

## GOLD DUST ...

12/16 NORMAN NAIRN, Rochester's Piccadilly ... 2/26 EDDIE DUSTED-TER, Minneapolis' WCCO; OTTO F. BECK, Washington's WRC; ALFRED HELLEMS, Philadelphia's WOO; LEON WOOD, Newark's WOR ... 5/26 BERNIE COWHAM, Milwaukee's WHAD and Tower Theatre ... 9/26 UDA WALDROP, San Francisco's KPO ... 3/27 RUSSELL M. FLOODAS, Madison,

Wisconsin's Orpheum ... 6/27 R. WILSON ROSS, Rochester's Victoria; J. NEWTON YATES, Berwyn, Illinois' Auditorium Theatre; CLARK FIERS Scranton's Comerford West Side Theatre ... 7/27 BERNIE COWHAM opens Milwaukee's Oriental Barton; P. HANS FLATH opens Kansas City's Midland Robert-Morton ... 9/28 HELEN ANKNER, Rochester's WHAM ... 11/28 LEW WHITE and EDWIN LEMARE

in recording sessions ... 1/29 JEAN WEINER, Atlantic City's WPG ... 7/29 Rochester's EDWARD C. MAY on WHEC from the Riviera Theatre ... 10/29 KEN WIDENOR at Loew's Rochester ... 3/31 ARLO HULTS, alternating at New York's RKO 86th St. and 58th St. theatres.

Have a Merry and a Happy! See you next time!

*Jason & The Old Prospector*

## Closing Chords

### JOSEPH J. DEC

**Joseph J. Dec** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away recently just two days before his 64th birthday. He is survived by two sisters, Stephanie Dec and Frances Wacker. A sweet and gentle man, he was devoted to the music of the theatre pipe organ.

During his spare time, Joe searched out every second-hand store, every Salvation Army store, and any other possible source of 78 records of theatre organ music. His search was long and lonely as he thought he was the only one left in the whole world who shared his love of theatre organ music, this being years before ATOE (not ATOS) was founded. As the organs were silenced in theatres and on the air waves, he had left only his precious record library as the source of his enjoyment.

One day in the early forties, he quite accidentally encountered another collector of organ records in one of the Salvation Army stores that he haunted. A beautiful friendship quickly developed, and they continued their individual searching for records, and meeting weekends to play for each other their recent "finds". One such weekend, Joe produced the first English-made theatre organ record that either had ever seen. This was Reginald Dixon's "Land of Hope and Glory," which sort of became Joe's theme song! This was a whole new field for these friends, but the English organ releases were very few, indeed.

As WWII progressed, Joe's friend was stationed on the West Coast, and Joe joined the Navy. Contact between the two friends was lost. It was after nearly forty years that Joe's friend located Stephanie only to learn that Joe had died; his injuries had left him a double amputee, and he was honorably discharged. He enjoyed his music to the end, faithful to the last to his beloved theatre organ record library. His life was blessed by the beauty of the music that the theatre organ bestows on the listener. *Judd Walton*

### EDWARD WIELGOT

**Edward Wielgot** passed away at his Denver home July 29, at the age of 66, after a long illness. Long active in the af-

fairs of Rocky Mountain Chapter, he served as its president in 1981, and, with his wife, Virginia, helped on many chapter projects and helped to guide the chapter through difficult years. They served on concert committees, took care of newsletter printing and mailing, and hosted club gatherings and board meetings. Ed was also involved in work on the club organ and on the Aladdin Theatre organ. He and Virginia were also active participants in National Conventions. *Donald Zeller*

### FRED RISER

Memorial services for **Fred Riser** were held in his organ studio on August 21. Fred passed away on August 17 at the age of 81. Until recent years, Fred had been active in many Rocky Mountain Chapter projects, and in return, chapter members had helped with the installation of his mammoth instrument. Fred served as chapter president in 1979. His studio has been the setting for many chapter meetings and concerts, and we listened with fascination as the instrument continued to grow. Chapter members gathered at the studio in August 1986 to help Fred and Evelyn celebrate their 60th anniversary as well as Evelyn's birthday. The studio was also one of the venues during the Afterglow of the Rocky Mountain Regional last fall. At present the organ stands at 31 ranks, with 24 playing, and is controlled by two consoles. Following the memorial service, the console was open to all, but NO solemn music was allowed — as Fred had requested. *Donald Zeller*

### HAROLD PETERSON

**Harold Peterson** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, age 77, died August 14. In earlier years, as chairman of Land O' Lakes Chapter, he organized several bus tours to the Hermes organ and other instruments in the area of Dairyland Chapter. He designed and installed theatre projection and sound equipment throughout the country, working for the National Theatres Supply Company. The sophisticated Cinerama-like equipment in the Johnson Wax Rondelle was installed by Harold in the sixties.

Harold had his own 2/5 Wurlitzer from the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, Minnesota, which replaced the 3/8 Barton he had from the Uptown Theatre in St. Paul. He was also responsible for helping Fred Hermes acquire the Brenograph projectors used in his home productions.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

*Fred Hermes*

### MARIE SINGLETON

Former theatre organist **Marie Singleton** died in Kansas City, Kansas, on July 21 after a long illness. She was 92.

During the twenties, she was employed by the Royal Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. While on vacation, she chose young Billy Wright to substitute for her, and they remained friends for years. After the advent of talking pictures, she was employed by the Jenkins Music Company and introduced the first Hammond electronic to the area to audiences in many concerts and demonstrations. *Lloyd Klos*

### ALDEN E. MILLER

**Alden E. Miller**, one of the pioneers in the ATOS movement, died on June 17 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, following an illness of several years. He was 75.

Miller published the *Kinura* newsletter and wrote the *Kinura Korner* in the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Club's *Posthorn* around 1961. In the 1950s, he owned the three-manual Wurlitzer from the Lyceum Theatre in Duluth, Minnesota, which he subsequently sold to John Ledwon. A lifelong collector of organ memorabilia, Alden donated his collection (which included that of Sylvester "Sal" Cargill) to the Archives of the Land O'Lakes chapter, which he helped form in 1959. Many ATOSers are model railroad hobbyists, as was Alden; however, he was also a genuine railroader for the Chicago and Northwestern.

He is survived by his wife, Lorayn, and three children. His sister, Alice Rabus, has been treasurer of Land O' Lakes Chapter since 1980.

*John Zetterstrom*