



Chapter Notes

ALABAMA Birmingham 205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

August was a very busy month for us. We had the opportunity to participate with Lee Erwin and CBS News in their story concerning the resurgence of silent films. Lee performed a mini-concert and then accompanied *The Kid*, starring Charlie Chaplin. CBS broadcast the story on Sunday morning, August 30.

Our August chapter meeting was a picnic on the pavillion of the restored Sloss Furnaces here in Birmingham. This is the world's only cast-iron furnace museum,

and it provided a beautiful and historic place for us to meet.

At a special meeting in September, we voted to proceed with our second chapter-produced recording at the Alabama Theatre. Watch for this recording to become available just after the first of the year!

Planning continues for the 1988 Regional convention to be hosted here in Birmingham October 14, 15, 16, 1988. Make your plans to attend! *Gary W. Jones*



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As a highlight of our summer, members of our club and the Tampa Arts Council have joined to start a new organization, Partners for Tampa Theatre, which will continue the upgrading and renovation of the Tampa Theatre and its beautiful 3/12 Wurlitzer. In this endeavor is the possibility of more ranks for the organ, new lighting and new projectors for the movies which would involve the organ. Donors may also be special patrons to the theatre. Theatre Director John Bell and members of the Arts Council have established the needs for the theatre, which include the organ.

During the past month, a social was hosted in Carrollwood by Debbie Krueger and Keith Pitts to get acquainted and discuss the theatre, the organ and other highlights for the coming year. This, by the way, might be a way for many theatre organ buffs to become involved in theatres in their areas where the future of the theatre and the theatre organ are combined.

We are proud of the time and effort given by chapter members who worked on the Wurlitzer this summer. Most of the work was done with the Tibias and the moving of ranks for better tonality. The blower system has been improved and more volume will be available. We look forward to having the organ back on line and continuing our fun and events.

Come see us, you will be glad you did!
Paul & Eleanor Danielson



CENTRAL
INDIANA
Indianapolis

317/255-8056 or 317/546-1336

Manual Technical High School auditorium is the scene of much activity every Saturday as members are busily installing the new Peterson relay on the organ under the direction of Kevin Aikman. The Indianapolis Public Schools have given a commendation to chapter board member Carl Wright, a benefactor of the Manual organ, for all the time and effort he has put forth on the organ.

On September 12, we sponsored a booth at the Penrod Arts Fair on the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The Penrod Society is a charitable organization formed for the purpose of cultivating, encouraging and developing public interest in and support of cultural institutions in the Indianapolis area. This was a great opportunity for us to advertise our club and increase public awareness of our purpose.

A yard sale at Manual High School was held on the hottest day of the year. It was, however, a great success.

Martin Ellis, 1985 ATOS Young Organist winner, presented a concert on the 4/65 Kimball at Gobin United Methodist Church in Greencastle. Everyone was amazed at the variety of sounds he was able to produce.

Past Chapter President Tim Needler has been elected by the ATOS National Board of Directors to serve on the Executive Committee. Tim is also Convention Planning Coordinator for ATOS and has authored the handbook which is currently being used by chapters for convention planning.
Carol M. Andrejasich

ADDITION:

The following chapters have requested that their current officers be added to the list which was printed in the July/August issue. (*The first name listed is chapter president; second name is chapter secretary.*)

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Margo Burkhart at the console of her Conn 653.
(Photo J. Polsley)



Betsy Richards takes a turn at open console.
(photo J. Polsley)



Central Ohio's Harry Connett.
(photo J. Polsley)

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

The July heat did not scotch our enthusiasm for meeting at Worthington High School. Through the diligent efforts of Jim Blegen, John Germer, Neil Grover and Don Reighard, the couplers were all working on the console and very few dead notes reared their ugly heads. President Polsley conducted the business meeting during which the membership voted overwhelmingly to finance the achievement of a first-rate organ.

The program began with member Harry Connett who led off with a band-organ number (one could visualize a carousel) and then a number of vintage tunes, including a catchy "Satin Doll." A continuous procession of members entertained for the rest of the afternoon. Our thanks to the organ crew and to Harry for a memorable occasion.

Cirleville, Ohio, is noted for its annual Pumpkin Show and as the home of the late Ted Lewis, but it is also the home of members Margo and "Burk" Burkhart who hosted us on August 16. A brief business session preceded the program which was opened by Margo on her Conn 653. She played such lilting refrains as "Here's That Rainy Day" and "Body and Soul" before moving into the difficult "Dizzy Fingers." We were impressed with the electronic wizardry which essentially creates a fourth manual with an overriding synthesizer. It also has some gorgeous Saxophone and Trombone solo stops. Margo was followed by members and guests at the keyboard, but the highlight had to be the piano-organ duo of Margo and "Burk" playing two old favorites, "New York, New York" and "Laura." Our thanks to the Burkharths for an afternoon that will be hard to top.

John Polsley



312/282-0037 or 312/698-6898

It is great to report that the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer is progressing nicely toward completion. The console has been refinished in a honey-gold tone somewhat like the original. To Gaylord Carter will go the honor of being the first organist to perform on the newly refurbished instrument in a fund-raiser to help pay for needed equipment. This will be covered in the next issue.

We were honored to have Ken Double perform at our summer social at the Van Der Molens. Their 3/19 Robert-Morton is an excellent installation, and Ken demonstrated some of its many possibilities with a wonderful performance to a full house. Our deep appreciation goes to the Van Der Molens for their generosity.

Lee Maloney instigated a Circus/Organ Show at the Pickwick Theatre in August to the delight of all who attended. In spite of the Chicago Flood of '87, which reduced attendance, the show did go on! Paul Niebauer was Ringmaster (in full regalia), and circus acts included jugglers, high-wire acts, chimpanzees and the Pickwick's excellent Wurlitzer with Lee Maloney at the console. This was a delightful change of pace with quality performers.

Here comes the Patio Theatre again, all spruced up for another try at movies and whatever. We will present the first public show in the newly renovated house on November 1 with Bob Ralston. ATOS President Jack Moelmann will serve as emcee, and this, too, will be covered in our next report.

Happy Holidays to all!

Almer N. Brostrom

*"Music is Love
in Search of a Word."*

December 10	Public Library, Westerville, Ohio
January 9, 1988	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California
January 16	California Theatre, San Diego, California
January 23	Phipps Center, Hudson, Wisconsin
February 5	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
February 13, 14, 15, 16	Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kansas
March 2	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
March 13	Short North Tavern, Columbus, Ohio
March 18	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
March 19, 20	San Francisco Film Festival
March 26	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California
April 1, 2	Contemporary American Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
April 15	Washington International Film Festival
April 23	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California
April 29, 30	Contemporary American Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
May 8	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
May 15	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
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Patsey and Rosalie Fucci hosted their annual picnic on July 12 and invited our members to a day of good eating and good music from their 4/20 Robert-Morton which was originally installed in Loew's State Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island, but now resides in the "Crystal Palace," a large (29' x 76') addition to their home in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Another picnic in August for our membership meeting was held at President John Angevine's farm in the Litchfield Hills of Warren, Connecticut. The afternoon was filled with music as members took advantage of open console on John's 3/10 Robert-Morton. This instrument was removed by John and friends from the Capitol Theatre in Danbury, Connecticut, and is now installed in a spacious studio in a building which was once used to inspect and crate eggs.

The organ was shut down for a brief business meeting and was opened again for an evening concert with member artists Brian Colton, Larry Hazard and Allen Mills doing the honors. When the concert came to a close, the organ stopped only long enough for someone else to slide into playing position. There are only a few resident chickens left on this farm, but they began to sing their morning song as the last members left and the organ was stilled.

Barry Goodkin



414/463-2365 or 414/771-8522

We piped our way to the Organ Piper on May 31 to welcome Garry Sette back to Milwaukee. He has returned to play our social for the afternoon, and he also plays at the restaurant on weekends.



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Much of the pipework in the organ is now Kimball, having come from a Madison, Wisconsin, church.

Bill Roth, of Carthage College in Kenosha, presented our June program on the 4/63 Casavant tracker in the College Chapel. His program included the Guilment "Sonata in D minor" and Bach's "Gigue Fugue."

We closed our summer season with our annual picnic at the home of Paul and Jean Van Der Molen in Wheaton, Illinois. Food was provided by the membership, and music from the Majestic Morton was by Clark Wilson.

Work progresses on the expansion of the Avalon Wurlitzer. We have added a Quintadena and a Tuba Mirabilis. Many thanks to the organ crew of Rick Johnson, Scott Bilot and Phil Marten for all the time they have spent on this project.

Bill Campbell



617/662-7055

On July 12 we were guests of long-time chapter members Patsey and Rosalie Fucci at their spacious Waltham home. This venue has been a yearly gathering place for leisurely picnicking and dessert of theatre pipe organ music. Connecticut Valley Chapter members were also invited.

Robert Legon again presided at the white and gold, four-manual Wurlitzer-style console which controls 20 ranks of Robert-Morton pipework from the former Loew's State Theatre in Providence. One of the highlights of Bob's short concert was a tribute to the late Fred Astaire, "The Continental" and "Dancing Cheek to Cheek." After an appropriate "Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer," Bob turned the season around musically with the wonderful world of winter of Hoagy Carmichael. The program was augmented with the fine voice of Ms. Rita Paolini singing three selections with Bob's sensitive accompaniment. Another interesting feature was a medley of National flag-wavers as

Pat showed slides of the original Robert-Morton console before its first flood inundation from the 1938 hurricane. Pat also showed other slides of downtown Providence during that destructive blow as well as some colored slides of America's beauty spots.

Young John Cook was our second organist and, as usual, played with aplomb. His final duel, "Fiddle Faddle" and "Dizzy Fingers," left us breathless. Watch this lad, for he is going places musically!

Pat has put in countless hours and *mucho dinero* on this organ, and it is slowly, but surely, coming around. We thank the Fucci's for their generous hospitality.

Stanley C. Garniss

HUDSON-MOHAWK VALLEY 518/273-2000

We completed an active 1986-87 season with a most unusual presentation: a two-hour concert of popular music played on a 140-year-old tracker organ! Accepting an invitation from Round Lake Auditorium, four talented members provided a delightful change of pace in the sponsor's summer series of concerts on its 1847 Ferris tracker organ. Carl Hackert, William Hubert, Ned Spain and John Weisner made the all-wooden auditorium literally vibrate with melody. Selections ranged from "Valencia," Jesse Crawford's arrangement of "Ruby," to "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" and "42nd Street."

One appreciative listener nicely summed up the artists' efforts: "These fellows really worked hard to show us that it is possible to get pleasing orchestral music from an antique instrument without tremulants, expression, percussion or quick-change pistons."

Variety was the club's theme during the past year. We opened the season with a Halloween party at Gus Pratt's spacious A-frame house with its hybrid theatre organ and articulated player-piano. When Gus presented "Midnight Fire Alarm," our socks were blown off! When a mystery organist in a hideous mask played "Tocatta and Fugue" we shivered. Truly an emotional event!

(continued)



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Hudson-Mohawk members (L to R) Carl Hackert, John Wiesner, Ned Spain and William Hubert who played the 149-year-old Ferris tracker.

In November, Allen Mills, house organist at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, gave a talk and demonstration on playing techniques using the theatre's 3/18 Wurlitzer, "Goldie."

December was highlighted by combining our monthly get-together with Proctor's annual Christmas concert and carol sing, while the January meeting, held at Editor Stanley Jones' home in Scotia, focused attention on compact disc players and their reproduction of organ recordings.

John VanLaak led the February meeting with a talk on Challenges Facing an Organbuilder. He was followed in March by Dr. Ed Farmer, who gave an illustrated talk on last year's ATOS Convention. Ira Freedman's presentation in April told members how and where to find interesting music to play, and everyone had a chance to inspect his collection of old sheet music.

In May, members adjourned to the VanLaak home for an evening of light classical and popular duets by two Johns, John VanLaak on the grand piano and John Wiesner on the residence 4/27 pipe organ.

Most sessions concluded with open console, including the end-of-the-year picnic at members Don and Lillian Wheatley's Lake Lauderdale Pavilion. On that occasion, members could play the big Kawai in the dance hall or travel a dozen miles to Ted Wood's farmhouse in Salem, New York, the location of Ted's 3/30 Wurlitzer.

Ira Freedman



MONTANA- NORTHERN WYOMING 406/3171 or 406/259-6111

We met in Billings on September 13. A 1921 silent film was screened showing the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda, New York. A four-manual organ was shipped in ten freight cars pulled by a steam locomotive. The film shows it being loaded and then unloaded in San Francisco with a parade down Market Street to the Granada Theatre.

A videotape, "Legendary Theatre Organists," was also shown. In the introduction, Gaylord Carter incorrectly states that Jesse Crawford first played organ professionally on the West Coast. Crawford began his career at the Gem Theatre in Billings in 1913; ergo, our chapter name. The videotape features Crawford playing three "Songs of the Organ" and accompanying four sing-alongs. Other featured organists are Lew White, Ann Leaf, Dick Leibert, Reginald Foort and Don Baker. Charles F. Paul plays a Hammond.

Member Geoffrey Hansen has donated a 35mm sound film to the Society's Archives. It is an organogue made by Lew White. Lew White is featured in the Summer 1987 issue of our journal, *The Poet*.

Steve Plaggmeyer



Ron Rhode at the custom Rodgers, Indian Hills Resort.



Land O' Lakes Chapter
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St. Paul-Minneapolis

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

Installation of the chapter's 2/7 Robert-Morton (a gift from Diamond Jim's in Mendota) is proceeding slowly, but surely, at the All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis. Two dedicated volunteers, members Don Johnson and Bob Scholer, hope to have it playing by Christmas. Parts and money are desperately needed! Fund drives by Minneapolis Auditorium (to save their 5/122 Kimball) and the World Theatre's 3/21 Wurlitzer installation have left our members and friends quite drained. What we need is a "Sugar Daddy!" We would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have an idea of a profitable way to raise funds.

An all-day outing at Bob Schmidt's Indian Hills Resort at Stone Lake, Wisconsin, on July 26, included 24 participants who traveled by bus from the Twin Cities. The day was perfect, bright with sunshine, prompting pontoon rides on beautiful Long Lake. Impromptu organ music was heard during the day, and a picnic supper was served before we departed for home. Don Taft and his accordion made the trip even more enjoyable as passengers joined in with singing, and in no time at all we were back home.

Several members returned to Stone Lake over Labor Day Weekend to enjoy the concertizing of Ron Rhode, who had just returned from England. Visitors from as far away as California joined us to fill the Evelyn Schmidt Music Room to capacity on all three nights to hear Ron at the custom Rodgers and the grand piano. He is one of our absolute favorites, and we look forward to hearing him in Buffalo. He is always so entirely at home at any console and plays with such ease that it is a joy to watch him as well as to hear his varied and entertaining selections. In the intimate surroundings of Indian Hills, concert attendees had an opportunity to visit with Ron personally,

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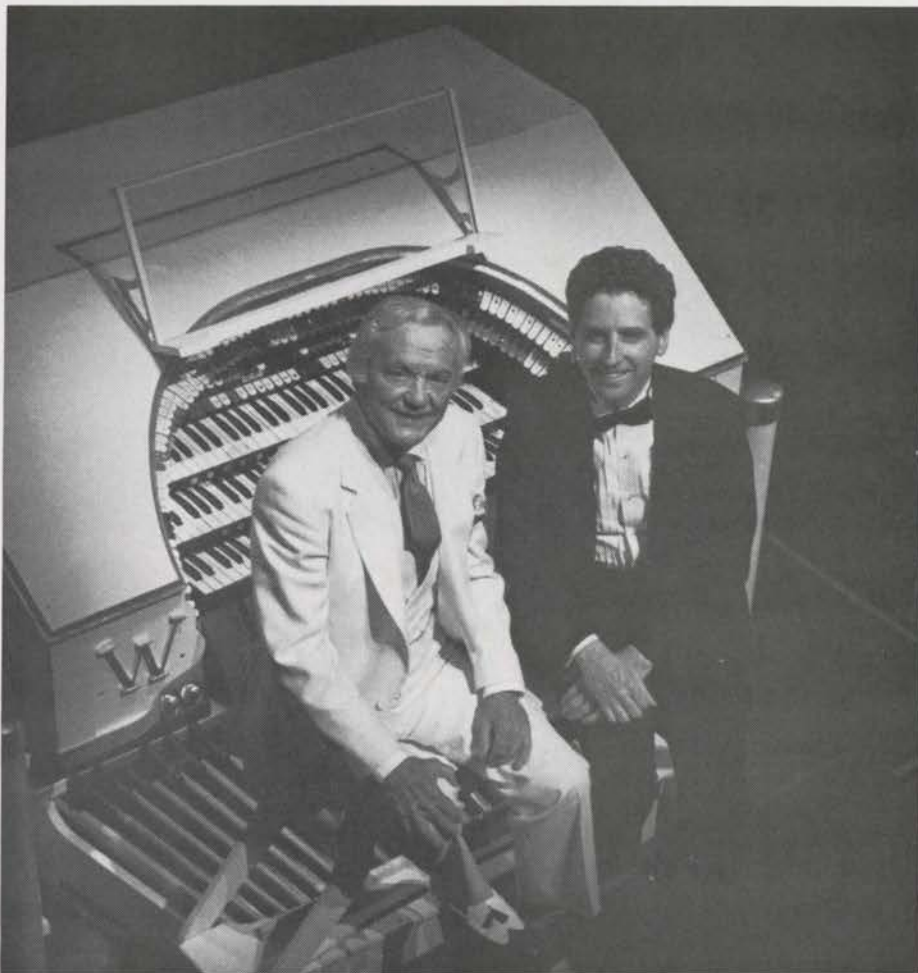


and a pontoon ride on Sunday afternoon afforded another chance to get better acquainted with him.

Silent Film Presentations, the "Bijou Dream," sponsored by Minneapolis Ron Hall at the World Theatre, have been quite successful during the past two months. Local artists Karl Eilers and Mike Grandchamp did the honors at the Wurlitzer. "Count Dracula" appeared in person at the August 22 presentation of *Cat and the Canary*, a spooky silent.

Walker Art Center sponsored the classic *Wings* at the World Theatre on September 12. The movie features Charles "Buddy" Rogers as Jack Powell and Richard Arlen (a native of St. Paul) as David Armstrong, Army Air Corps pilots fighting the Germans in WWI. Gary Cooper also played an ace flyer, but his career in the movie was short-lived. "It" girl Clara Bow was the object of their affections. Introductions were made by screen-writer Budd Schulberg, son of *Wings* producer B.P. Schulberg. Buddy Rogers, now 83-years young, appeared in person in a dazzling white suit — he is still a handsome man with his silver hair and is vivacious and charming.

Local film historian Bob DeFlores had prepared a tribute reel highlighting Buddy Rogers' career in a musical short with a big band. Before the movie, Buddy played his trombone in a duet with organist Dennis James at the 3/21 Wurlitzer, after which Dennis invited Buddy to try the organ. For Buddy, it was no problem at all. Dennis, who is resident organist at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, accompanied the film with great sounds, very appropriate sound effects, bugle calls, and the French National Anthem when the French Commander awarded Rogers and Arlen their medals of honor. Buddy appeared on stage again after the movie and invited questions from the audience. It was thrilling to hear about the old movie-making days. It was a memorable evening! *Verna Mae Wilson*



Buddy Rogers and Dennis James at the World Theatre.

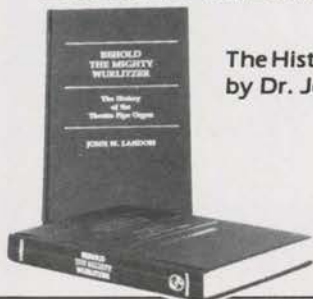


Don Taft, Ron Rhode, Joan Johnson, Jean Scholer, relax on pontoon ride, Long Lake, Indian Hills Resort.

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Two guest artists at the Los Angeles Chapter Summer Social: John Brown & Chris Elliott.



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After two months of inactivity, our Summer Social was a real joy to attend. It took place on August 29 at the lavish residence of Sargent/Stark in Hollywood, home of the 4/22 Wurlitzer. Our two surprise guest organists were John Brown and Chris Elliott. The weather was most cooperative, and to the large group of members and guests who attended, it felt like a class reunion in beautiful surroundings. A delicious cold buffet supper was served followed by open console and swimming.

We wish to thank our hosts, Ralph Sargent and Alan Stark, for allowing us to invade their beautiful mansion and for making us feel so at home. And thanks, too, to the guest artists who did such a wonderful job and to Dick Shaefer, who was in charge of the supper and refreshments. It was a great afternoon of music, fellowship and fun!

Maria Olivier



313/537-1133

Hector Olivera appeared with his O-1 Orchestra at the Redford Theatre before a very appreciative audience on June 6. He played the Redford's 3/10 Barton for the first half of his program, then turned to his O-1 after intermission. Designed and assembled by Hector to bring music to people where there are no concert halls with organs, his O-1 Orchestra is capable of reproducing just about any musical sound. His arrangements were predictably unusual and interesting, and for his closing number, he played the Barton in a duet pre-programmed on his O-1.

Portland
has all the fun!



Wilma Steslick, now a Florida resident, played for Motor City at the Royal Oak Theatre's 3/16 Barton in June. *(Fred Page photo)*

Prior to the start of Hector's program, emcee Don Lockwood presented a very surprised Ethel O'Leary with a plaque recognizing her efforts on behalf of Motor City. Ethel has, for many years, publicized Motor City events on phone-in conversations over radio station WJR on Saturday mornings. The inscription on the plaque reads: "Presented to Ethel O'Leary for Being Our Redford Radio Sweetheart. We Love You, Ethel. Motor City Theatre Organ Society Members."

We hosted Central Indiana Chapter on May 17 at the Redford Theatre with Tony O'Brien and Jennifer Candea entertaining at the Barton.

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Guests at the Sargent/Stark home listen to the 4/22 Wurlitzer.

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Pat Skelding displays the 26th Birthday cake at LATOS' party.

(Zimfoto)



Hector Olivera and his "O-1 Orchestra" at the Redford Theatre.

(Bill Vogel photo)

Sales of parking lot improvement certificates (at one dollar per square foot), in addition to donations, are helping to raise the money necessary to resurface the parking lot at the Redford Theatre. Much more is needed, however, before we reach our goal.

Greg Yassick was our Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak Theatre's 3/16 Barton on May 24. He was joined by his brother, Jimmy, on the harmonica and

in a piano duet with the organ. Wilma Steslick, who now resides in Florida, was the artist for our Fourth Sunday show at the Royal Oak on June 28.

Tony O'Brien will appear at the Redford on December 12.

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

Don Lockwood



Emcee Don Lockwood presents a plaque from Motor City members to Ethel O'Leary, the Redford's radio sweetheart.

(Bill Vogel photo)

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A revised version of Trivial Pursuit might ask: Who is the only man ever to play for the Yankees, Knicks, Rangers and Islanders, and to bring out nearly 400 theatre organ fans to the Middletown Paramount on the hottest night in July? The answer, of course, is Eddie Layton.

Eddie's concert on July 26, on the chapter's 2/10 Wurlitzer, was enthusiastically received and made many new friends for the Paramount Wurlitzer in spite of the heat wave and a malfunctioning air-conditioner in the theatre. The audience, a combination of theatre organ enthusiasts, general lovers of pop music and Yankee fans, was treated to the kind of delightful entertainment that Eddie does so well. His opening statement that his approach would be one of an informal evening at home was followed by his playing medleys of pops standards. "Strike Up The Band" segued into "S Wonderful," "Liza" and other Gershwin favorites. Eddie's seemingly simple, but always pleasing, style reflects his extraordinary talent for harmony learned under the tutelage of the great Jesse Crawford.

Following a thundering arrangement of "Granada," which opened the second half, Eddie quizzed the audience about old-time radio themes — they scored 100% (with the help of a few clues). A highlight of the show was a sing-along which began appropriately with "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." Hoping to help everyone think cool, he closed his program with "White Christmas." In keeping with his informal approach, Eddie was available after the concert to meet and greet people.

Thanks to Bob Seeley and crew, the organ performed splendidly. During the afternoon, chapter members and guests had an opportunity to play for open console. Except for the tuned sleigh bells, piano and a few of the toys which need to be rebuilt, the organ is complete, and the sound is extraordinary. Few other ten-rank instruments produce such a big organ sound.

As an interesting epilogue to Eddie Layton's concert, Rob Parker's sports column in the *New York Daily News* on

July 31 included a feature entitled "Play It Again, Eddie," in which Eddie discusses the themes he plays for each of the Yankees. Unable to think of an appropriate theme for Don Mattingly, he invited the fans to send him cards suggesting a melody and offered \$8.37 for the best theme playing on Mattingly's name. Among the several thousand cards he received at Yankee Stadium, there were more than three dozen from fans in Middletown saying how much they enjoyed his concert. How about that for a marketing survey?

Many New York Chapter members took advantage of the opportunity during the summer to attend Lee Erwin's popular program of silent films at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This program, sponsored by the Cathedral, has been so successful that it will continue through the fall.

Tom Stehle



Gaylord Carter at 4/27 Wurlitzer, Oakland Paramount Theatre. (Ed Mullins photo)



L to R: Curt Wood, Aura and Fred Edwards on bench of the Edward's 3/19 Wurlitzer.

(Ed Mullins photo)



415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Kevin King played the 3/15 Wurlitzer at Bella Roma Pizza in Martinez for our April 12 meeting. Tom Sheen presented a concert at San Francisco's Castro Theatre's 4/21 Wurlitzer on May 17.

Nor-Cal Honorary Life Member Gaylord Carter accompanied two silent films at the Oakland Paramount on July 18. "Flicker Fingers" recently celebrated his 82nd birthday.

August 9, our picnic was held at the Fred and Aura Edwards residence in Lafayette. They designed their home around their 3/19 Wurlitzer in 1965. Curt Wood installed, voiced and tuned the instrument, which also has a Fischer Ampico grand piano. Opus 1271 was originally installed in Loew's State Theatre in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1926. One of the highlights of the open console session was a duet by Dean Cook on the saxophone and Jim Riggs at the organ. Aura Edwards is organist at Bella Roma Pizza. We thank the Edwards for allowing us to have this year's picnic at their beautiful home.

We joined Sierra Chapter in Shingletown on September 12 to hear Norm and Lorraine Lippert's 2/12 Wurlitzer as well as Mrs. Aurora Leininger's 3/14 Style 235 Wurlitzer originally installed in the Oakland Fox Theatre. (Ed Mullins)

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L to R: Jim Roseveare, Gaylord Carter and Bob Vaughn in the Green Room at the Oakland Paramount.

(Ed Mullins photo)



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Dallas-Fort Worth



L to R: Lorena McKee, Linda Osborne and Kathleen McDonald, enjoying break at Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

(Irving Light photo)



Charles Evans at 3/8 Robert-Morton.

(Irving Light photo)

214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108

We were on hiatus during the early summer while a number of us were enjoying the opportunity to attend the National Convention in Los Angeles. Those of us who were there wish to thank the Los Angeles chapter for an outstanding event and the careful attention to preparation and execution that made it grand.

Our August meeting, at the Lakewood, featured our own Charles Evans at the console. Charles brought the organ up to concert level with his rousing opening selections, and his program was, as usual, of a very pleasing variety including his transcription of the orchestral "Polka" by Weinberger. Charles knows pipe organ sound and how to register to get the colors and tones that complement his richly ornamented arrangements. His programs are always a delight, and this one was especially enjoyable.

At the open console which followed, those who accepted the challenge of the Robert-Morton included visitor Jerry Ward who has been working primarily with his X77 Hammond in recent years. Jerry was very pleased with the responsiveness of this installation and, with a little arm-twisting, may play it for a future chapter meeting.

President Gordon Wright has completed the hook-up of his reproducing grand piano to the Wurlitzer console of his home installation, and the results are most rewarding. He is now seeking help from his electrical engineer son for designing electronics to cope with the piano's inherent volume control mechanism. We look forward to hearing this addition at a future meeting.

Irving Light

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On August 15 we made a return visit to the town of Pleasant Hill and the home of Ken and Doris Ensele. The organ bench was never empty, and the weather was beautiful, so a good time was had by all.

The organ is a 2/9 Wurlitzer named "Alice." She came to Oregon from Napa, California, (organ chambers and all) on a lowboy flat-bed semi. What a painless way to move a pipe organ!

Thanks to Ken and Doris for their hospitality. We hope to make many more return visits.

Karen Minear



Oregon Chapter members listen to Paul Quarino playing "Alice," the Ensele's Wurlitzer. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Pleasant Hill home of "Alice," the 2/9 Wurlitzer, where Oregon members held their picnic in August.

(Claude Neuffer photo)



Homer and Jane Johnson, Tacoma Temple Theatre.

(Diane Whipple photo)



207/767-4446 or 207/625-3397

Our annual summer concert was presented July 29 on the 3/13 Wurlitzer at the Loranger Memorial School in Old Orchard Beach. Ashley Miller delighted the audience with a program entitled "Echoes of New York." Among the many favorites he played were "Misty," "Lady of Spain" and "Granada." Chapter members had a challenging oppor-

tunity to work with Ashley in a master class the night before the concert. They will be studying notes for quite a while! Many thanks to all the members and guests who helped make our concert a success — especially the artist — thanks, Ashley!

The August meeting, at the home of President Dorothy Bromage, enabled members to marvel over Dorothy's collections of musical memorabilia which include a three-manual Conn theatre style organ, and Estey reed organ, a 1922 Weber baby grand piano, a Brunswick Ultona phonograph and many unique music boxes. The meeting was held in the midst of our newly acquired "Bowers" Wurlitzer, 2/9 Style 210, which is

being stored temporarily in Dorothy's basement. Don Rand of Thomaston presented a fascinating slide show of carousels, the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda and his Victorian home in Thomaston.

We are looking forward to a busy autumn season.

Edith Pennock

SEE PAGE 50
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Erskine MacPherson, Dick Wilcox and Cheryl Linder discussing organ installation at Wilcox home, Gig Harbor, WA. (D. Whipple photo)



View from balcony in living room of Dick Wilcox home, Gig Harbor, WA. (Mel Whipple photo)



Dick Schrum at Tacoma Pizza & Pipes. (D. Whipple photo)

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Our annual July picnic at the home/museum of Bert and Frankie Lobbereg in Issaquah again gave us an opportunity to become acquainted with new members and renew old friendships, not always possible at regular concerts. The museum buildings were open for browsing amongst antique cars, music machines and countless curiosities and treasures, many of which have been meticulously restored. The massive stone and timbered home was available for open console on the Wurlitzer installed there.

On Tacoma Day in August, we first met at Pizza and Pipes for a program by well-known organist Dick Schrum. Gracious hosts Margaret and Dick Daubert announced that they were beginning their thirteenth year as restaurateurs on this day — this lent a festive air to the occasion and evoked many fond memories for all.

Dick Schrum's programs are always entertaining as they include bursts of both spontaneous musical improvisation and ad-lib humor. One of the highlights was an interesting "Strange Music" set against a "Take Five" accompaniment, typical of his Saturday night jazz stylings. His closing "Opus One" has become a perennial favorite with his audiences.

Jane and Homer Johnson played dual roles as both artists and congenial hosts

at the Temple Theatre where we heard the sonorous 2/9 Kimball installed by Sandy Balcomb around 1926. This was a fitting location for a duo concert by this popular pair as a long-time casual acquaintance in their church and the AGO blossomed into a romance and happy marriage following the 1971 Seattle convention when Homer was readying this organ for Jane's performance.

Jane plays Cole Porter tunes as though they could have been written for her on the organ, and she included "It's Delovely" in her polished and up-tempo style. Homer, who is an "ear player," soloed on the organ with a smashing rendition of "El Relicaro." In duet, they did an exciting "I Love A Parade," also full of panache and vigor. This couple also share their talents in the technical and book-keeping operation of Homer's pipe organ service, complementing each other harmoniously.

During an open console period, young Cheryl Linder and husband Timothy Drews, en route from Boston to a new home on the West Coast, were introduced as guests. Cheryl, a graduate of New England Conservatory of Music, declared that there is no music like theatre pipe organ music and then played several numbers. Timothy, also a musician and pipe organ builder, will soon be employed in the Portland, Oregon, area.

Later that day we had the opportunity to view construction progress on the

highly individual, 17,000-square-foot home and 4/52 Wurlitzer being installed for Dick Wilcox at Gig Harbor on a hillside above the Tacoma Narrows. A 1988 Convention Encore program by Lyn Larsen is planned on this organ, originally a Fox Special console installed in the Brooklyn Fox Theatre and later, with an additional thirty ranks, used at the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is now being beautifully restored and enlarged by Ed Zollman of Denver.

The unique design of the Wilcox home captures unexpected vistas of the water from its many alcoves and its wrap-around deck, but all eyes this day were on the living room and chambers, both with stark white walls as a background for richly finished natural wood. A 16' Tibia Plena hangs on a side wall in perfect proportion as a wall hanging, drawing the eye upward to the intricate design created by the beams on the 32' cathedral ceiling. Great care has been used in the construction of this home to assure a suitable environment for a beautifully restored instrument which promises to make a significant impact on theatre organ circles. It will be controlled by a Wilcox-Devtronix Computer Control system, replacing the relay with sophisticated computer software. It is expected that the home will be ready for occupancy late in the year and that the organ will be finished shortly thereafter.

Diane Whipple

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Our main news continues to be our massive lobby reconstruction project which is on schedule toward its end-of-October completion. The patrons haven't seemed to mind the inconvenience, and movie attendance has been very good.

Our silent movie nights, November 6 and 7, will emphasize showing off the new lobby and mezzanine. Charlie Chaplin's *The Circus* should also please the audience.

Another project is underway. The 1926 Wurlitzer console was refurbished for display on the mezzanine. Instead of just display, it will also play as we are installing a lobby organ to play seven ranks matching the original stoptabs.

Sonia Carlson

Koenig Request

Catherine Koenig has asked that we inform our readers that she can still use more pictures for her slide show, and that slides can be made from negatives of prints, so they, too, can be used.

Send materials to Catherine at:
6852 Lexington Lane
Niles, Illinois 60648

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.

DEADLINES:

November 10 for January/February
January 10 for March/April
March 10 for May/June
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July 10 for September/October
September 10 for November/December

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:

GRACE E. MCGINNIS
4633 S.E. Brookside Drive, #58
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Visiting organist Edward Druse judged our musical contest. (Tom Jeffery photo)



River City Chapter members, divided in two teams, square off for a musical competition. (Tom Jeffery photo)

RIVER CITY Omaha, Nebraska

402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

Our August 16 meeting was held at the home of Subby and Corinne Sortino whose living room boasts two digital organs, a Technics and a Lowrey. Eight members tried their skills on their favorite instruments during open console. During a short business meeting, President Harold Kenney discussed plans for our next public concert at the Orpheum Theatre which will star Jack Moelmann.

Vice-President Dick Zdan introduced visiting organist Edward Kruse, formerly at the Eagles Club Lounge, who entertained us at the organ. Ed's main job for the evening was to serve as judge and final arbiter for a competition of musical knowledge. After dividing the members present into two teams, Dick Zdan explained the rules: players in Team A and Team B would each take a turn picking a well-known tune with a title involving a city or state in the contiguous 48 states, then someone had to go to the organ and play a recognizable rendition of that tune, with Ed Kruse having the final word. In the absence of volunteer organists, Dick Zdan, with an assist from Verne Kelso, was designated organist for one team. George Rice, with Wendall Hall on the banjo, served the other team. The end product was an evening of fun and friendly competition settled finally over a bountiful buffet.

Tom Jeffery

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ST. LOUIS

Holiday Greetings from St. Louis Chapter. It has been a big year for us, the biggest in the history of our group. After optimistically planning opening dates to introduce our 3/20 Wurlitzer and re-open the gorgeous Granada Theatre in South St. Louis, and seeing them go by with nothing happening, we should finally see the fruition of all of our efforts no later than January 1988.

Through a generous loan from a marvelous lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, we have been able to purchase the balance of the Peterson relay, contacts and other items we need to finish the instrument. According to crew chief Joseph Barnes, without whom we could never have made this project a reality, our Wurlitzer never sounded like this when it was in the New York Rivoli Theatre. Since our group will be overseeing the operation of the theatre for its owner, this will be a very open installation. We will invite other chapters to come and hear and play and enjoy our flagship instrument. Much of the use of the Granada will involve the use of the organ, and many of our members will play for its functions. We also plan to have special artists for our once-a-month special organ-centered productions.

Another interesting bit of news: Marlin Mackley, of Mackley Organ Service, has been involved in the restoration of the 4/105 Kimball classical/theatre organ in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in St. Louis. Marlin accomplished the tremendous restoration of the Fox 4/36 Wurlitzer.

Marlin and Joseph Barnes have been invaluable in the Granada Wurlitzer installation, and we certainly appreciate their help. We have also been extremely fortunate to have ATOS President Jack Moelmann as a member of our organization. He is a fantastic person who has been indispensable for fund-raising performances and who will do a special silent movie for the opening nights of the Granada. This, along with live entertainment, should make for very enjoyable first three nights. If you are interested in attending our opening events, call Dennis Ammann at 618/654-7855 or 618/654-6060 for more information.

Dennis Ammann

SAN DIEGO

Our 1987 concert series has been an overwhelming success. Presenting such artists as Dennis James, Ron Rhode, San Diego's own Wayne Seppala, Chris Elliott, Donna Parker, Walt Strony and the incredible George Wright, in a mixture of concerts with films seems to be magic for San Diego.

Our chapter has worked on a rigid schedule to present George Wright and our Mighty Wurlitzer, at their best, for the Encore of the National ATOS Convention.

We were represented, for the second year in a row, in the Young Organist Competition by Miss Laura Van Eyke. She and four other talented young organists participated in our local scholarship competition. In keeping with our scholarship goals, we featured one of our local artists, Gred Breed, in a *Phantom of the Opera* night on Halloween with proceeds going to our scholarship fund.

Plans are now being made to say a special "Thank you" to the hardworking members of the chapter for all their extra effort this year. This will be combined with our annual Christmas party and the installation of new officers.

We wish you a very special Holiday Season, and hope your success will be as great as ours for the coming year.

SANTA BARBARA

The largest "organ transplant" in Santa Barbara has begun. At this time, our chapter members, along with Stephen Leslie of the Newton Pipe Organ Company in San Jose, are installing the rebuilt, re-leathered and totally refinished components of the 4/24 Wonder Morton donated to the Arlington Theatre by the North Texas chapter. The slumbering giant will perfume the air with organ music by next May if all goes on schedule. Enough coal soot has been removed to heat its original home (Loew's Jersey City) for a month.

The long, narrow pipe chambers on either side of the Arlington should make this one of the best sounding organs on the West Coast. Local citizens are donating materials and skills to aid in this giant restoration. One woman is donating genuine "gold leaf" for the console. Another local woman came in one day and gave the chapter \$10,000 to help speed up the installation. A vacant Wells Fargo Bank building, just three blocks from the bank was donated for a restoration center.

The stolen upper 49 pipes of the Post Horn are being built by Trivo, and Devtronix will supply the electronics. Chapter members and others work evenings and weekends refinishing the thousands of parts of the organ. The "buzz" of activity at the center has attracted the interest of tourists as well as local citizens. With the refinished ivory and gold console in the window, it makes quite an attraction. Several fund-raisers are planned for the fall and winter, and many observers have been amazed at the success thus far of a young and small new chapter.

John Oien

Portland
has all the fun!



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SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our July meeting was held at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Two business matters were approved by the membership; we voted to start meetings at 7:30 instead of 8:00 to give us some additional time at open console, and we voted — after much discussion — to continue our new (for us) policy of drawing numbers to determine the order of players for open console and to divide the time equally among those wishing to play. Seven members then played for us at open console on the 4/14 Robert-Morton.

Our August meeting was also held at Central Assembly of God Church. Dick Van Dera presented a delightful mini-concert on the Robert-Morton, including "by popular demand" what has become a signature song for him, "Chopsticks." ("I wasn't gonna play it," he commented.) Nine persons then enjoyed open console with organ and piano duets by Dick and Dorothy Smith finishing off the evening. We were pleased to have a number of guests present, many of whom had seen meeting notices published in both Tulsa newspapers. It's truly wonderful what a little publicity will do!

Our chapter's 3/10 Robert-Morton is still slowly progressing. The console wiring is nearly done and a "sanding party" was held over the Labor Day weekend to ready the console for its new coat of paint.

Dorothy Smith

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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. Shamer, Program Chairman, Rochester Theatre Organ Society



WOLVERINE CHAPTER
of the American Theatre Organ Society

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If July and August presented us with two contrasting media in music (a Devtronix "Juice box" versus a windpowered Wurlitzer), you wouldn't know it from the sound and flavor of the fellowship which prevailed at both events. Les Hamilton and Bob Kynaston at Commerce Lake and Dave Voydanoff and Glen Rank at Algonac sure know how to roll out the welcome mat. Special guest Arthur Anderson, who came from Rockford, Illinois, to hear the Hamilton Devtronix, and Don Lockwood, who came to Algonac from Detroit to be with old friends, can vouch for that.

The Devtronix was put through its paces to the satisfaction of all present. The pollen season caught up with the Wurlitzer — it sneezed (ciphered) to prove its authenticity. The Algonac event was the chapter's annual picnic and was enjoyed by many "outsiders" under great weather conditions.

With greater Detroit's new ATOS celebrity, Melissa Ambrose, charming us with a cameo on the Devtronix (including Bill Irwin's "Finger Flip") and John Steele closing out the afternoon on the Wurlitzer with his so enjoyable stylings, we have memories of two more Wolverine Chapter highlights.

Charles and Betty Baas



Barry Rindage at Lester Hamilton's Devtronix.

(Bill Vogel photo)



Dave Voydanoff watching John Steele at Wurlitzer.

(Bill Vogel photo)



Melissa Ambrose at console of Devtronix in home of Les Hamilton.

(Bill Vogel photo)



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