



CHAPTER NOTES

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

We were presented a golden opportunity in March with the opening of the new Macy's department store in the Riverchase Galleria. Macy's joined with local fine arts groups and allowed them to sell "preview" tickets for a special opening before the public grand opening. Each \$10, tax-deductible ticket allowed a patron to enter Macy's before the general public — the entire amount of the ticket went to the fine arts group which sold it. A \$1500 grand prize was awarded to the group which sold the most tickets. Guess who won first prize? Alabama Chapter ATOS, of course! By selling 1010 tickets and taking first prize, we raised \$11,600. Marsh Piano and Organ provided a Technics G-5 electronic organ, and members Christine McPherson, Mark Landers and Vice President Gary Jones entertained Macy's patrons for hours!

April found us at a crowded, covered-dish chapter meeting hosted by Freeman Andress at the Birmingham Wedding Chapel. Members viewed the progress of BWC's fantastic Wurlitzer installation.

We continue our popular and VERY SUCCESSFUL classic movie series which will include Tom Helms at the console for a one-performance-only showing of *The Phantom of the Opera* on Halloween night. Classic movies run every other weekend on Friday, Saturday and Monday nights with a Sunday matinee. The organ is played for all performances. Write us for a schedule of events at the Alabama Theatre: Alabama Chapter ATOS, P.O. Box 2372, Birmingham, Alabama 35201.

GARY W. JONES

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9676 or 319/396-5653

"Break a leg!" took on new meaning for artist Bob Ralston at the Paramount Theatre in Cedar Rapids on May 3. At the conclusion of his brilliant concert, Bob acknowledged the standing ovation of 1411 enthusiastic fans and then stepped off the organ lift — right into the open orchestra pit. Chairman Chuck Collingwood and head technician Jim Olver jumped into the pit to offer first aid, and a few minutes later Bob was back on his feet

telling the audience, "Nothing has been hurt except my dignity." Well, more than that had been injured. Bob had sprained all four limbs and suffered multiple internal contusions. Fortunately, however, hospital X-rays revealed no broken bones.

"Aside from that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the show?" is an old joke, but, aside from the mishap at the end of Bob Ralston's show, the large audience here in Cedar Rapids did, indeed, love him and the sounds he coaxed from our beautifully maintained 3/11 Wurlitzer. And Bob told us how thrilled he was that everything was working on the organ as he extended kudos to the entire organ crew, Jim Olver, Chuck Collingwood, Leonard Santon, Dennis and Tony Fisher and Scott Wiley.

Bob rose from the pit playing an exciting, double-time version of "One Morning in May." He included in the first half of his concert a piano rendition of the themes from "Rhapsody in Blue" and the "Warsaw Concerto" on the concert grand furnished by the Cedar Rapids Symphony (with whom we often reciprocate letting them use our pipe organ). At one point, after praising our beautifully blended Tibia and String ranks, Bob



Bob Ralston at the 3/11 Wurlitzer in the Paramount Theatre in Cedar Rapids.

noted that one thing was missing — a trumpet. Jim Olver then handed Bob a gleaming brass trumpet pipe, a sample of the recently delivered rank which is expected to be installed by fall. A sing-along and more favorites brought us to intermission.

The main feature of the second half of the concert was a thirty-minute medley spontaneously compiled by Ralston from audience requests. Bob's years with the Lawrence Welk Show prepared him for pulling off this feat in a glorious manner — he knows all the good, old songs that the senior citizens love, and he knows just how to play them in a lilting, attractive and (when called for) exciting style. Bob's showmanship is apparent in the way he intersperses witty comments into his program. He is a humble person, grateful to all who make his theatre organ concerts successful; for example, he gave special recognition to program chairman George Baldwin, who is retiring after 28 years at Armstrong's Department Store, and who had told Bob fifteen years ago at a Lyn Larsen concert right here in the Paramount that "he would like to have me come here and play sometime, but," Bob teased, "he didn't tell me I'd have to wait fifteen years."

We are always impressed when an artist comes into town several days early to be sure he gets intimately familiar with the instrument. Bob did this, and it paid off for all of us — it permitted Bob to appear on Dave Hinman's radio show, which helped sell extra tickets — and every bit of extra help was appreciated. Saturday evening before the concert was a social evening at Zuber's Restaurant in the Amana colonies with Bob as the guest of honor. At our afterglow on Sunday, members of our chapter were joined by representatives from Quad Cities Chapter and Land of Lincoln Chapter. We are grateful, too, to all of our wonderful members who volunteered their time to make the concert such a great success. And to Bob Ralston, when we said "Break a leg!" just before the show, we didn't REALLY want you to — and we're glad you didn't!

JOHN HOCKADAY

**CENTRAL
FLORIDA
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY**



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/734-5721

Springtime for us has been unusual and delightful. Our club has twice been treated to programs that would be the envy of any theatre organ buff.

On March 22, at the residence of Ken and Ruth Hunt, we heard their 3/17 Wurlitzer being played with the Tampa Bay Pops Orchestra Wurlitzer. This was one of our chapter's most thrilling events and we truly appreciate the generosity of the Hunts and the orchestra, and the planning by all concerned. What a



Ken and Ruth Hunt's 3/13 Wurlitzer and the Tampa Bay Pops Orchestra.

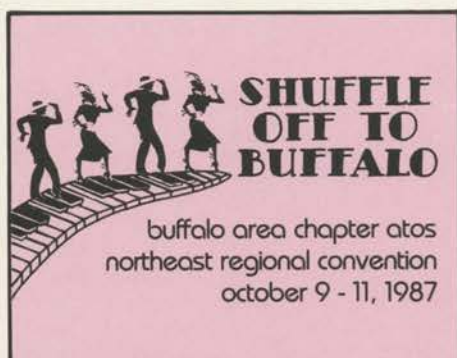
highlight for our chapter — what a sound! And what fun!

Mr. Walter Draughon invited us to his beautiful home in Ft. Myers for our April 12 meeting where we enjoyed the music of his organ ensemble, of which the main organ is a 3/15 Wurlitzer. Many of our members came by chartered bus, and all enjoyed the entire day. Like the home of the Hunts in Clearwater, Mr. Draughon's home has been designed to house a full-size pipe organ, and the sounds were fantastic. All will remember the fun of that day.

Because the restoration of our 3/19 Wurlitzer in the Tampa Theatre now involves the relocation and addition to the ranks of this fantastic instrument, we have decided not to have any more public concerts until this work is completed. However, many of our members are playing the organ each week before the scheduled events at the theatre, and this should increase our membership. The one sad note that we have is the leaving of one of our favorite friends and organists, Mr. Ken Brown, who is returning to the New Jersey area where he played, since 1945, in many clubs and theatres. He will be greatly missed.

Come and visit us when you are in our area. We have great music.

PAUL and ELLIE DANIELSON



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

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

Our March meeting was held at Classic Keyboards and featured Martin Ellis as guest artist. As usual, his program was great and was enjoyed by everyone.

We sponsored Neil Jensen in a concert at the Hedback Theatre on March 28. Neil, who hails from Australia, played to a full house. This was Neil's second concert in Indianapolis, and he never ceases to amaze his audience

with all the wonderful sounds he manages to produce. Members and guests had an opportunity to meet and visit with Neil at a reception following the concert.

Ken Double presented a concert at the Long Center in Lafayette in April. Members donated the Wurlitzer Concert Flute and Tuba Horn which have been installed. The Long Center organ also has a new Wurlitzer solo scale Tibia.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Capital University campus was the site of our March 22 meeting, and we again got to view and play Larry Krueger's 3/12 mostly Wurlitzer organ. This organ was acquired from the Commodore Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, and has been embellished with four additional ranks, a new relay and a three-manual Barton console. We regret that Larry has this treasured instrument up for sale and we may lose it, but we did enjoy his program of contemporary tunes and the open console which followed. We are indebted to Larry for hosting our meeting, and we trust that his instrument will find a good home in our geographic range.

After a ten year hiatus, Hector Olivera returned to the Ohio Morton console on April 26 to bedazzle his audience with his unbelievable agility and adeptness at the keyboard.

A diminutive, bespeckled performer emerged from the pit attired in a white coat with black piping, played two fast numbers and then delighted his bemused audience with intentional discordant notes. We heard a melodious "The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise" followed by "Moonlight Serenade," the latter in such a strikingly Glenn Miller fashion that you had to look up to verify that the full

CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE

To help ease the burden on the editorial staff of THEATRE ORGAN, please observe the following:

Type all copy, double-spaced, on letter-size (8½" x 11") white paper, leaving 1¼" margins on top, bottom and both sides. Do not use erasable paper. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Type photo captions on Scotch (3M) Post-it Note sheets (#654 - 3" x 3" or #655 - 3" x 5") and attach to **back** of photo. DO NOT use any kind of tape or rubber cement to attach captions to photos, and DO NOT attach photos to sheets of paper.

DEADLINES

November 15 for January/February

January 15 for March/April

March 15 for May/June

May 15 for July/August

July 15 for September/October

September 15 for November/December

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:

Grace E. McGinnis

4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58

Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

Phone: 503/654-5823



Larry Krueger opens the program at Central Ohio meeting in Capital's Campus Center. (John Polsley photo)



Central Ohio member Betsy Richards takes a turn at the Kruegers' 3/12 Wurlitzer. (John Polsley photo)

orchestra wasn't there. Classical numbers and his clever arrangements of some standards led to his closing "Tico Tico" and "Flight of The Bumblebee" — a truly remarkable performance. His encore was a rousing "Battle Hymn of The Republic."

We learned that Hector had polished off a performance at a Pittsburgh high school the night before, arrived in Columbus at six in the morning (after only three hours of sleep), practiced some two hours on the Robert-Morton and proceeded with his concert at 2:30 that afternoon. What a guy!

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

From "Far and Wide" they converged on the Aragon Ballroom the afternoon of May 3 for a trip "Down Memory Lane." Organ and nostalgia buffs heard organist Hal Pearl take care of the organ nostalgia as he has played the Ballroom's 3/10 Wurlitzer from the "Good Old Days" to the present. Hal really appeals to his fans with his varied stylings and program.

In addition to the organ music, Tony Baron and Band supplemented the menu with a wide range of danceable melodies, not only for the crowd but also for the dynamic ballroom dancers, Terry and Chris Stel, who presented a great segment of the entertainment.

This chapter-sponsored event was planned for 2000, but more than 2500 attended and gave truth to the statement, "The more the merrier." And a merry group it was! Eleven busloads came from such diverse places as Madison, Wisconsin; member Bob Roppolo's 19th Hole Tavern; Milwaukee and Kenosha, Wisconsin; and Freeport, Ottawa, and Peoria, Illinois. This was ballroom dancing at its best, giving full credence to "a good time

was had by all!"

Alas, business must go on, thus our nomination social in May at WGN Studio. Local organist Jerry Kinsella performed at the 3/11 Wurlitzer/Kimball organ. His program of classical and contemporary music was well done and greatly appreciated, and we thank Jerry for his excellent theatre organ presentation.

Copernicus Center for the Performing Arts was the site of the Oriental Theatre Organ Fund-raiser in April which was, as always, a huge success. A surprise anonymous donation of \$2400, plus the donated raffle items, gave a greatly appreciated impetus to the Fund. Mildred Berry and Virginia Ferroli headed this successful effort, and we thank them and their assistants for a super job.

Our chapter and the Owl Cinema Club sponsored a wonderful show at the Hinsdale Theatre in March with Tom Wibbels at the console of the 3/32 Kimball performing numerous playing styles and moods. This organ was installed and is maintained by Jim Glass, who does a superb job, and we are always grateful for the chance to hear this excellent instrument. Our deep appreciation to Jim and to Tom Wibbels for his beautiful program.

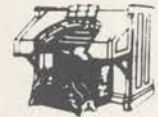
Joint socials are thoroughly enjoyable, but tricky to accomplish. In March we, together with Joliet Chapter, extended invitations to Land of Lincoln and Windy City for a fun afternoon with Don Walker at Joliet's Rialto Theatre. Don gave the instrument a good workout using his excellent registrations and styling to present a well-received program. Open console followed as did a lavish spread of refreshments. Cooperation was fully displayed here — thanks to all.

Our area theatres, especially the neighborhood houses, have the unique facility of closing and opening so often that any report of their status can rarely be accurate — this can be frustrating. The Chicago Theatre, however, is steady and sturdy, and with our John Peters on the staff it should remain so. There have been many big names and some very good shows — Frank Sinatra filled the house for five nights this spring. Wish you were here.

ALMER N. BROSTROM



CONNECTICUT VALLEY
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.



Thomaston

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

In April the accent was on youth. The artist for our April 4 concert at Shelton High School was Dwight Thomas, winner of the 1986 Young Organist Competition. Despite the all-day rain and broadcasts of flood warnings, the people who braved the weather were treated to a very smooth performance of traditional theatre organ stylings. Dwight appears regularly at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, and his musical artistry and engaging personality were in quick evidence to all those who came in out of the rain.

Our April 25 membership meeting was held in the home of Beth and Ernie Boda in Stratford. As you enter the spacious studio on the first level of their beautiful home, your first reaction is to wait for an usher to escort you to



Rosa Rio gives an affectionate hug to Dwight Thomas after his concert at the Shelton (Connecticut) High School. (Rita Goodkin photo)



John Cook and Ernie Boda at the console of the 3/15 Wurlitzer in the Boda residence.
(Rita Goodkin photo)



Tom Wibbels at the Babson Wurlitzer for Eastern Massachusetts Chapter.
(Paul Callahan photo)

your seat — your attention is immediately focused on the deep red velour and gold lame curtains in front of the swell shades and framed by floor-to-ceiling columns on each side. The 3/15, Style D Wurlitzer was originally installed in the Lafayette Theatre in Buffalo, New York. To the left of the console is a restored Ampico reproducing piano, and in addition, there is a miniature grand piano and an assortment of electronic equipment.

The day began with open console followed by a business meeting and dinner break. The artist for the evening was John Cook, who was a finalist in the 1986 Young Artist Competition. John is a very talented high school senior from Braintree, Massachusetts, who presented a totally professional program which made full use of a very fine instrument. For those who might wonder where the artists of tomorrow are, be assured that, for two days in April, there were two very talented young artists in evidence in Connecticut.

A camera and sound crew from a Hartford television station filmed Rosa Rio at the Shelton High School 3/12 Austin as she accompanied a silent film to the delight of an audience of young students. A segment of the film is expected to be shown on the nationally syndicated *PM Magazine* program.

The fall concert series at Shelton High School has been announced with Tom Hazleton on September 26 and Jim Riggs on December 5.

The chapter Executive Committee has accepted with regret the resignation of President Colver R. Briggs.

BARRY GOODKIN



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

Our February social was held at the Racine Theater Guild. Our guest artist was Bill Campbell, and some 35 members attended to hear Bill play a variety of music dating from

the WWII era. After the program, many tried their hands at the Wurlitzer.

On March 15 we presented our spring concert at the Riverside Theatre with featured artists Clark Wilson and Rob Richards. This was our first attempt at a dual booking, and everything went well. Rob brought his "Fusion" program to Milwaukee for the first time. "Fusion" is the combination of the Wurlitzer and the Yamaha FX-20 computerized electronic organ with a digital disk drive, and it certainly lets Rob show his imagination as a musician and talent as a duet and trio arranger.

Clark's playing was his usual outstanding job. His program was well balanced between standard ballads, opera and light classical music. It was obvious that the two artists had put a good amount of time into putting the program together. The two musicians provided one of the best concerts we have had to date.

Our April social was held at the Avalon Theatre where the Wurlitzer has seen increased usage this year because of the cooperation of new manager and member Phil Marten. Phil has volunteered a lot of his time to any member who wishes to play the organ — just call and he will be glad to set up playing time for you.

BILL CAMPBELL



Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055

Few New Englanders knew the name of Tom Wibbels before March 14, but several hundred certainly do now after his scintillating concert. It is difficult to find the best adjectives to describe this young man's multitude of talents, but "wonderful in all respects" will have to suffice. His sense of humor comes through in his music as indicated by his opener, "Married I Would Get," and his penchant for "bump and grind" music, so popu-

lar in the Chicago area which he calls home, was evidenced in his arrangement of "Ballin' The Jack." His selections ranged from the classical "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" to a fast and bouncy "One O'Clock Hop." Just before intermission he played a short sing-along — always a popular feature with us.

Our recently hospitalized, 84-year-old member, Clayton Stone, who was to celebrate a birthday soon, was honored by Tom with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" which included Chinese, German and marching band versions — novel and imaginative.

The second half of his concert featured another bump-and-grind with "Alexander's Ragtime Band," dedicated to the long-gone Old Howard and Gaiety Theatres where Sally Rand and others "waved their feathers." The audience rose as one while applauding the final "Climb Every Mountain," and this led to an encore, "That's All." Tom was generous in his approval of our Wurlitzer, our organ and stage crews and our hospitality. My notes say, "He really put our organ through its paces!" What more is there to say except, "Thanks very much, Tom, and come back again."

The club assembled at Babson on March 22 to hear guest Cheryl Linder in what will probably be her last appearance for us as she is acquiring a mate in June. This attractive young miss opened her mini-concert with a fast "Fandango," complete with much double pedaling. She remembered Bach's birthday with the Fugue portion of his "Prelude and Fugue in G Major." Her fiance, Tim Drewes, himself a musician and composer, wrote "The Babson Rag," which our organist played for us. Her encore of "Tijuana Taxi" showed that she could pilot our Wurlitzer most adroitly. On behalf of our club, Persis Garniss presented a surprised and pleased Cheryl and Tim with a solid brass G-clef set of wind chimes for their future home as a token of appreciation for her many appearances for us.

We gathered around our 235 Special again on April 26 for a joint meeting with members of SENETOS. It was announced that Tim Halloran would be organ crew chief and Dick



Walt Strony at the Trenton War Memorial for Garden State. (Jinny Vanore photo)



(L to R) Michael Cippoletti, Bob Balfour with "Oscar" and Elaine Dawson. (Jinny Vanore photo)

Linder would continue as organ crew chairman. In sincere appreciation of their generous and valuable volunteer services, program chairman Gordon Creamer presented SENETOS President Alan Goodnow and members Gary Phillips, Jim Hayes and Ken Duffie with certificates of appreciation for the seven long sessions they spent improving our organ. Our own Babson crew was not overlooked, and a similar certificate was accepted by Tim.

SENETOS member Mrs. Dorothy Elliott was our guest organist and gave us an enjoyable short concert, opening with a very Spanish "Valencia." Other ballads were followed by a nice "Musetta's Waltz" from *La Boheme*. Dot likes some of the oldies-but-goodies, as her "Manhattan Serenade" and "Petite Waltz" indicated. Her encore was a J.C.-style "Smile." Her easy, listenable style was rewarded by a beautiful bouquet presented by Jim Hayes before the afternoon social hour. A large cake with "Welcome to SENETOS" in icing was among the goodies. Come again, neighbors from Rhode Island!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



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

The fourth concert of the series at the Trenton War Memorial featured Walt Strony on March 15. This was a return engagement for Walt as far as our members were concerned as Walt had previously performed a concert on our newly installed Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel (formerly the Broadway Theatre) in North Bergen, New Jersey. At that time, Walt played such an outstanding concert, adapting to the organ which still needed finishing

touches, that our members eagerly anticipated his March 15 concert, and they were not disappointed. The record shop was hard put to keep up with the demand for his cassettes after the program. Our usual picnic took place on the stage afterwards, and Walt was surrounded by admirers all evening and was barely able to take time out to enjoy the food. The program and the sociability made it truly a memorable day.

The final concert of the series on April 12 was to have featured George Wright, who had verbally agreed to play it when it was planned early in 1986. Excitement ran high, and members were all keyed-up to hear George. Tickets were sold to people from New York and Pennsylvania, all wanting to hear him, as he has not appeared on the East Coast for many years. In the course of finalizing details of his arrival, etc., we were advised by his answering machine that he was in Japan and would be unable to do the concert. We were most fortunate, however, to have Ron Rhode accept the April concert date on short notice, and on April 12 we were treated to an outstanding concert by this young man. This, in spite of a bit of jet lag resulting from the fact that he had played a concert for the Oregon chapter the night before. He flew in on Sunday morning, set pistons, took a short nap and played a delightful program that afternoon. Unfortunately, he was unable to stay for the picnic supper, but he left knowing that many of his records and tapes had been purchased and would give hours of enjoyment to everyone.

Richmond Takes Jersey! This could be the headline reporting the silent film presentation by Garden State on May 9 at the Union County Arts Center (formerly the Rahway Theatre). The silent classic, *Wings*, winner of the first Academy Award, was screened with accompaniment by Lin Lunde from Richmond, Virginia. Our vice president and program chairman, Bob Norris, has a theory: "It pays to advertise!" Flyers, advertisements and newspaper coverage overwhelmingly proved his theory. What a joy to behold! What excitement to see the theatre filling with lines forming around the block. This was something not seen in Rahway for many years. Our



Ron Rhode at the Trenton War Memorial Möller.

(Jinny Vanore photo)



Lin Lunde at the Wurlitzer in the Union County Arts Center (Rahway Theatre). (Jinny Vanore photo)

metropolitan area offers so many wonderful and diverse activities that pipe organ and silent films really have competition. After holding up the performance for 20 minutes to allow everyone to be seated, the program opened with Douglas Fairbanks (aka Michael Cipolletti) and Mary Pickford (aka Elaine Dawson) in flapper costumes taking us back to 1927 and the first Academy Awards. An "Oscar" was presented to Bob Balfour for his years of dedication and service to the theatre and its Wurlitzer pipe organ. There was also the usual suspense with the opening of the letter and the announcement that *Wings* had won the Award. The lights dimmed, and the audience was fascinated by the actual aerial photography and wonderful story line. Lin Lunde was outstanding — his accompaniment of the film was superb. At first the audience was subdued, but by the second half all were cheering or drying tears as the film built to its climax. It was a wonderful evening, and we are hopeful that we may have won new converts to theatre organ and silent films.

JINNY VANORE

JESSE CRAWFORD Billings, Montana

Our members selected the name *The Poet* for our chapter journal by an overwhelming majority.

A delegation of our members traveled from Billings to Missoula on March 29 for member Andy Crow's performance at the Wilma Theatre. Owners of the Wilma Theatre, Bob Sias and Eddie Sharp, purchased and removed the 3/10 Robert-Morton from the Orpheum Theatre in Spokane, Washington. It had originally been installed beneath the stage in the Orpheum; consequently, much of the pipework is mitered. It was installed in the Wilma in 1950.

The stage has recently been restored and renovated, making the Wilma available for



Andy Crow at the console of the 3/10 Robert-Morton in the Wilma Theatre in Missoula, Montana.

(Dwayne L. Bondy photo)

stage presentations as well as motion pictures. Bob Ranstrom is the theatre manager, and maintenance is directed by John Ellis, Professor of Organ at the University of Montana in Missoula. They also have their own Organ Preservation Group. The Wilma is one of the few intact theatres left in the United States.

Andy Crow's console-raiser was "Paramount on Parade." In his opening remarks he stated that we were there to have a wonderful time. He played two novelty tunes with the lift in concert position, then lowered it for the sing-along. The three slide-illustrated songs were: "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and "You're A Grand Old Flag."

Andy then accompanied two Harold Lloyd silent comedies, *Never Weaken* and *Why Worry*. Crow resides in Olympia, Washington, where he accompanies silent films on a



Wilma Theatre Building in Missoula, where Andy Crow played for Jesse Crawford Chapter.

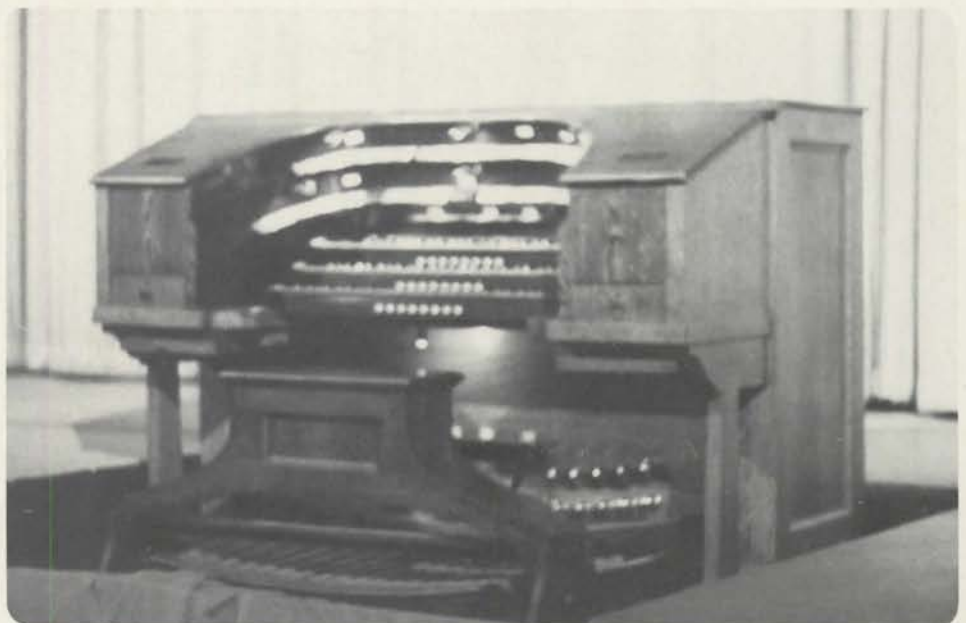
(Dwayne L. Bondy photo)

regular basis. This was evident in the masterful way he cued Harold Lloyd through his hilarious antics to the delight of the audience.

On May 10 members met in Billings to listen to phonograph recordings of Jesse Crawford, Buddy Cole and Dick Hull, as well as the tape of Andy Crow at the Wilma. We went out for dinner afterwards.

Our tax-exempt status application is pending with the Internal Revenue Service. Upon its approval, we will seek funding from charitable trusts and foundations to purchase a chapter organ. A Style 185 Wurlitzer, Opus 201, was installed in the Babcock Theatre in Billings in 1919, but was removed after a fire in 1935. Five days after being accepted as an ATOS chapter, we received approval from the owners of the Babcock to install an organ in the theatre.

STEVEN K. PLAGGEMEYER



3/10 Robert-Morton was originally in Spokane, Washington, Orpheum Theatre, now in Missoula, Montana.

(Dwayne L. Bondy photo)



Land O' Lakes Chapter
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY
St. Paul-Minneapolis
612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

Since our last report, we have celebrated the 98th birthday of our oldest member, Arma Neff, at a special birthday event, organized by Rob Calcaterra and hosted by the city of St. Paul, in the marble entrance hall beneath the statue of the Indian God of Peace. After greetings to the assembled guests from Mayor George Latimer, we were treated to a short violin concert by Arma, accompanied by Rob, who had flown in from New York City for the event.

On April 5 we heard an afternoon program on the Powderhorn Park Baptist Church Robert-Morton played by Karl Eilers. Despite restrictions by the church on musical selections and the need to hand-register the instrument (the console has no wind for the combination action at present), Karl presented a balanced, interesting and well-executed program. Thanks to Terry Kleven and Bob Sweaney, the organ was in tune and everything worked.

Other organ events in the area have included a presentation of the 1922 silent classic, *Nos Feratu*, accompanied by Dennis James, at the World Theater in St. Paul; Rosa Rio and her husband, Bill Yeoman, at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, and a "Concert to Celebrate Easter" at the soon-to-be-demolished Minneapolis Auditorium.

Plans for re-installing the 126-rank Kimball and the 26-rank theatre organ section are continuing, and use of the organ will be frequent right up to November when removal is scheduled to begin. An address for ordering tapes of the final concert series will be included in the next issue. These tapes have been digitally mastered by a professional crew and should be excellent!

Last, but by no means least, the chapter has signed an agreement with All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church of Minneapolis permitting the installation and use of a theatre organ in their sanctuary. In addition to regular chapter events, use of the organ for personal practice and for public concerts is covered in the agreement. After almost thirty years of on-again/off-again searching, we

have found a home for an instrument of our own. Initially we will have a 2/8 instrument and will expand it to a 3/14 as we rebuild a console and chests.

ROGER R. DALZIEL
 for VERNA MAE WILSON



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY
California
818/792-7084

Our membership meeting took place at the Valley Organ Society Club House in Burbank on March 15. We were privileged to hear the talented Tony Wilson in a mini-concert. President Stephen Ross conducted the meeting in which we learned about the current status of the 1987 Convention, the prospects for the Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer and information about coming activities for our chapter. Refreshments and open console on the Rodgers followed the meeting. Our thanks to President Virginia Klomp and Vice President Dick Sheafor of the Valley Organ Society for their hospitality.

From Australia, on his third continental tour of the United States, we were delighted to hear the dynamic Neil Jensen in a dazzling performance at the San Gabriel Auditorium on April 4. This young artist is a virtuoso and can communicate very well with his superb

musicianship. We all enjoyed the beautiful selections from *Forty-Second Street*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *Showboat* plus his encore, "Prelude in G Minor." We also wish to thank our organ crew for a super job: "Mac" MacDonald, Randy Becker, Harold Donze (the crew calls him the "Organ Godfather" because of the many years he has worked on it), Vince Fisher, Tom Handforth, Bob Pasalick, Fred Williams and Carl Nebe, who tuned the organ. Our final word of gratitude goes to a world class performer, Neil Jensen. Welcome to our city — and our country!

MARIA OLIVIER



Detroit
313/537-1133

Our third annual Young Theatre Organist Competition was held at the Redford on March 15. Faith Sunman, an eighth grade stu-



Motor City Chairman Bob Duerr presents a plaque to Faith Sunman, winner of the Young Theatre Organists' Competition. (Bill Vogel photo)

ashley miller
 a.a.g.o.

Organist of the Year-1983

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Penny and Gil Francis with Rob Calcaterra at the Redford Theatre after Rob's concert for Motor City. (Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)



Lee Erwin at the Royal Oak Music Theatre for Motor City. (Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)

dent from Sterling Heights, was winner of the Junior Division and overall winner. At 13, Faith may be the youngest contestant in this year's ATOS Competition. Previous winners Melissa Ambrose and Colleen Feldpausch were in the audience lending their support. Chaired by Dorothy Van Steenkiste, committee members were Virginia Duerr, Gil and Penny Francis and Peggy Grimshaw.

Les Hamilton and Bob Kynaston, both of whom are on the staff of the Fisher Theatre in

Detroit, entertained 13 of our members of our stage and production crew at a dinner and seminar at their home at Commerce Lake on March 16. Following an excellent, home-cooked dinner, the members learned about lighting and production techniques which will prove useful in the many shows we produce during the year.

Lee Erwin was, as expected, well received when he appeared at the Royal Oak Theatre on April 11. Composer of over 70 silent film

scores, Lee accompanied Buster Keaton's *Our Hospitality*, a takeoff on the Hatfield-McCoy feud. The night of April 10 Lee was interviewed by Hal Youngblood on his *Night-time Detroit* show on WJR.

Rob Calcaterra made a memorable first appearance for Motor City in a concert at the Redford on May 9. In addition to popular and classic selections, Rob accompanied a sing-along and a short Harold Lloyd comedy.

The following afternoon Rob conducted a comprehensive seminar at the Redford on styling techniques in theatre organ performance to which the public was invited. Even though it was Mother's Day, the attendance was sizeable and resulted in the recruitment of three new members.

Our Fourth Sunday artist for March, Barry Rindhage, was pre-empted by the setting up of a rock show at the Royal Oak that night. He will be presented later this year. Larry Peck played for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak on April 26. Larry has played piano with the Rex Morgan and Sammy Kaye orchestras and currently teaches piano and organ.

Coming events at the Redford include John Lauter on October 3, Dennis Minear on November 14 and Tony O'Brien on December 12.

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



Les Hamilton (standing) and Bob Kynaston (far right) conduct a seminar in their home for members of Motor City's production staff and stage crew. (Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)

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Ashley Miller autographs records at his concert for New York Chapter on the 4/26 Wurlitzer at LIU. (Robert Welch photo)



Ralph Ringstad and the Chaminade organ crew: (L to R) Bob Atkins, Ken Ladner and Brother Bob Lahey at the console of the 3/15 Austin-Morton. (Robert Welch photo)

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

We celebrated the advent of spring with a concert on April 5 at Chaminade High School in Mineola, Long Island, featuring Ralph Ringstad at the school's unique 3/15 Morton/Austin theatre organ. An extremely talented young artist, Ralph played with confidence and precision, demonstrating his musicianship and his ability to get the most from this fine instrument by playing every genre of theatre organ music.

It had been several years since we had visited Chaminade, and in that time Brother Bob Lahey, Ken Ladner and Bob Adkins, who compose the Chaminade crew, have succeeded in transforming the Austin (originally installed in the Queens Village Theatre) into an instrument having all the tonal qualities of the finest of mighty theatre pipe organs. The organ now includes a Wurlitzer Tibia and Vox, several Morton ranks, one of which is a Post Horn, and a beautiful three-manual Robert-Morton console described by Ralph Ringstad as "user friendly."

Ralph opened his program with the up-tempo "San Francisco, I'm Coming Home Again," and presented a well-balanced fare including such old standards as "You're The Cream in My Coffee" and "As Time Goes By," along with the more contemporary "Just You And I" and "If Ever You're In My Arms Again." A rousing "Under The Double Eagle" followed the intermission, and Ralph

showed off the brass with the Purcell "Trumpet Voluntary." The enjoyable afternoon concluded with open console.

May 3 found us at Long Island University where Ashley Miller rendered a truly superb performance on the Brooklyn Paramount 4/26 Wurlitzer. Ashley opened his program with a swinging arrangement of "The Best Is Yet To Come," and no opener was ever more prophetic! It was vintage Ashley Miller, and that sustained applause and bravos from the audience showed how much they appreciated hearing those wonderful Miller arrangements performed by the maestro himself with all the style, feeling and musical accuracy that we have enjoyed for so long on his recordings. Even from across the vast floor of the LIU gymnasium, it was obvious that Ashley was truly "into" the music, and the result was one of those exciting, rare and memorable theatre organ experiences.

A Cole Porter medley was the highlight of the first half of the concert, and the second half, which opened with "Something's Got To Give," indicated that Ashley was in full command of both the instrument and the audience. A spring theme medley and other seasonal selections followed. Responding to a request, he played "Granada," and to the audience's enthusiastic approval he responded that "we'll be here all night if I keep playing requests." This met with enthusiastic audience approval. But all good things come to an end, and our time at LIU was quickly running out as Ashley closed the program with an up-tempo "Beyond The Blue Horizon." This was unquestionably theatre organ at its best — a memorable performance. Once again,

thanks to the dedicated efforts of Bob Walker, Glenn Gneiss and Gary Phillips, the Mighty Wurlitzer was in fine voice.

TOM STEHLE



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

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

There is an oft repeated saying about getting the job done by giving it to a busy person. That seems to be especially true with our chapter. Among the busy people we rely on to get things done is Bill Hanson. Bill is organist



Bill Hanson played for North Texas Chapter on his new Allen. (Irving Light photo)

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Jean Hanson (left) with "Frankie" Bruce at refreshment table in Hanson home.

(Irving Light photo)

at one of the larger Dallas churches and, in addition to the services, is called upon for weddings and other functions, and as though this weren't enough, Dr. Hanson has a busy dental practice. However, he still finds time to answer a call to play intermission music on the chapter's Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre on Friday and Saturday nights (as do several other of our busy professional organists), and he is quick to agree to play a chapter organ program when asked.

The Hansons, Bill and Jean, recently purchased an Allen Digital theatre organ which they have now installed in their home. Bill has a larger-than-average music room, but he was still concerned about accommodating the five large speaker cabinets plus the console in this area. He found the solution in the attic, a large open area adjacent to the peak of the vaulted ceiling of the music room, where he created a "chamber" and a grilled opening into the listening area. Bill found time to do all the construction himself and is now justifiably proud of his completed installation.

On April 26 the Hansons gave our chapter an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful results of their installation. Bill played a program of

familiar music which included a medley of Disney tunes that he says are popular with the Lakewood Theatre patrons. Open console and refreshments followed.

IRVING LIGHT



President Gordon Wright chats with Irving Light (right) at meeting in Hanson residence. (Irving Light photo)

OHIO
VALLEY
CHAPTER
ATOS
EMERY THEATRE
Cincinnati
513/721-2741 or 513/721-2742

*"Down the valley of a thousand yesterdays
Flow the bright waters of Moon River . . ."*

Those two lines of poetry were probably read more times on radio than any others. The half-hour program of organ music and poetry ran 42 years on WLW in Cincinnati, and that show is brought to life biennially at the Emery Theatre by the Ohio Valley chapter. "Moon River '87" featured stars who had performed on the radio show: singers Ruby Wright and Marian Spellman; Cecil Hale reading poetry; Bill Myers as master of ceremonies, and member Gene Wilson was organist. Gene was a member of the band that appeared on WLWT's long-running *Bob Braun Show*.

April 24 was the show at the Emery, and it played to a nearly full house. This is the material from which dreams have been made! During the entire 42 years of the radio show, the opening theme was Fritz Kreisler's "Caprice Viennois," and the number played at mid-point was "Vilia." Our show was broadcast live over WVXU-FM from Xavier University. As part of the radio nostalgia, an appearance was made by Himan Brown, long-time CBS producer of radio dramas.

With the help of the University of Cincinnati, owners of Emery Theatre, new carpeting has been completely installed on the lower floor, and the two sides of the theatre on the lower level have been painted. The tarnished, dowdy appearance of this theatre is slowly disappearing.

In late July, our chapter will celebrate nine continuous years of weekend nostalgic movie runs. Most have been double features, and all have had "lead-ins," intermission concerts and "payouts" on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Long-time organ crew chief Tote Pratt has relinquished that position and is now organ curator. His advice, counsel and planning will still be available, but he won't be involved in the gymnastics performed by organ techni-

August 12	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
August 15	Music Box Society Convention, Columbus, Ohio
September 17	Madison Civic Center, Madison, Wisconsin
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 11	School Auditorium, Berlin, New Hampshire
October 16	Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
October 18	State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
October 17	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
October 30	I. U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
October 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
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Ron Rhode autographs records for fans at Benson High School in Portland. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Andy Crow at the Wicks console in First United Methodist Church in Olympia where he played for Puget Sound Chapter. (Diane Whipple photo)

cians in keeping the "monster" in playing condition. Tote was in charge of the development of the organ as it was increased from its original 19 ranks (when it was in the RKO Albee Theatre) to its present 29 ranks. Prior to his involvement with the Emery, he had spent a number of years as an organ designer.

HUBERT S. SHEARIN

OREGON
Portland
503/771-8098

Ron Rhode and the gorgeous 3/24 Kimball in Benson High School provided us with excellent entertainment on April 11. Even



Ron Rhode at the 3/24 Kimball in Benson High School. (Claude Neuffer photo)

though the organ does have some problems, it is still an instrument of great beauty. Mr. Rhode knew what he had and how to use it. He gave us a polished presentation and skillful playing in the Lyn Larsen school. His verbal introductions were delightfully brief and informative. An orchestral transcription of the Overture to *Die Fledermaus* was well conceived, brilliantly executed and orchestrally accurate. What was a satisfying climax to an excellent evening, of course, prompted an encore. We look forward to hearing more from this organist.

BOB SHAFTER

PUGET SOUND
Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

We enjoyed a leisurely April day in Olympia, meeting first in the lovely home of Tom and Fran Solberg for renewing friendships and enjoying open console on the Wurlitzer pipes and the grand piano in their spacious living room.

Our second stop was at the First United Methodist Church for a concert by Andy Crow on the Wicks organ there. Andy has long been the organist on this beautifully voiced instrument which is particularly outstanding when heard nearest the chambers in the chancel area where the choir is normally seated. Andy included serious works in his program, although his light-hearted humor always makes his concerts entertaining. A

brilliant rendition of Jean A'Laine's "Litanies" dazzled the audience.

In addition to his service and theatre playing, Andy devotes time to composing and arranging. A most unique selection on this program was "Were You There," a very moving rendition based on the Negro spiritual. Christ was portrayed trudging along the pathway, carrying his cross to the hilltop site of his crucifixion as Andy used the resources of the organ masterfully to create the tension that built to a thundering climax and then subsided to a quiet and mournful repetition of the original theme.

A planned program on the Baldwin electronic in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building had to be cancelled as there was a



Andy Crow at the Baldwin in the Washington State Capitol Rotunda — where he didn't get to play (see notes for Puget Sound). (Diane Whipple photo)

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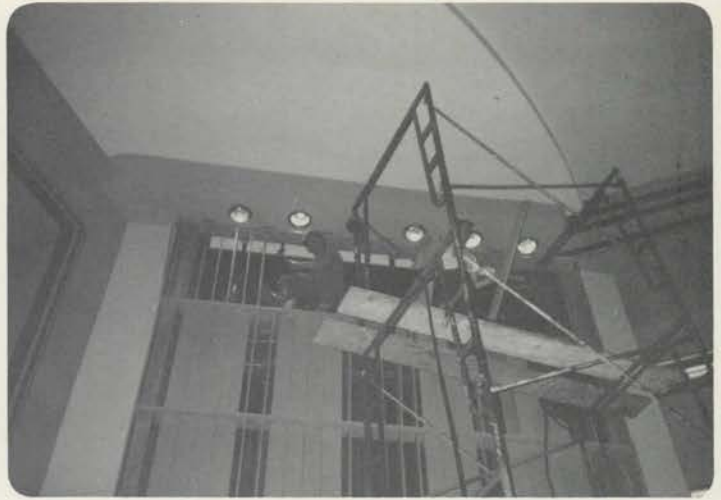
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South organ grille uncovered from 1950s to be returned to 1926 grille. (Sonia Carlson photo)



Beginning demolition of north grille in the Fargo Theatre. (Sonia Carlson photo)

special session of the legislature convening at the same hour.

Major construction projects have made Seattle traffic a daily nightmare and are causing ongoing suspense for "Paramount Watchers." A transit bus tunnel is being carved through the downtown area, the destination to be a terminal immediately north of the Paramount Theatre. Meanwhile, a \$162 million Washington State Convention and Trade Center is being built straddling the I-5 Interstate to the south of the theatre. The Downtown Theatre Task Force plans to study ideas for preserving downtown theatres, while the Visitors and Convention Bureau planners consider the feasibility of using the Paramount on occasion in conjunction with activities at the convention site.

DIANE WHIPPLE

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



We were fortunate to have perfect weather for our spring Silent Movie Nights April 24 and 25. The program was fun and fast-paced as it took us back to the music of the WWII era. The Fargo Theatre Big Band All-Stars, the 188th Army Band Chorus and several female vocalists brought back such tunes as "Saturday Night Is The Loneliest Night of The Week," "Milkman, Keep Those Bottles Quiet" and "For All We Know." There were

some extra specialties, a Spike Jones' routine of "The Fuehrer's Face," a local "Andrews Sisters" rendition of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," plus a jitterbug. Part I was brought to a close with the Band and Chorus performing the theme songs of the various armed forces.

Part II consisted of the 1925 comedy, *The Freshman*, in which Harold Lloyd strives to be the most popular man on campus. This was scored by Lance Johnson.

Several special events occur each month at the Fargo Theatre, and our new orchestra pit is being put to good use. The Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera presented the Music Hall Follies featuring the American premiere of Jacques Offenbach's *Croquefer*. The first half consisted of 15 acts in the vaudeville tradition, including a trained-flea act. Some-

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North grille with new "face," neon yet to be installed.
(Sonia Carlson photo)

how, Emile lost his trained fleas, but they turned up in time to plague the next act, a group of women singing a Strauss waltz. *Croquefer* was hilarious. With such cast names as Hothead, Bash-Your-Brains, Sulphur-Flower and Froth-to-Death, it had to be crazy. The action took place in Ironeater's (Croquefer's) castle battlements somewhere in France in the Middle Ages. The Mighty Wurlitzer will never be the same after this experience — it was part of the Offenbachian Quintet with flute, clarinet, trumpet and piano.

Work continues on the organ grilles as they are being returned to the 1930s, closely following their original design. The use of scaffolding and the labor has been donated — all we have to purchase is the neon. We are also looking forward to the lobby reconstruction which will be starting soon, so all can be completed by early fall. During all projects, the theatre remains open for business-as-usual.

SONIA CARLSON

**The River City
Theatre Organ Society
Omaha, Nebraska**

402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

Our March 21 meeting was held at the Old Mill Shopping Center location of Keyboard Kastle, Ltd. Our guest artist was Dan Cer-

veny, who demonstrated his skill on both Yamaha and Lowrey organs. His concert was greatly enjoyed by the 42 members and guests, and five members took advantage of open console on the fine instruments. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close with refreshments. We are indebted to our hosts at Keyboard Kastle for their hospitality.

George Rice and the Bellevue Little Theatre (formerly the Roxy) hosted our April 18 meeting. The theatre's 2/5 Wurlitzer was installed and is lovingly maintained by George Rice. On the day before the meeting George held a tuning session, assisted by Harold Kenney and Dick Zdan. On the day of the meeting, an informal luncheon was attended by a dozen members, and 34 members enjoyed the program at the theatre by guest artist George Rice. George's mini-concert was augmented by a silent film; Dick Zdan favored us with a sing-along and Wendall Hall joined in on banjo. Seven members took advantage of open console.

TOM JEFFERY



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

We have had a busy spring. In spite of an early spring snow, 70 members and guests traveled to the home of Joel and Jerri Kremer in Parker to enjoy a delightful program by Joel on his 4/28 Hybrid organ which is now controlled by a Devtronix computer system.

Opening with "Hooray for Hollywood," Joel included selections by Tin Pan Alley composer Harry Warren, Sousa's "King Cotton March," and medleys of tunes by George Gershwin and Hoagy Carmichael. His closing number was the finale from the *First Organ Symphony* by Vierne. Coaxing by his listeners brought an encore, the George Wright "Boogie." The reception following the concert was a choco-holic's delight — everything was chocolate!

In early April more than 60 of us journeyed to Pueblo for a weekend in Southern Colorado. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed concerts at Pueblo's Memorial Hall and the Mount St. Francis Convent in Colorado Springs.



George Rice at the Bellevue Little Theatre's 2/5 Wurlitzer.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

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John Grunow played the Mount St. Francis Wurlitzer, which he helped to install, for the Colorado theatre organ chapters. (Don Zeller photo)



Joel Kremer at his 4/28 Hybrid for Rocky Mountain Chapter. (Don Zeller photo)

Hector Olivera was in fine form as he put the newly restored 4/58 Austin Orchestral Organ through its paces for a crowd of 600 at the Memorial Hall. Opening with the "Star Spangled Banner," he went on to play a program of classics, transcriptions and popular music ranging from the Bach "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" to the "Trolley Song." The Great Victory Memorial Pipe Organ was dedicated on March 12, 1920, "in loving remembrance to soldiers, sailors, Red Cross and all war workers of the City of Pueblo . . . who so nobly sacrificed time, money and life that the world might live." With this quote in mind, Hector's closing was an especially appropriate medley of patriotic melodies, and, of

course, no Olivera concert would be complete without his special rendition of "The Flight of the Bumblebee."

After an overnight stay in Pueblo, the group traveled to Colorado Springs and was treated to an excellent concert by Colorado Springs' own John Grunow who was making his debut at the Mighty Mount St. Francis Mostly Wurlitzer. And a grand debut it was! John chose "Spring & Love" as a theme for his program, and enthralled us with such favorites as "Another Openin', Another Show," "Harlem Connection," "A Kiss in The Dark" and "Linger Awhile." We certainly hope to hear more from this young performer.

In late April, we returned to the home of Joel and Jerri Kremer for a special concert by the popular Portland entertainer, Jonas Nordwall. Jonas entertained 85 people with a program of classical and popular melodies on the Kremer's 4/28. He put the computer to good use in several numbers, playing duets with himself and other fancy tricks not possible on a standard organ. Among his selections were the "Coronation March" by Meyerbeer, "Don't Worry About Me," and Joplin's "Elite Syncopations." Following a standing ovation, Jonas encored with the Bach "Gigue Fugue."

After the concert, guests were treated to a delightful assortment of goodies prepared by our resourceful refreshment committee: Priscilla Arthur, David Hagerman and David Love. It was a wonderful evening, and we hope to be able to sponsor more concerts of this nature in the future.

DONALD D. ZELLER



Jonas Nordwall at the Kremer 4/28 organ for a Rocky Mountain Chapter concert. (Don Zeller photo)



ATOS President Jack Moelmann is put in the stocks at his recent birthday party.


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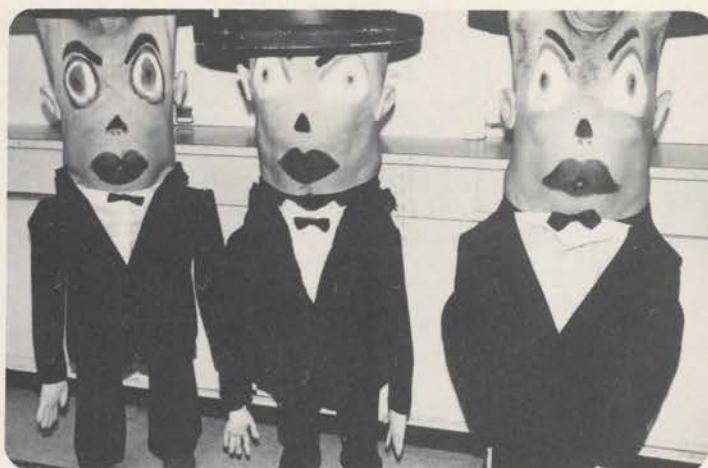
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Birthday cake for Jack Moelmann had a hand-painted picture of Jack at the 4/36 Fox Wurlitzer.



The Whistlers were the hit of Sierra's "Pipe Dreams" show. (Beverly Grube photo)

our talented artists, a line of high-kicking chorus girls and, to cap it all off, a silent movie and performance by our own Jack Moelmann. This is the first time in 55 years that a theatre pipe organ has been installed in an original movie palace/vaudeville theatre. There will be three opening night shows. Friday night will be limited to those who give a tax-deductible donation of \$100 or more and will include a pre-show party as well as two tickets to the show. We will try to hold some of these special tickets for out-of-town ATOSers who would like to be \$100 helpers, so if you are interested, call Dennis Ammann at 618/654-6060 as soon as possible.

The second night will be for the general public — same show — no party. Tickets for this show will also be available for ATOS members. Call for information.

The Sunday show will be a matinee with special focus on senior citizens. We will try to finalize dates and times and get the news to area chapters, but please feel free to call Dennis for information. There are only about 1000 seats in the Granada, so try to get your requests in as early as possible.

Friends staged a surprise birthday party for ATOS President Jack Moelmann with a dinner at a fashionable early English, pub-type restaurant in St. Louis. This very special chapter member was locked in the stocks and was surprised with a fantastic birthday cake which was decorated with a "painting" of Jack at the Fox Theatre 4/36 Wurlitzer. Word has it that the cake tasted as good as it looked!

DENNIS AMMANN

SIERRA Sacramento 916/967-5060 or 916/483-7351

The George Seaver Memorial Organ, which is sounding better all the time, has had a good workout the past three months. Don Croom was presented in a very fine program on February 8, featuring our Little Jewel and the "M.U. Lator" computer. He demonstrated many sound effects that we have heard in the movies of late, but the big surprise of the program was when he introduced Tom Thompson. They pleased the crowd with a duet at the Wurlitzer. Tom was a former teacher of Don's. Their fans were thrilled with their presentation, and we found them to be very gracious artists. It was an afternoon of fine music and entertainment.

On March 8 the Fair Oaks Club House filled with organ fans in high spirits for a concert by Jerry Nagano. Jerry played one of the finest programs he has done in several years — we heard old and new tunes, show tunes and novelty selections that Jerry has not featured before, all played with fine technique in tasty arrangements. This was a new Jerry Nagano. It was a day of fine entertainment and good listening!

April 3 featured a revival of the Sue Lang production of "Pipe Dreams." She also directed this fine entertainment. This year the show featured several new acts, singers, dancers, comics, Barbershop Quartets and several fine organists. The show-stealers were "The Whistlers," Rex Koury and the Sweet Adelines. Don Wallin did a fine job as accom-

panist to most of the acts. New organists to the show were Hal Randall, Karen Cuneo and Kay Ruland. Sue Lang's All Girl Band did a fine job of opening the show; dance students from Judette Studio were very entertaining and Madam Louise Tetrzini performed selections from *Carmen* as Robert Rasmussen slowly cut her gown away. The almost full house certainly left with the feeling that they had been royally entertained.



Sue Lang produced and directed Sierra's "Pipe Dreams" show. (Beverly Grube photo)



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Tom Thompson and Don Croom finish a duet at the Sierra Wurlitzer. Tom was Don's teacher at one time and made a surprise appearance at this program.

(Art Phelan photo)



Jerry Nagano at his Sierra Chapter concert.

(Art Phelan photo)

Sierra Chapter has ordered a Z-Tronic relay to replace the wind relays. Also, they are planning to modify the chambers to allow the swell shades to open into the auditorium, and we hope to have the piano installation completed soon.

May 3 was a great day in many ways —



National Treasurer Dale Mendenhall takes a snooze for the "Pipe Dreams" show. (Beverly Grube photo)

beautiful weather, a great audience and an excellent concert by Larry Vannucci. Larry's program left no doubt that this man knows theatre organ. He certainly gave the Wurlitzer a workout with fine registrations and arrangements that had his audience at full attention. Outstanding numbers included "The Blues While The City Sleeps," and a Gordon Kibbee arrangement of "Somewhere Along The Way." His novelty numbers were a treat and his jazzy renditions of the oldies brought the house down.

Don Wallin presented a mini-concert at Grant Union High School playing for the faculty and students. The reaction was very favorable for Sierra Chapter to continue the renovation of the Mighty Wurlitzer at the school.

BUD TAYLOR

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our March meeting was held in the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. Phil had announced that this would be our last chance to hear his 3/11 hybrid theatre pipe organ in its present setting. He and Laura have decided to sell their house and build a new one, designed around the instrument and with more room for guests. We've always had a crowd at the Judkins' house, and so we more than agreed with their decision.

Phil opened the program with an appropriate "This Could Be The Start of Something Big." He then played a number of other selections, including "Sunny" and his closing "Fox Movietone News." Eleven of our playing members participated in open console where we heard everything from Gospel music to "Nola."

The next day Phil began his dismantling project. Their house has been sold, and plans are well underway for the new one.

April found us journeying to Pryor for a meeting around Hervey and Janice Barbour's 2/11 Kimball. We were pleased with the large gathering of those who made the drive from Tulsa. The Barbour's home is designed around the organ, and our many new members were impressed (and inspired) by the installation. For the benefit of the newcomers, Hervey told a brief history of the instrument and its move from Oklahoma City in 1979. Those of us who had been part of the "Pipe Packers Platoon" well-remembered the cold winter day we removed those huge pipes from the auditorium of the Fine Arts Building at Oklahoma City University. We were delighted to hear Hervey play "Misty," "I'll See You Again" and "Georgia on My Mind," before open console again allowed demonstration of the versatility and talent of our playing members.

We then adjourned to Pryor's First Christian Church to see the installation of their "new" pipe organ, a 3/14 Kimball which had



Donald F. Overend

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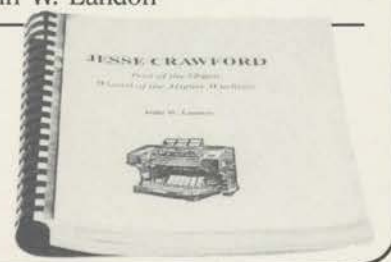
JESSE CRAWFORD

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belonged to members Bruce and Martha Wilson of nearby Claremore. Hervey had designed the layout and supervised its installation in the church, and we were impressed at how neatly it fit behind and on either side of the baptistry.

The console of our chapter's Robert-Morton has been returned to Tulsa to Sam Collier's garage where work is progressing nicely on the wiring of the Z-Tronics relay components.

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SOUTHEAST TEXAS

At a winter meeting at the home of Buster and Betty Matteson we were entertained by Harry Heth. Harry has played a number of concerts for us at our home theatre, the Jefferson, in Beaumont, at the pizza restaurants in Houston and at the Mattesons. He first came to the Jefferson one evening about 10:30 to play the Robert-Morton for the first time, and played until about 2:30 a.m. I don't know how much Harry liked playing the Morton, but we very much liked listening to Harry play the Morton. Harry plays from a very large repertoire and plays it all very well — from classical to pop. He has also attended work sessions with our chapter, since he has worked as an organ builder and a demonstration artist, and has really helped us with the restoration of the Morton. You can hear a wave of excitement run through our membership each time it is announced that Harry Heth is going to play for us.

On March 15 we presented Carter Bidwell in a free concert on the 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Jefferson Theatre. Carter played a mixture of old tunes from the 1920s and '30s plus some of the newer selections. In the year that Carter has been a member, he has become one of the primary members of the organ crew as well as one of the chapter's main artists. During his concert, he was able to demonstrate



South Florida Chapter presented the classic film, *Wings*, at the Olympia Theatre in Gusman Cultural Center in downtown Miami on March 6. (G. W. Gerhart photo)



Lin Lunde poses by the Wurlitzer 260 following his highly acclaimed performance accompanying *Wings*.



Harry Heth played for Southeast Texas Chapter. (George Hockmeyer photo)

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Three-manual LeNoir console from Lyric Theatre in Camden, New Jersey, now installed in Paul Wasserman home in Toledo, Ohio. (TATOS photo)



Attic chamber of Paul Wasserman's home installation. (TATOS photo)

the newly releathered Flute rank, including the Piccolo, Tierce and Twelfth stops which had not been playable for many years. This was Carter's first theatre organ concert, and the enthusiastic group of about 130 gave him a much-deserved standing ovation. It was, indeed, an afternoon enjoyed by all.

FLOYD BROUSSARD



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Greetings from Toledo! Our April meeting was held at a "pioneer" theatre organ home installation. In 1952 the late Othedus Campbell installed the Style 185 Wurlitzer from Toledo's Pantheon Theatre in his home near Maumee Bay. To the original seven ranks he added a Marr & Colton Tibia from a theatre in Mishawaka, Indiana, and the three-manual console (a rare Benjamin LeNoir) and relay from the Lyric Theatre in Camden, New Jersey. Although the organ was neglected for many years, its new owner, Paul Wasserman, has done much to get it playing again. Detroit's John Lauter played to a full house and did a great job! John is well liked in this area, and he plays with a very pleasant style which really makes you picture yourself in the heyday of theatre organ. He is currently resident

organist at the beautifully restored Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Our concert at Toledo's old Ohio Theatre (St. Hedwig Cultural Center) on April 26 featured Bill Taber, resident organist at Akron's Civic Theatre. Although Bill is doing more organ building than concerts these days, he concluded his concert season with us. Bill's 1920's style was well received! As usual, another rare silent film was accompanied by the artist, proving once again the tremendous popularity films over 60-years-old have with our audiences!



Bill Taber takes a bow at Toledo's April concert at the Ohio Theatre. (TATOS photo)

We started May with great news — the new roof on the theatre is now finished.

Our final concert of the year will be November 14 — our Second Annual Silent Film Festival! We will feature Toledo's own Bill Yaney, our resident organist, playing a concert and a festival of rare silent films. This year we are using a railroad theme. It's no secret that many theatre organ fans are also old-time railroad fans, and some of the most thrilling silent movies featured railroad chases and suspense! We will be rounding up films to show the best and most entertaining. We're also glad Bill Yaney is a strong supporter of our chapter. His recent digitally recorded cassette made on the Larry Evritt 3/18 Wurlitzer is excellent! Those interested may contact Bill at Great Lakes Organ and Piano, 419/882-1851; the cost is around \$11.

EVAN J. CHASE



We closed out the old year with a bang-up pipe organ and dance revue at the Byrd Theatre. The show ran four performances and was seen by 4368 people. On screen was *Miracle on 34th Street*, and despite its many showings on TV, the Byrd still packed them

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Byrd Theatre organist Lin Lunde.

in. Chuck Rhode shared the spotlight with Lin Lunde, who played a sparkling overture and accompanied the audience in a traditional Christmas sing-along. Chuck, who is a marvelous tenor, was positioned in the alcove containing the Wurlitzer harp. On the opposite side of the proscenium was David Newman at the Wurlitzer grand piano. The organ had been tuned just before the show and never sounded better. The show ran for forty non-stop, fast paced minutes and featured the high-kicking Burdettes, a dance team that has become something of a tradition in Richmond. The two original Brenograph machines were used for the sing-along, which the audience joined with as much enthusiasm as an old-time revival.

Later in December we held our annual Christmas party at the home of David Barnett. David owns a 2/7 Wurlitzer which was installed at one time in a theatre in a Washington, D.C., suburb.

Buster Keaton's *The Cameraman* had two showings at the Byrd in January. Lin Lunde provided his original score for the film. The picture did very well because of the good reviews in the local paper.

On March 1 the Byrd presented Bill Zakafoose and The Continentals in concert with a guest appearance by Eddie Weaver playing the Mighty Wurlitzer. The Continentals is a band reminiscent of the Big Band era of the 1940s and '50s. The house was packed for the event.

Virginia Chapter presented Mike Crowley in a private concert at the Byrd on March 28.

Mike is the new managing director of the Carpenter Center (Loew's) in Richmond and is quite a good organist. He played theatre organ in his home town of Tulsa, Oklahoma, when he was a teenager. Everyone enjoyed Mike as he is a most pleasurable person with a keen sense of humor.

Lin Lunde played two showings of Buster Keaton's *The General* on April 24 and May 1 at the Byrd. On May 2 the manager of the Mosque, Mr. Carmen Barefoot, conducted a tour of that fabulous old theatre for club members and their guests. The Mosque is the home of the famous Wurlitzer that was recorded by Reginald Foort in the late fifties. Those records are legendary and are still eagerly sought by collectors. Mother's Day was a gala day in Richmond as VTOS and the Byrd presented Eddie Weaver in concert. Eddie's shows are always wonderful, and he always seems to find the talent to complement his playing.

Meanwhile, work continues at the Carpenter Center, and some progress has been made. The blower was turned on recently, but much needs to be done to muffle the sound. The piano plays from the console, but none of the pipes play. Much has to be done in the way of repair work and replacement of missing pipes. Bill Floyd, who obtained the organ for

the theatre about five years ago, has moved to Florida, and a brass plaque was recently installed on the side of the console to remind us all of the unique theatre organ that Bill Floyd gave to Richmond.

From the looks of things, theatre organ is alive and well in Richmond and getting better all the time.

MILES RUDISILL



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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In March, Roger and Sue Mumbrue of Bloomfield Hills were hosts to the chapter. We enjoyed the music from their Wurlitzer which is one of the finest home installations in the country.

In April we visited the home of David Brewer to hear and play Dave's Marr & Bartlitzer, certainly one of the most compact home installations. In both homes we enjoyed afternoons of good cheer, friendship and good music, and, thanks to the chapter distaff, good snacks.

CHARLIE and BETTY BAAS □



(L to R) Fred Page, Ed Brockhahn, Dave Brewer and Gerald Elliott at Wolverine meeting in Brewer's home.

(Bill Vogel photo)

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