Chapter Notes



ALABAMA

Birmingham 205/942-5611 or 205/644-3606

December was a busy month for our chapter. The first annual production of "Christmas at the Alabama" was held the weekend of December 11-13. This exciting new holiday production was co-produced with the Birmingham Opera Theatre. Just a week prior, the Alabama Ballet Theatre (the theatre's resident ballet company) made its debut on the stage of the Alabama when they presented the "Magic Bells of Christmas." Work continues on the formation of the Alabama Grand Orchestra which will "round out" the Alabama as a true performing arts center and movie palace.

December 26 and 27 were hailed as the best and worst days in Birmingham. December 26 marked the 60th anniversary of the Alabama, while December 27 marked the day we cut the cable to the organ's 60-year-old relay. A new Devtronix multiplexing relay system is being installed to alleviate a mountain of relay and combination-action problems.

We are continuing our preparations for the 1988 Regional Convention which we will host on October 14, 15 and 16. This promises to be one of the best regionals ever, so do plan to attend. See you in October.

Gary W. Jones

CEDAR RAPIDS

Iowa 319/362-9676 or 319/396-5633

On December 20, members and friends were invited to the home of Mrs. Joy Weiler for our annual Christmas open house. Joy's son, Jeff, who played for the National Convention in Chicago, was home for the holidays and we all had a chance to visit with him. As an additional treat, Lee Erwin, from New York, was the Weilers' house guest. Members brought plates of Christmas treats, and the Weilers furnished coffee and hot cider. After refreshments, we moved to the "Wurlitzer Room" where Jeff has his theatre pipe organ. Lee played a group of selections and accompanied a short sing-along of Christmas carols. Following a second round of refreshments, we returned to the Wurlitzer for the Laurel and Hardy silent Big Business accompanied by Lee. It was a fine holiday get-together, and our special thanks to Joy, Jeff and Lee for



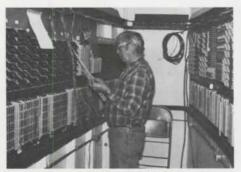
Lee Erwin was a special guest at the Weiler's Christmas party.

their hospitality and outstanding program.

Progress is being made on the installation of the new 61-note Brass Trumpet in the soon-to-be 3/12 Wurlitzer in the Paramount Theatre for the Performing Arts. This rank is being purchased from a manufacturer, and the regulator and chest work are being built by Paul Montague and Karl Hoffman. Jim Olver is working on the stop-tab revamping, etc., made necessary by the installation of the new rank.

We are initiating plans for a program next year involving the Cedar Rapids Community School District. We propose an informational seminar and theatre organ demonstration for teachers followed by a program for eighth graders to introduce them to the theatre organ of the 1920s. We would like to coordinate this with our Spring Spectacular, and perhaps engage the artist for that program to conduct the seminar and program for the students. School officials seem most receptive to the idea.

We are looking forward to our next spectacular event on May 14 at the Paramount Theatre for the Performing Arts when Lyn Larsen will be our artist. It has been a while since Lyn has performed for us, and it will be good to hear him again in Cedar Rapids. George K. Baldwin



Don Newswanger in the refurbished relay room at Manual High School.

Ray Andrejasich Photo



Kevin Aikman and Jim Catellier refinishing swell shades.

Ray Andrejasich Photo



CENTRAL INDIANA

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

An excellent concert was presented at St. Joan of Arc Church in November following our business meeting. Organist Tim Needler played a number of selections and accompanied soloists Kevin Aikman and Josi Beeler. A special treat was a duet by Kevin and Josi. Tim concluded the program with a medley from The Sound of Music.

We enjoyed a joint Christmas party with the Classic Ragtime Society at Manual High School in December. Entertainment was provided by the Ragtime Society, and Ann and Les Giezendanner again provided a "Grab Box" of surprise packages for a nominal fee which netted a nice profit for our chapter.

Members Phil and Betty Hedback were among the recipients of the 1987 Awards for Indiana Philanthropy and were honored for their support of numerous organizations.

Members are busy working on the Manual High School organ. The Indianapolis school board is currently supporting the enlargement of the opening for the swell shades, and this will greatly enhance the tonal qualities of the organ. Work on the Main chamber is nearing completion.

Carol M. Andrejasich



Featured artist Bill Sharp at Central Ohio's January meeting.

J. Polsley Photo

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus 614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Don and Cindy Reighard's lovely home was the site of our November meeting. Their large living room features a cathedral ceiling, and Don designed the organ layout so the two-story chambers extend to the basement level and speak through horizontal swell shades to the slanted ceiling. His 3/7 theatre organ has the space and potential to accommodate as many as 30 ranks. Artist Henry Garcia entertained us with a short program ranging from soothing renditions of "oldies" to contemporary tunes, all in his inimitable style. This was followed by open console with host Don Reighard at the keydesk a mean artist in his own right.

Clear, crisp weather prevailed for our January meeting at Worthington High School, the home of our chapter's Wurlitzer. To tell the truth, it was hardly much warmer inside the auditorium than it was outside, even though the janitor had promised us heat. That did not, however, deter the 35 members and guests and, after a short business meeting, it was our pleasure to hear member Bill Sharp at the console. Bill has some twenty years of experience playing the organ and is currently self-employed as an electronic organ technician. He has served as substitute organist at the Ohio Theatre. As a backdrop, members Mark Williams and Bob Shaw had decorated the stage with triangular banners and tinsel ribbons, all of which gave a certain celebrated look to our Wurlitzer.

Bill's selections were real crowdpleasers. His rendition of "Talk of the Town" and "Over the Rainbow" featured the Voxes and Tibias with judicious use of the Glockenspiel. For a change of pace, we heard "In the Mood" and "Satin Doll," and his arrangement of "Star Wars" emphasized the organ's chorus effect — the enormity and spectrum of sound of which our instrument is capable in a truly impressive performance. After an encore, it was open console, and we further enjoyed hearing member organists. There is no greater pleasure than having your own wind-machine, even if it means wearing coats indoors.

John R. Polsley



CHICAGO AREA 312/282-0037 or 312/698-6898

The popular "Sing-It-Yourself Messiah" at the Copernicus Center on December 11 featured organist Bette Devell on the theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer/Kimball as she accompanied a 40-voice chorus and 36-piece orchestra. This musical presentation nearly always fills the house and is thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

Our active and enthusiastic members, Mildred and Leon Berry, donated two large cakes on the occasion of our 25th anniversary celebration at the Baker Hotel in St. Charles. Mildred and Leon are always ready to assist when and where they can, and we sincerely appreciate their contributions.

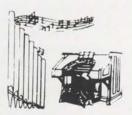
There seems to be much activity between theatres and pipe organs. Each is seeking the other. Oft times they mesh, and all are happy. Theatres on the Chicago list are the Uptown, Granada and United Artist, which recently escaped the "dreaded ball." The Oriental Theatre organ is still waiting for a theatre home. One will come along soon.

Pipes and Pizza in Lansing is a lively pizza restaurant with a Barton theatre organ (not many of these left) which has scheduled a series of interesting parties in 1988 with Dave Wickerham doing the solos on the Barton. Open console is usually provided for those who desire to play, so be sure to stop if you are coming this way.

The Montclare's "latest" organ has left for the Congress/Mexico Theatre on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago's northwest side. This theatre is in excellent condition and Mr. Miranda, the owner, who also owns the Aragon Ballroom, is a theatre pipe organ enthusiast. The owners of the organ, Art Fike and Freddy Arnish, are guiding the installation and working diligently to complete it. Some chapter members are also helping which is great for all concerned.

Carl Schurz High School on Chicago's northwest side has a 4/45 Möller which is getting renewed attention. Jim and Glen Felton (father and son) are eagerly working on this project along with the hardworking CATOE crew. The auditorium is good and roomy and should be used to hear this great instrument. It will soon materialize! Patience, please.

Almer N. Brostrom



CONNECTICUT VALLEY 203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Our Christmas concert on December 5 was held at Shelton High School and featured Jim Riggs from Oakland, California. Jim appears regularly at both the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland and the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. The stop in Shelton was the first in his East Coast tour which included Ontario, Bing-

hamton and Buffalo. What do you think when an artist announces that his arrangement of "The Girlfriend of the Whirling Dervish" was more inspired by a Porky Pig cartoon than it was by the 1937 Warner Brother film, Garden of the Moon in which it was introduced? The answer is "Fun." and that is exactly what followed with a musical program that included several Christmas medleys, some traditional theatre organ music such as a Jim Riggs version of a 1927 Jesse Crawford recording of "Moonlight on the River," a delightful folk-song fantasy opening with "What Shall We Do Wth a Drunken Sailor" and closing with "A-Rovin"," and the accompaniment of the Laurel and Hardy Big Business. The Wamogo High School

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Connecticut continued

Chorale, under the guidance of Barbara Gullett, and the Litchfield High School Chorallers, directed by Maurice Steinberg and accompanied on the piano by Cindy Oxley, each sang a number of holiday songs and then were joined by Jim Riggs at the organ for the "Hallelujah Chorus" to bring the house down.

Our annual Christmas party was held the next day at the Angevine Farm in Warren with more than 60 members and guests sharing holiday treats, good cheer and much music on the Angevine Robert-Morton organ.

Barry Goodkin



BABSON COLLEGE

Wellesley 617/662-7055

One of our newer and younger members, Michael Bigelow, was our artist for November 22 at Babson, Wtih his father, Myron, also an organist, the Bigelow household must be well organized.

'South'' was Michael's opener, styled in the manner of one of his idols, George Wright, whose early recordings provided Mike's first exposure to theatre organ sounds. While this promising and enthusiastic young man played mostly the older, well-known numbers, he did include a 1984 tune, "If Ever You're in My Arms Again." The audience called for an encore, and Michael responded with the popular "Rapasz Band March." Our unit orchestra was just the medium for this with its battery of percussions and effects. This well-played concert by our young organist bodes well for the future of our favorite instrument.

In the style of the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall, round tables were set up in Knight Auditorium on December 20 for our Christmas meeting, and a relaxed, happy gathering, with a bucket of popcorn on each table, settled back to hear guest organist Bob Love from the First Baptist Church in Malden. No stranger to our Wurlitzer, Bob has a strong penchant for the theatre organ. He opened with a group of four lively marches before his medley from The Wizard of Oz and his tribute to Sigmund Romberg. A change of pace brought a quiet and beautiful classical piece by Edward Johnson, "Evensong." The finale was a wellexecuted "Hallelujah Chorus."

Remember to VOTE!

This ended the planned program, but wait, there was more! New member Earl Miller, a well-known church and concert organist, was to favor us with a fine accompaniment to a sing-along of Christmas carols to further the spirit of the season. Earl's finale was a "Happy Birthday" from the pipes as we sang to President Dick Johnson whose "day" was on Monday. Snow and sleet were outside, but it was warm and most pleasant inside — reminiscent of the song "Let It Snow." Yes, we were ready for December 25!

Stanley C. Garniss



Keith Chapman at console, Greater Trenton Choral Society Singing.

George Anderson Photo



GARDEN STATE

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

The second of the Trenton War Memorial series was a Christmas concert on December 6. The artist was Keith Chapman, who plays the huge Wanamaker's organ in Philadelphia. Keith shared part of the program with the Greater Trenton Choral Society.

A festive, holiday atmosphere was experienced when the stage curtains of this large auditorium were opened to reveal a huge, decorated holiday wreath and multi-sparkling lights. The applause was a fitting reward for the three hard-working Santa's elves who designed and put it all together. Thank you, Mike Cipolletti and George and Denise Andersen.

Keith's delightful program of Christmas music and his accompaniment of the Choral Society created an exciting holiday mood which was continued after the program when we held our traditional potluck on the stage with good food, conversation and music from the open console. Keith Chapman graciously answered the many questions put to him by our members who are interested in the fate of Wanamaker's now that it has been sold. When we finally headed for home, Bill Smith and his organ crew were thanked for the program and for arranging our picnic on the stage. Jinny Vanore



L to R: Mike Cipolletti, Denise Andersen, George Anderson. Jinny Vanore Photo



Keith Chapman relaxes after concert at Trenton War Memorial. George Anderson Photo



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Advertisement in *The Billings Gazette*, April 25, 1913, for Gem Theatre where Professor Crawford accompanied silent films on 2/7 Kimball pipe organ.

Montana-Northern Wyoming 406/248-3171 or 406/259-6111

Jesse Crawford's 92nd birthday was observed on December 2 when chapter members toured the boarding house at 213 North 30th Street in Billings where "Professor" Crawford lived in 1913 while he was playing the 2/7 Kimball organ at the Gem Theatre.

Our board of directors has extended Charter Membership for a limited time. Our chapter is now international in scope as we have members in Canada and the United Kingdom. Our chapter journal, THE POET, will be published more frequently in 1988; Dr. Ed Mullins is the editor. Future issues will contain an eyewitness report of Helen and Jesse Crawford's performance at the New York Paramount Theatre and a complete Cue Sheet for a silent film classic. The film is in the public domain and is available on videotape at the Billings K-Mart for as low as \$5.27! This will enable members to accompany the film at home on videotape. There are other diversions from the ordinary planned in future editions as members submit memorabilia.

Steve Plaggemeyer



L to R: Joe Vaes at the piano, Burt Frank at the Hammond Chord Organ and Bill Lundquist at the Yamaha Keyboard PS-55 in Burt & Jean Frank's home.



LAND O' LAKES

St. Paul-Minneapolis 612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

On November 14, Roger Dalziel, Mike Erie, Tom Neadle, Verna Mae Wilson and Don and Joan Johnson, faithful followers of Ron Rhode, drove to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to attend Ron's concert at the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre, home of the 3/14 Barton with a rhinestone and black velvet console. Ron is one super organist, and how we did enjoy his playing of a varied program to everyone's liking.

The Organaires met at the home of Burt and Jean Frank on November 19, taking our turns at the Gulbransen Premiere before descending to their recreation room where they have an upright piano, an original Hammond Chord Organ, a Hammond M-2 Spinet and a Yamaha Keyboard PS-55. We were all encouraged to try the various instruments, resulting in a spontaneous burst of talent. In the Organaires there is never any critique — there are usually pianologan duets, piano solos and duets, and even trios.

Our Annual Election Meeting was held on November 22 in the sanctuary of All God's Children — Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis. After the

business meeting, guest artist Larry Ford was featured at his Yamaha with a synthesizer attachment. Larry, a personable young bachelor from Minneapolis, is a native of Owatonna, Minnesota, and received his degree in music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He taught organ and piano at Bodine's Music Store in Minneapolis and in 1984 won the Regional Yamaha Electone Festival. He has played at the King Oscar Restaurant in Richfield, currently plays at Bentley's Restaurant in St. Paul as well as for the North Stars Hockey Team. Apart from his musical skills, Larry is also a ski instructor! His diversified program included familiar tunes and his own tape recordings from northern Minnesota - gushing water sounds and birds singing - something different and enchanting. For his finale, Larry played "Rhapsody in Blue" on the piano with his own taped orchestral accompaniment on the Yamaha.

Bob Ralston was guest artist at the World Theatre with members of the Minnesota Dance Company on November 28 and 29. Freezing rain and cold kept people home rather than risk "fenderbender" incidents, but a few brave souls from the chapter attended and enjoyed the show.

Christmas week, December 19 and 20, our beloved Ramona Gerhard Sutton appeared in concert at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, playing the big Wurlitzer to full houses. Her Christmas melodies set the mood for the holidays to follow. Verna Mae Wilson



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LOS ANGELES

California 818/792-7084

Our annual Membership Meeting and Christmas Party was held December 6 at Joe Koons' Motorcycle Shop, and admission was one unwrapped toy for Children's Hospital. The meeting was conducted by President Stephen Ross and committee reports were received. New member Frank Way, who is stage manager at Pasadena City College where we will soon begin erecting the J. Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer, was able to explain and to show us a model of the grille work to be done on each side of the stage of the Sexson Auditorium, a very involved project. Mrs. Joe Koons (Spud) was given an Honorary Life Membership card for her outstanding contribution to the organ world. Now for the fun part of the afternoon! Guest artist Jim Melander of Long Beach presented a Christmas Concert which was followed by open console while a large gathering of members and friends enjoyed refreshments. Thanks to Spud Koons for letting us enjoy a wonderful afternoon of fun and music on the great 3/37 pipe organ. Maria Olivier



MOTOR CITY

Detroit 313/537-1133

Our fourteenth annual private charter moonlight cruise on America's oldest passenger steamer, the 85-year-old Columbia, attracted over a thousand people for a three-hour cruise on the Detroit River on August 18. John Lauter, Fred Bayne, Jack Dommer and Don Haller played for dancing at a Hammond B-2 on the ballroom deck while vocalist Fran Carmody was busy belting out her best songs and leading a sing-along in the bar on the third deck accompanied by Sharron Patterson, at a Hammond M-3 spinet.

John Lauter opened our fall organ series with a concert at the Redford Theatre on October 5. John's program was lively and upbeat and included selections of Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart and Duke Ellington, as well as a short silent film. As an added attraction, drummer Jim Ellis joined John for several numbers.

Jack Dommer, who once played in several of Detroit's grand movie houses, presented a very comprehensive workshop on registration on October 1 at the Redford Theatre. Jack illustrated how different pipe sounds influence an organist's choice of stops and when not to use certain pipe families as well as certain pitches. Sharron Patterson's subject, as instructor for our November 1 workshop, was music theory. These monthly workshops precede Club Day, when members and guests are invited to socialize and play the Barton organ at the Redford Theatre.

July 26 was Ladies' Day at the Royal Oak Theatre as Lorraine Robinson, Gloria Sunman and Evelyn Markey performed at the 3/16 Barton for our monthly Fourth Sunday Show. It was a treat to hear three different stylings in one morning from the distaff side of our organization. Jennifer Candea, a student at Oakland Community College, used a synthesizer as our featured Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak Barton on August 23.

An entertainer as well as an organist, Mark Smith returned to the Royal Oak Barton for our Fourth Sunday program on September 27. A newcomer to our group, Jim Reinhart is assistant organist at the Fairlane Assembly Church in Dearborn and was our featured artist at the Royal Oak Theatre on October 25. These programs are free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Our annual meeting was held at the Redford Theatre on November 1 and



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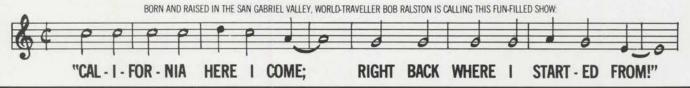
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featured music by Jack Dommer and Newton Bates at the 3/10 Barton.

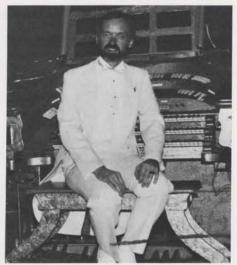
Dennis Scott, looking remarkably like Dennis Minear, took over the console of the 3/10 Barton for the second in our fall season of concerts at the Redford Theatre on Saturday, November 14. Dennis' program was filled with audience favorites and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our annual Holiday Craft Bazaar, held at the Redford in November during the showing of *Fiddler on the Roof*, attracted over 3100 people to the three-day event. Proceeds will go toward our theatre seat fund.

Our annual Christmas party at the Redford on December 6 was planned and well-executed by the Young Theatre Organ Enthusiasts in our chapter, chaired by Allen FitzGerald, who also served as master of ceremonies for the "Oldywed Game." Winners among the four contestant couples were Bob and Virginia Duerr who were crowned Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Other entertainment included Sharron Patterson at the organ, Melissa Ambrose at the piano, song stylings by Judy Miller, a sing-along and the Laurel and Hardy film Below Zero.

The December organ workshop was held on Sunday afternoon prior to the Christmas party and featured John Lauter discussing registration.

We had a sold-out house for Tony O'Brien's "The Magical Music of Christmas" at the Redford Theatre on December 12. The audience of over 1500 was drawn by the keyboard artistry of our



Dennis Scott in concert at the Redford Theatre.

Bo Hanley Photo



Fred Bayne plays for dancing at a classic Hammond B-2 during Motor City's annual moonlight cruise. Bill Bogel Photo

THO HIO HIO HIO HIO HIO HIO HIO HI

young Tony O'Brien. Included in this program of sacred and secular favorites were the Nutcracker Suite, selections by mezzo-soprano Alice M. Short and Tony's original composition, the Nativity Suite, featuring a narration of the Christmas story by Don Lockwood. Tony's 1500voice Christmas carol sing-along was nothing less than awesome. In addition to a large Christmas tree and three giant wreathes, five trees, each with individually color-controlled strings of miniature lights, stood in a snow-covered orchestra pit along with a nativity scene, a snowman, carolers, toy soldiers, a nutcracker, toy bears, dolls and an electric train. Even the console appeared to be sitting in a snowbank. It was wonderful.

Over 50 people brought in 1988 at a New Year's Eve party at the Redford. Chaired this year by Fran Carmody, the annual get-together included a potluck supper, board and card games, singing and open console at a newly-acquired Conn organ.

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Barry Rindhage, a graphic artist from Saginaw, was our featured organist at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Theatre for our Fourth Sunday Show on November 22

Steve Schlesing will be appearing at the Redford on April 9 and Tom Wibbels at the Royal Oak Theatre on May 7. For more information, write: Motor City

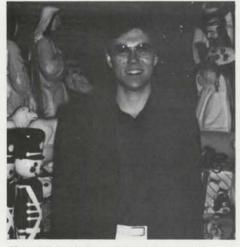
For more information, write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-2560.

Don Lockwood

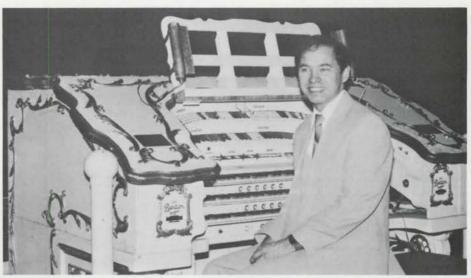


Drummer Jim Ellis and John Lauter after John's concert at the Redford Theatre in October.

Bo Hanley Photo



Tony O'Brien in front of the Christmas display that filled the orchestra pit for his concert at the Redford.



Jim Reinhart at the Royal Oak Theatre.

Fred Page Photo

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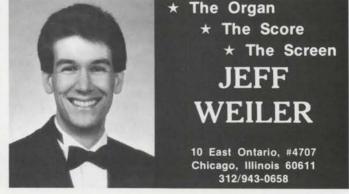
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NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 201/694-0779

Chapter members and other theatre organ enthusiasts took advantage of a beautiful winter Sunday afternoon and gathered on January 10 at the Beacon Theatre on Broadway in snow-covered Manhattan to enjoy the keyboard talent of Jim Paulin at the Beacon's 4/19 Wurlitzer. Our last Beacon concert had been in June 1986, the week before the opulent "Baby Roxy" closed to be converted to a disco-restaurant. Fortunately, the courts intervened to save the landmark theatre, and we are among the many beneficiaries of that decision.

A Jim Paulin concert is always an experience, and this one was no exception. Jim played several of the selections that we have come to associate with him, opening with "'S Wonderful." Other Paulin favorites included "Love's Theme," and "Begin the Beguine". On the softer side, Jim coaxed lush sounds from the Strings and Voxes with beautiful renditions of "Danny Boy," and "In My Solitude." No Paulin concert would be complete without his classic arrangement of "Cecelia," and his inimitable Gospel style was at its most soulful with his encore, "Amazing Grace," which begins with a soft, untremmed hymn tone and builds rhythmically to full crescendo with numerous key progressions along the way spine tingling, to say the least.

Open console followed Jim's marvelous performance. We were all delighted to be back in the Beacon, and look forward to returning soon, perhaps when



Jim Paulin at the Beacon Theatre's 4/19 Wurlitzer.

warmer breezes replace the cold drafts of winter. As always, Mel Robinson and Joe Vanore had the Wurlitzer in fine tune.

The gloom of last fall when extensive water damage to the 4/26 Long Island University/Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer forced us to cancel our October concert featuring Bob Maidhof, is happily beginning to lift, thanks to the countless hours of work that Bob Walker is devoting to restoring the organ and the generous support of chapter members in donating funds for the project. We have also been encouraged by the support that we have received from the University. In a recent letter to the New York Chapter, Dr. David Steinberg, President of Long Island University, stated, "Let me assure you that the University is vitally interested in and delighted to own the Wurlitzer pipe organ



Frank Dunhuber at open console at New York's Beacon Wurlitzer.

. . Bob Walker and the New York Theatre Organ Society have performed an invaluable service in caring for and loving this precious survivor of a different era." We are looking forward to having the LIU organ concert-ready later in 1988.

Tom Stehle

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would like to announce that Randy Piazza has retired after 29 years as chairman here and that the Board of Directors is pleased to accept audition tapes from new artists interested in playing at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York.

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PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 1988 CONVENTION!

CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS — PLEASE NOTE

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DEADLINES: November 10 for January/February January 10 for March/April March 10 for May/June May 10 for July/August 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 Milwaukie, Oregon 97222 Phone: 503/654-5823



Bob Vaughn accompanied Pandora's Box at the Castro Theatre's 4/21 Wurlitzer.

Ed Mullins Photo

NOR-CAL

San Francisco Bay Area 415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

San Francisco's Castro Theatre was the venue for our October and November Sunday morning concerts. The Taylor brothers' 4/21 Wurlitzer is heard there nightly played by house organists David Hegarty and Jim Riggs. Jim played for us on October 18.

Lew Williams winged in from Arizona Thanksgiving weekend to play a well-attended concert on November 29. George Robinson underwrote this concert and Nor-Cal thanks him for his generosity. Williams' program included classics such as Rubenstein's "Kamenoi Ostrow" and Offenbach's "Gaite Parisienne" and toe-tappers "In the Mood," "Bugle Call Rag" and "Night Train." One crowd-pleaser was "Chloe" - real swamp music complete with frog croaks.

Our annual membership meeting was held December 6 at Berkeley Community Theatre. Kevin King presented a concert on the chapter's Rodgers 33-E. Bob Vaughn accompanied the classic silent *Pandora's Box* on the Castro Wurlitzer on January 7. Harvey Blanchard played for us January 24 at the Bella Roma Pizza 3/15 Wurlitzer in Martinez. Harvey plays there regularly as do Kevin King and Aura Edwards.



Lew Williams at San Francisco Castro Theatre.

Ed Mullims Photo



Ron Rhode and North Texas Chapter President Gordon Wright at the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas, Irving Light Photo



Helen Thomas played for North Texas Christmas party at her Dallas home. Irving Light Photo



Mark Kenning at his residence 4/17 Robert-Morton.

Irving Light Photo



NORTH TEXAS

Dallas-Forth Worth 214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108

Our focus continues to be on our 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Dallas Lakewood Theatre. This has reached the pinnacle with our second public concert, December 9 featuring Ron Rhode. Ron's concert was one of the most enjoyable and musically perfect that we have heard. And what was most astounding was the variety and richness of registration Ron achieved with the very limited resources of our eight ranks. Ron's records and tapes sold briskly during intermission and following the concert, and Ron personally autographed them for all who wished.

Ron set the tone for his program with his opening "Wake up and Live" and met the promise with a variety of songs from Piano Rag to Big Band to Show Tunes. The titles alone may seem usual unless you hear the wonderfully musical arrangements that he gives to each. Music in tune with the approaching Holiday season included Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and the beautiful, sym-

phonic, "Waltz of the Flowers" from *The Nutcracker*. Ron's encore was, in itself, worth the price of admission. It was a medley of several well-known carol tunes that ended with the very inspiring, "O, Holy Night." A reception following the concert was held at the nearby Lakewood residence of Bill and Jean Hanson where a chance was afforded our members to meet Ron and to let him know how keenly we enjoyed his excellent concert.

Our Christmas parties are always a high point of the year and this year's, at the home of Bob and Helen Thomas, lived up to the tradition. In addition to the member-provided Holiday fare, we were treated to an especially entertaining musical program by Helen on her Hammond X-77 Organ (recently augmented by a Yamaha synthesizer). Helen has developed a most pleasing style as a result of her fine musical background that includes many years of entertaining for local restaurants, clubs and parties. Open console attracted a higher than usual number of volunteers due, no doubt, to a greater familiarity with the Hammond console than that of the pipe organ.

Our fall musical season was greatly enriched with our October meeting at the home of Mark and Nola Kenning. After much too long a time, Mark responded to some friendly arm-twisting and agreed to play a program for us on his beautiful residence installation — a 4/17 Robert-Morton, originally from Tulsa's Ritz theatre. Mark and Nola have placed the in-

strument in a large music room addition to their Dallas residence that affords ample area for development of the organ sound as well as seating and listening area. As with most of us, Mark finds many competing demands for his time, foremost of these being his hobby of collecting, restoring and exhibiting antique luxury automobiles (mostly Cadillacs). This, no doubt, explains the time that has elapsed since Mark last entertained our Chapter.

Mark's music was a delight, showing off both the rare beauty of this fine theatre instrument and his talent for making beautiful music on it. Beginning with the rousing "Everything's Coming Up Roses," his program included Joplin's "Peacherine Rag," the haunting "Memory" from Cats and the equally evocative "Bali Hai" from South Pacific. Mark enjoys surprising and delighting his audience by demonstrating that his musical talents include playing the marimba. After moving back the false pipework behind and over the console to reveal the large orchestral marimba concealed there, he played three selections on the instrument, showcasing his masterful four-mallet technique. Bravo! Mark.

1988 marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of our chapter and we hope to make it a banner year. Now, with our own organ installed in a theatre, we hope to showcase it in several public and chapter presentations. We hope you all can join us.

Irving Light

A	
March 26	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
	ernational Film Festival, San Francisco, California
April 23	Symphony Hall, San Diego, Calfornia
April 27	Art Institute, Cleveland, Ohio
April 28	Dryden Theatre, Rochester, New York
April 30, May 1	
	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
May 10 May 21	Contate Factive! Charlester North Carolina
	Spoleto Festival, Charleston, North Carolina
August 25	Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
	David Lutheran Church, Canal-Winchester, Ohio
	Midwest Tour, Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra
October 10-14	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
October 22	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
October 29	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
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OREGON

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A night to remember — DON BAKER! A fabulous artist, a fine 3/24 Kimball, the large Benson High School reverberant auditorium and an appreciative audience from as far away as Bend, Medford, Astoria and Seattle — that was our big event on November 21! It has been many years since we heard Don Baker in this area. He worked here for the Rodgers Organ Company in the early 1960s and made a remarkable record, "The Sound of 94 Speakers," in the Portland Coliseum.



Jonas Nordwall at First Methodist 4/87 Wicks.

Claude Neuffer Photo

Don opened his program with a lively "Cabaret" and continued with many selections from the twenties and thirties perfectly suited to this organ. At 84, Don has lost none of his famous technique as evidenced by left-hand melodies with right-hand embellishments up and down another manual or right hand accompanied by incredibly fast, precise left-hand chromatic runs. Don seldom uses sudden contrasts in voicing or dynamics, but smoothly progresses from very soft to full power and back again. However, during a concert, he will exploit every voice and feature in any organ. Using the piano, Don demonstrated his first lesson as a boy, a simple one-note melody on which he expanded and elaborated through the years into a giant, full-pipe production — clever

Most of today's fine theatre organists are too young to have played silent pictures as a profession, but fortunately we still have Don Baker, a living legend of that time. Thanks to Don and to member Bill Pierce who first contacted Don in Florida for this concert. Thanks, too, to our organ maintenance man, Loren Minear, and to Benson High School.

This was truly a night to remember!

Our annual business meeting and Christmas concert occurred at the First Methodist Church in Portland where Jonas Nordwall is organist. Jonas, as always, dazzled us with his dexterity and, this time, with some deftly played Christmas melodies for a sing-along. Our chapter has thoroughly enjoyed the music of this personable young artist ever since he first played for us in 1966.

We are in the throes of preparation for the 1988 National Convention, and are looking forward to seeing all of you here this year.

Bud Abel



Don Baker at the 3/24 Kimball in Portland's Benson High School. Claude Neuffer Photo

See Page 13 for a Sneak Preview of this years' Convention in FUNTOWN, USA!

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POTOMAC VALLEY

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We sponsored a most successful event featuring Bob Ralston on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland, on October 25. Five days later a steam-heat pipe sprung a leak above the Main (left) pipe chamber, pouring considerable water into the center of the chamber, damaging especially the Violin and Clarinet ranks, as well as a regulator.

On October 31 Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle accompanied a silent movie, Nosferatu, (Dracula) and managed, with his customary skill, to play around the damaged ranks. The chamber was allowed to dry out thoroughly before repairs, headed by George Johnson, were begun. This is not the first water damage to that Wurlitzer as the blower has been under water during several floods, and the console floated in floodwater up onto the stage in 1976. Discussions are underway concerning the replacement of the 62-year-old console.

On November 22, the chapter held a business meeting, attended by 75 members and guests, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, at the now-vacant Corby Mansion, an elegant early 20th century luxury



Frank Vanaman at the Corby Mansion Aeolian 4/75 Console.

Dan Swope Photo

home featuring a 4/75 Aeolian residence pipe organ with Duo-Art roll player mech-chanism having full stop and expression control, all of which is being restored by member Warren Thomas, with assistance from other ATOS members. After the business meeting, operating parts of the Aeolian pipe organ were played by members Frank Vanaman, Bob Courtney, Warren Thomas and others. The roll player was also demonstrated.

Chapter-owned theatre pipe organs, a 3/10 Kimball at the University of Maryland in College Park, and a 2/8 Wurlitzer at

George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, are progressing in nearly-identical installations of electronic relays and stop actions, spearheaded by George Johnson, with Warren Thomas and Horace (Barney) Johnson doing most of the repair and re-leathering of the Kimball.

We expect to hold theatre pipe organ events at both sites, as well as at the Weinberg Center in Frederick, Maryland, during the second half of 1988.

Jack Little

VOTE TODAY!

YOUR BALLOT IS IN THIS ISSUE

See Pages 10 & 11 for the 1988 ATOS Board of Directors Nominees.



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The chancel console of the 3/61 Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1058.





Bob and Betty Arndt at the Markworth 3/14 Kimball.

Tom Jeffery Photo

RIVER CITY

Omaha, Nebraska 402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040

Dr. Marilyn Kielniarz and the First Central Congregational United Church of Christ hosted our November 17 meeting at the church, with 20 members and guests attending. The 1947 vintage 3/61 Aeolian-Skinner organ includes an antiphonal organ located in the rear balcony of the church. The antiphonal organ has its own console, while the main console can play both the chancel and antiphonal organs. Dr. Kielniarz, First Central's Director of Music, studied at Northwestern University and is on staff at both Creighton University and University of Nebraska -Omaha. While Dr. Kielniarz conducted a tour of the pipe chambers, six members took advantage of open console time. After a break for refreshments, Dr. Kielniarz handed out specification sheets for the organ and demonstrated its resources. Compositions played during her miniconcert included Bach's "Savior of the Nations Come," and Gabriel Pierne's "Chorale Prelude." We are indebted to First Central Church and to Dr. Kielniarz for this opportunity.

Bob Markworth hosted our December 12 meeting in his festively decorated

home. In addition to the 3/14 Kimball theatre pipe organ Bob had a small console with one or two ranks of pipes playing in the dining room. Back by popular demand, our guest artist was Bob Arndt, owner of Arndt Organ Supply Company, and his lovely wife, Betty, who journeyed from Des Moines, Iowa, to join our holiday celebration. After appetizers and a potluck dinner, we adjourned to the family room for Bob Arndt's concert. Bob opened his program with some oldies. including a lush-sounding version of "You're a Dreamer, Aren't We All," followed by a medley of tunes of the Christmas season. Bob has added a new Orchestral Oboe to his Kimball, and Bob Arndt showcased it in "Mood Indigo." In a humorous vein, Bob offered his reminiscence of our first organ lessons, playing "Diane," "Ida" and "Louise," square notes and all. Our own Wendall Hall, on banjo, joined Bob Arndt for a Christmas sing-along with lantern slides. Bob Arndt, who has been playing professionally since age 15, announced that he is installing a new 3/14 organ in his own home, from Arndt Organ Supply, of course. River City Chapter will look forward to the Arndt's next visit.





Dr. Marilyn Kielniarz demonstrating the resources of the 3/61 Aeolian-Skinner.

Tom Jeffery Photo





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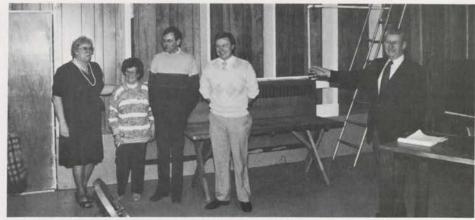
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver, Colorado 303/421-1190 or 303/233-4716

"Ghouly Gala" A Grand Success!

More than 50 people came out for our first ever "Ghouly Gala" Halloween Costume Ball at Evelyn Riser's Music Studio on October 31. Éveryone in attendance had fun, whether they danced or not. Popular Denver organist Ed Benoit along with his side-men. John Tanguma on drums and Dave Rutherford on string bass, did a terrific job of providing the music for this event. The decorations were fantastic. The costumes were very interesting and most unusual. A costume contest was held with Dave and Verna Sass snagging the honors for the most unusual costume and Steve McCormick winning for the most elaborate. Evelyn Riser judged the event.

Volunteers, headed by President David Love, spent several days cleaning and decorating for the event. A "graveyard" graced the entrance to the Music Studio, presided over by "Arnold" the gravedigger. "Arnold" also ran the broom-



1988 officers of Rocky Mountain Chapter: (L to R) Priscilla Arthur, Alice Cutshall, Steve McCormick, David Love. Chairman of Nominating Committee, Bob Porter, is on far right.

Don Zeller Photo

parking concession — Compact Brooms only please! "Broomhilda," the witch, was seen flying high overhead inside the studio, and two 12' "ghosts" stood guard over the console. And there were "eyes" all over the place keeping watch over things. Refreshments included hot cider punch and homemade pumpkin pie. The event was deemed a success by all in attendance, and plans are to do it again. It was well worth all the effort.

At the November 22 Annual meeting, Dorothy Retallack was the featured organist.

Members are eagerly looking forward to beginning work on the installation of

the former Aladdin Theatre Wicks organ in Denver's East High School. The organ was donated to the school by the Friends of the Mayan group when efforts to install the organ in that theatre fell through. Design-work for the installation at the school is nearly completed and details regarding funding and access to the organ are being worked out with school officials. It is hoped that work will begin soon after the first of the year. School officials are so anxious to get the organ installed that they have already begun planning the dedication ceremony. It is expected that the project will take at least one year to complete. Don Zeller



Dorothy Retallack at the Riser console, Don Zeller Photo



Music makers at "Ghouly Gala:" (L to R) John Tanguma, Dave Rutherford and Ed Benoit.

Don Zeller Photo



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Joe Barnes and Chuck Wiltch (see photo) seem to be saying a few prayers (?) prior to placing the Peterson solid-state relay into the three-manual Wurlitzer console. Moving of the console was scheduled for January 2, from the warm basement in Joe's home to the cold theatre in South St. Louis. It will ultimately control 23 ranks in the wonderful acoustic setting of the theatre. By the time you read this, the console should be there and the balance of the "wiring in" nearly complete.

Members and guests were invited to the home of Jack Moelmann for a Christmas party and short meeting. We enjoyed visiting, snacks and drinks during open console. After a lovely potluck dinner, we were entertained by Jack's wonderful



Joe Barnes and Chuck Wiltek study the Peterson relay before installing it.

concert which included a sing-along and
a silent movie. He was later joined by
Mark Gifford to perform duets and nonsense. How very fortunate we are to have

Joe Barnes and Chuck Wiltek study the Peterson relay before installing it.

1987 ended
members were
means more sellers for our North stalling it.

Mark Gifford to perform duets and nonsense. How very fortunate we are to have such talent in our midst! It is always a treat to enjoy Jack's hospitality and his unique musical Theatre Room. Dale I Roma Photo

1987 ended on a high note. Many new members were added to our roster. This means more supporting workers, ticket sellers for our Variety Shows and a brighter future for our project at the fabulous Granada Theatre.

Dale L. Boring



Working on the Wonder Morton in Santa Barbara.

SANTA BARBARA California

805/682-1604

October 1, at 8:00 p.m. is a date to be marked on everyone's calendar. If all goes as planned that will be the dedication and premiere of the totally rebuilt Wonder Morton in the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara. Chapter members and other community volunteers, spend four weekly work sessions making sure everything is done perfectly. All 3000 magnets have been removed from the bottom boards and re-built, all the pneumatics have been replaced with new leather. Every chest has been refinished and recorked. The elaborate trim on the console has been "gold leafed." The bottom keyboard has been re-ivoried in real ivory, and other slightly damaged keys have been repaired. The giant 25hp Woods motor has been re-built, the impellers balanced and are now installed in the blower room just behind the projection booth. The 150-foot windline is in place and when spring arrives the 20-ton slumbering giant will be put in place . . . voiced and tuned for this large 2000-plus seat movie palace. Stephen Leslie and Roger Inkpen of the Newton Pipe Organ Company of San Jose will complete what we hope to be the finest sounding organ in the west, if not the country. A few problems remain with the console lift, but will be worked out. It must rise 17 feet to stage level. Two additional ranks of pipes are being added bringing the total to 26. Otto Korntheuer has personally rebuilt the entire Toy Counter and all the tuned percussion are now in mint condition. When local cinema organist Jerry Garard rides the console up playing Copeland's "Fanfare For the Common Man" and "Dream The Impossible Dream," the hair on your neck will rise with the ivory and gold leafed console. Thomas Hazleton will be the featured premiere organist. A cocktail party will follow the concert in the Arlington Court. An "open console" event will follow that . . . should be a night to attend and remember. John Oien

SIERRA

Sacramento 916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

Several of our members were featured at the George A. Siever Wurlitzer organ for the annual Craft Show in December. Playing Christmas music for the many who attended at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse were Eric Parker, Don Wallin', Art Phelan and Chuck Shumate, while Harry Cline was coordinator of manpower and supplies.

We went all out for the holidays and held two Christmas parties, one at Bobby D's and a potluck at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse. Both were well attended and enjoyable.

We started off 1988 with another fine concert at Grant High School on January 3. The 4/22 Wurlitzer was put through its paces by two fine theatre organists, Don Wallin' and Dave Moreno. Don opened the program with several fine selections and then Dave came to the console and they played several duets on piano and organ. Dave also played a few numbers before going into the silent Laurel and Hardy Two Tars which only Dave can accompany as a silent movie should be accompanied — he had the audience in stitches. It was a most enjoyable day, and we had a surprisingly good crowd considering the nasty weather that day.

Bud Taylor



The rules and regulations for the 1988 Young Organist Competition have been sent to all chapter presidents. If you know of a talented youngster (age 13-20) who might be interested in entering, contact your chapter immediately so he can start preparing for the competition. If you have questions, contact Lois Segur, 1930-301 West San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos, California 92069.

SOONER STATE

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our November meeting was an all-day trip to Arkansas, first to Siloam Springs to admire the progress on Hugh and Enid Lineback's 2/6 Kilgen, then on to Bella Vista for a visit with Russell and Florence Joseph. Russell played a number of tapes of music recorded at the ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles, as well as tapes from the recent Buffalo Regional Convention. Russell's sound equipment is superb — there was absolutely no distortion of any of the 32-foot pedal sounds. Russ then played for us on his mintcondition 2/4 Wurlitzer, after which we enjoyed open console. We then adjourned to the country club for dinner, and were home in Tulsa before eleven o'clock.

During the two weeks prior to our Christmas party, Harry Rasmussen and Lee Smith spent many long hours trying to fix the dead stop tabs in the console. After enduring the frustration of not being able to get at the back of the console, they finally told church officials that the low partition blocking their efforts would have to be removed . . . and workmen began the next day to make the partition into a movable gate! The repair project then proceeded. The problem was in the cable from the console to the switch stack, and since there was no way to tell just what or where the trouble was, they used the "spares" in the cable to restore the switching action. Then Harry and Phil Judkins tuned - and the 4/14 Robert-Morton was ready to play.

Dorothy Smith played the mini-concert for the Christmas program. She had always wanted to see if she knew "Carol of the Bells" and "Dance of the Sugar-plum Fairy" (the latter inspired by a recording by George Wright) well enough to play them. The chrysoglott worked beautifully, much to her delight! George Wright also gets the credit for the registration for "O Holy Night." "Less is more," he said, and "You can use the (horn) Diapason as a solo stop." So the melody was a Diapason solo, with just the Concert Flute for the accompaniment.

Christmas music has to include a medley from Hansel and Gretel - and its "Evening Prayer" was fun to do on the chimes.

We then heard Paul Craft sing, accompanied by his wife, Carolyn. Their "O Holy Night" and "White Christmas" were perfectly beautiful. The group singing which followed, accompanied by Carolyn, was indeed "a joyful noise." The console was then open and several others played, and we also heard more Gospel music from the Crafts.

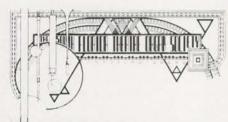
The first Saturday in December, three of our members (Dorothy Smith, Dick Van Dera, and Carolyn Craft) played Christmas music on the residence pipe organ installed in Tulsa's Philbrook Art Center. This organ, a two-manual Aeolian, originally had eleven ranks, and has been expanded and restored through the generosity of member Bill McMahon in memory of his wife, June Appleby Mc Mahon. Sadly, the organ has hardly been played all this past year, and it needs to be played. We are trying to promote the reinstitution of regular programs on it.

Our chapter-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton installation in Tulsa's Vo-Tech high school is actually nearing completion. The Devtronix electronic combination action has been shipped, and wiring is not expected to take too long. A "garage" has been built by Sam Collier and Don Kimes to house the console, which is now set up on the auditorium stage. It shouldn't be too much longer, now!

Dorothy Smith

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Your Ballot Must Be Received by May 15, 1988.



SOUTH FLORIDA

Miami 305/458-2912 or 305/443-2651

We have heard a lot of good music in recent months. In November, Don Baker of Orlando gave a concert at Andre Hall, playing the 4/15 Wurlitzer. In December, the annual Christmas party at the home of Mildred and Calvin Jureit featured Ron Rhode playing the superb mostly Wurlitzer. A second Christmas party was held at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami where the chapter and the American Guild of Organists joined forces for music and refreshments.

The chapter kicked off January with a concert by Timothy Needler, from Indianapolis, at Gusman Center. His recital was followed by open console with chapter members trying their luck at the grand Wurlitzer. Joe Werne

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SOUTHEAST TEXAS

We had a number of events that filled the last half of 1987.

A summer workshop for children, sponsored by the Beaumont Community Players, wrote and produced a history of the Jefferson Theatre. There was a special segment devoted to the organ's history that included a tribute to the late Al Sacker, founder of our chapter.

The organ has been featured as preshow entertainment at most Beaumont Community Players productions this year and at the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society's film series.

An Open Console Concert on August 30 found our vice-chairman, Carter Bidwell, as well as local organists Jim Doleman and Milburn Amy at our Robert-Morton.

Jim Connors played an excellent concert on October 18. It had been seven years since Jim had played for us, and it was a real pleasure to welcome his return.

Also in October, as part of Beaumont's Sesquicentennial Celebration, there was an open house at the Jefferson and the organ was played for the enjoyment of those attending. Chapter members were there to answer questions about the organ and the society.

The Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society completed one phase of its restoration, the replacement of the seats, and held a party in honor of those individuals who had purchased seats. Since the organ is such a part of the theatre's history, our chapter was invited to feature the organ at this gala event.

We closed our year with a Christmas program on December 13. Carter Bidwell played a selection of Christmas music and then was joined by a choir of third graders from Lumberton Primary School, under the direction of Linda Bullington. After the program, as is our custom, there was an open console and a tour of the pipe chambers.

Lee Bryant



Carter Bidwell and the third grade choir during the Christmas program.



Open console after the Christmas program.



Carter Bidwell at the console of the Robert-Morton.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

on the

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Chapter President Ray Danford and ATOS President Jack Moelmann at First Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

MLV Photo

ATOS Archives/Library

Vernon P. Bickel, Curator 1393 Don Carlos Court Chula Vista, CA 92010 619/421-9629

VOTE!

VALLEY OF THE SUN

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

Our November 22 chapter meeting was held in the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall where Ken Schroeder performed at the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ that members of our chapter have

helped to install. Several of his selections

that afternoon were love songs.

We did not have a chapter meeting in December, but encouraged our members to attend the Rob Richards concert at Organ Stop Pizza on December 13. The first part of the program featured show tunes and Rob's own synthesized keyboard composition, "Music for the New Age." The second half was all Christmas

National ATOS President Jack Moelmann had us all chuckling at First Christian Church on January 3. We weren't laughing at his music, but at his amusing one-liners! Jack's theatre organ program included a variety of songs from "Rubber Duckie" to a patriotic medley.

Madeline LiVolsi

WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio 216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

We held our annual election of officers at a November 22 meeting at the Cleveland Grays Armory. Veteran theatre organist Billy Buswell entertained from the console of the auditorium's 3/15 Wurlitzer followed by open console time for all.

Chapter members and friends gathered to celebrate the holidays with a Christmas party at the Plum Creek Inn (formerly the Lamplighter Inn) in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. The December 6 festivities included a delicious meal and holiday and traditional mood music provided by resident organist Tom Drake at the keys of the three-manual Kimball. A cocktail hour and open console rounded out the Yuletide festivities.

The Cleveland Grays will present Paul Quarino of Portland, Oregon's Organ Grinder Restaurant in concert at the Cleveland Grays Armory 3/15 Wurlitzer on Saturday, May 7, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available in advance from: Grays Armory, 1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Jim Shepherd





WOLVERINE

Central & Lower Michigan 313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118

In the good company of Reverends Jim Miller and Andrew Rogers, the Wolverines heard organist Gerry Elliott play Chet Summers' Austin organ in his Church of the Second Spirit in September. After a rousing program on the DTOC Wurlitzer in the Senate Theatre by Don Haller, we returned to hear Melissa Ambrose demonstrate her versatility on the same organ in November.

Our "official" November gathering in the home of Chuck and Sharron Patterson was anything but formal. It was a regular "Talent Show" in which we heard a mean saxophone, an accordion and the Pattersons' two organs and piano.

1987 closed with a "homecoming." Our good friends Glen Rank and Dave Voydanoff, who hosted a dozen Wolverine Christmas gatherings in the past, this year opened their home in their new location in Algonac, Michigan, to their Wolverine friends. Those of us who attended came home with a happy glow, the rekindled "spirit of Christmases past" at Wurlitzer House I. Charlie & Betty Baas



Wolverines Don McKinney (sax), Mary McKinney and Jim Reinhart (Hammonds) entertaining at the Pattersons.



Charlie Baas and Fred Page with Don Haller at the console.

Fred Page Photo



Dave Voydanoff looks on as Herb Head plays his Wurlitzer.

Bill Bogel Photo



Hostess Sharron Patterson and accordionist Melissa Ambrose, coached by Dorothy VanSteenkiste.

One Last Time . . . Remember to Vote!



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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