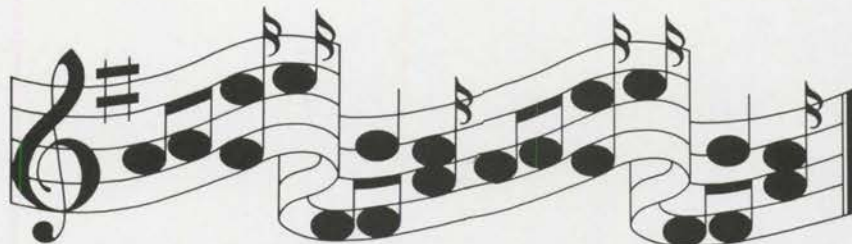


# Chapter Notes



Lee Erwin scoring *King of Kings* at The Alabama.  
Gary W. Jones Photo



Gaylord Carter poses for a quick photo after accompanying *The Kid Brother*.  
Gary W. Jones Photo

## ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/644-3606

With a new relay and a seemingly new organ, there was no better way to celebrate than with an old tradition — a silent movie!

Lee Erwin did the honors and played two performances of *King Of Kings* March 26 and 27. This kick-off of our silent film series, "Silents" Is Golden, met with great success and opened the door to many people who had never seen a silent film presentation. To continue with the series, Mr. Flicker Fingers himself, Gaylord Carter, appeared at The Alabama on April 30 and May 1 for a hilarious Harold Lloyd festival which included *The Kid Brother*. These two deans of the silent era really showed Birmingham what silent films were (and still are!) all about — a lot of fun.

The Alabama Theatre continues to grow in popularity and bookings. Almost every day between March and December is filled with something. Symphony and ballet performances and rehearsals, classic films, silent films, organ concerts, plays, live shows, meetings, jazz concerts, and just about every form of entertainment continues to play at the theatre. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of chapter members, we continue to be successful and profitable.

The 1988 Regional Convention Committee is working long and hard hours to insure that October 14, 15, and 16 will be the best weekend of the year! Make your plans to attend this fantastic convention.

Gary W. Jones

## CEDAR RAPIDS Iowa

319/362-9676 or 319/396-5633

Our March social was held in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Lutheran Church where we viewed a video, aired previously on National TV, showing the great old movie palaces. It was narrated by Gene Kelly with Gaylord Carter performing on the theatre organ. Even though we have two great theatre organs in Cedar Rapids (the Wurlitzer in the Paramount Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Barton in the former Iowa Theatre), both houses have performances going on much of the time from early fall until late spring, making it difficult to have our meetings at one or the other, and we appreciate the hospitality shown by the church.

Our May Spectacular was another success. Lyn Larsen did a terrific job on our 3/11 Wurlitzer at the Paramount. His opening "If I Could Be With You One Hour Tonight" was followed by Zez Con-

frey's "Dizzy Fingers." Other numbers included "Russian Rag" and a medley of marches, "76 Trombones," "Stars and Stripes" and "National Emblem." The Cedar Rapids *Gazette* gave us a fine story prior to the concert telling what we have done for the Paramount Wurlitzer, including the fact that we have spent, since 1969, some \$28,000 on the organ, relay room, pipe chambers and new, ornate drapes in front of the swell shades plus a Brass Trumpet rank currently being installed. Mr. Les Zacheis, in his review of the concert for the *Gazette*, stated that the "spicy 'Trisch Trasch Polka' by Strauss shaped up to be one of Larsen's best numbers in registration and execution . . . Larsen brought the formal portion of his program to a close with Ponchielli's 'Dance of the Hours.' . . . The patrons clamored for more, and Larsen harkened clear back to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band with their 'bring-down' number, 'Tiger Rag.'" Following the concert, the Afterglow was held at a local restaurant with more than fifty in attendance. Some of our members deserve special recognition for their help with this concert: Jim Olver, Pasul Montague, Karl Hoffman, Dennis Fisher and his son, Tony, were the maintenance crew; John and Anne Hockaday did a great job with the ticket sales, and Leonard and Luvena Santon handled the ushering, record sales, etc. Those who imagine that these Spectaculars "just happen" should ask any of the above persons!

Chairman Charles Collingwood recently resigned because of pressures of work, school and an addition to his family. Vice-Chairman Jim Olver will carry on until fall. We appreciate all that Charles has done for our chapter and are assured that he will continue to help on the Maintenance Crew.

George K. Baldwin

### 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  
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



# ALABAMA HEAD SOUTH...

The 1988 Alabama Theatre Season has already begun.

**Don't miss another minute of it!**

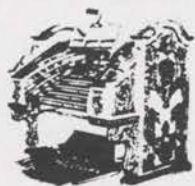
March 26 - 27, 1988	Lee Erwin - "King of Kings" - Cecil B. DeMille Silent Epic
April 30 - May 1, 1988	Gaylord Carter - "The Kid Brother" - Silent Classic starring Harold Lloyd
June 4 - 5, 1988	Tom Helms - "The General" - Buster Keaton's Silent Classic
July 16 - 17, 1988	Jim Riggs - "Thief of Bagdad" - starring Douglas Fairbanks
August 14, 1988	Donna Parker - Wurlitzer Organ Pops Concert
October 14, 15 & 16, 1988	1988 ATOS Regional Convention
October 28, 1988	Tom Helms - "Phantom of the Opera" - Lon Chaney Masterpiece

For ticket prices, convention, and other information, please contact:

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## ...for the Music!



### CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

813/868-5088 or 813/785-9733

Our March meeting was held at the home of member Tom Woolliscroft whose lively, sixty-year-old frame house near downtown St. Petersburg was certainly a pleasure to visit. Rich Veague entertained us with a program of music, mostly from the '20s, '30s and '40s, on Tom's Conn 651. Everyone enjoyed his playing very much.

April found us in the home of John and Elosia Otterson near Tampa. John demonstrated his Hammond Concord 2100, which was built in 1974. After a few numbers, the program was turned over to Edward Perkins, a 13-year-old from Wales who, with his teacher Audrey Williams and her husband, Granville, were visiting chapter members Roger and Dottie Bloom. The Williams were sponsoring young Edward in a brief tour of theatre organs in Central Florida, and he displayed a brilliant talent, mastering the Hammond with only brief instructions from John. Look out, Phil Kelsall!

While in Florida, the Williams visited Walter Draughn in Ft. Myers and Edward and Mrs. Williams played his three-manual Wurlitzer. Later they were invited to play the 4/17 Wurlitzer in the home of Ken and Ruth Hunt in Clearwater. Each played a magnificent mini-concert. Before they left for home, the Williams and Edward became our most distant chapter members, and we hope that they will return soon for another visit.

Work on the Tampa Theatre is moving along. President Earl Wiltse announced the purchase of actions for the snare drum, roll cymbal and a bird whistle, additions that will enhance the toy counter. The Main chamber is nearly finished, and we will be back in the theatre in May.

*Alleen Cole*



Edward Perkins, 13-year-old from Wales, at the Christie Organ in Barry.



Tim Needler making presentation to Phil and Betty Hedback. John Ennis Photo



President Kevin Aikman and Competition Chairman Tess Moses with Jelani Eddington, winner of the 1988 Dessa Byrd Scholarship Competition.

*John Ennis Photo*



### CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

317/255-8056 or 317/787-4865

Our March meeting highlighted the Fourth Annual Dessa Byrd Scholarship Competition. The winner of this contest is entered in the National ATOS Young Organist Competition. An exceptionally large turnout thoroughly enjoyed the efforts of three young musicians, Jelani Eddington, Jim Wright and Diana Thomas. The judges had a difficult time assessing who should be the winner, but their final decision gave the honor to Jelani Eddington, a 13-year-old from Muncie, Indiana. We predict you'll be hearing great things from this young man!

Phil and Betty Hedback were named Honorary Lifetime Members of Central Indiana Chapter and were presented with a framed plaque by Tim Needler. Their purchase, installation, enlargement and maintenance of the Hedback Organ has been an outstanding example of their generosity to the Indianapolis community and to our organization.

*(continued...)*



## CENTRAL INDIANA, cont.

Four of our members participated in the Second Annual Kimball Keyboard Benefit for Muscular Dystrophy held on March 12 at a local shopping mall. Eve Thomas, Charlie Thomas, Virginia Rechoris Wolfram and Ruth Ward joined more than 130 pianists and organists performing from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. at five-minute intervals. A good job for a worthy cause.

On April 10 the chapter met in Lafayette at the Long Center for the Performing Arts to hear Tim Needler play on the 3/14 "mostly Wurlitzer." His program ranged from an upbeat "Makin' Whoopie" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" to a slow, smooth interpretation of "Ruby," in which he utilized the Sostenuato on this beautiful organ. There was a medley from *Showboat* and a medley of Irving Berlin favorites. We are fortunate to hear Tim often at open console, but this was the first time in several years he has played an entire program for the chapter. We won't want to wait that long for an encore performance.

On April 23, members boarded a bus for a weekend in Chicago. We were privileged to hear nine different organs and as many artists during the two-day trip. We enjoyed performances by Barbara Sellers, Leon Berry, Dave Wickerham and Charlie Balough to name but a few. It was a particular pleasure to meet the "Beast in the Basement" at Leon Berry's home and "Martha Morton" at the Van Der Molen's home. The trip was coordinated by Beverly Barton of CATOE, and she did an outstanding job. A big THANK YOU to Ms. Barton, to Leon and Mildred Berry and to Virginia Ferroli. These CATOE folks really know how to throw a party!

We have purchased from the Excelsior Mill Restaurant (via the State Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky) a 3-manual, double bolster Wurlitzer console to be installed in Manual High School's auditorium. This will replace the Louisville Uniphone console. The existing 17 ranks will be increased to 21. Kevin Aikman and the "Saturday Regulars" have been working since June 1987 on this project, installing a new electronic relay and refurbishing the Main chamber. This instrument promises to be one of the best in the mid-west when completed and will be in top form when the National Convention comes to Indianapolis in 1990.

*Barbara Johnson*

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to . . .  
**DOUGLAS C. FISK**  
Executive Director of ATOS  
P.O. Box 417490  
Sacramento, California 95841

## CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

The Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield, Ohio, featured Bill Vlasak on March 12. Bill, who is currently staff organist at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, is an old Columbusite who moved, several years ago, to Indiana, but it is still good to know that he is conversant with Ohio's geography. His style at the 3/22 Wurlitzer was crisp and musically articulate as he led us through such oldies as "In The Good Old Summertime," "Spring Will Be A Little Late This Year" and a medley from *Hello, Dolly*. His final selection was a Jose Delmonte tango, and try as we might, we couldn't lure him back for an encore.

At our March 27 meeting in Kincaid's Music Store, we were introduced to Hammond's new electronic product by Mike Armstrong, Hammond's national sales manager. Electric wizardry has enabled the Hammond people to incorporate a dazzling array of LEDs, touch stops and synthesized voices, but theatre organ it was not — even when the artist tried. If, however, a display of its musical potential was to be heard, it was members Henry Garcia at the console and Martha Hoyle on the piano. The Super CX-1, a Japanese-manufactured product for Hammond, has re-introduced the brand into the product line, but for the traditional organist, it is more likely to bewilder than bewitch.

The third of the 1987-88 Organ Series at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus featured Jim Riggs, who has earned a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding artist and who conveys a warmth and intimacy which delights his listeners. Jim offered a parade of favorites, and it was enlightening to hear the complete march from which the familiar "Anchors Aweigh" is taken. The second half of his program was dedicated to Irving Berlin's 100th birthday. The nostalgic "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody" and "Always" gave way to the favorite "Blue Skies" and the closing "God Bless America." Jim Riggs' musical memory is impressive. His right-hand ensembles were lush and full-bodied, especially set against haunting counter-melodies.

Our April 24 meeting took place at the Shady Nook Restaurant near Oxford. The famed Helen Crawford slave console from the Chicago Theatre still sits poised on its lift. Twenty-six members gathered to enjoy the music of house organist Martin Bevis. Martin generously offered open console, and three of our members entertained the chapter as well as a growing crowd of restaurant clients.

*John R. Polsley*



## CHICAGO AREA

312/282-0037 or 312/698-6898

Business meetings are not always the most lively affairs, but our April meeting saw a stimulating discussion of several items, such as the disposition of the Oriental Theatre organ, a special program for local youth and the National Young Organist Competition. One item which should have been discussed, however, is what happens to former members — we know that some move or pass on, but what about the rest? Let's ask them.

One of our recent activities was Stan Kann and his Comedy Concert at the Copernicus Center. The weather could have been better, but the show was interesting and fun.

At our April meeting, Larry Roue was the soloist. It has been some time since we have heard Larry, and he was very generous with his presentation of many types of music and styles. It was a great treat.

Applause and thanks go to Mike Jacklin and Lee Maloney for their part in the progress of the Schurz High School organ.

Will Chicago's Blackstone Theatre get a pipe organ? Possibly. This legitimate theatre has been acquired by DePaul University, and we shall investigate the possibilities for an organ in the theatre.

The Arcada Theatre in St. Charles will be the site of a unique show when ATOS President Jack Moelmann and popular Al Morgan give forth with their talents.

North Avenue Roller Rink, in the Chicago area, will be the new home for a 3/13 Wurlitzer which came from an Atlanta, Georgia, pizzeria, and we are glad it found a good home.

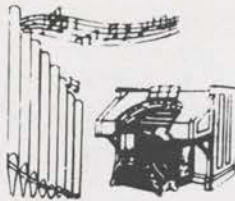
*Almer Brostrom*



*Stan Kann in Chicago.*

*Chuck Włodarczyk Photo*





## CONNECTICUT VALLEY

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

We are pleased and relieved to report that the fire code violations which closed the Thomaston Opera House to the public are being corrected as the first phase of a major renovation and restoration of the building. Tom Hazleton recently made a recording on the 3/15 Marr & Colton there, and we expect that cassettes will be available to the public in the fall.

John Angevine, crew chief for the Thomaston organ, is recovering nicely from a recent heart attack but has relinquished his duties as Vice-Chairman-Operations.

It was "Miller Time," that is Father Jim Miller at our March 26 concert at Shelton High School. Father Jim began by announcing that if any members of the audience came for a religious experience they were in for a big surprise! This was Father Jim's first appearance in Connecticut, and if he enjoyed his first New England seafood dinner, it was the audience who enjoyed a dessert of Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Eubie Blake and other upbeat melodies. Commenting on his life as a priest, Father Jim said that the salary may not be high, but the "retirement benefits are out of this world."

The benefits of a Father Miller concert were well in evidence that evening as members of the audience left with smiles on their lips and spring in their steps. We will see you next year, Father Jim.

Our April meeting was held in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in the lovely town of Avon. The organ was built by Casavant Freres, Limited, of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, and has 17 ranks. St. Matthew's musical director, Krysia Robinson, demonstrated the organ and presented a concert of classical and church music. After our regular business meeting and a dinner break, members returned for open console. A beautiful day in a beautiful area.

And for something a little different, many of our members attended demonstrations by Hector Olivera of the Yamaha HX-1 Electone on successive nights in the towns of Stratford and Newington. Hector presented programs of show tunes and light classics and a spectacular 15-minute "1812 Overture" which brought the audiences to their feet. If Hector comes to your area, don't miss an electrifying, electronic performance.

Barry Goodkin

## DELAWARE VALLEY

Philadelphia  
215/566-1764

On May 1 we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Uhler in Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania, to enjoy open console on their 2/6 Marr & Colton equipped with the unique and rare Symphonic Registrar registration system

so aptly described on page 290 of David Junchen's *Encyclopedia of the American Theatre Organ, Volume 1*. The organist seated at the elevated console has an unobstructed view of the movie screen mounted on the opposite wall and equipped with curtains as it would be in a theatre. The projection room is, of course, located behind the organist.

The Uhlers invite local groups from the area to their home to see both silent (with organ accompaniment) and sound films from Mr. Uhler's extensive collection. Mr. Uhler collects not only films but also books, brochures and display posters of old films. He especially likes Western film posters and memorabilia from Republic Pictures. Their home is also equipped with a modern player-piano and a reed organ, and in one corner of the room is an extensive model railroad layout.

That that was our first visit to the Uhler residence made it especially exciting and doubly interesting. The members wish to thank the Uhlers for inviting us into their home.

That news of our chapter appears infrequently in these pages does not mean that we are not active. Past and future events include an open console at John Dickenson High School in Wilmington, Delaware, the Rahjah Theatre in Reading, Pennsylvania, the Robert Schmitt residence in Wyomissing and the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

Earl E. Strausser

## Hector Olivera



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## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley  
617/662-7055

Our "slumbering" Babson Wurlitzer surely was awakened on March 19 with the concert by internationally known artist Dan Bellomy. For added interest, he was assisted on several numbers by a talented local drummer, Bob Gullotti. Dan went into high gear with "Cosi Cosa" as an opener and included some nice ballads, such as the current "Somewhere Out There." He displayed amazing manual dexterity and a flying left foot on his free-wheeling jazz numbers as Bob teamed up very well on drums and cymbals. A standing ovation brought us "Swinging Shepherd Blues" as a fitting encore with both "flat out" as the audience cheered. We have had organ/piano and organ/vocal combinations, but this was a first for organ/drums — proof positive that we are willing to try something new!

On March 27 member Bob Legon was our organist and played a spirited "Anything Goes" as his opener. Romberg's "Silver Moon," with gorgeous Tibia combination, and our toy counter's surf for "Blue Hawaii," were most effective. He included themes of the '60s and a current Broadway *Phantom of the Opera* hit, "Think of Me." Bob's encore was "Tara's Theme" from *Gone With The Wind* and "Easter Parade" to end one more of his always interesting programs.

Member Earl Miller was our organist at Babson on April 24. The first part of his program was a rousing "Thunder and Blazes" followed by Debussy's "Clair de Lune." Our fine (and under-utilized) marimba got a good workout on "Malaguena" and "Come Back to Sorrento." Probably one of the longest titles to any music is Kohlman's "The Ocean Grove, New Jersey Methodist Auditorium Usher's March," and Earl chose to close his first half with it. This was written to be played on the Hope-Jones Opus 1, a now greatly enlarged instrument in the auditorium. Earl's second portion was "at the movies" with examples of typical music for accompaniment of the silents. Comedy, mystery, emotional scenes, passionate love, joy, etc., were played on one of the very organs whose beginnings actually created those moods in Loew's State Theatre in Boston.

An encore was in order, and a fine soprano, Terry Morgan, who has worked with Mr. Miller on many occasions, sensitively sang Victor Herbert's "Gypsy Love Song" to almost end Earl's program. Member Mike Bigelow had "Happy Birthday" played and sung to him to truly make his day memorable.

Stanley C. Garniss



## GARDEN STATE

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

Our members enjoyed a special bus trip to Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut over the April 8 and 9 weekend. It was the first bus trip sponsored by our chapter and was a huge success. Many thanks go to President Bruce Williams who planned the entire trip and successfully carried it out without any hitches.

On Friday evening a filled bus left New Jersey and arrived late in the evening in Providence, Rhode Island, where members were thrilled with the great sounds of a 5/21 Wurlitzer. After a restful night, Saturday was spent listening to pipe organs at the Hammond Castle and Babson College as well as several beautiful home installations. Professional chapter members concertized on these organs for the members' enjoyment. All arrived back in New Jersey late Saturday night, tired but delighted with the whole trip. Many have requested more trips like this. President Bruce Williams feels that these events help strengthen the local chapters and thus the theatre organ cause in general. Special thanks go to Allan Goodnow, Bob Reilly, Mr. and Mrs. Shanklin, Mr. and Mrs. Fucci, Dick Johnson, Bob Legon, Gary Phillips and Mr. and Mrs. Boda.

The fifth and final concert of the Trenton War Memorial Series was held April 17. The artist was Lew Williams who featured our 3/16 Moller theatre organ. Lew's excellent program was varied and certainly demonstrated his artistic skill in playing classical and pop music.

(continued ...)



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Hungry audience lining up for buffet on stage of Trenton War Memorial.

Jinny Vanore Photo

THEATRE ORGAN



**GARDEN STATE, cont.**



Lew Williams at Trenton War Memorial.  
Jinny Vanore Photo

We listened to old favorites, Big Band sounds and music from Broadway's newest musical, *Phantom of the Opera*, as well as symphonic music. The second half of Lew's program with "Jersey shore music," "By the Sea," and "Red Sails in the Sunset," had us all dreaming of the coming summer. This summer dream idea was reinforced when the stage curtains opened and revealed a sailboat and many large, beach umbrellas trimmed with tiny Tivoli lights which sparkled and shimmered in the red stage lighting. The remainder of Lew's program was most enjoyable and ended much too soon.

After the concert another first for our chapter was a light buffet supper, for the simple price of one dollar, served to the first 100 members of the audience who signed up for it. Tables were set up on the stage, and the food was enjoyed. Members Joe Dorsey and Harry Lee supplied dinner music on the Moller. The evening ended with a short Laurel and Hardy silent film accompanied by young Garden State member Henry Appenzeller.

Jinny Vanore



Vice President Steve Plaggemeyer looked on as Charter Member Andy Crow played 4/20 Wurlitzer during recent visit to Seattle Paramount Theatre.  
Duane Bondy Photo



Jesse Crawford Chapter members, L to R: Jim Roseveare, Steve Plaggemeyer and Dr. Ed Mullins at Paramount Theatre, Oakland, California.  
Duane Bondy Photo



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

Chapter Vice-President Steve Plaggemeyer visited several theatre organ venues in the Pacific Northwest and the San Francisco Bay Area in April, when he took an AMTRAK rail trip. Chapter member Andy Crow arranged for him to play the 4/48 Wilcox residence Wurlitzer in Gig Harbor, Washington, and member Jim Roseveare gave Steve an opportunity to try the 4/27 Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, California.

Plaggemeyer collected Dean Cook's membership dues when he heard him at the 4/23 Wurlitzer at the Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, California. In the summer of 1983 Cook played the 3/13 Robert-Morton in Billings, Montana, at the Pipes & Pizza where Steve was head organist.

Also heard were the 4/21 Wurlitzer in San Francisco's Castro Theatre; 3/13 Wurlitzer in Ye Olde Pizza Joynt at San Lorenzo; 3/15 Wurlitzer at Serramonte Pizza & Pipes in Daly City; and the Nor-Cal Chapter concert/meeting May 1 at

the Cinema 21 (nee Marina) Theatre in San Francisco where Larry Vannucci played the 2/6 Robert-Morton.

Chapter Secretary Ed Mullins, who hosted Steve's San Francisco visit, rode the train back to Montana with Plaggemeyer. During a change of AMTRAK trains in Portland, Oregon, they took a walking tour of the downtown area which has been renovated, and they rode the new lightrail.

Essaness Theatres of Chicago purchased the 50-screen Theatre Operators, Inc. (TOI) movie theatre chain of Bozeman, Montana, on May 19. The transaction includes the Babcock Theatre in downtown Billings, Montana. The Jesse Crawford Chapter is headquartered in the Babcock Theatre Building. The sale is part of a tremendous consolidation taking place in the theatre industry. Essaness plans to operate more than 500 screens in the next two years. TOI has other theatres in Idaho, Colorado and Washington.

Essaness operated the Oriental Theatre in Chicago in 1967, when the Oriental Wurlitzer was restored. The Babcock Building owners had given approval to the Chapter to install a theatre organ in the future. Our tax-exempt application is still pending with the Internal Revenue Service. Upon approval, we will actively seek a donation of a theatre pipe organ.

Dr. Edward J. Mullins

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## LAND O' LAKES

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612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

Perennial favorite Walt Strony, on March 19 and 29, at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, charmed his audiences, as usual, with his skill and artistry at the Wurlitzer.

The board meeting at Larry Koch's home on April 4 was really brief! President Roger Dalziel could hardly wait to move to Larry's workroom in the basement where Larry has been building a Devtronix theatre organ. He has spent many hours and dollars on the lavish walnut console, computer relays, electronic and speaker systems. It's going to sound like the real thing when it's completed. Rob Kendall, organ technician from Galena, Illinois, has been assisting Larry. Unfortunately for us, Larry is planning to move, organ and all, to Kingman, Arizona, in the near future. He wants to get away from our Minnesota winters.

The Organaires met at the home of Bill and Jean Lundquist in Lake Elmo on April 21. Bill is another organbuilder who buys, sells, gives organ parts away, while building a combination electronic/theatre pipe organ. He has donated, in addition to a console, a 30-note Glockenspiel and an 18-note set of Wurlitzer chimes for the chapter organ.

Bill and Jean also hosted the May 2 board meeting. There was even time for piano duets with Alice Rabus and Verna Mae at Bill's beautiful Kawai, and Mike Erie supplying some fancy notes on the Conn 651 formerly owned by the late Clarence Munson. We always take time to have a little spontaneous music to end our evenings of official duties.

Verna Mae Wilson

### ATOS Archives/Library

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



### LOS ANGELES

California  
213/217-9202

Ray Howell, owner of the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro, invited us to use the theatre for the March membership meeting. The Warner Grand, which opened in 1931, has never had a theatre pipe organ although there are chambers. Currently, they have a Rodgers 340 on a lift, with speakers in the chambers, and it sounds great! This 1,500-seat, art deco extravaganza was

designed by B. Marcus Priteca and A.T. Hiensberger. The theatre and lobbies are in an ongoing restoration.

Following a short business meeting, "Titanic" Tony Wilson played an enjoyable mini-concert, and several members entertained at open console.

The April 17 concert featuring Bob Ralston at the 3/16 Wurlitzer in San Gabriel Civic Auditorium was one of the most successful concerts in recent years. Nearly 800 attended, including two bus loads of seniors from Leisure World Christian Church in Seal Beach where Bob plays for Sunday morning services. The theme for Bob's concert was "California Here I Come, Right Back Where I Started From." His opening medley was titled "On The Road Again" which included "California, Here I Come," "New York, New York," "Chicago", and many other "locale" tunes. There was a sing-along with slides and Laurel and Hardy's last silent movie *Angora Love*.

This was the first LATOS concert in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium since the October 1987 earthquake. Although the extensive damage to the building is still evident in the lobby and vestibule areas, the organ came through with only dirt and plaster in the pipes.

The Board of Directors has completed the sale of the Wiltern organ with the proceeds committed to the completion of the Ross Reed Memorial Organ at Pasadena City College as well as insuring its maintenance and upkeep in the future.

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## MOTOR CITY

Detroit  
313/537-1133

Father Jim Miller performed before an appreciative audience at the Redford Theatre on March 12. Hopefully, many came out of curiosity about the "Padre of the Pits," as he was described in our calendar of events. Father Jim's unique brand of showmanship and his highly varied musical fare at the Barton organ delighted the audience of more than 1000. Somehow, we knew it would

Father Miller divulged confidential information from his registration file and offered a blatant exhibition of hard chord material at a revelation-packed workshop/seminar ("Everything you always wanted to know about theatre organ but were afraid to ask!") held at the Redford on Sunday afternoon, March 13. There was an excellent attendance at the two-hour session.

The Detroit Tiger's newest player performed in concert at the Redford Theatre on April 9. Steve Schlesing, whose new position is that of organist at Tiger Stadium, won enthusiastic praise from the audience for his program at the Redford's 3/10 Barton organ. Joining Steve were pianist David Strickland and vocalist Laurie Meeker. All three perform at the Church of Today in suburban Warren.

A weekly craft class has been organized by Marvin Spear to make purses that feature an original organ pipe design in yarn on plastic canvas.

Scheduling difficulties at the Royal Oak Music Theatre caused cancellation of our free Sunday morning Fourth Sunday shows in February, March and April. Tony O'Brien, just back from concert engagements in Australia, where he was the featured organist at the 26th TOSA National Convention in Canberra, will be our Fourth Sunday artist on May 22.




Hal Youngblood, host of *Nighttime Detroit* on radio station WJR, interviews Father Jim Miller prior to his concert at the Redford.  
D. VanSteenkiste Photo



Steve Schlesing, vocalist Laurie Meeker and pianist David Strickland appeared in concert at the Redford Theatre in April.  
D. VanSteenkiste Photo

Plans are underway for a two-day 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Redford Theatre on September 16-17. ATOS President Jack Moelmann will accompany the 1927 Buster Keaton silent comedy *The General*. Stan Kann will appear in concert at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on October 1 and Melissa Ambrose will be at the Redford on November 12.

For more information write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-2650.  
Don Lockwood



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## NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 718/225-1643

We marked the Easter season with a performance of the Cecil B. DeMille classic, *King of Kings*, with Lee Erwin playing his dramatic and inspiring original score on the New York Military Academy's 4/31 Moller. The beautiful setting of the Davis Chapel at the private Academy in Cornwall-on-Hudson provided a perfect atmosphere for this reverential cinematic classic, the last silent film that DeMille produced. Lee's April 9 performance marked the sixtieth anniversary of the dedication concert (April 15, 1928) of the NYMA Moller. While for many in the audience, seeing a dramatic silent feature film with live theatre organ accompaniment was a new and unique experience, several who were present recalled seeing this film when it was first released in 1927. All seemed to agree that Lee Erwin's masterful performance at the organ brought the biblical epic to life.

Meanwhile, further up the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, the Bardavon Wurlitzer crew, needing more satisfactory work space than the cramped quarters they were occupying at the Mid-Hudson Arts and Science Center, moved the 2/7 Style E-X which they are rebuilding to re-install in the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, to a far more spacious work shop. The new space, an entire modern building, formerly leased by IBM, was donated for the crew's use by the Page Company, a major realty company in Dutchess County. Under the leadership of John Vanderlee and Marc Ericson, the crew expects to make much faster progress on the Wurlitzer now that there is space to set up as many work stations as are needed to work on several aspects of the project simultaneously. With the help of Bob Seeley and the crew from the Middletown Paramount, the move was about as quick and painless as an organ move can be — less than six hours and only a few aching muscles.

Bob Walker is continuing restoration work on the Brooklyn Paramount/Long Island University Wurlitzer. Bob anticipates that the organ will be concert-ready



Bardavon moving crew take a lunch break in their spacious new work area. Pictured are Greg Citerella (foreground center), L to R: Chuck Zajicek, John Vanderlee, Tom Stehle, Bob Welch, Lowell Sanders, Don Bodine, and Bob Seeley. Dunhuber Photo

in the fall, when the University and New York Chapter hope to co-host a gala re-opening of the 4/26 Wurlitzer. NYTOS members have rallied to the support of the project with nearly \$1,800 in donations, while David Steinberg, University President, recently informed us that University Trustee Jeffrey Silverman also donated \$1,500 to the restoration fund. The chambers on one side of the organ were seriously water damaged by a leaking roof drain last summer. Work on the Orchestral chamber is now complete except for tuning and regulation, and most of the Solo has been restored. The chapter, the University and many neighbors in the Brooklyn area are eagerly awaiting the return of this mighty Wurlitzer.

Tom Stehle



Major Frank Forgione (right), Music Director at New York Military Academy chats with Lee Erwin following *King of Kings*.



Marc Erickson (right) and Don Bodine moving the NYTOS Bardavon Wurlitzer into new shop space in Poughkeepsie. Bob Welch is in the truck.

*The only reality in music  
is the state of mind  
in which it induces the listener.*

STENDHAL

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**NOR-CAL**  
**San Francisco Bay Area**  
 415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Our March meeting took us north across the bay to the town of Vallejo. There we visited the Empress theatre and our artist Bill Langford. Bill has been a very popular organist far and wide for many years all around the Bay Area and beyond. It has been a long time since we have heard Bill play on pipes. The Pizza and Pipes where he now plays has been, for a long time, without pipes. They replaced that Wurlitzer with a plug-in (I'll resist any emotional editorials at this time.) We were favored with a full program of true Bill Langford stylings, lots of runs and melodic embellishments. The highlight for this reviewer was a very beautiful rendition of "My Romance," which was performed with understated style and delicacy.

The Empress Theatre is a "must see" for all true fans of theatre architecture. It's not huge or voluminously decorative; there are no gargoyles or naked cherubs lofting overhead, but what it is, is just right. The soft, yet large plaster scrolls and overlapping fleur-de-lis fans illuminated with blue, indirect lighting are real theatre.

The organ, which was a style D, now has a third manual squeezed in and several ranks added. It put forth some pleasing sounds, but seemed to be running on low air. On full combinations the organ sagged and dropped tremulant. Continued refinement should help smooth out the rough spots. Open console followed the concert. Many thanks to Bill Langford for a fine program and also to the staff of the Empress theatre.

We gathered on May 1 at the Cinema 21 Theatre in the beautiful Marina district of San Francisco. This little neighborhood theatre is home for a 2/6 Robert-Morton pipe organ. This organ's claim to fame is that it is the only remaining original theatre pipe organ installation left in the entire Bay Area. Fortunately, we have had many re-installations in the area, with more on the way.

Our concert artist was Mr. Larry Vannucci. Larry is famous in the Bay Area for his fine jazz and theatre stylings. He has, for many years, lovingly cared for this little organ and keeps it in fine shape. Larry's music is sophisticated to a point of seeming effortless. The chord voicing and jazzy harmonies are a refreshing surprise to the ear. A problem with the generator delayed the start of the program. Several members (including Bill Schlotter, Ed Stout and Dick Taylor) were quick to the rescue, bringing the genera-

tor back to life.

Highlights from the concert were "Prelude to A Kiss," "Willow Weep for Me," and a hauntingly snazzy "Blues While The City Sleeps."

It was great to hear how Larry manipulates those six little ranks, pipe by pipe, against each other to create so much music. His program only proved once again that a real musician can create regardless of the size of the organ. Larry conjured up more from six ranks than many organists can from 20 or 30 ranks.

It was announced that Larry would donate his fee and the theatre their rental fee to our chapter organ projects. Many, many thanks to all. *Kevin King*

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## NORTH TEXAS

Dallas-Fort Worth

214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108

"On A Wonderful Day Like Today" was not only Bobb Partridge's rousing opener but also a perfect description of the April day that members journeyed to his lakeside home to enjoy a picnic lunch and to hear the beautiful sound of his new Allen organ. Centered in a 50-acre tract, Bobb has built a home "around the organ" that has a deck abutting his private lake, where we gathered to share a potluck picnic lunch. During our lunch, Bobb played organ tapes over the outdoor speakers to feast our ears as well.

After lunch, Bobb invited us all into the house to see and hear the organ (ADC 6500 Allen). The music room has a high, vaulted ceiling and has a 32-foot-long open area, designed to enhance the deep tones of the organ, Bobb claims. Above some rafters, he has amassed the many organ speakers, allowing them to speak unimpaired into the listening area. Despite the massive power, the sound was clean and not at all oppressive. With a touch of added reverb from a Yamaha unit, the organ sounded wonderfully like a comparable theatre pipe organ. We were also introduced to Bobb's latest addition to the organ, a set of speakers capable of reproducing 16-cycle tones from the pedal section. These speakers and their housing were designed to reproduce, realistically, the trumpeting sounds of bull elephants in the African wild. Bobb, who is in the electronic business, quickly realized their potential for electronic organ use and is testing them on his installation prior to possible marketing of them. Their effect on the overall organ sound is phenomenal, producing sounds that are actually felt as well as heard.



North Texas members enjoyed picnic lunch at lakeside home of Bobb Partridge.



Bobb Partridge played program for our April meeting.

Bobb is self-taught on keyboards and plays by ear (only in the key of C, he claims). It was only after several weeks of friendly arm-twisting that he consented to play this program for chapter members. We are glad that we persisted as he plays beautifully and, unlike many who play by ear, has an ear for correct harmony and rhythm that is both unusual and commendable. His program was designed to show off the authentic theatre pipe sound and the features of the instrument and included lovely arrangements of "Over The Rainbow" and "Without A Song." Our thanks to Bobb for a most enjoyable and special day in the country.

Irving Light



Portland

503/771-8098

Our April 30 meeting was a premier event, and we called it "The Organ You've Always Wanted To Play, But Didn't Think You Could!" And, yes, the organ was the 4/47 Wurlitzer in the Organ Grinder Restaurant! Owner Dennis Hedberg invited us to hold open console on a Saturday morning, and Chairman Paul Quarino, senior staff organist, organized the event and stood by to help each player. Fourteen members entertained the appreciative audience, and comments overheard as they stepped down from the bench were "Awesome!" "It's like flying a 747," and "Boy, it's even louder up here!" All agreed that it was a memorable occasion. Thanks Dennis and Paul.

Most of our time these days is devoted to preparing for the Convention.



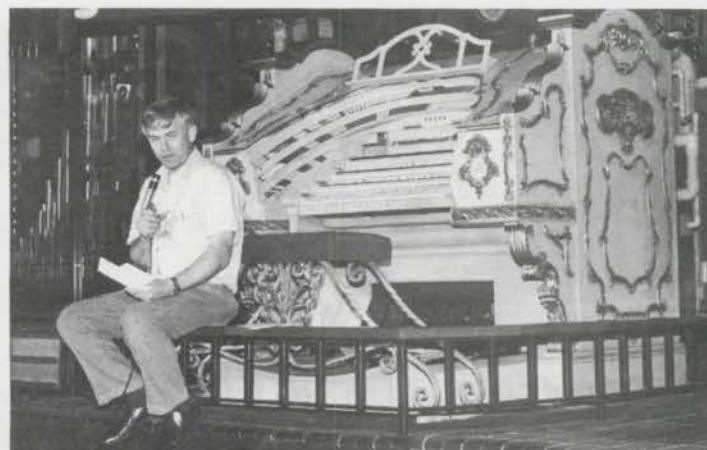
Organist and photographer switch places. Claude Neuffer gets snapped by Paul Quarino.

Paul Quarino Photo



Don James is assisted by Paul Quarino at the Organ Grinder Wurlitzer.

Claude Neuffer Photo



Dennis Hedberg explains the Wurlitzer to those about to play it.

Claude Neuffer Photo





## POTOMAC VALLEY

Washington, D.C.

703/569-6206 or 301/652-3222

We met on March 20, in Rockville, Maryland, at Faith United Methodist Church to hear chapter Vice-Chairman Floyd E. Werle give a recital on the 3/27 Marshall Stone pipe organ, vintage 1979, which is rather new compared to Mr. Werle's 21-year tenure as organist at that church. Considering that he had only ten years to become familiar with the organ of his specification, Mr. Werle poured forth a truly tremendous repertoire of pipe organ music, classified in his own unique arranger's phraseology as "three familiar hymns, each arranged by someone Bach knew and each with the tune in the pedal, three for a Bach's lunch (the last being antacid tablets!), two A.G.O. untouchables, two strictly off-the-cuff, and a real Bachbuster!" (Prelude and Fugue in D Major) as well as several encores inspired by audience enthusiastic insistence.

On April 23, we sponsored a bus trip from the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland areas to Wilmington, Delaware, with Bruce Ricker as bus captain, to hear organist John Seng perform his magic on the enlarged Kimball theatre pipe organ, originally installed in the Boyd Theatre, Philadelphia, and now at John Dickinson High School auditorium, one of the finest theatre pipe organ installations in the region, where the great names in theatre organs perform about six times each year. The 43 persons on the bus agreed that this was another superb performance, rivaled only in recent years by our own chapter's Bob Ralston show at Frederick, Maryland, on October 25, 1987.

On April 28 the local chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America met at the University of Maryland and were entertained by the antics of Laurel &

Hardy in two short silent comedies, *The Finishing Touch* and *The Great Pie Fight*, accompanied by Floyd Werle at the console of the chapter-owned 3/10 Kimball, originally installed at the Earle/Warner theatre in Washington, D.C. Chapter members George Johnson and Warren Thomas are both Telephone Pioneers, and both have been key technicians in installing the Kimball and converting much of its pneumatics to Z-Tronic electronics, with much help from Horace (Barney) Johnson, who is unrelated to George.

Jack Little



Floyd Werle at the 3/27 Marshall Stone, Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland.

Dan Swope Photo



Floyd Werle at the 3/10 Kimball, University of Maryland.

Dan Swope Photo

## PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I have been unable to submit copy for awhile, so I shall backtrack a bit. We have had a "Party" at the Paramount, with open console and lots of good food. It is always a treat to play that beautiful instrument which is kept in A-1 condition by Don Myers and his crew.

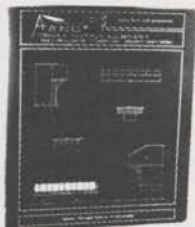
We had our annual "Winter Doldrums" party at Haller Lake where our 3/13 Marr & Colton is installed. Our Canadian members provided the entertainment with vocal numbers, organ solos and piano/organ duets. Potluck and open console completed the day.

Paul Quarino journeyed up from Portland to play for us at Greenwood Pizza & Pipes. He included some of the Gospel music with which he packs 'em in at the Portland Organ Grinder every Sunday afternoon.

Don Myers played for us at the Paramount. No one knows that organ better than Don — he knows every lovely sound it's capable of producing.

Dick Wilcox's beautiful home is complete at last, the acoustics are perfect, and it's an installation which should make him very proud. We are so thankful that Dick will share his home and his organ with us. He also plans to invite teachers and young students to hear and play the organ with the hope that some talented young people will be inspired to become the artists of the future.

Margaret C. Hill



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## RED RIVER

Fargo, North Dakota

318/287-2671 or 701/232-6325

Beautiful weather on April 29 and 30 brought out two full houses for our 27th production, a tribute to Hildegard Kraus, the Grand Lady of the Fargo Theatre Wurlitzer, the area's most beloved theatre organ artist. The program consisted of a few of Hildegard's friends with interviews, and of entertaining her and the audience with some favorite songs.

The evening's emcee was Doug Hamilton, executive producer and news anchor of KTHI-TV. Dave Knudtson, theatre manager, opened the show with "I Feel A Song Coming On" and "The Man I Love." A video by Neil Miller and Shannon Smith gave us a look at Hildegard's interesting life and career. Lloyd Collins was next at the console with "So Beats My Heart For You," "Baby's Birthday Party," and "Forgotten Melody." Ted Larson, instructor of film studies at Moorhead State University, set the mood for the next segment. The curtains parted to reveal three photo murals of Hildegard, in the earlier days of her musical career, as a backdrop for her delightful interview by Delmar J. Hansen, another old friend. He is Director of the Moorhead State Theatre and Chairman of the Speech Communication-Theatre Arts Department. The Mayor of Fargo, Jon Lindgren, appeared to read a proclamation, declaring it "Hildegard Kraus Week" in Fargo.

Looking very glamorous in her black and gold dress, the Incomparable Hildegard took her place at the console and proved to us all that she still has "it." Following intermission, the 1926 Harold Lloyd comedy classic, *For Heaven's Sake*, was scored by Lance Johnson. Another special presentation was made to add to the tribute.

During the winter months, installation of the 27 lobby organ was taking place for completion in time for the show. The words on the brass plaque on the console were read to the audience: "Mezzanine Organ, installed Spring 1988. This Wurlitzer console was played by the Incomparable Hildegard Kraus beginning in 1926 and is dedicated to her remarkable musical career." It was played for the first time publicly the hour before the show and during intermission by Lance Johnson, and during the champagne reception both nights by Pat Kelly and Gene Struble.

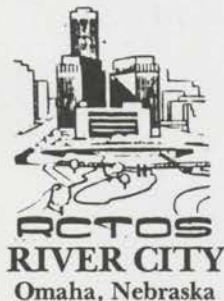
Sonia Carlson



Lance Johnson, Hildegard Kraus, and Lloyd Collins at reception. Fargo Theatre.



Gene Struble entertaining at the reception. Fargo Theatre.



402/571-6510 or 402/453-7769

Our March 22 meeting was held at the home of Tom Jeffery. For a change of pace, Tom presented a slide show on notable theatres, teaming up with Dick Zdan who accompanied the show with theatre organ stylings on an Allen digital organ. Among the theatres represented were the Strand in Shreveport, Louisiana, the Chicago and the Auditorium in Chicago, Illinois, the Orpheum in San Francisco, California, and the Paramount in Oakland, California. For the second half of the program, our own Jeanne Cooper favored us with a mini-concert of her easy-listening organ stylings. The evening was capped with refreshments and open console. Twenty-eight members and guests were in attendance.

Randy George of Associated Keyboard Technicians hosted our April 24 meeting

at Omaha's beautiful First Unitarian Church. The church building of Georgian Revival architecture houses a large Aeolian-Skinner organ, Opus 962.

The instrument, originally 39 ranks, had incorporated the church's 1918 Austin organ console. In 1984 much of the Swell division was destroyed and parts of the Pedal division were damaged as the result of a disastrous roof fire. The organ was rebuilt by Randy with essentially its original pipe complement, plus additions that will bring the organ up to 52 ranks, when completed. The console now boasts a solid-state setter system (22 generals set up eight times).

Our guest artist for the afternoon was George Rice. George Rice and Stan Gross restored and have maintained the Omaha Orpheum Wurlitzer for many years. George's selections for the program were chosen to showcase the lovely voices of the Aeolian-Skinner. Among them were included "Prayer in E-Flat Major" by Alex Guilmant, "Offertoire" by Dubois and "Processional" by Abbe Cherier. George concluded with two pop tunes, "Open Your Eyes" and "Getting Sentimental Over You." The 24 members in attendance are indebted to both Randy George and George Rice for a most enjoyable afternoon. Tom Jeffery

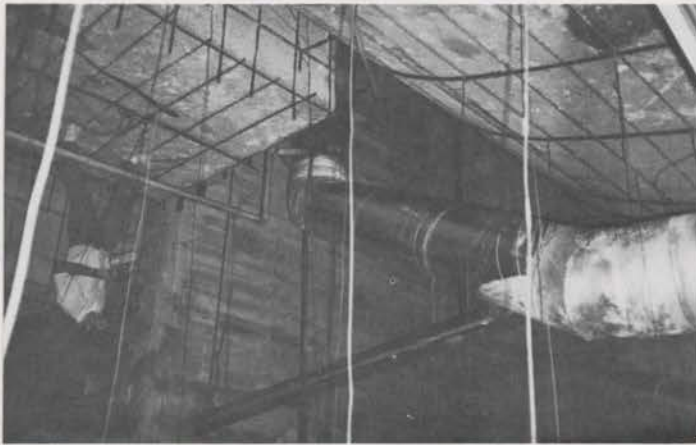


Maurine Durand tries the First Unitarian Church's Aeolian-Skinner. Tom Jeffery Photo



George Rice at the newly rebuilt Aeolian-Skinner. Tom Jeffery Photo





Windline going from blower room over ceiling to pipe chambers.



Hoisting the giant blower into the Arlington.

## ST. LOUIS

Missouri  
314/343-8473

The April meeting was held at the gorgeous Granada Theatre on May 24. Our faithful work crews turned out on Saturday to vacuum the center rows of seats and backs, to sweep and mop the floors and tidy up the theatre in general for our members and guests. Also, through arrangements with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pillsbury, Fred made his three-manual Allen available for a very special show on Sunday, and Harry Irwin of Irwin Music Company moved it to the Granada stage and got it all set up for ATOS President Jack Moelmann to present a whale of a concert, sing-along and silent movie on the Silver Screen. This was our first show at the Granada since the theatre closed, and we wanted everyone to see the beauty that exists in the Granada and the progress that has been made on our own 3/22 Wurlitzer. The good number attending were pleased with what they saw. Our Historian is pleased to report that our scrapbook now contains a nice write-up on the fabulous Granada Theatre by one of the choreographers, Thelma (Maehle) Bischoff, including pictures of the Granada Orchestra with names of players and their instruments plus the emcee's picture together with all of those girl dancers on our stage between 1928 and 1930.

Dale Boring

## SANTA BARBARA

California  
805/682-1604

While we are much too busy getting ready for our big dedication program in October, we want to tell the membership that the installation of our Robert-Morton is nearly complete, and we will have our story ready to tell by this fall. In the meantime, the accompanying photos tell our story better than any words.

John Oien



Bill Irvine, Richard Riffero, and Linnea Kindig putting finishing touches on the toy counter.



Walter Douglas adjusting the tuned percussion.



Roger Inkpen working on chest valves.

## BILL VLASAK

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## SIERRA

Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

March 13 was a beautiful and exciting day for our chapter — we were entertained by Karen Cuneo and Roy Larrick at the consoles of the Wurlitzer pipe organ and a Lowrey GX-305-150. We had the largest crowd we have had in many years, and they all loved what they heard.

Hearing the organ for the first time since its renovation, with the chambers opening directly into the auditorium, was, indeed, a thrill — a big improvement in sound. Work is now progressing on the three-manual console soon to be installed on the organ. The Lowrey organ also had a fine sound and was very impressive although it looked like the dashboard in a cockpit, a mechanic's dream.

Our artists played a fine program of selections both old and new, solos and duets were featured, and their grand finish, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," was terrific.

It was certainly "Dave Kelsey Day" when we ran out of seating for this artist's concert. Dave is a very talented young man with oodles of character, humor, and an aim-to-please attitude throughout his program. The audience certainly showed their appreciation of each selection if their applause was any indication. Dave's program covered everything from Gershwin to Irving Berlin and some interesting selections from the new Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*. The audience was left wanting more of the talented Dave Kelsey, and we hope he will come back soon.

A Clarinet and Kinura have been added to the organ, so we heard some beautiful registrations at this concert. The organ is sounding better all the time.

*Bud Taylor*

## SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our March meeting was again held at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. The mini-concert was played by Don Kimes, who presented a pleasant program on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. We



Left to Right: Carter Bidwell, Quentin Whitman, Lee Bryant and Floyd Broussard with Don.

*Curtis Whitman Photo*

heard selections including "Cuddle Up a Little Closer," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (in honor of St. Patrick's Day), "Sunny Side of the Street," and "God Bless America." Open console followed.

We are making some progress on establishing our non-profit status with the IRS. This has been a long road, but thanks to attorney-member John Hampton, we have made a few more steps.

April found us again at Central Assembly of God Church, this time to hear Charlene Roberts at the Robert-Morton. She played a varied program for us including music by Cole Porter, a Walt Disney medley and selections from *Chorus Line*. Seven persons played at open console.

Thirty-three persons (including two guests) from our chapter drove to Wichita to hear Lyn Larsen play for the Wichita Pops Series on April 30. Needless to say, Lyn's concert was superlative. We especially enjoyed the two selections he played on the piano, "accompanied" by himself on the Wurlitzer, pre-played and then re-created by by computer-controlled relay system. (You had to be there to believe it). His whole program was fabulous!

Wichita is a three-hour drive from Tulsa, and although a number of our people stayed over until the next day, there were some who came back that same night. It can be done. Our thanks go to Sam Collier for handling all the details of buying tickets and arranging hotel rooms and transportation.

*Dorothy Smith*



The Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont, Texas. Home of the 3/8 Robert-Morton.

*Quentin Whitman Photo*

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

409/886-5601

Excellent is the only way to describe Don Baker's concert on April 24. It had been five years since Don had played a concert on our 3/8 Robert-Morton located in the historic Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont.

Old friends and new were entertained by this master of the theatre organ. From his opening with the rousing, "I Love a Parade," to his closing, "God Bless America," Don captivated his audience with his style and congeniality. The program moved effortlessly through a repertoire that showcased various moods, tempos and techniques that have brought such acclaim to this legendary artist.

In addition to the concert, those of us who were fortunate enough to spend some time with Don and his wife during their visit to Beaumont, found them to be two of the nicest and most enjoyable people anyone could hope to meet.

*Lee Bryant*



Don Baker and his wife Ann.

*Quentin Whitman Photo*

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(L to R) Faith Sunman, Norine Castine, Neil Johnson II, Jennifer Candea, Dale Zieger and David Berry.  
D. VanSteenkiste Photo



Lone Danford at the Danford's residence Wurlitzer.  
MLV Photo

## SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Vicksburg

616/649-2742 or 616/345-4543

We helped organize and participated in a musical event called Keyboard Kapers staged at the Kalamazoo Ebersol movie house, the State Theatre, on April 24. Keyboard Kapers was designed by Dale Zieger and Ken Butela to "bridge the gap" between generations of music fans.

The performers included member Dale Zieger, of Keyboard World, at the Barton theatre pipe organ, Neil Johnson, II, at the Technics organ, and the David Rothstein Quartet from Western Michigan University. In addition, three young ladies, candidates in the ATOS Young Organist Competition, made cameo appearances at the Barton organ.

Neil Johnson, II, from Sturgis, Michigan, was the winner in the junior category of the ATOS Competition in 1986. He has since given several performances in mid-western cities.

The three young ladies who are in this year's competition are: Faith Sunman, 14-year-old honor student at Grissom Junior High School in Sterling Heights, Michigan; Norine Castine, 19 years old, a sophomore at Western Michigan University, and Jennifer Candea, 20 years old, a sophomore at Mary Grove College. They are sponsored by Southwest Michigan, Motor City and Wolverine chapters respectively.

Dorothy Butela

## TOLEDO AREA

Ohio

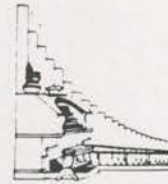
419/381-6730 or 419/478-8595

We had a successful concert featuring Tony O'Brien at the St. Hedwig Cultural Center (old Ohio Theatre) on March 5. This concert also featured our newly installed 16' Violone on the Pedal. These un-mitered wood pipes were installed in the lower Solo chamber and extend all the way up to the Main chamber directly above. As the lower extension of the Solo String rank, they really add a mellow buzz to the Pedal ensemble.

April found us meeting at the home of Treasurer Paul Wasserman. His 3/8 mostly Wurlitzer (from Toledo's Pantheon Theatre) is definitely improving. Bill Yaney played a nice program for the full house.

We are proud to announce our Third Annual Silent Film Festival and Theatre Organ Concert featuring Gaylord Carter on Saturday, October 8. Some rare Harold Lloyd silent movies will be featured as well as the wonderful anecdotes and music of Gaylord Carter. We are inviting ATOS members and guests to join us for this memorable event! There are several fine hotels near our theatre, so why not make a special weekend of it?

It has just been announced that the old Valentine Theatre downtown is to be renovated for live plays, so come and enjoy Toledo! Call 419/381-6730 weekdays for more information.



## VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Our January 24 meeting was held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Phoenix. Instead of theatre organ, that day we heard a 1907 tracker pipe organ. Organist David James played American, English, French and German music suitable to the tracker organ.

Walt Strony observed his tenth anniversary in the Valley of the Sun during his February 14 concert at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. All Organ Stop-sponsored concerts are well supported by our members. We enjoyed hearing Clark Wilson there in concert on March 20.

February 28 we met at the home of members Glenn and Barbara Vandiver and listened to their 2/11 Wurlitzer installation. Artist of the afternoon was Ron Rhode. Ron always includes a wide variety of music in his programs. Among others, we heard "Oceana Roll," "On Eagles' Wings," and "The Birth of Passion."

(continued...)

July 28	Capital University, Columbus, Ohio
August 17	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
August 25	Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
August 29	Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
September 11	David Lutheran Church, Canal Winchester, Ohio
September 17	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
September 25	Institute of Music, Flint, Michigan
September 29	Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin
October 1, 2	University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
October 3 to 13	Silent Film Festival, Pordenone, Italy
October 14, 15	Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
October 22	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
October 28	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
October 29	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
November 2 to December 31	AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND Concert Tour
January 7, 1989	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
February 5	Clemens Center, Elmira, New York
February 12	Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
February 19	Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
February	School Auditorium, Berlin, New Hampshire

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## VALLEY OF THE SUN, cont.

The Mesa Showroom of the Allen Piano and Organ Company was our meeting place on March 27. Most of the afternoon's program featured Walt Strony demonstrating the sounds of various Allen organs and the Kurzweil. Co-worker Ken Schroeder, who has played for our chapter before, also did a few tunes. How many of you are familiar with that great Irving Berlin number, "Smile and Show Your Dimple?"

The Arizona weatherman goofed! While it was fair and spring-like for our February meeting, April greeted us with cold and rain! But it was warm and friendly in the Ray and Ione Danford residence where we held our April 17 meeting. We enjoyed open console at the Danford's 2/8 Wurlitzer, also quiet talk and a yummy buffet provided by some of the members.

We would like to send out a special "WILLKOMMEN" to our first chapter member from West Germany, Willi Wiesinger. Willi was an unaffiliated member of ATOS before he visited our valley.

If all goes well, Valley of the Sun will be hosting a regional convention during Thanksgiving weekend, 1989.

*Madeline LiVolsi*



David James and 1907 tracker organ, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Phoenix.

*MLV Photo*



ATOS President Jack Moelmann at the Byrd 4/17 Wurlitzer.

## VIRGINIA Richmond 804/355-0051

Opening with "The Trolley Song," Colonel Jack Moelmann, President of ATOS, announced his arrival in Richmond and began a wonderful, two-hour concert at the beautiful Byrd Theatre on April 2. About forty members of our chapter arrived early for the concert and were very pleasantly entertained by Jack, who always says "You get what you pay for!" What we paid for was a delightful experience! Jack believes in showing an audience what one can do with the theatre organ. His program included standards, show tunes, novelty tunes, and just plain fun tunes. Certainly two of the oldest and most fun tunes were his renditions of "Henry's Made a Lady Out of Lizzie" (1923) and "Would You Rather Be a Colonel with an Eagle on Your Shoulder or a Private with a Chicken on your Knee?" Jack was surprised when President Paul Harris and his wife, Joyce, presented him with a copy of the latter on a piano roll.

Jack was in for more than he bargained for in Richmond. Not only was it Easter weekend and Jack's birthday, but he was also scheduled for a TV appearance with President Paul Harris on Blab TV's Richmond Arts Review. Host Tom Bailey conducted a good interview which elicited interesting information about the theatre pipe organ and the American and Virginia Theatre Organ Societies.

In addition to giving a concert and appearing on TV, Jack was pressed into service at the Byrd Theatre. Jack played

Saturday night before the 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. shows. He played "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" amid loud cheering from the audience. That's called a masterful stroke of programming. Jack didn't know the Atlanta Braves were in town Saturday for an exhibition game with our own Richmond Braves.

Thanks again to Jack for a wonderful time and a great concert! We appreciate his coming to Richmond to help our chapter.

*Sharolyn Heatwole*

## WESTERN RESERVE Cleveland, Ohio 216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

Chapter members welcomed the long-awaited arrival of spring with a concert at the 2/9 Kimball of Cleveland's Judson Manor by chapter member John Lane. John's programs at the Kimball are always delightfully reminiscent as he shares his rich musical background with us, and this March 20 program was certainly no exception. Refreshments and open console followed the presentation.

With the assistance of the Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society, the Cleveland Grays presented Paul Quarino of the Portland, Oregon, Organ Grinder Restaurant in a concert at the Grays Armory 3/15 Wurlitzer the evening of May 7. Paul is a relative stranger in Ohio, but quickly became comfortable, providing an enticing prelude to this summer's convention. His program included the colorful selections "It's Gonna Be a Great Day," "Jalousie," and Dionne Warwick's "That's What Friends Are For" as well as several lively Gospel tunes "There is Power in the Blood" and "How Majestic is Thy Name." This concert also marked the premiere of the Wurlitzer's new unenclosed Aeolian Harp, which Paul featured in several selections.

Western Reserve Chapter proudly announces our 1988-89 concert schedule opening on November 5, with a concert at the Cleveland Grays' Armory Wurlitzer by Sydney, Australia's, popular organist Neil Jensen. Advance tickets may be ordered from W.R.T.O.S., 1234 Bolivar Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. *Jim Shepherd*

## Save the Skinner in Kearny High

Kearny High School has an "E.M. Skinner Organ - Opus #378 which was built in 1922 and installed in the high school the following year. The cost then was \$13,000. If the equivalent was built today, it would cost much more, of course. It has 31 speaking stops, 22 ranks of pipes and 1505 pipes. Mr. Skinner built this organ at the midpoint of his organ building career, and was considered the leading organ builder of all times."

The above is an excerpt of a letter received in January 1968 from the Skinner Organ Co., then of Boston, Massachusetts. In a more recent letter from a local pipe organ company, "This organ is a CLASSIC. E.M. Skinner built the finest instruments of his period."

This lovely old instrument has been "at rest" for several years because major repairs are needed. A committee has been formed to raise funds for this repair work. The amount needed at this time is \$85,000. A former Kearny High School graduate, Dr. Wilbur R. LePage, class of 1929, has donated \$30,000 to start the campaign. We, the Committee and Dr. LePage, believe this organ is worth repair and restoring to its original state. It would certainly be an asset to the Music Program and the students of Kearny High School.

Therefore, we are seeking donations from organ lovers to help raise the necessary monies. Needless to say, the sooner monies are received, the sooner the organ will be repaired, and the sooner we can again hear its lovely voice.

We thank you for your interest. Make checks payable to: KEARNY HIGH SCHOOL ORGAN FUND and send to the attention of Mrs. Orchid Carlson, Kearny High School, 336 Devon Street, Kearny, NJ 07032.

*Wm. C. Worrell*