiences, but he does like to throw in discrete sequences of flatted fifths, ninths and thirteenth just to make sure the audience stays with him! Tom was very pleased with the improvements in the Robert-Morton since the last time he played it, and he was most complimentary to maintenance director Scott Bosch and the crew.

Tom's registrations adhere to no fixed rules, but rather he adjusts to the instrument and setting. For example, he feels that the Kinura on our 4/16 sounds like a string when tremmed, so he uses it at 16', 8' and 4' pitches

in combination with all four ranks of strings for a shimmering string chorus. "Only untremmed does it sound like a buzzing, reedy Kinura," he says. For accompaniment on our Robert-Morton, Tom likes to use the 8' Diapason. To build, he adds the 8' Clarinet and then the 8' Oboe Horn. The Flute in the Main chamber is voiced and regulated rather like a Tibia, so Tom refrains from using it as an accompaniment voice. Unfortunately for the theatre organ world, Tom's busy schedule of teaching and business keeps him away from theatre pipe organs much of the time, but we are always grateful when he can spare the time to vacation in Hawaii and visit with



Tom Sheen at the console of the Aloha Chapter Robert-Morton after his concert at the Hawaii Theatre.

us. His theatre pipe organ renditions are memorable, and wouldn't it be nice to have another Tom Sheen theatre organ recording one of these days?

"Once a jolly swagman camped by a bill-abong, under the shade of a coolabah tree," is the famous line from "Waltzing Matilda," which, by all reports, has come to be the national anthem of Australia. A lady to watch and listen for from that country is young Carole Pinches, winner of theatre organ competitions in Australia, who met our Robert-Morton for the first time and "go' a no' ba' soun' out'n'em!" Her visit happily coincided with Tom Sheen's concert, and we were delighted to hear how well she plays. We trust she'll return in June after the ATOS Convention and "You'll come a waltzin', Carole, wi' us!"

Our Christmas/New Year's party was held in February (Hawaiian time) this year at the Kelley's. Guest organ was the Allen ADC HMO (highly modified organ) graciously provided by Bob Alder, who played for us until the members felt comfortable enough to have a go at open console. Betty DeRosa and her committee prepared a buffet of delicacies, and the last guest departed with the setting sun.

NORMAN KELLEY



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

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

Our January meeting was held at the home of Maurice and Carol Finkel in Shelbyville. The outward appearance of their home gave no hint of the treasures to be found inside — two grand pianos greeted the visitor in the living room, and as one progressed through the house, one observed three beautiful reed organs, a Hammond organ and three pipe organs: a 2/5 Louisville Uniphone, a 2/3 Robert-Morton pit organ and the recently refurbished 3/24 Louisville with a Wurlitzer console. The 3/24 is the newest organ and was completely renovated, primarily by the Finkel's son, David, who also designed the room in which it is housed.

Maurice and Carol welcomed us to their home, and David gave a brief introduction, which included the history and technical details, of each organ. The Louisville Uniphone came from the Dream Theatre in the Brightwood area of Indianapolis, and the Robert-Morton pit organ was originally housed in the Crump Theatre in Columbus, Indiana. The 3/24 Louisville, whose Wurlitzer console came from the Tilyou Theatre in Brooklyn, had approximately one half of the pipework, chests and regulators from the Rivoli Theatre in Indianapolis.

Kurt Von Schakel, who assisted David in the renovation of the organ, demonstrated each of the pipe organs by playing a variety of selections that were chosen to bring out the special features of each instrument. His selec-



Organist Mark Williams explains his next selection for Central Ohio Chapter.

(John Polsley photo)



Bob Matsumoto coaxes a stirring march from the Blegens' Conn 651. (John Polsley photo)

tions included "Hi, Ho, The Gang's All Here," "Thanks For The Memories," "Abba Dabba Honeymoon," and many others.

The Hedback Community Theatre, home of the Footlite Musicals, was the site of our February meeting. Our own John Ferguson treated us to a beautiful program. John has a marvelous talent for bringing a unique and unforgettable sound to the theatre organ.

Donna Parker, staff organist at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, was invited by the Austrian Broadcasting Company to perform for its *Orgel um Fünf* broadcast on February 15 in Vienna. Donna performed on a four-manual organ with nearly 100 ranks of pipes which was built in 1983 by Karl Schuke of Berlin. Also, the South Australian Division of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia in Adelaide has invited Donna to represent the United States at their annual regional convention in Adelaide on April 19. She is to play the 4/16 theatre pipe organ in the Capri Theatre. Donna will then travel to San Diego to be featured in a concert at the California Theatre on a 3/21 Wurlitzer.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

It was ten degrees above zero, the air was crisp and clear and the sun danced on the frosted tree limbs as they shimmered in the breeze — all of which encouraged 36 members and guests to turn out for our January 25 meeting at Jim and Irene Blegens. Member organist Mark Williams treated us to a program of music designed to suit the tastes of all age groups. This was followed by open console on the Conn 651 which has remote speakers to create the illusion of a much larger listening area. Host Jim Blegens entertained us with a slide show of past ATOS conventions, organ installations and artists.

Our 3/16 Wurlitzer remains playable. Most of the organ crew's attention has fo-

cused on replacing and adjusting primary valves rank by rank. The switch-stack wiring of the Tibia mutations is now virtually complete. Slow, but positive, steps are being taken by member Bob Shaw in designing and constructing a solid-state combination action. We were privileged to have organ consultant Allen Miller visit us on January 18 and make many constructive suggestions for the improvement of our organ. We are indebted to him for taking time from his busy schedule to make the special trip.

Friday the thirteenth was certainly not a bad-luck day in March. It was, rather, a day to be charmed and the charmer was none other than Tom Hazleton at the console of the Renaissance Theatre's 3/20 Wurlitzer in Mansfield, Ohio. This transplanted organ is a Ken Crome restoration that is described in detail in THEATRE ORGAN (Nov/Dec

1985), and is perhaps best known as the organ belonging to Joseph Kearns (Mr. Wilson on the *Dennis the Menace* TV series). It is especially endeared to Tom Hazleton because, as he told us, it is the instrument on which he made his first recording.

Tom's program was a delightful variety of selections ranging from "Tiptoe Through The Tulips" to a downright lecherous version of "Whoopie" to the classic "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor." The Renaissance Theatre is certainly a tribute to the hard working people of Mansfield who have made it a worthy Performing Arts Center for a number of cultural activities.

March 15 was open house at the Dennis Werkmeister's where we were invited to witness the closing utterances from his home installation prior to its move to new quarters in a carriage house in the Dayton area. His 2/19

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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

mosty Wurlitzer will be installed in the upper level of the carriage house where it will face a large studio with an 18' cathedral ceiling. The organ will be enhanced by the addition of a three-manual console and four ranks of pipes; Diapason, Orch Oboe, Brass Saxophone and a second French Horn. The key element in the new installation, according to Dennis, is a Devtronix computer relay system. We were entertained by guest organist Kurt Von Schakel of Indianapolis and, at open console, by a number of friends including Martin Bevis, Chris Phillips and Bob Cowley.

Regarding that long-rumored home installation, we now have it on reliable authority that our own Bob Cowley is installing a 4/26 Wurlitzer in his residence. He would tell us only that the organ is being completely rebuilt as it is being installed. A new, solid-state relay is being built, along with solid-state tremos, by Gorsuch enterprises in California. Bob has promised more information with some pictures of the organ at a later date. The projected date for the organ to be playing is sometime this summer.

JOHN POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts
312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

It must be spring because the Oriental Organ Fund drive is once again at hand. This will be a banquet, raffle and feature film showing and will make a full afternoon of entertainment at the Copernicus Center (Gateway Theatre) in Chicago. Lee Maloney is scheduled to present one of his very interesting programs, and open console will round out the day's activities.

It was a cool January Tuesday when Bill Tandy gave a super show for our winter social at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing. The 3/17 Barton responded beautifully to Bill's excellent registrations and selections. Open console drew a good portion of talent including Lee Maloney and Don Walker. Our thanks to Roger Tremstra for the invitation.

We presented Neil Johnson, II, in a concert for our members at a social in February at Joy Collins' Beautiful Sound Countryside Studio. Neil was first place winner in the 13 to 15-year-old division of the 1986 ATOS Young Artist Competition. He is studying pipe organ with Fr. Jim Miller which should add another facet to his experience. Neil also won Michigan State's National Yamaha Electone Festival Competition in 1986. To Neil, our congratulations.

Tom Wibbels was soloist at our March concert at the Hinsdale Theatre for an all-organ show which we haven't had for quite some time. It was a welcome presentation and Tom gave the audience excellent variety. Conventioneers will recall Tom's stellar performance

at the Pickwick Theatre during the 1985 Convention.

Members and guests were favored by an invitation from the Chicago Theatre management to hold a social on a Sunday afternoon in January. It was a very "cool" spell, but many enthusiasts braved the temperature for a grand tour of the theatre to see the results of the renovation thus far. Dennis Wolkowicz gave a rousing program on the great Wurlitzer pipe organ. Open console was afforded the attendees but was abruptly ended by a tired blower "breathing" its last. This was a poignant signal for the organ to cease before going into the hands of the renovators. Extensive restoration is now scheduled to be completed in time for a Halloween show in October.

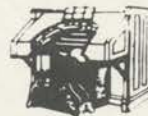
"Quiet, Please" is the title of an excellent remonstrative article by member Jim Koller in our chapter newsletter, *Vox*. Pulling no punches, Jim states the facts of useless noise during an organ show/concert. Much of this din comes from the projection booth and some from the audience. Let us all be mindful that most of those in attendance come to hear the organ, not a "quiet riot." Pass the admonition along. Thank you.

Theatre openings and closings are the result of changing time and the economy. The Montclare and Patio are on the closed list. We hear rumors that something good is happening at the Uptown and hope it will hit other former palaces.

ALMER N. BROSTROM



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.**



Thomaston

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Chapter members Jim Beck and Brian Colton, of the crew that is restoring the Springfield, Massachusetts, Paramount 3/11 Wurlitzer, received somewhat of a setback when, on the morning of February 3, a seven-inch water main broke in the basement of the theatre. Water levels reached up to three feet, and electrical equipment was either damaged or destroyed. Fortunately, damage to the organ was confined to the lift motor and limit switches. Work on the organ has been curtailed until repairs to the electrical power distribution system have been completed.

Nearly fifty members and friends joined us for our twenty-sixth birthday celebration at Shelton High School on February 14. We began with open console followed by a buffet dinner in the school cafeteria. Alden "Mitch" Mitchell provided the ultimate enjoyment in after-dinner listening enjoyment with his smooth, easy style at the Austin console.

Ron Rhode appeared in concert at Shelton High School on February 28. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed Ron's playing and his easy conversation. Particularly impressive was his arrangement of "Chattanooga Choo



Ron Rhode at the 3/12 Austin at Shelton High School for Connecticut Valley Chapter. (Rita Goodkin photo)

Choo." The Shelton organ crew had outlined the console in clear mini-lights and programmed an intricate set of stunning visual effects to go with our favorite "choo choo." A refreshment table did a brisk business during intermission and, for the first time, we received a number of requests for compact discs at our record boutique. We are planning to have some available at our next concert.

Prior to the concert, Ron Rhode introduced the Shelton Austin to more than 1000 students and faculty members at a special student assembly. Many of the audience were not aware that this magnificent instrument existed in their own school. Ron was very complimentary of the reaction of the students, and it is our hope that the organ will be used more often for school and community programs.

BARRY GOODKIN

DELAWARE VALLEY

Philadelphia
215/566-1764

On February 21 the Society, together with the New York chapter, traveled to Wanamaker's Department Store in Philadelphia to hear Dr. Keith Chapman, Director of Musical Events for Wanamaker's, perform. Dr. Chapman's memorable performance and the musical pleasure it gave to his listeners was followed by a close-up view of the console and a tour of the pipe chambers.

After lunch in the Crystal Room on the ninth floor of Wanamaker's, we took a short bus ride to the Irvine Auditorium of the University of Pennsylvania to hold open console on the Curtis Memorial Organ. There was ample time for all who wished to play to have their turns at the console.

EARL E. STRAUSSER



The four winners in Eastern Massachusetts Chapter competition: (L to R) Bob Cejka, Mike Bigelow, John Cook and Bob Legon.



**Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055**

We held our annual business meeting, our first regular gathering in 1987, at Babson on January 25. Our previous console enclosure had long been a concern for us because of student hi-jinks, but we now have a secure, three-sided, roll-down, folding metal door arrangement similar to many store fronts. Appreciative thanks were extended to organ crew chief Dick Linder, who not only conducted a thorough search for various types of enclosures but also worked closely with the manufacturer in its installation. Thanks were also given to Jim Cook and sons for carpentry of panels and trim, and to Babson for removal of the old enclosure and considerable preparation to receive the new.

Program chairman Gordon Creamer opened his innovative program by playing a short version of "Smile, Darn Ya, Smile" before explaining details of a contest between four members for an equal number of monetary prizes. Applause was to be withheld until all had played and then measured by two sound-level meters. New member Mike Bigelow was first on the bench followed by Bob Cejka, Bob Legon and John Cook. The moment of truth arrived after each had given us his best with varied styles, material and interpretations. The applause meters indicated that the first shall be last and vice versa, but there were no losers as all received cash prizes.

On Washington's birthday we again assembled at Babson with guests from the South Shore Organ Society and SENETOS. Dr. Alan Goodnow, President of the latter group, presented several ideas for improving our Wurlitzer's performance and tonality. He and several members of his group have voluntarily been assisting our organ crew for several sessions. Our program chairman again came up with something new, a "Surprise Trio" that turned out to be a "Duo" as the third was still out of state. Bob Legon led off with "Kids" from *Bye, Bye Birdie*, then intro-

duced Joseph Percuoco, a 19-year-old, straight "A" graduate of Somerville High School and now a freshman at Suffolk University Law School. Joseph has studied organ with Bob for six years, but this was his first encounter with our Wurlitzer. He acquitted himself well playing four solo numbers before Bob joined him on a 1986, two-manual portable electronic Wurlitzer. The duet was quite a revelation, an 18-ton grandfather against its 98-pound grandson. Six selections were well-executed by teacher and pupil, and a nice applause brought an encore. Again, we were all winners with pipes and electronics, not competing but blending — and something for everyone.

STANLEY C. GARNISS



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

Christmas season started early for us with an excellent concert on December 7 in the Trenton War Memorial. The artist was New Jersey's own Ashley Miller, who lives in Closter. The first part of the program on the 3/16 Möller was popular music which featured all the wonderful, smooth, complex chords associated with Ashley's inimitable stylings (echoes of Radio City). After intermission, many beautiful, well-known Christmas songs were sung by members of the Trenton Choral Society, who have shared our Christmas concerts for the past ten years. The organ replaced the usual piano accompaniment, and Ashley did a beautiful job of blending with, rather than overpowering, the voices, which sometimes happens with a large pipe organ. Our usual picnic on the stage was followed by open console, and everyone en-



Henry Appenzeller is staff organist at the Brook Theatre.

joyed the Christmas mood.

The third of our five-concert series at the War Memorial was held February 8 and presented Tom Wibbels. Although our winter has been unusual this year with more snow accumulation than for many years, the weather cooperated, the sun smiled and our concert day was very successful. Tom pleased the audience with his selections of familiar music and "good sounds" of the Möller. The audience enjoyed his opening and closing number, which we learned was his own composition, "Just for You." Rowe Beal's record shop sold a number of Tom's tapes, and we hope that more artists will make tapes as our audience seems to prefer them. A stage picnic of potluck and open console ended the day.

It has been some time since we have had



Ashley Miller played the Trenton War Memorial for Garden State.



(L to R) Bob Norris, Tony Butala, senior member of the Lettermen, and Ashley Miller. (George Anderson photo)

silent movies, and we are fortunate to have the Union County Arts Center (Rahway Theatre) and the Brook Theatre in Bound Brook now running series of silent movies. Member Henry Appenzeller is staff organist at the Brook and is providing music, before and after each presentation, on the 2/4 Wurlitzer in its original installation.

On February 15 a special membership meeting and open console was held at the Union County Arts Center. Members enjoyed playing the 2/7 Wurlitzer which fills the theatre with sound — it is, in fact, lovingly called the “biggest little Wurlitzer.” The meeting was held in the beautifully restored lobby of the theatre which allowed the musicians to practice on stage for the evening concert of the famous Lettermen. Plans were discussed for a fund-raising showing of *Wings*, accompanied by Lin Lunde, at the Rahway. A highlight of the meeting was an excellent presentation by Vice Chairman Bob Norris covering available grants and how to obtain them. This is a new field for us, and we are fortunate to have Bob’s expertise to help. Hours of research are involved and deadlines must be met. To date, we have applied for a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to fund “A Survey of Marketability.” The meeting had just adjourned when Tony Butala, senior member of the Lettermen, arrived. Like bees to honey, members gathered around to hear his wonderful story of returning to his home town, Sharon, Pennsylvania, for a concert and finding the Columbia Theatre abandoned and on the block. He promptly bought it and placed it in the hands of Columbia Theatre, Inc., a private fund-raising company. The singer has pledged to raise \$400,000, and the concert at the Rahway was to help both theatres.

JINNY VANORE



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

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

How we enjoyed Tom Wibbels at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, on January 31 and February 1. He is one talented artist — his fingers virtually flew over the keyboard with very interesting registrations. It is so much more pleasant to see and hear a performing artist in intimate surroundings like the Phipps Center.

The Organaires, our small, home-organ group, met at Burt and Jean Frank’s home in December, Joe and Ruth Vaes’ in January and Ted and Marguerite Espe’s in February. There are twelve of us who play, and we draw names as we go along. Each one plays two selections in the first round, refreshments are served, and then we go another round. There are no two organs alike, and we learn from each other. If there is a piano in the home,

there is a spontaneous piano/organ duet. One of our members commented that he could never play in the presence of others, but being with the Organaires has helped him gain self-confidence. We have been playing together since 1979 and haven’t had an argument yet! There is a possibility that two more groups in our area will organize soon.

February 21, a bright, sunny afternoon (no snow), was certainly a red-letter day for our members and guests. We were fortunate that Paul Oakley, Minister of Worship Music and the Arts for Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, could fit us into his busy schedule. Paul is a native of Springfield, Illinois, where his father was a Baptist minister and where Paul began his musical career as Director of Music for the First Presbyterian Church. He is Associate Editor of *Creator* magazine and *International Journal of Church Music* — his credentials are just too numerous to mention here. He is in constant demand as a recitalist, conductor and choral clinician and has played in Ireland, England and Europe.

A custom-built, four-manual Allen Classical and a three-manual theatre organ were installed by Schmitt Music Centers in the beautiful Totino Fine Arts Center of the Northwestern College in St. Paul. Through the efforts of Mrs. Barbara Danielson, star saleslady at Schmitt’s, Paul consented to give a concert which was co-sponsored by the Schmitt Music Centers.

Paul told us at intermission that he was really amazed at how much an ATOS audience seemed to like and appreciate his classical numbers. Three selections on the theatre organ rounded out the program, but we still clamored for more classical music. He had us spellbound! At 26, he is well on the way to becoming one of America’s prominent organists. Besides having the manual dexterity required for classical work, Paul has the soul to bring the music to life.

Dr. Ed Mullins from Nor-Cal Chapter in California, visited St. Paul recently. Verna Mae drove him to Hudson, Wisconsin, to the Phipps Center where the Mighty Wurlitzer formerly owned by KSTP is housed. Fred Nagel, board member at Phipps, met us there, and we moved the organ from back stage so Ed could try it out. He thought that the Phipps Center was most beautiful and liked the River Room where you can see the St. Croix River from its windows and where



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receptions are held for the artists who appear there. From Hudson, we drove to the Cedarhurst Mansion in Cottage Grove where Ron and Jean Nienaber greeted us. Ed then played the 2/8 Robert-Morton in the ballroom and toured the historical mansion. We certainly would enjoy seeing any other ATOS members who might be in this area.

A steering committee, composed of Ms. Jinx Ring of the City of Minneapolis, J. Michael Barone of Minnesota Public Radio, Dr. Edward Berryman from Westminster Presbyterian Church and Philip Brunelle of the Plymouth Music Series, is spearheading an effort to obtain funds for the removal, restoration and re-installation of the 5/126 Kimball in the Minneapolis Auditorium. The Auditorium is scheduled to be demolished in the not-too-distant future to make way for a new Convention Center where the Kimball will be re-installed. There will be several functions scheduled which will give organ music lovers an opportunity to hear this magnificent instrument before its removal — more about this in a forthcoming issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

As I type today, my thermometer reads 39 degrees, which is almost unheard of in March in Minnesota — and still no snow!

VERNA MAE WILSON

LAND OF LINCOLN

Rockford

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

Our final show of 1986 (and the first of 1987) was our fourth annual New Year's Eve Party which was again popularly received and attended by the public. The event has become a Rockford tradition among families with children and others who want a night out without the rush and expense of night clubs. A full-length feature film on a BIG screen, stage entertainment, pipe organ music and 1000 balloons dropping from the "sky" at midnight on an audience singing "Auld Lang Syne" in fellowship offers a wonderful way to say "Goodbye" to the old year and "Welcome" to the new.

On January 10 all of us were delighted to have the Barton played by our own Bill Erlandson for the world premiere of the movie, *Personal Foul*, starring David Morse (of St. Elsewhere fame), which was filmed in Rockford. The night will be a treasured memory for the audience (a sold-out show) and an echo of the past for the Coronado and the Barton as it was almost exactly sixty years ago they first blended together to form Rockford's Wonder Theatre.

By early February the word was spreading fast that our Valentine's Day Social was going to feature an artist *extraordinaire* as our Valentine. What resulted was one of our best-attended socials by a crowd that was totally musically content after two hours of music by our Valentine Artist, Barbara Sellers. Our special "Sweetheart" guest was Barbara's mother, Edna Sellers. Barbara's parents, Edna and Preston Sellers, were both artists of renown, having played the major Chicago

houses, including the Chicago Theatre and the Oriental. Barbara entertained for the Chicago Theatre Renovation Gala and has been featured in theatres in New York and Indiana. She will be featured organist for the Buster Keaton Festival this summer at Rock Valley College in Rockford. Barbara is currently working for her Masters in Musicology and informed us that she will be heading the Jazz Studies Department at Roosevelt University Chicago Musical College.

Barbara's artistic and arranging talents were in top form as she presented an appealing selection of music from dreamy waltzes to red-hot jazz. Although the Barton developed a few personality quirks, the crew was able to straighten it out in time for the performance, and Barbara's excellent playing and wonderfully varied orchestrations kept the organ's problems a secret from the audience. Everybody agreed that Barbara's musical Valentine on our Grande Barton was a very special gift.

We are very proud of our Barton, but we take special pride when we can introduce guests to the wonders of the Coronado Theatre as well as the organ. The theatre stands almost exactly as it did sixty years ago — every effort has been made to maintain the elegance of 1927's opening night. John vanLeeuwen has been our chief tour guide and has delighted our guests with rare glimpses behind the scenes and with entertaining stories about the theatre's history. As the number of requests for tours has increased, John has enlisted the aid of chapter members, and it is people like John and his excellent team, as well as other members who pitch in whenever they can to assist at shows, socials and maintenance of the organ, who make an organization come alive with great fellowship. Without the constant donation of time and energy from its members, our club could not exist.

RICHARD HULL



LONDON
&
SOUTH
OF ENGLAND

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

As we approach our tenth anniversary, we are extremely proud to report the completion and triumphant celebration of by far our most significant and rewarding achievement to date. This is the inauguration and opening concert of the famous, British-built 4/15 "Torch" Christie, formerly in Regal Edmonton, now superbly re-installed by our highly accomplished Technical Team in Memorial Hall at the popular resort town of Barry in South Wales. Indeed, this is a culmination of a unique team effort over a period of two years and spanning the 180-miles between the home base of the team and their working location.

The spectacular inauguration weekend comprised two events. The first was the Civic inauguration on February 28 featuring our own internationally renowned (and Welsh-born) Len Rawle, supported by local youngsters, 13-year-old Rachel Francis and 12-year-



Frank Fowler, Director of Hill, Norman & Beard gives Les Rawle the "seal of approval" for the London chapter installation. (John D. Sharp photo)

old Edward Perkins, together with the Band and Corps of Drums of the South Wales Police Constabulary, the Barry Male Voice choir and the Barry Choral Society. This massive and brilliant ensemble — with Len appropriately rising to the strains of "On A Wonderful Day Like Today" — most effectively introduced the Christie to the "Land of Song" before a full house of 1200, including the Barry Town Mayor and good friend Councillor Harry Cleese and his guests from many parts of the country, plus many of our chapter members.

March 1, St. David's Day (after the Patron Saint of Wales), our chapter staged its own opening concert featuring a "Galaxy of Welsh Musicians," Doreen Chadwick, Quentin Bellamy, Walford James and Len Rawle — again before a large audience, including three coach parties (Trumpet, Tibia and Vox) of members from the London area. Early that morning members were joined by Frank Fowler, Managing Director of William Hill and Son and Norman and Beard, makers of the Christie organ and "Royal Appointees" who had most kindly offered to assist with the final tuning, and, in a role-reversed situation, Frank was in the chambers and Les Rawle was at the console. Les and all of his team were naturally thrilled that Frank should thereby give the installation his unequivocal stamp of approval. Many were the highlights and joys of our "Barry Weekend."

Most notably, we were privileged to receive a telephone message to Edith Rawle from the legendary Sidney Torch — who made this organ so famous with his scintillating technique and recordings at Edmonton over half a century ago. Now living in quiet retirement on the South Coast, and ever the gentleman and professional musician, he said he continues to read about our activities and that he could



Clockwise from top left: Len Rawle, Quentin Bellamy, Doreen Chadwick and Walford James played the opening concert on the "Torch" Christie in Barry, Wales. (John D. Sharp photos)

wish for no better tribute than for this magnificent organ to continue to be called the "Torch" Christie. Praise, indeed, and lustily echoed by Len Rawle in his note-for-note Torch-style rendition of "Bugle Call Rag" at both events to remind us of probably the greatest ever British theatre organ exponent and all-round accomplished musician.

But for all the marvelous music, camaraderie, ceremony and razzmatazz, the towering heroes were undoubtedly our Technical Team — indefatigably led by veteran Les Rawle — who kept a relentless schedule of trips in all weathers during the preceding 18 months.

Local accommodations during those months were provided by the generosity of chapter member Desmond Jenkins of Radlett, Hertfordshire, who made available his family home, a delightful former miner's cottage at Treharrus, 25 miles from Barry. A low point of the whole saga was the passing of our expert electrical specialist, Johnny Dowsett, shortly before completion — but not before he had been able to be the first to try his hand at the new installation. In special recognition and appreciation of their efforts, Mayor Harry Clease presented each member of the team with a locally made and personally in-

scribed porcelain plate depicting the four-keyboard console of their beloved Christie — and was himself presented a special "Organ Pipe Trophy" by Les Rawle on behalf of the Technical Team. Frank Fowler augmented his appreciation by presenting a new "Christie Cup" trophy and supporting plaques for presentation in association with our young people. Two altogether spectacular and enjoyable occasions with brilliant expositions by all our artists, thus not only providing the best possible "send-off" for the Christie, but even more important, a most gratifying vindication of the truly massive efforts by our Tech-

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nical Team and all of the other local and visiting helpers.

However, lest it be thought that our understandable euphoria about Barry completely dominates our activities, we are also delighted to report another outstanding event in our new concert series at the Top Rank Club on February 8, "Melody and Rhythm," featured two all-time-great British theatre organ stars — Douglas Reeve, known and loved as "Mr. Brighton," and Eric Lord, who brought to Kilburn his instantly recognizable lush and melodic style from the Golden Years of theatre organ, notably his love of Jesse Crawford renderings, in a rare visit to London.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES
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February 15 we had the premiere performance of Tom Sheen in a musical spectacular, and the Orpheum Theatre, home of the 3/13 Mighty Wurlitzer, was alive with fans and friends. Tom has been a frequent performer during the National ATOS Conventions as well as giving concerts around the country on pipes and for electronic organ dealers. His program was a real treat of numbers that ranged from the twenties to the sixties, a medley from *Showboat* and "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue." We had no regrets about attending this very worthwhile concert. We all thank you, Tom, and do come again!

MARIA OLIVIER

Motor City Theatre Organ Society, Inc.



Detroit
313/537-1133

An enthusiastic crowd of over 700 attended a concert by ATOS President Jack Moelmann at the Redford Theatre on February 28. Jack offered a lively evening of music at the 3/10 Barton, punctuated by humor that had his audience laughing and eager for more. In addition to concert selections, his program included accompaniment to Charlie Chaplin's *The Rink*, a sing-along and a crowd-pleasing patriotic finale. An interview with Hal Youngblood, host of *Nighttime Detroit*, on WJR the evening before the concert helped to publicize Jack's program. We were all delighted with Jack's performance.

The complete original organ score to the silent *King of Kings* is one of the many items that have been donated to our growing library. A volume entitled *Motion Picture Moods* is another. Margaret Tapler is cataloguing popular sheet music of the twenties and thirties while Tony O'Brien is working on classical music donated to the library which also contains records, tapes, magazines and musical reference books.



Taking time out from their cataloguing efforts, Margaret Tapler and Tony O'Brien survey a copy of *Motion Picture Moods* in Motor City's growing library.

(Bill Vogel photo)

We were saddened in February at the loss of three dedicated members: Arlene Bellamy, wife of Past-Chairman Harold Bellamy and mother of members Greg and Diane, passed away on February 5; James Stech was killed in a plane crash near Quincy, Illinois, on February 20; and Lou Behm, who played at all eleven of our garage sales, on every chapter organ and was heard at the piano at the 1984 Convention, died on February 26. They will be missed.

Don Jenks, who at one time owned the Barton organ from the Birmingham Theatre, was the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at



Talk show host Hal Youngblood interviews Jack Moelmann on radio station WJR the night before Jack's concert at the Redford Theatre.

(Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)



Don Jenks played for Motor City at the Royal Oak Barton in January.

(Fred Page photo)

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Jennifer Candea, the February artist at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Theatre. (Fred Page photo)

the Royal Oak on January 26. Don is currently President of DTOC and recently performed for Dairyland Chapter. Jennifer Candea was our Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton on February 22. Jennifer is a student at Oakland Community College and has performed at both the Royal Oak and Redford Theatres.

Coming events include our fourteenth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 85-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* on August 18 and the annual garage sale at the Redford the weekend of August 28-29.

For more information, write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-2560 or 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD


AIOS
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Bill Langford played a Christmas concert on Nor-Cal's Rodgers at the Berkeley Community Theatre on December 7.

Bob Vaughn played two Louise Brooks pictures at the San Francisco Castro Theatre's



Dennis James at the Castro Wurlitzer for Nor-Cal concert. (Ed Mullins photo)

4/21 Wurlitzer: *A Girl in Every Port* on January 23 and *Pandora's Box* on February 26.

Dennis James played a concert at the Castro on February 1. The program was 67% music never heard there before with many compositions relating to Charlie Chaplin and silent films. Dennis also played for the San Francisco Film Festival.



Nor-Cal charter member Bob Vaughn at the Castro Theatre Wurlitzer where he cues silent films. (Ed Mullins photo)



Larry Vannucci at the Robert-Morton at Cinema 21. (Ed Mullins photo)


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(L to R) Mabel Westbay, Muriel Christopher, Betsy Stevens, Ruth Light and Lorena McKee work the lobby for the Lew Williams concert. (Irving Light photo)



C. B. Sutherland entertained North Texas Chapter on his Conn 652. (Mabel Westbay photo)

Larry Vannucci played the 2/6 Robert-Morton at Cinema 21 (nee Marina) Theatre on March 22. This is the only original theatre organ installation left in San Francisco.

Work continues on the chapter organ. Since the 4/20 Wurlitzer arrived in Berkeley in January 1986, the Publix #1 specifications have been increased to approximate a Style 285 organ containing 32 ranks, eleven of which are extended to 16 feet and one to 32 feet. The additional Wurlitzer pipework has come from Boston and Los Angeles Metropolitan Theatres, Chicago's Uptown, Boston's Keith Memorial and the Denver Auditorium. Bay Area visitors who wish to see the chambers please telephone 415/644-2707 which is Berkeley Community Theatre's organ workshop number.

ED MULLINS



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth
214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108**

The long-awaited premiere concert on the chapter's Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas is now a glowing memory and a tribute to all those who made it possible. After several years of restoration, installation



Lew Williams is congratulated by Lakewood Theatre owner B. B. Barr after concert on North Texas Chapter's 3/8 Robert-Morton. (Irving Light photo)

and tonal finishing, our 3/8 Robert-Morton was deemed ready for the exposure, so plans were laid for our first public concert on February 26.

The necessary groundwork began with the assembling of a mailing list and the selection of a suitable artist. The latter was easily accomplished as an artist of international concert calibre was close by in Phoenix, Arizona, one who was also a long-time associate of this

chapter and a former musical scholar and resident of Dallas — Lew Williams. Lew has generously played for our chapter whenever he happened to be in the vicinity and is counted as a personal friend of many of our members. We know the quality of his concert work and the ovations he has received at National Conventions — so, the choice was made. As for the mailing list and publicity, credit goes to our hard-working secretary, Lorena McKee.

Despite threatening weather, more than 500 devotees turned out for this concert. When Lew rode the console up promptly at eight o'clock, the sight and sound was a new experience for some in our audience, a nostalgic trip for many who remembered this thrill from the days of the downtown movie palaces, and a great source of pride for our chapter members. Lew's program was varied and masterful — it ranged from Boogie to Massenet and all shades in between. During the last 30 minutes, he showed off his vast repertoire by playing a dozen solicited audience requests. The enjoyment on the part of the audience will, no doubt, set the reception for more concerts in the future. Lakewood Theatre owner Mr. Bert Barr and his wife, Jo, shared this delight as did manager Mike Garcia. It is because of their enthusiasm for this, the only in-theatre pipe organ in the state of Texas now playing regularly, that we have been able to reach this objective. Thanks

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| June 25 | ..... | ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Los Angeles, California |
| June 27 | ..... | Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | ..... | Frauenthal Center, Muskegon, Michigan |
| August 3 | ..... | Fox Theatre, St. Louis, Missouri |
| August 19 | ..... | Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio |
| September 20 | ..... | Wagnall's Memorial, Lithopolis, Ohio |
| September 25 | ..... | 1st Congregational Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| September 26 | ..... | Symphony Hall, Detroit, Michigan |
| September 27 | ..... | Institute of the Arts, Detroit, Michigan |
| October 3 | ..... | Ars Musica, Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| October 10 | ..... | 1st Universalist Church, Rochester, New York |
| October 16 | ..... | Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York |
| October 17 | ..... | Museum of Glass, Corning, New York |
| October 31 | ..... | Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio |
| November 6 | | U. A. Auditorium, Upper Arlington, Ohio |
| November 8 | | Trinity Church, Chillicothe, Ohio |
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Byron Melcher at the Gordon Wright Wurlitzer.
(Irving Light photo)

must also be lavished on those who brought this instrument to concert-readiness: Gordon Wright, Earl MacDonald, W.D. Johnson, John Friedel and many others.

In January, members Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Sutherland hosted our meeting in their beautiful Dallas residence. C.B. played a varied and beautiful program on his Conn 652, enhanced with four speakers. He has a large repertoire of music we all love to hear and plays these with a very pleasing theatre organ style. This was a most enjoyable experience and one that we hope to repeat again soon.

Our Christmas parties are always a highlight of the year and are usually held in the John Beck Hall with its beautiful Wurlitzer pipe organ. However, because of some remodeling being done by owner Gil Swift, we were unable to enjoy this delight this past December. Fortunately for us, Chairman Gordon Wright and his wife Evelyn graciously invited us to have our party in their beautiful residence with its fine Wurlitzer installation. With very little arm-twisting, Gordon was able to get Byron Melcher to enhance our holiday festivities by playing a program for us which was a high point of our musical year. Byron's long and illustrious career playing theatre organs of every variety is a result of his very fine talent and most enjoyable musical performance, and we appreciated his generosity in sharing this with our chapter.

IRVING LIGHT



OHIO
VALLEY
CHAPTER

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A new feature was started on December 31 — a New Year's Eve party open to the general public — and its success seems to lock it in as an annual event. The party started at eight o'clock with an organ prelude from the Emery Theatre's 3/29 Wurlitzer followed by *Oklahoma* on our big screen. Dave Woessner, organist for the evening, played us into the New Year following the movie. Then a buffet supper was served on the stage with each person returning to his seat in the theatre to eat. We had purposely controlled the sale of tickets so everyone could "spread out comfortably" to eat. The applause at "Shall we do it again?" told us we had a winner!

Our weekend movie series resumed in early January with two Laurel and Hardy features. It continues each Friday and Saturday night, generally with double features, except for a few times during the year when interrupted by other Emery bookings. The only planned closing is in December.

A recent issue of *ATOS International NEWS* carried a short notice about the impending sale of the Emery Theatre. This was correct — as far as it went. The theatre is part of the Ohio College of Applied Science Complex owned by the University of Cincinnati which needs more space, and legal maneuverings are happening which may lead to new quarters for OCAS and a sale of the complex. Such a move may be a few years away, but our chapter is already involved in community planning to assure Emery's perpetuation. This theatre is considered by many to have acoustics ranking with four or five of the best concert halls in the country. When the Emery organ was removed from the Albee Theatre in Cincinnati, it was a 3/19. It has been enlarged to a 3/29 with chambers across the back of the stage. This arrangement augments our claim that Emery "hasn't a bad seat."

HUBERT S. SHEARIN



Tom Helms at the Organ Grinder Wurlitzer.
(Claude Neuffer photo)

OREGON
Portland
503/771-8098

On Saturday morning, February 28, members of our chapter gathered at the Organ Grinder Restaurant for our monthly meeting. Owner Dennis Hedberg, who is Chairman of the 1988 ATOS Convention, gave members a brief overview of what we have to look forward to next year. He was followed by chapter Chairman Paul Quarino who introduced our artist for the day, Tom Helms.

Tom is currently working with the Rodgers Organ Company installing a large pipe organ in the Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He comes from Florida originally, and Oregon members were privileged to hear this talented and engaging performer.

Tom played a meticulous program on the 4/44 Wurlitzer that included a rousing medley of southern tunes, selections by Gershwin and Sibelius' "Finlandia." Following the concert, members had a chance to visit with the artist and socialize before the restaurant opened for business. From the warm reception Tom received, it was apparent that he is welcome in Portland anytime.

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PINE TREE
Old Orchard Beach, Maine

207/967-2452 or 207/846-5756

Greetings from the frozen North! Pine Tree Chapter is alive and well in the beautiful state of Maine. At this writing we have received over 80 inches of snow this year.

Because of a recently negotiated agreement between the town of Old Orchard Beach, the school administration and our chapter, we now have better access to the organ installed in the Loranger Middle School. This is a 3/13 Wurlitzer that was moved from the Proctor Theatre in New Rochelle, New York, in 1969. Jim Martin, our chapter technician, has embarked on a challenging course of creating a work crew of chapter members who are willing — patiently matching his needs with chapter talent and teaching those of us who are new to the art of repairing and restoring theatre organs.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em! I could hardly believe it myself when I climbed the ladder to work in the chamber. Years ago I used to hide my husband's tapes to preserve my peace of mind.

Last fall, Pine Tree members presented three assemblies to show the students at Loranger what a treasure they have right in their own school. Bill McCullough and Dorothy Bromage explained the history of the organ and gave a demonstration of the pipes to the senior high band members. Later that day Cheryl Linder accompanied a silent movie, *One Week* starring Buster Keaton, for two groups of elementary and intermediate students. Bob Legon, Jim Martin and Dorothy

demonstrated the organ and invited students to join the work crew. We feel that a school is the perfect place to introduce new members to theatre organs.

Our December meeting combined business with pleasure. We elected officers and then adjourned for a Christmas Open House. The highlight of the evening was opening the gifts that members gave to the organ — all kinds of useful goodies to help with repairs, along with some tools and other donations. Christmas music was provided by Bob Legon, Maurice Pope, Dick Perham, Bill McCullough and John Cook. We all shared in a lovely feast of Christmas goodies.

EDITH PENNOCK

PUGET SOUND
Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Although no chapter event was scheduled in February, many attended a fine re-dedication program by Jonas Nordwall at the Bible Presbyterian Church in Tacoma on the recently restored 3/20 Kimball. Theatre organ enthusiast and pipe organ builder Homer Johnson undertook a comprehensive renovation project following water-seepage into the chambers during a lengthy period of snow load on the roof during the winter of 1985. Tibia pipes that had been soaked and separated at the seams were returned to the factory and faithfully duplicated, the new set producing a tone at least as beautiful as the old. A wealth of 8' manual stops and six 16' pedal voices, including an open metal Tuba Profunda on 15" of wind, characterize this unusual instrument housed in a former Scottish Rite Temple. Homer, a youthful, white-haired man with a ready grin, relished the opportuni-



Gerry Gregorius at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes.
(Diane Whipple photo)

ty to work on this instrument, and after the concert a grateful parishioner complimented him after hearing renditions from *The Sound of Music* during a tuning session earlier in the week.

Jonas planned a nostalgic program, very similar to the original dedication, including works by Franck, J.S. Bach, Dacquin, Elgar and Marcel Dupre, who had played the opening concert in 1921 on his first American tour. An accomplished classical and romantic organist, Jonas included a variety of selections, all artfully registered and masterfully played, and relayed information and often humorous items of interest about each of the composers and their compositions.

Gerry Gregorius was presented in a truly memorable concert at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes in March. The former Brooklyn Academy of Music Wurlitzer installed there is a

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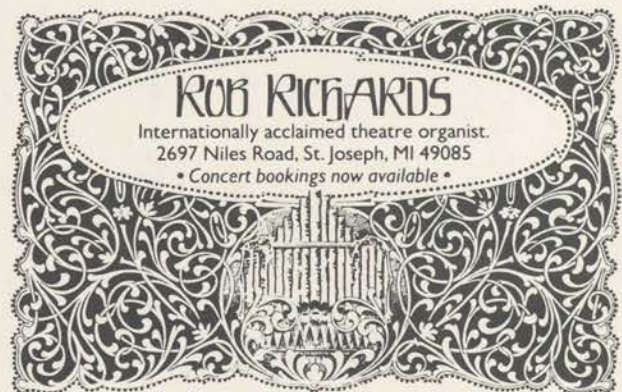
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Doris Miller at Puget Sound Chapter Marr & Colton during jam session.
(Diane Whipple photo)



British Columbia musicians Victor Ross, David Stratkauskas and Al Sahchuck at jam session with Puget Sound Chapter.
(Diane Whipple photo)

superbly voiced instrument kept in prime condition by Bob White and crew. Gerry's program of tasteful arrangements and transcriptions, combined with skillful orchestration, proved it to be an organ of extraordinary beauty and color for concert performance. A serious and unassuming musician, Gerry was trained at Oberlin with a double major in organ and piano performance and studied at Salzburg, Austria, at the Mozarteum Academy of Music. He is kept busy in Portland as soloist, accompanist, teacher and coach in both liturgical and theatre activities. He captures the essence of each selection with an intuitive sense of touch and registration and, combined with flawless musicianship, his renditions were truly elegant. His opening, the overture to *Pirates of Penzance*, portrayed the frolicsome spirit conceived by Sir Arthur Sullivan, while a Jeanette MacDonald medley contained the sensitive, romantic and glamorous beauty of both the soprano and the compositions themselves. Gerry's performance was exciting and often pulse-quickening, even though he only sparingly used full organ registrations or volume.

Following the installation of officers in January at Haller Lake Improvement Club, Doris and Bert Miller organized a group of fellow Canadians to provide entertainment using the chapter organ, a piano, an elec-

tronic organ lent by Evans Music and an accordion. The program was highly entertaining, and the colorful group of talented entertainers enjoyed it as much as the audience. Bill and Helen Hale, nearing their first wedding anniversary, played duets and were joined by petite Doris Miller, an experienced theatre organist, on the chapter organ. Eighty-five-year-old Victor Ross, who had retired as a lounge pianist because of arthritis, had been recruited to join the group and was elated to be at a keyboard again. Al Sahchuck, originally from Alaska and reputed to have played in boxing gloves, added to the fun with his spirited humor and clever accordion stylings. The youngest member of the group, David Stratkauskas of Langley, B.C., was later named chapter representative to the Young Organist Competition. David plays traditional theatre organ stylings, but his funky jazz improvisations on the Yamaha were also well received. Ten years ago he first played a Con Tempo reed organ, and now he is a serious student at seventeen who is studying classical organ and playing the trombone in the Brookewood Secondary School Band. He has played for the Peace Arch Organ Club and had the privilege of recording his entry tape on the 4/24 Wurlitzer in the Seattle Paramount.

DIANE WHIPPLE



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

For 1987 we are alternating concerts with projects at the Fargo Theatre.

Guest organist for our January 24 social was Bob Arndt from Ankeny, Iowa, who gave a delightful concert. Days later our first massive project of the year began with a demolition of the orchestra pit. The console was forklifted and placed on a dolly on stage as construction continued for several weeks. The too small orchestra pit was taken up entirely by the three-manual console. Now, however, there is a large space for our stage band and other uses. The pit has a temporary floor a few feet above the concrete so there will be room for hydraulics someday when money is available.

Walt Strony was presented in concert on February 27 as a formal celebration of the completion of the Wurlitzer rebuilding to 15 ranks. The audience definitely liked our choice of artist and his program which included a sing-along and Buster Keaton film, *The Blacksmith*. It was a splendid show! Other

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Walt Strony and Lance Johnson preparing for Walt's concert at the Fargo Theatre.



Bob Arndt at the 3/15 Wurlitzer in the Fargo Theatre.

chapters were represented at this event: Madeline LiVolsi from Valley of the Sun, Larry Donaldson from Tennessee, Gary Jones and Freeman Andress from Alabama and Buddy Boyd from South Carolina.

A week later, the next project was tackled as the old organ grilles, which had replaced the 1937 version, were pulled down along with thirty years of dust. The new grilles are patterned after the 1937 ones, following the architect's blueprints as closely as possible. We

plan to have these ready for our spring silent movie nights. April 24 and 25.

Our largest project starts in May with the lobby reconstruction. This will continue into the summer; however, the theatre operations will continue with movies running daily. Next fall there will be a grand reopening celebration to show off the theatre which will finally have been returned to its streamlined moderne decor of the thirties.

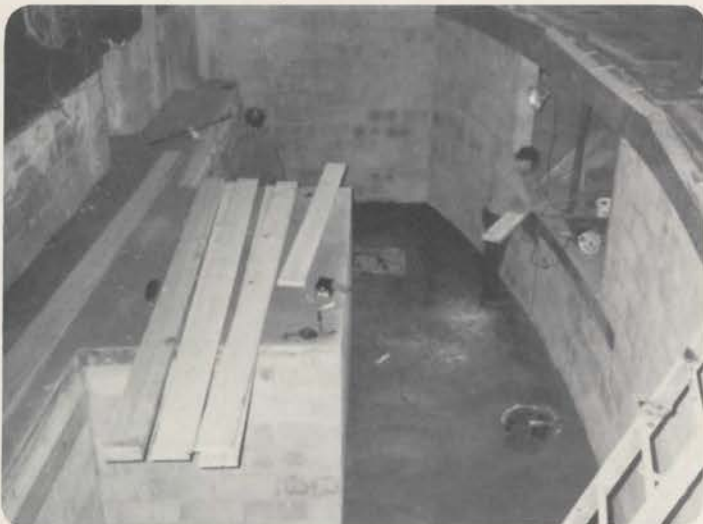
SONIA CARLSON

The River City Theatre Organ Society Omaha, Nebraska

402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

Our January 24 meeting was held at Cascio's Restaurant where member Jeanne Cooper regularly entertains at the Lowrey organ. After dinner the 38 members adjourned to the lounge where Jeanne was joined by member Wendall Hall on banjo and Fern

The new orchestra pit in the Fargo Theatre.



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River City President Harold Kenney previews coming events at chapter meeting.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

Nelson on both alto and tenor saxophone. The resulting sound was a magnificent musical treat! Fern is a professional musician who has played in dance orchestras all over the country. Both Dick Zdan and Rick Quistad took stints at the organ so Jeanne could relax with friends.

We met on February 24 at the home of Tom Jeffery. Of the 41 members present, nine helped to inaugurate the new Allen Digital Computer organ. President Harold Kenney's short business meeting brought us up to date on a planned dinner excursion on a restored steam train operating out of Fremont, Ne-

braska. Our guest artist was Denis Ketcham of Critchets Piano and Organ Studio. Denis presented a varied program with something to please everyone including love tunes, waltzes, a medley of Cole Porter tunes and Leroy Anderson's beautiful "Serenata." His thorough knowledge of the Allen theatre organ and his skill as an organist made this an enjoyable evening for everyone.

TOM JEFFERY



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

Popular Denver organist, member Bob Castle, was the featured artist at our January meeting at the home of Fred and Evelyn Riser. Bob opened his program on the 3/22 (and growing) Wurlitzer with the popular Fritz Kreisler "Liebesfreud" followed by "Send in The Clowns." Several movie



Denis Ketcham at the Allen Digital organ for River City.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



Fern Nelson on sax and Jeanne Cooper on organ for River City Chapter.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

Donna Parker

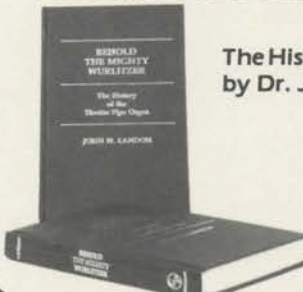
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BEHOLD THE MIGHTY WURLITZER

The History of the Theatre Pipe Organ
by Dr. John W. Landon



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(L to R) Ed Zollman, Patti Simon, Dee and Charlotte Williams at the Williams' Wurlitzer. (Don Zeller photo)



Chapter President David Love making announcements at Rocky Mountain meeting. (Don Zeller photo)

themes, the Helen Crawford composition, "So Blue," and "Body and Soul" completed the planned part of the program after which Bob entertained requests from his audience. Refreshments and open console followed. Bob's program was enjoyed by all, and we thank him for sharing with us.

February found the Dee and Charlotte Williams home packed to the rafters with 60 members and guests to hear Patti Simon perform on the 3/13 installed there. Patti was in top form as she coaxed the many varied sounds from the Williams' Wurlitzer. At one point she took advantage of the Devtronix/

Wilcox computer system by leaving the console while the organ played on by itself. Her program included a variety of popular melodies and was well received. Following refreshments, the console was open to all to try their favorite melodies.

We have many exciting activities on tap for the coming months, including a concert by Joel Kremer and a special invitational "mini-concert" by Jonas Nordwall. A special weekend trip to Pueblo and Colorado Springs for concerts by Hector Olivera and John Grunow is also on the calendar, and many of our members are looking forward to the Los Angeles Convention in June.

DONALD ZELLER



Bob Castle at the Riser Wurlitzer.

(Don Zeller photo)

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our January meeting at the home of Vic Thomas was planned to include the election of officers for the next two years, but THE winter snow of Tulsa picked that week to fall, and our attendance was too low for the vote. So we visited with one another and dreamed of the day when our 3/10 Robert-Morton Vo-Tech installation would be completed and we could plan concerts on it, and then enjoyed music on Vic's Conn 652.

Three of our members were named that night on our "recovering from illness" list: Bob Weddle, Sam Collier and Charlene



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Roberts are doing nicely now, but it certainly brought home to us how much we need to interest *young* people in the glories of theatre pipe organ!

The weatherman forecast more snow for the night of our February meeting, but we optimistically planned it anyway. After all, we did have to hold an election! Can anyone imagine our delight when the snow passed us by? We had one of our best meetings ever at Tulsa's Assembly of God Church. The election was the first order of business, and then Don Kimes played a program of old favorites on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. Open console followed, and we were pleased to have so many come forward to play, especially our new members and guests. We are discovering lots of new talent!

DOROTHY SMITH

**SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
THEATRE ORGAN CLUB**
Southwest Michigan
616/343-6491 or 616/344-1438

The Mole Hole, a gift and antique shop in the historic town of Marshall, Michigan, was the site of our February 22 meeting. Store owners Penny and Mike Kinter welcomed us warmly to their charming old building with its beautiful displays of gifts, antique music boxes and a four-rank Barton theatre organ. This organ was originally installed in the Marshall Garden Theatre in 1927. The Kinters found it in an antique shop and had it installed in their store where it is played regularly from September through December — this was a special performance for us.

The featured organist, Victor Barz, is the interim organist at Maple Methodist Church in Battle Creek. He began playing the Mole Hole organ when he was a senior in high school in 1978, and subsequently has earned a Master's Degree in Classical Organ from the University of Michigan. He presented a very professional program of show tunes and light classics.

Following the meeting and refreshments, we explored the shop to the music of those of our members who wanted to try the Barton, including young Joey Haug, a beginner who we hope will someday be a candidate for the Young Organist Competition.

In January the group traveled to Battle Creek to the home of Karen and Richard Rowe to see and try their two organs, a Conn

630 and an interesting curiosity, a Wurlitzer amplified reed organ which Mrs. Rowe found at a garage sale!

This has been such a pleasantly open winter that we have been able to travel easily to our meetings and other interesting programs. A good representation of our group heard Father Miller play the Rodgers theatre organ at the Sturges-Young Auditorium in Sturgis, Michigan, on February 28. Father Miller had just returned from Australia and was full of new stories and inspiration to go with his joyous music.

DOROTHY BUTELA

**ST. LOUIS
Missouri**
618/654-7855

March 8 was our second fundraiser for the Granada Theatre Installation Project, and a very special day it turned out to be. Gerry Marian, former house organist at the fabulous Fox, opened the show. He did his usual super job. Then dancers from the national award-winning Jane Mannion School of Dance provided a show-stopper of a routine from *Chorus Line* of precision high-kicking, Rockette-style dancing beauties who almost made us think we were in Radio City Music Hall. A special solo by an exceptionally talented Rob Dreimeyer was a very haunting version of "Memory" from *Cats* which brought a tremendous ovation. Jane Mannion and three of her adult teachers topped the dancing with a routine from *Best Little Chicken Ranch in Texas*. The finale of the show was a performance by ATOS President Jack Moelmann who, in his inimitable style, did a silent movie and then his famous closing patriotic medley which brought a standing ovation from the crowd. He is truly fantastic! The buffet supper was followed by a dance with music furnished by the Don Shimer Band. Chapter President Dennis Ammann is the organist for the band. We raised over \$1300 in a six-hour period and experienced an afternoon of entertainment that we'll not forget for a long time.

Work is continuing at the Granada Theatre, and plans are being formulated for an early to mid-summer opening. By the time this is in print, the entire Peterson relay and combination action should be here and installed. Those interested in tickets to the fantastic opening of the Granada, vaudeville

and superlative silent movies by Jack Moelmann, please call or write: Dennis Ammann, Route 31, Box 330, Highland, Illinois 62249, or phone 618/654-7855. Also, don't forget the Summer Classic Movie Series at the fabulous Fox Theatre. Our own Jack Jenkins will again preside over the 4/36 Wurlitzer each Monday night during the series. Call the Fox Theatre for information and tickets: 314/534-1111.

We still have a few of the original recordings of the Fox Wurlitzer with Gerry Marian and Jack Jenkins. The price is \$8.95. There are also a few of the new cassettes by Jack Jenkins, "Puttin' on the Ritz at the Fabulous Fox," available. Both of these albums are done on the restored organ. Contact us for details.

DENNIS AMMANN



**TOLEDO Area
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Ohio
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We were privileged in March to hold our meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Evritt in Defiance, Ohio. Their theatre organ installation is a delight (see Nov/Dec THEATRE ORGAN). An overflow crowd of about 40 persons enjoyed Bill Yaney at the Mighty Wurlitzer playing selections from his digitally recorded album (which was made on this organ) as well as a silent Charlie Chase comedy and delightful Nickelodeon-era slides. Other organists played for our entertainment: Jerry Danford, Toledo Mud-Hens Baseball organist; Mrs. Monica Yaney, showing how organ playing talent is a family affair; and, of course, Joe Thorpe, organ crew member and theatre mainstay.

The roof on the Ohio Theatre is scheduled to be replaced in April, so lots of activity is planned. We are currently wiring our two-rank Marr & Colton string chest for use at our next concert which is to be Bill Taber, house organist at Akron's Civic Theatre.

The beautiful Ritz Theatre in Tiffin, Ohio, has recently been given a nice three-manual theatre console and relay. We're still in need of theatre organ parts to start an organ installation for them. All donations are tax-deductible.

EVAN J. CHASE



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VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Program chairman Walt Strony did not have to look far for an artist to play at our January meeting — the organist was Walt Strony! Held at the Phoenix Organ Stop, the meeting was well attended even though it was Superbowl Sunday. Walt's varied program included Johnson's "Trumpet Tune in A Major" and a medley from *My Fair Lady*.

Our Valentine treat was Rob Richards playing for the chapter at Mesa Organ Stop. Rob played some of the numbers heard on his "Fusion" album. Much of this music features the theatre pipe organ and the Yamaha FX20.

On March 15 we were back at the Phoenix Organ Stop with John Lauter as organist of the day. John's program was upbeat from start ("Puttin' on the Ritz") to finish ("Just One of Those Things"), with an occasional ballad.

Although our chapter has not been able to present any public concerts for a while, we always support those presented by others. Several chapter members attended Lew Williams' February concert at the Phoenix Organ Stop and Walt Strony's March program at the Mesa restaurant. The efforts of some of our chapter members were recognized by Lyn Larsen on March 13 when he played the theatre organ at the First Christian Church Fel-

lowship Hall. Valley of the Sun members have been assisting Bill Brown with the restoration of that Wurlitzer.

MADELINE LIVOLSI



Tony O'Brien at the Redford Theatre Barton for Wolverine Chapter. (Bill Vogel photo)



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

In January our annual business meeting was held in the Redford Theatre, the home of Motor City Chapter. In a short meeting, our suspicions were confirmed: the 1986 board would continue to serve through 1987. Chap-

ter business was quickly disposed of, and the call went out for music. Well-known Tony O'Brien entertained us with a variety of tunes from his musical grab-bag.

We visited the St. Martin Episcopal Church in Detroit in February. This church has a 2/13 Bodman organ. We heard organist Brian Carmody play a widely varied program with some assistance from brother Terry and his trumpet. We hope St. Martin didn't mind some of the music played in his church.

We were saddened by the passing of two good friends and members Arlene Bellamy and Lou Behm who were also members of Motor City Chapter.

CHARLES AND BETTY BAAS □



Brian Carmody plays the 2/13 Bodman for Wolverine Chapter. (Bill Vogel photo)

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