

Chapter Notes

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Our annual Spring Concert was presented on May 17. With Jim Riggs at the console, the Alabama Theatre organ in top shape and an enthusiastic crowd, we were ready to go. Mr. Riggs provided one of the most delightful programs ever presented at the Alabama Theatre and was well-received by his Birmingham audience.

June put us in a relaxed mood, and "home folks" provided the chapter meeting program. Many of our talented members performed and gave us a very pleasing afternoon of music.

Our chapter had ten attendees at the ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles. Everyone reported having a wonderful trip to the West Coast and enjoying this top-notch convention. Birmingham will be the host site of the 1988 Regional Convention, October 14, 15 and 16, 1988. Make your plans to attend now!
— Gary W. Jones



ALOHA Honolulu

808/696-4533 or 808/523-9079

At two o'clock on Sunday afternoon, April 26, the Hawaii Theatre came to life once again, featuring Bob Alder in concert with guest artists and a silent movie. Bob opened with the "Knightsbridge March" while the four-manual Robert-Morton rose slowly and majestically from the orchestra pit. From the enthusiastic reception of the audience, it was apparent that the mood had been set for an exciting program. After a medley from *42nd Street*, Mr. Alder introduced Bob Cortepan, a popular singer in Waikiki, and they performed beautiful renditions of "Hanalei Moon" and "New York, New York."

The Women Apostolate Singers, nine very charming ladies, sang one of their own uplifting compositions entitled "Grace," with Bob accompanying. A clever and amusing group, Wiki Waki Woo, was the last of Bob's guest performers. The conclusion of the first half brought down the house as Bob played his arrangement of "Stars and Stripes Forever," using his own piccolo while playing the solo part with his feet.

The second half of the concert featured *The General*, starring Buster Keaton. As a listener, if you are not distracted by the background music, the organist is doing a good job. In the opinion of this writer, Bob did a masterful piece of scoring.
Galen Piepenburg



CENTRAL INDIANA Indianapolis

317/255-8056 or 317/546-1336

The recently renovated Indiana Roof, an elegant ballroom on the sixth floor of the Indiana Repertory Theater, was the site of our May meeting, and many memories were rekindled as members recounted the sounds of the big bands playing there in earlier years. Donna Parker, fresh from her Australian tour, presented a concert after which Ken Double and others provided dance music while members and guests danced "under the stars."

Kevin Aikman has organized a group of volunteers who meet on Saturdays to do technical work on the Manual High School organ. Their current project is the installation of a Peterson electronic relay.

A bus trip to Detroit on May 16-17 was enjoyed by all. Especially impressive were the various home organ installations.

In May, more than 150 members and guests, including two visitors from Australia, gathered at the home of Wanda and Bob Hawkins in Anderson. The gorgeous afternoon began with a catered dinner served on beautifully decorated tables on the lovely grounds, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Wanda and Bob. Ken Double and John Ferguson prepared some tapes on theatre organ registration and playing techniques, and the meeting consisted of a listening session in which many of the stop combinations heard in concerts were explained, such as the sound of Jesse Crawford combinations, George Wright's "hangnail" sound and many of the other special and unique sounds of the theatre

Members Charlie and Eve Thomas, Ruth Ward and John Hibolt participated in the Kimball Keyboard Marathon at Castleton Square Mall on May 2. The money raised was used to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Jerry's Kids.

Ken Double played a concert at the Long Center in Lafayette on June 13. A sing-along and silent movie were included along with a surprise attraction — Channel 13's Don Hein tap dancing!

Chapter President Kevin Aikman has been selected district representative in this area for the Schantz Organ Company.
Carol M. Andrejasich



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CORRECTION:

In the May/June issue of the Journal, in the Biographical Dictionary of Theatre Organists, John Catherwood's name was misspelled, and the organ size was a 3/12 (now a 3/13) instead of 3/22. I am sure John would appreciate it if you would print a correction.

Sincerely,
(signed) Betty Darling
Kalamazoo, Michigan



Fred Reiger tells Central Ohio Chapter about the latest changes in his 3/41 Möller/Estey. (JP photo)

**CENTRAL OHIO
Columbus**

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Members made a May 17 trek to the famed "Barn" of Fred Reiger. Hospitable hosts Fred and Kay welcomed us to the plush, first floor interior where we once again beheld his 3/41 Möller/Estey (player) organ. Fred gave us an interesting history of the heritage and evolution of his instrument as well as an update on his latest additions. The new SSL combination action has eight memories for visiting organists. He also told us that the harp has been rebuilt and the marimba reworked. A tour through the chambers attests to the first class workmanship, layout and accessibility. The program featured member Trent Sims and a number of open console artists. An additional attraction was a demonstration of the player feature in which swell shades and registrations are changed by the roll perforations.

It was a privilege to help celebrate "Chris Phillips Day" on May 30 as guests of Jack and Lynn Phillips. The occasion was in recognition of son Chris' achievement of his lifetime ambition to become a doctor when he received his degree from George Washington University College of Medicine in St. Louis. The event was held at Fred Reiger's famed "Barn" near Xenia, Ohio, where Fred has a 3/41 Möller/Estey organ.

Attending the gathering were people who had played some role in the maturation of Chris. Along with chapter members Betsy and Bob Richards and Neil

and Edith Grover, we enjoyed musical contributions from his erstwhile organ teacher, Martha Hoyle, from his voice and piano instructors from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and from contemporary theatre organist Martin Dever as well as from the young physician himself, Dr. Phillips. The Phillips have cause to be proud!

John Polsley



312/282-0037 or 312/698-6898

The spring and summer season, in addition to our National Convention, gave all of us some excellent theatre pipe organ music. Jonas Nordwall was our soloist in June at the 4/24 Wurlitzer/Gottfried theatre organ in St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. Dwight Thomas, 1986 winner of the ATOS Young Organist Competition, was heard in cameo at this performance.

To many of our members, Jonas Nordwall is best known for his West Coast and National Convention appearances. His talent and experience have resulted in his being one of the nation's few top-notch organists, and this Mundelein show truly demonstrated his expertise and ability — truly a terrific performance. Dwight Thomas grasped this opportunity to display his ability and dexterity on the theatre pipe organ, and showed why he placed first in the ATOS competition. This was a great concert, and we are grateful to Jonas and Dwight for a beautiful afternoon of music.

Correction: It was in April 1987 at WGN Studios that our nomination and social occurred. Jerry Kinsella was the soloist and gave a great performance. Then in May the election took place at Maine North High School in Des Plaines where Dave Wickerham provided the entertainment at the 3/10 Wurlitzer which is owned and maintained by our chapter. Dave is the staff organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing where he gives forth with much satisfying theatre organ music. He presented some pizza parlor

styling and a great variety of melodies. The music was super!

We are fortunate to have some beautiful residence organs in our area. One, the San Filippo home in Barrington Hills, was the location for a July gathering of organ buffs. Bob Goldstine, staff organist for the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the soloist for this event. Bob was very active in saving the Embassy in 1974. His talent and enthusiasm on the 4/28 Wurlitzer delighted all those attending.

Rarely is a skating rink organ heard in its entirety, but Bill Kuczek, staff organist at the Elm Rink, treated members and guests to a full sound at their spring social. The 4/27 Geneva Hybrid was played to its fullest on this occasion, and we all appreciate Bill's program and generosity.

The old Avalon Theatre on Chicago's south side is being transformed into a performing arts center for Black talent. The New Regal will be the name, and it will be a welcome addition to the area. This is good news!

Almer N. Brostrom



203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Thomaston Opera House and our Marr & Colton organ were featured in a segment of the nationally syndicated television program, *PM Magazine*, which was shown on a Hartford TV station on Memorial Day.

Our June meeting was held in the 2500-seat Paramount Theatre in Springfield, Massachusetts, where we were guests of the Paramount Theatre Organ Society whose members have been hard at work restoring the 3/11 Style 235 Wurlitzer which was an original installation when the theatre opened in 1929. Phil Stock of Hartford, Connecticut, was the artist, Phil is organist for the Boston Celtic games played in the Hartford Civic Center; he was also organist for the Hartford Whalers for eight years. He owns the largest theatre organ in a resi-

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dence in New England. Phil explained at the opening of his concert that the theatre organ was designed to play the music of the twenties and thirties, then he played an entire program of music of that period. After the concert, the console was taken over by Eastern Massachusetts members John Cook and Bob Legon, and only the lateness of the hour and the long driving distances finally emptied the delightful movie palace.

Barry Goodkin



Phil Stock at the console of the Springfield, Massachusetts, Paramount 3/11 Wurlitzer.

(Rita Goodkin photo)

EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS



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Our May 16 Spring Concert at Babson again emphasized youth in the person of John Lauter (see May/June THEATRE ORGAN, "May We Introduce"). John had never been in the Boston area and was another "first" for us, although his abilities were recognized nationally when he played a Young Artist Showcase at the Indianapolis ATOS Convention in 1984.

Our artist quickly established his pedal dexterity with his lively opener, "Puttin' on the Ritz," followed by Sousa's "Liberty Bell March." One of John's teachers was Father Jim Miller, and his influence shone forth in John's jazzy, swinging "I'm Beginning to See The Light." John brought his own slides for our

regular sing-along feature which does much to unite the audience with the organist. He also accompanied *Cops*, starring Buster Keaton, as the attraction of the evening. He closed his show with a medley from *42nd Street* which brought the audience to its feet with long applause. His encore was "Just One of Those Things." This young man has so much going for him that his name will be seen frequently in the concert circuit with the passage of time. We all wish him well!

The Burlington home of secretary Carolyn Wilcox was the scene of a most pleasant open house and picnic on the last day of May. This was the second year she has kindly invited the chapter for food, fun and melody with her Rodgers organ as the focal point. The expression, "A good time was had by all," certainly is apropos for the occasion. Thanks, Carolyn!

Our final meeting of the season was at Babson on June 14 with John Cook at our Wurlitzer. John can be counted on to produce a program that is different, very listenable and well-prepared. "Jubilate," by Gordon Young, was a jubilant opener. A Jesse Crawford arrangement of "When I Grow Too Old to Dream" was nicely played. "The Camel Train," by William Baines, was our young organist's final number, but a standing ovation brought a medley of three "Finger-busters," each at full throttle with some reserve of steam for "Dizzy Fingers." John has come so far since we first heard him that it is a joy to witness his talent blossom. Hours of lessons, practice and researching songs are paying off, and isn't it interesting that his initials are J.C.? May this portend well for his future!

Stanley C. Garniss



Past presidents of Garden State Chapter in Los Angeles. Left to right: Irving Light, Peter Panos, Bill Smith, Jack Moelmann, Michael Cipolletti.

(Jinny Vanore photo)

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NEW JERSEY

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June may be the month of brides, graduations and gardening, but whenever our members could meet and discuss summer activities, one thing was certainly on their minds — the National Convention in Los Angeles!

When we checked in to the beautiful Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, we found to our delight that more than thirty of our members had flown, ridden trains or driven cars from the East Coast to the West Coast for what turned out to be one of the finest conventions this reporter has experienced.

ATOSers who have never attended a National Convention are really missing a wonderful, unique experience of hearing top artists playing theatre organs that have been saved and lovingly cared for by chapter members throughout our country. Perhaps, best of all is meeting people from all over this country as well as from Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand — all lovers of theatre organ music. A special wine and cheese party was planned for Garden State members which is now a yearly tradition for us at National Conventions. Because we had so many past-presidents present, a special group picture was taken which accompanies this article. The Encore in San Diego was a day of sunshine, flowers, an unusual outdoor classical organ, a great concert at the California Theatre and a dinner cruise around San Diego's harbor. L.A. is to be complimented for a super convention — with special thanks to Convention Chairman Ralph Beaudry who planned and executed such wonderful entertainment. This was a convention to remember for a long time!

Jinny Vanore

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	Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, Michigan
October 10	ATOS Regional Convention, Rochester, New York
October 11	School Auditorium, Berlin, New Hampshire
October 16	Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
October 17	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
October 18	State Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
October 30	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
October 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
November 6	U.A. Auditorium, Upper Arlington, Ohio
November 8	Trinity Church, Chillicothe, Ohio
October	Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria
November/December	Australia & New Zealand Concert Tour
January 9, 1988	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California

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Chapter secretary Dr. Ed Mullins was a delegate and chapter representative at the ATOS Convention in Los Angeles. He took the "Drive Yourself and Save" option and drove to L.A. in his car displaying ATOS on his personalized Montana Centennial license plates. Ed accepted the Jesse Crawford Chapter Charter at the convention banquet. He recommended that Montana beef be served at the next banquet, although he said he heard a lot of "beefs" about the banquet.

Jesse Crawford made four sound films for Warner Brothers between 1936 and 1940, and his wife, Helen, appeared in some of them. They are:

1936 - *Poets of the Organ*

1938 - *Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Crawford*

1939 - *Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Crawford*
"At Home"

1940 - *An Organ Novelty*

The Library of Congress has the four films. They had a viewing copy of *An Organ Novelty* and pre-print materials on *Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Crawford "At Home."* The other two films are on flammable nitrate film. We have received a letter saying that we have successfully persuaded the Preservation Section of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of

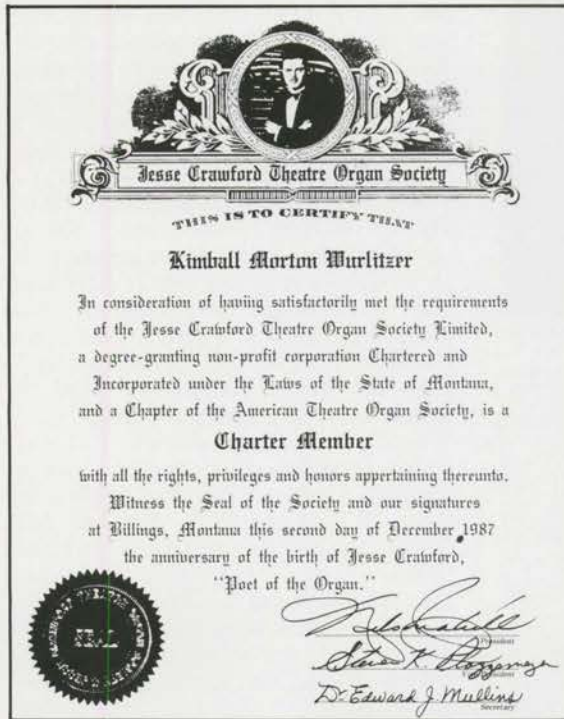
Congress to preserve the nitrate films onto safety film. The Library is making fine-grain master preservation copies at their expense, and the four Crawford sound films will be available for viewing at the Library of Congress. All of this was announced by Dr. Mullins when he accepted the chapter's charter, but he also added that this is a great tribute to Crawford on this, the 25th anniversary of his passing.

Charter member certificates have been delivered by the diploma-maker in Nebraska. Charter memberships are open

until December 2, 1987, the 92nd anniversary of the "Poet of the Organ." For information, please send a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope to the Society, Babcock Theatre Building, 2812 Second Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101.

The United States Postal Service, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee is considering our suggestion for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp to honor Jesse Crawford. If we are successful, we hope to have a "First Day of Issue" ceremony in Billings.

Steve Plaggemeyer



Jesse Crawford
Theatre Organ Society
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St. Paul-Minneapolis



St. Paul Mayor George Latimer (right) proclaimed Arma Neff Day on her 98th birthday. Rob Calcaterra (left) accompanied her violin solo.



Marge Shepard at the Wurlitzer, World Theatre.



Mike Erie at the Wurlitzer, World Theatre.

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

Postcards mailed to members and friends announced that they did not have to "Join the Navy to see the World," as they were invited to an open house, board meeting and open console at the World Theater on May 31. Mike Erie led off the afternoon at the console to demonstrate, in his own inimitable way, the capabilities of the organ. This was followed by several folks eager to try their skills on the instrument.

On June 26 Tom Hazleton, 1986 ATOS Organist of the Year, appeared in concert at the Minneapolis Auditorium, playing both classical and theatre organs. He graciously acknowledged three encores and a standing ovation — Tom was in a most happy mood!

On Saturday, June 27, beginning at 8:30 a.m., Karl Eilers, in a Wake-up Concert, set the stage for Play The Organ Day at the Minneapolis Auditorium in an effort to raise funds for the dismantling and removal of the huge Kimball pipe organ from the old Convention Center to the new one. The 10,000-pipe Kimball is truly a musical and historic marvel, an instrument that is worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of future generations. Professional and aspiring local artists paid \$5 for five minutes of playing time on either the 5/122 classical or 4/25 theatre organs. At least ten members of our chapter participated. It was an interesting and fun day, greeting old and new friends in the gaily decorated auditorium. Barbara Flanagan, popular columnist for the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune*, wrote the "80 who paid to play the Kimball, amateur and professional musicians of all ages, agree that the chance was memorable." The event lasted until 11:00 p.m.

I missed a lot of good happenings while I was hospitalized in May and part of June — the Hector Olivera premiere at the World on May 19, the chapter event at the World on May 31, the Paul Quarino concerts at the Phipps Center on June 6 and 7 and Grace McGinnis' visit there, and I appreciate Roger Dalziel taking over for me and writing the July/August Chapter Notes. Activities have sort of come to a standstill during the summer months.

Verna Mae Wilson



**LONDON &
SOUTH OF
ENGLAND**

8956/32369 or 1-788-8791

In the heyday of the supercinema and theatre organ in Britain, the BBC featured a popular weekly programme called *In Town Tonight* in which the closing catch phrase was: "We hope to bring you something interesting every week." While we do not operate on quite the same frequency, our chapter would paraphrase this to describe our programme of events and activities today.

Our stateside guest in April was Lew Williams, playing two concerts in four days — both featuring organs originally made famous in London by the legendary Sidney Torch (but now situated 180 miles apart) and thus ideally suited to Lew's own considered and uncannily realistic Torch-style renditions. First was his superb debut appearance in our popular Sunday morning concert series at the Top Rank Club featuring the 4/16 Wurlitzer. This was followed three days later by a welcome return of Lew to the equally famous 4/15 Christie newly installed in the Memorial Hall at the South Wales town of Barry. Having last played it in its original home during this first visit to the UK in 1982, Lew became the first American artist to play it in its new venue. As well as his sparkling style, Lew especially endeared himself to his audiences with his wide-ranging requests in the second half of each program. And such was the enthusiasm of his 300-strong audience at Barry that Lew claimed this as his best anywhere for a long time.

To celebrate our tenth birthday in May, we happily returned to Kilburn with our long-standing stateside friend and chapter member, Dennis James, presiding at the Wurlitzer in a unique program of carefully chosen, expertly described and exquisitely played music that originated mainly from the time period before this magnificent theatrical edifice and organ were built (50 years ago). Perhaps, however, the real highlight of his exceptional performance was his specially composed "ATOS London Chapter Tenth Anniversary March." The whole party culminated in a birthday party in the upper foyer of the theatre with a superb Wurlitzer-shaped cake provided by popular member Keith Evans.

After an equally delightful concert featuring Wurlitzer and piano at the Brentford Musical Museum in West London, Dennis played a special opening performance of the rare Rutt theatre organ in the St. Albans Musical Museum in Hertfordshire. This organ was formerly in the Regal Highams Park in East London, and is one of only three built by this maker.

(continued)

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"x3" or #655, 3"x5") 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.

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July 10 for September/October
September 10 for November/December

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Joan McFadden, President, Quad Cities Chapter ATOS

THE VERY BEST

"Bob Ralston's performance was most memorable and entertaining... excellent registration... by far the most exciting program of the ATOS Convention."

Grant I. Whitcomb, Reviewer, Theatre Organ Magazine

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

"Bob Ralston's shows on April 5th and 6th, 1986, were, as usual, a financial success for all concerned. But more importantly, we were able to present the one man who has consistently drawn some of our largest and most enthusiastic audiences."

Russell E. Shaner, Program Chairman, Rochester Theatre Organ Society

ENGLAND, continued.

A highly accomplished organist — especially with his "Page One Trio" and at the Compton theatre organ of our good friends, the Windsor Theatre Organ Trust, providing the music for our popular series of chapter Buffet Dance evenings — Keith Evans was the console guest at Edith and Les Rawle's famous 3/19 Wurlitzer for our chapter April Club Night.

Our May Club Night guest was Dudley Savage, one of the all-time great names of the British theatre organ scene. Dudley began his career in the thirties as the "Cornish Boy Wonder Organist," and in later years became exceptionally well-known for his "As Prescribed" series of Sunday morning radio broadcasts to hospitals in the Southwest of England playing the Compton 3/8 (plus the Melotone electrostatic unit of which Dudley was always the absolute master) in the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. His performance at the Wurlitzer, together with his immaculate broadcasting manner and commentary on his music, was as outstanding as it was welcome.

Finally, with our continued focus on the encouragement of our youngsters, we are overjoyed to learn that 14-year-old Peter Holt from Wetherby in Yorkshire has won a top section prize in the ATOS Young Organist Competition. Peter was the winner of our 1985 Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition.

Dr. Norman Barfield

THE MOUNTAIN STATE 304/744-9016 or 304/757-9334

David and Kattie Fortner hosted our May meeting in their home in Hurricane, West Virginia. New officers were appointed/railroaded into service for the coming year. Outgoing Chairman David Fortner is now working full-time servicing pipe and electronic organs and is also beginning work on our chapter Wurlitzer (one piece at a time). Our organ had suffered flattened trumpet resonators, and member Ray Charlton, through his association with a local tech school, had three mandrels made for the resonators and took on the job of straightening them. As the picture indicates, he has done a remarkable job. Many of our members are ready to work, and our motto is: "No project was ever finished unless it got started." The rebuild may take years, but we have a structurally sound and complete organ on which to lavish our energy.

We are planning a fall meeting in a local church where the 3/12 Möller from the Virginia Theatre resides. We anticipate a short program and history of the organ.

The hardest aspect of a theatre organ group such as ours faces is keeping things moving and people interested. We sure do have a good time when everything comes together.

That's all for now. Best wishes to all you folks and our sister chapters.

Kattie Fortner



Cora and Davey Fortner with some of the damaged resonators before straightening.



Ray Charlton with two trumpet resonators after straightening.

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New York Chapter's Bardavon crew working (not posing) on chest magnets: clockwise - Frank Dunhuber, Barb Penrose (technical chief), Don Bodeen, Chuck Zajick and Marc Erickson.



Bardavon Theatre marquee, Poughkeepsie, NY, announcing benefit for Wurlitzer re-installation.



Don Walker entertains at Oregon Chapter meeting. (Claude Neuffer photo)

NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 201/694-0779

More than 200 patrons of the arts joined with chapter members from the Poughkeepsie area and paid \$25 each to attend a reception and evening of entertainment entitled "Pipe Dreams, or the Return of the Wurlitzer" at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House Theatre in Poughkeepsie on May 21. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the restoration and re-installation of the Bardavon 2/7 Style E-X Wurlitzer in its original home. Honorary Chairman of the campaign is Helen Hayes MacArthur, the First Lady of the American theatre, who had performed on the Bardavon stage many years ago. Miss Hayes' personal secretary read a message from the famous actress supporting the project which is headed by New York Chapter board member John Vanderlee. Attendance at the event indicated a strong support for the theatre (now a performing arts center) and the Wurlitzer project are receiving from the community. New York chapter recently purchased the organ, which had been removed from the theatre in the early sixties, and a volunteer crew is now restoring the instrument.

The evening began with a wine and cheese reception in the lobby, after which the audience was greeted in the theatre by New York chapter chairman Tom Stehle and project chief John Venderlee. Crew member Marc Erickson served as master of ceremonies and narrated a slide presentation about the organ. A Laurel and Hardy silent comedy and a sing-along were then accompanied by Larry Hazard at a Baldwin organ which had

been brought in for the occasion. Thanks to Everett Rood, a lavish dessert table was provided on stage. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening, and the Wurlitzer project made many new friends and gained much support.

In her message to the group, Miss Hayes stated: "It is a thrilling prospect to think that this time next year the walls of this beautiful opera house could be reverberating with the 'Golden Voice' of its original Wurlitzer pipe organ ... at my age it is heartening to see such interest in the restoration of 'elderly' objects. Cherishing the past and revitalizing it can enrich all of our lives ...

"However, I would like to suggest that there is a great deal of difference between living WITH the past and living IN the past ... This theatre would not be here today if it had not been adapted to change with the times. From legitimate theatre, to movie house, to multi-purpose performing arts center, the Bardavon — thanks to dedicated people like yourselves — has been able to survive and thrive for over 100 years.

"I think that tonight, you are the music makers, and you are the dreamers of dreams. May your dreams for bringing pipe organ music back into this theatre be blessed with success, and may this theatre once again be filled with its beautiful golden sound."

Thanks to so many who contributed time, talent, energy and financial support to this event, sufficient funds have been raised for the chapter to pay the balance due on the purchase of the organ and to buy a solid-state relay for the Wurlitzer.

Tom Stehle

OREGON Portland

503/771-8098

About forty members and guests spent a beautiful spring day at the lovely Corvallis home of Solveig and James Littlejohn. We experienced top talent, tasty turkey and tantalizing treats as those who had driven from as far away as Portland and Eugene participated in open console and partook of the goodies.

We particularly enjoyed Solveig's musical treats on her three-manual Conn theatre organ with pipes — she specializes in playing piano novelties and Rags which she has transcribed for the organ.

Some of the more adventuresome even played pool.

Paul Quarino

PUGET SOUND Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

We were proud to co-host, with the Seattle Film Festival, Gaylord Carter accompanying a screening of *Wings* at the Seattle Paramount in May. The theatre was splendourous, the organ magnificent, and the large crowd enthusiastic, but the day belonged to Gaylord Carter who lived up to all that has been said and written about him during his lengthy career. The score was superb and expertly played, and Carter's endearing quick wit and humorous reminiscences added to a day of great satisfaction for all. Many agreed that "it doesn't get any better than this!"

(continued)

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PUGET SOUND (continued)

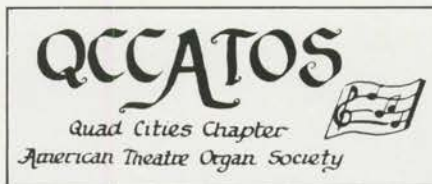
Chapter officers and board members held a reception on the stage at the Paramount to welcome new member Dick Wilcox who is building a home nearby to house his 4/46 Wurlitzer. His great ambition is to allow the organ to be used by teachers, students and young artists, but it will also be used for private concerts by nationally known artists in the near future.

Several of our members attended the fantastic L.A. Convention, returning with many fond memories, numerous tapes, photos and souvenirs, and renewed inspiration for the year ahead, some of which will be spent planning the Encore for the 1988 Portland convention.

Diane Whipple



Gaylord Carter receiving compliments from fellow organist Ed Zollman following the screening of *Wings* at the Seattle Paramount. (Zollman photo)



319/359-8303 or 309/949-2847

April and May were busy months this year, and began in earnest with the presentation of our spring spectacular on April 26. The program was headlined by the return engagement of Ron Rhode as a local artist demonstrating his continued advancement as an entertainer on our 3/12 Wicks. The 1000 in attendance were treated to a varied and delightful array of organ registrations. The silent movie and sing-along rounded out the afternoon activities reminiscent of the theatre's past. Intermission refreshments and an after-glow dinner gave the Quad Cities an entertainment function worthy of pride.

Our chapter has become known for its family atmosphere, primarily because of the energy of President Joan McFadden and her husband, Bill. Bill coordinates the potluck dinners that serve as "Get Acquainted With Our Artist" evenings prior to a spectacular or major event. The May 17 social was attended by 75 organ enthusiasts from Peoria, Joliet, Rockford and Chicago, Illinois, and from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Tom Wibbels

was the guest artist and demonstrated that we do have worthy youths coming along to keep theatre organs playing in the future.

The fall show is in the planning stage, and we hope to have another young artist as part of our program to find young, local talent for participation in future activities. The Capitol Theatre management has shown tremendous cooperation in promoting chapter activities for the use of the theatre by other groups with an interest in using the organ as an additional attraction.

Bob Christiansen

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Bill and Maurine Durand with their Allen organ.

(Wendall Hall photo)



ATOS President Jack Moelmann returned to Omaha to star at River City's July meeting.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

At Right: Bob Markworth and his 3/14 Kimball, originally from the Leona Theatre in Homestead, Pennsylvania.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



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Our May 24 meeting was hosted by Bill and Maurine Durand in their beautiful home. Both played several selections on their three-manual Allen digital computer theatre organ, demonstrating its resources. After open console, entertainment was provided by members: George Rice favored us with several tunes; Dick Zdan did an outstanding job of accompanying the Buster Keaton film, *Cops*, and Ron Bower concluded the program with a sing-along, ending with a medley of patriotic songs. A potluck

buffet capped the evening.

Bob Markworth hosted our June 14 meeting at his home which boast a 3/14 Kimball theatre pipe organ on which several members tried their skill at open console. President Harold Kenney presented our chapter's "Tibia Pipe Award" to Dave Foote, an Omaha television personality who has been a constant booster of theatre organ activity in Omaha on his morning show. The plaque which accompanied this pipe was beautifully crafted from walnut by member Joe Hogy. Our star for the day was Jeanne Cooper who entertained with her easy-listening organ stylings and concluded her program

with a sing-along.

Jack Moelmann entertained the chapter at its July 3 meeting at Bob Markworth's. During open console, Virginia Schoberg, a church organist visiting from Kansas City, Kansas, played Widor's "Toccata," demonstrating that classical works are well-suited to the theatre organ. As always, Jack Moelmann presented a memorable program of theatre stylings and a sing-along. We are indebted to both Bob and Jack for their generosity which made this meeting so enjoyable for our chapter. Wendall Hall joined Jack for a rousing banjo/organ duet.

Tom Jeffery

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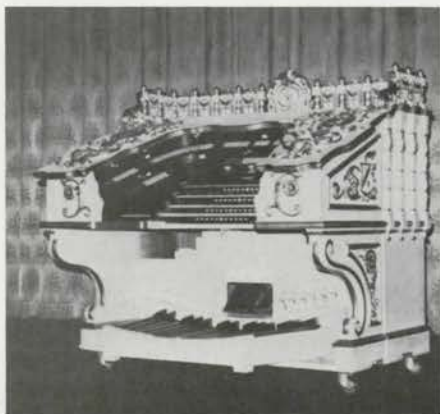
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SANTA BARBARA

We are the newest chapter of ATOS, and we started last fall when sixteen men began restoring the console of a rare theatre organ. North Texas chapter had in storage a giant 4/24 Wonder Morton that was originally installed in Loew's Jersey City Theatre and, since they had no permanent home for an organ this big, they donated it to Santa Barbara for installation in the Arlington Center for the Performing Arts. Our chapter was born in December 1986, has grown to nearly 40 members, and is in the process of restoring this wonderful instrument under the leadership of its officers, John Oien, Mike McLaughlin, and Otto Korntheuer along with architect Roger Phillips and project engineers Roger Lagerquist and Bruck Murdock. Technical and professional work is being done by the Newton Pipe Organ Company of San Jose under the direction of Stephen Leslie.

All 18 tons of organ are now in a donated Wells Fargo Bank building in Santa Barbara where it is undergoing restoration. When the organ was removed from Loew's Jersey City, extensive damage was inflicted enroute to Dallas, but the restoration is going well and installation should begin by late summer. It is expected that the project will take a year to complete.



Console of 4/24 Wonder Morton being installed by Santa Barbara Chapter.

The Arlington, an atmospheric theatre with the illusion of a starlit night in a Spanish village, opened in 1931. When Fox built the Arlington, three long, nar-



Part of the crowd that gathered for the delicious luncheon before Emil's concert ...

row pipe chambers were included behind the "Spanish Village" of the more than 2000-seat theatre, but the small organ housed there was removed in the 1950s. When our project is completed, it is expected to be one of the finest-sounding organs in southern California. The monolithic scale of the pipework of the Wonder Morton will fit into the existing chambers. Although Gordon Wright of North Texas chapter told us, "You are putting a six-pound cake into a four-pound box," we are assured it will fit.

We have already held two fund-raisers featuring Gaylord Carter and Jerry Nagano playing a Baldwin Cinema accompaniment for silent films. More events are scheduled for this fall, and the summer has been filled by members and other civic-minded Santa Barbara citizens working on the restoration. *John Oien*



Emil Martin, Sacramento's favorite, in concert at the Fair Oaks Organ.

SIERRA Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

What can one say about a fellow artist when it has all been said before? Once again, Emil Martin, Sacramento's favorite organist, has topped himself in concert, this time without singers as in past concerts. After his grand opening selection of the score to *Porgy and Bess*, he gave us a taste of the music played in the olden days for silent movies as a medley of waltzes we haven't heard in ages. The one that brought the "Ooohs" and "Aaahs" was the "Destiny Waltz," once the theme song for the radio show, "One Man's Family."

After the intermission "raffles," Emil returned to the console for the second half of his concert which featured what he called "Thirty Tunes in Thirty Minutes," a group of all-time favorites from the years 1927-1957. This was a big hit with the audience as was his "Raymond Overture." In the eyes of the large audience, Emil could do no wrong, and I am sure he will be welcomed back again next year — thanks, Emil, for a great afternoon!

Bud Taylor

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SEQUOIA

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We have had a most successful first year. Since our organizational meeting in March 1986, our membership has continued to increase and we have had some fine organists play for us.

In June, Mr. Don Wallin' played "our" mighty 4/14 Robert-Morton in the Fresno Warnors Theatre. San Francisco's own Bob Vaughn played the 2/3 Wurlitzer in the home of Tom and Jane DeLay for a silent film and Christmas social. May saw the one-and-only Larry Vannucci put the Morton through its paces — this brought a good turnout from neighboring chapters. May also saw a long-awaited document — our non-profit status from the State of California and the IRS. Don Croome did the honors at Fresno's Pizza and Pipes 3/23 Wurlitzer.

The chapter is most fortunate to have been given a 2/9 Wurlitzer with piano which is being thoroughly gone over by treasured member (and charter ATOS member), organbuilder Richard S. Villemin. We will have more on this as the project develops.

Chapter President Pete Sweeney is also installing a 2/9 Wurlitzer, opus 1269, in his Visalia, California, home. We have many home installations, ranging in size from a pint-size 2/3 up to a 4/14. One member has two pipe organs, while another has three. The first theatre organ was installed in the San Joaquin Valley in 1917. A rebirth of theatre organ? We are lucky — it never died here!

Tom DeLay

Above: Two silent movie veterans. Bob Vaughn and the 2/3 style 109 Piano Console Wurlitzer pipe organ, DeLay residence Fresno, California.

Below: Mr. Larry Vannucci at the Warnor Theatre organ.

At Right: Chapter member, organbuilder Richard S. Villemin looks over the console of opus 433 Wurlitzer being donated to Sequoia Chapter.



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SOONER STATE

Tulsa

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Tulsa's Assembly of God Church was the site of our May meeting. Dan Kimes played an enjoyable mini-concert of music from the twenties and thirties on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. We had thirteen who wanted to play at open console so we drew numbers and asked those playing to limit themselves to two selections until all had had a chance to play — even so, it was an hour-and-a-half before the encores began.

In June we met at the home of new members Lee and Sharon Lomas where Phil Judkins presented an interesting slide program on A Trip Through an Organ Factory which covered the various departments of planning, engineering, pipe-making, erecting, testing and shipping of a pipe organ from start to finish. He also showed some working models of pipe chests. Our host then demonstrated the unusual and entertaining special effects of his two-manual Kimball J900 electronic organ. Open console followed.

Several of our members who attended the ATOS Convention in Los Angeles returned with glowing accounts of an enjoyable time.

Progress is continuing on the console of our club-owned Robert-Morton. We want to refinish the case before proceeding with the installation in Tulsa's Vo-Tech High School.

Work has begun on the releathering project of the six-rank Wurlitzer chest belonging to Lee and Dorothy Smith. Dorothy spent two vacation days at home and got 33 precious primary pouches covered ... not much, but it's a beginning!

Dorothy Smith

The very existence of music is wonderful, I might even say miraculous. Its domain is between thought and phenomena. Like a twilight mediator it hovers between spirit and matter, related to both, yet differing from each. It is spirit, but it is spirit subject to the measurement of time. It is matter, but it is matter that can dispense with space.

HEINRICH HEINE



L to R: Colleen Carpenter, Scott Smith, Kenneth Butela, in program for senior citizens in Kalamazoo.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN 616/649-2742 or 616/345-4543

During our very active spring we were privileged to hear a number of excellent organists and concluded the season with a successful Senior Citizen program at Kalamazoo's State Theatre.

In March we met at the home of Max and Mary Doolittle where David Cogswell of Grand Rapids performed on the Doolittle's Conn 652. In April, member David Moore demonstrated the Baldwin and Johannus organs at Stannard's Music in Portage.

At our May meeting we had the pleasure of hearing Dale Zieger who was, for a number of years, a product specialist and international concert organist for the Conn Organ Company. He performed for us on the Conn 653 at Mc Leier Oil Company in Kalamazoo with a program that included medleys of theatre organ tunes and Gospel music. Some of you may remember Dale as the organist at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis; he is now associated with Keyboard World in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

On the first Sunday in June some 600 people attended a pilot program for senior citizens at Kalamazoo's beautiful

State Theatre. We produced the show with the support of Duwain Hunt's State Theatre Vaudeville Committee, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the State Theatre management. The program included two silent comedies (Buster Keaton's *Blacksmith* and a slapstick Chaplin film), an old-time sing-along and lots of organ music. Ken Butela opened the program with lively and nostalgic songs and accompanied the sing-along led by Colleen Carpenter (a young lady of Kalamazoo with a tremendous singing voice). Scott Smith, an accomplished young organist from Lansing, Michigan, accompanied both silent films and concluded with a group of appropriate solos. The response of the audience was very enthusiastic, and many came forward to ask that we plan a similar event in the near future.

The nostalgic quality of the show was greatly enhanced by the atmosphere of the theatre. Kalamazoo's well-preserved State Theatre is an Ebersson design — a Spanish courtyard with a night-sky effect featuring clouds and stars. The organ, the original Barton, has been embellished and kept in repair for many years by William Mollema and John Catherwood.

Dorothy Butela



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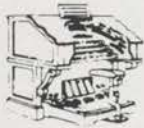
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We had a fine summer picnic at the Chase home on June 14. Thirty-three members and guests enjoyed the dinner and open console on the 3/6 theatre pipe organ. A Ben Turpin silent movie was accompanied by Mr. Bill Yaney.

Our final concert of 1987 will feature Bill Yaney at the Ohio Theatre (St. Hedwig Cultural Center) on November 14. We will have a sing-along, silent railroad movies and antique theatre slides to add to the pleasure of his concert.



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VALLEY
OF THE
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CHAPTER

Phoenix
602-972-6223 or 602-278-9107

Many Valley of the Sun theatre organ enthusiasts were present to bid farewell to the Phoenix Organ Stop Pizza on March 27. Organist Lew Williams touched us all with his closing numbers: "The Party's Over," "Auld Lang Syne" and "Thanks for the Memories." In the days that followed, some of our members helped with the removal of the Wurlitzer from the restaurant.

On a more cheerful note, April 5 was a "G'day" for us all when Australian Neil Jensen played for our chapter meeting at the Mesa Organ Stop. Much of Neil's program was show tunes and was very well received.

May 17 found us at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Several of our members have assisted with the installation of the theatre organ there, and it was good to be able to hear the results of their work. Lew Williams was our featured artist that afternoon. He invited member "Archie" Archibald to join him for a few numbers — "Archie" playing the piano.

Yesterdays, David Lindsay's "restaur-

and of nostalgia" featuring singing waiters and waitresses, was the site of our June 16 social. We didn't hear a theatre pipe organ that night, but we *did* hear some theatre organ music when David played Lyn Larsen's "Sounds of Wonder." Lindsay had written the lyrics to several of Larsen's compositions. *Madeline LiVolsi*

WESTERN RESERVE

We welcomed the New Year and a new slate of officers at a social meeting on January 18 at the Plum Creek Inn (formerly the Lamplighter) in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, currently the home of the 1928 3/16 Kimball originally installed in Cleveland's Variety Theatre. A great deal of restoration has been done to the instrument lately, with emphasis on revealing the fascinating mechanical operations behind the music we hear. Along with the restaurant's delectable Italian cuisine, we were treated to the artistry of theatre organ veteran Billy Buswell (see page 20, December 1986 THEATRE ORGAN). It is difficult to decide whether his nostalgic reminiscences or his keyboard artistry was the more delightful that afternoon as he shared both his memories and his music with us. His selections included the energetic "That's Entertainment," Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and a resounding "America." A brief round of open console time followed for those who introduced themselves to the Kimball keys.

Our February 22 meeting was held at Cleveland's First United Methodist Church where Richard Fettkether performed for us on the 4419 pipes of the church's glorious Casavant. Richard's inspiring selections began with Bach's "The Lord's Prayer" and featured the Orchestral Oboe in "Sheep May Safely Graze". His closing "Carillon de Westminster" was the next best thing to a trip to London.

We proudly presented our own Bill Taber in the only Standing Room Only concert we have held. Extra seating had to be rushed to the Grays' Armory for the February 28 concert on the 3/15 Wurlitzer. Bill opened with a medley of patriotic tunes and then went on to cover the full spectrum of musical flavors — from "I'd Give A Million Tomorrows" to show tunes from *42nd Street*. With nostalgic amusement, Bill presented a

Movie Memorial, a brief, filmed sound performance by four organists, Jesse Crawford, Dick Leibert, Lew White and Ann Leaf, produced during the heyday of theatre organ. This low-budget production provided an interesting, albeit antiquated, look at the theatre organ as it was perceived in its own day. For a more traditional celluloid sample, Bill accompanied the inebriated antics of Charlie Chaplin's *One A.M.* and then led the audience in a delightful sing-along. When called back for an encore, Bill rounded out the evening with a finale of "Old Man River."

We gathered in March for a business meeting and social at the Grays' Armory where Tom Drake performed as guest artist at the 3/15 Wurlitzer. His unique style at the organ has been welcome at our chapter meetings before, and this concert was no exception as he treated us to selections from "Lady, Be Good" to "The Man That Got Away" and a medley of patriotic tunes that shook the rafters.

Member John Lane was featured artist at our April social at Cleveland's Judson Manor. The 2/9 Kimball and organist Lane combined to provide a unique afternoon of entertainment with such tunes as "The Perfect Song" and "Don't Blame Me," a soothing trip down memory lane for all of us.

Chapter President Bob Moran took time off from his administrative duties to serve as organist and vocalist at our June 8 social at the Grays' Armory. His selections included "I Don't Want to Walk Without You, Baby" and "Love Till the End of Time," all rendered with his inimitable keyboard artistry and freshly revealed vocal talents. Afterwards, open console was enjoyed by everyone.

We have been presenting a series of weekly "Brown Bag" luncheon concerts featuring chapter members at the 3/15 Wurlitzer at Grays' Armory. The Wednesday noon concerts have attracted audiences ranging in size and will continue throughout the summer.

We will present Neil Jensen from Sydney, Australia, in concert at the Grays' Armory on October 31. Tickets are available in advance from: WRTOS, 1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

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May 17 was a choice day for a trip to the Flint Institute of Music. The Flint Theatre Organ Club was celebrating its twentieth anniversary and had invited our chapter to join the celebration. Forty-five Wolverines did so and enjoyed an afternoon of warm hospitality, several hours of open console at the Grande Barton (formerly of the Capitol Theatre) in the Recital Hall of Flint Institute, and a delicious dinner. The impromptu "Afterglow" was a real joy which had participants from both sides dancing on the stage to organ/piano duets by Fred Bayne and Ed Brockhahn. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and look forward to a repeat.

June 28 was the date of our first visit to the home of Norm and Gena Horning in Ann Arbor. Thirty-four members traveled the distance to a typical Wolverine afternoon of conviviality, good music and good food afterwards at the Old German Restaurant. The Hornings' Rodgers Trio got a good workout and even their two accordions were put to the test by Virginia Duerr and Lorraine Robinson.

Of course, the great news for June was the winning of the 1987 ATOS Young Organist Competition by Melissa Ambrose who was sponsored this year by our chapter.

C. & B. Baas



Wolverine President Fred Page and Flint Theatre Organ Club President Connie Ozanich. (Bill Vogel photo)



Wolverine Vice President Homer Warren surprised at console during June social. (Fred Page photo)



Gena and Norman Horning, hosts of Wolverine June social. (Fred Page photo)

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