



Hard at work in the Record Shop. (SB photo)

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Convention

by Ralph Beaudry

Throughout the planning and production of Convention '87, SERENDIPITY prevailed.

The Convention motto and logo were conceived and designed a year in advance ... only to be nearly "shot down" during a visit to the LA Convention Bureau. When they saw the phrase "LA's The Place" they immediately sent for their attorney who carefully explained to our Planning Committee that the phrase was THEIR registered trademark! Five pages of detailed instructions were given us as to how the phrase may or may not be used ... and then they gave us their blessing when we agreed to insert a credit line whenever we used the phrase.

Just before the "Overture" program, Doris Stovall, Manager of the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, and Carlo Curley discovered they had worked together 16 years ago when Doris was soloist at the Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and Carlo, at the tender age of 16, was the church organist! Despite not having seen each other in the intervening years, Doris remembers that Carlo told her then that she was the only one who could "out sing" his organ, and that they delighted in creating roof-raising solo spots for her during the church services. She also told us that even then Carlo wore rhinestones in his shoes.

During the Lew Williams concert on Tuesday afternoon, the Möller ciphered. Believe it or not, that was the first cipher since the organ was installed nine years ago! Dave Junchen, who installed the organ and has been its "keeper" over the years, always sits in the balcony during an organ program ... except for Lew's program when he decided to sit down front. He must have sensed he would be needed!

Panhandling seems to be almost a way of life for downtown LA, and we apologize for each one who approached a conventioneer during the week. Let's see, that must be about 50,000 apologies. The Monday night performance, however, in front of Googies next door to the Biltmore, was a completely unplanned exhibition of Sally Rand terpsichory. We understand her performance was one of the "hits" of the Convention ... but how did she manage to get her clothes back on before the police arrived?

One thing we are all still trying to figure out is how some of the bus drivers, who were each given detailed maps of the routes to be followed, managed to come up with some of the most creative ways to reach several of the venues. No bus was permanently lost, thanks to the eagle-eyed bus captains and local buffs who were riding the buses, but we're still trying to figure out why one driver thought the Santa Ana Freeway would take them to San Gabriel!

That beautiful mylar curtain at Pasadena Civic is not part of the usual house draperies. On the Friday before the Convention, Lyn Larsen decided a really spectacular drape was needed for the second half of the "Overture" program — a curtain that would reflect any and all colors just right. So he had Miss Stovall scour the theatrical supply houses until she found one for him — and Lyn paid the tab! Thanks, Lyn!

One incident most conventioners may have missed was the "added" member of the Crystal Cathedral choir for the *1812 Overture*. Ty Woodward, our featured artist at the Simonton organs, met a friend during intermission at the Cathedral and agreed, just for fun, to don a choir robe and join them!

You never know when you'll find a "gold mine" in someone's garage. We did when we learned the remaining stock of Malar and Essential Records was housed in the garage of Helen Dell's son. That's why some long "out-of-print" Lyn Larsen, George Wright and Helen Dell albums were on sale in our Record Shop.

Yes,  
serendipity prevailed

throughout the Convention ... artists giving their best and then some, LATOS workers having fun meeting our visitors, and the organ crews being justifiably proud of their organs. Even the weather was exactly right for LA in June! But the next time, we'll have to remember to schedule a mild earthquake so you'll really know "LA's THE PLACE"!



Ralph actually did attend the Convention.

(SB photo)