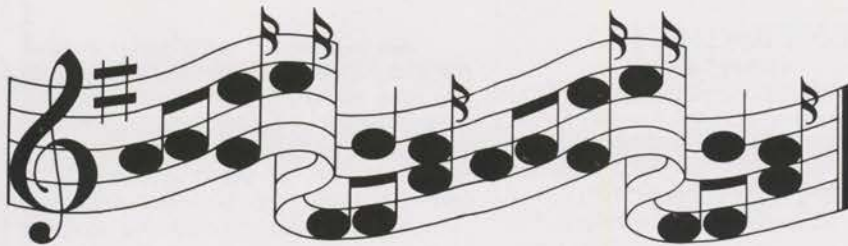


Chapter Notes



ATLANTA

404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

Nine of us got to go up to the "Mid-Tennessee Organ Bash & Cave Crawl," on November 12. We visited five pipe organs including three installed in homes! We heard live organ music 200 feet underground while dining in Cumberland Caverns! And wound up after midnight at a skating rink complete with, yes, live organ music! It was an exciting day.

On November 20, we had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful home of Gordon and Linda Johnson in Marietta, just northwest of Atlanta, to hear Walt Winn play the Johnsons' 2/7 Wurlitzer. Walt has his own impressive style of playing, but can reflect the influences of George Wright and the late Buddy Cole and Jesse Crawford. He favored us with a full series of popular tunes including "Anything Goes," "Never On Sunday," "Our Love Is Here to Stay," songs from *Naughty Marietta*, and lots more. We enjoyed it very much.

The Johnsons' Wurlitzer came originally from the Imperial Theatre in Augusta, Georgia, where it had last performed in the 1940s. It languished in the theatre until 1975, when it was removed and eventually found its way into storage in a warehouse from which Gordon and Linda rescued it, buying it in 1981. The Johnsons took five years to painstakingly rebuild and refinish the organ and install it in their home along with a 1915 upright piano they've connected to the console. The console is in the great room and the pipes *et al.*, visible through a window, are in an adjacent chamber that extends 18 feet in height from the basement floor below. It is laid out very attractively, and it sounds wonderful, with its various timbres blending beautifully. The splendid acoustics add to the organ's effects and the hori-

zontally installed swell shutters provide excellent expression. We are very grateful to Gordon and Linda for sharing it all with us.

Walt Winn, by the way, is working on his famous 4/17 Page theatre organ which used to be in his old warehouse, and which was the flagship of the Atlanta chapter for years. He hopes to have it installed in its new location soon for all to enjoy once again.

Chapter member Hector Olivera was the surprise performer at the Chapter's Christmas party, December 11. He brought along his new "O-1" organ. Unlike Hector's older, custom-built, nine-manual "O-1," dating from 1982, the new "O-1" has but three manuals. But what a powerful instrument! The bottom two manuals are comprised mainly of a Yamaha HX-1 System, while the top manual consists of a digital sampler (S-50) manufactured by Roland Corporation. It seems able to reproduce with great accuracy any sound whatever!

Hector's renditions of "Poet and Peasant Overture," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "New York, New York," "Getting Sentimental Over You," a variety of Christmas carols and other selections sounded exactly like the original orchestral instruments playing — and like the singing voice of a member of our group that Hector had "sampled!" A remarkable technological feat which, together with Hector's brilliant interpretations and technique, made for a fascinating afternoon. Thank you, Hector, for your Christmas present to the chapter.

The party was held at the historic Inman Park Trolley Barn, a completely refurbished building now used for social occasions and small exhibitions.

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Bill Hitchcock



Don Baker (center) with Ken and Ruth Hunt.



CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

813/868-5088 or 813/536-1331

Until our December meeting, nothing exciting enough to report had happened since resuming meetings after a summer vacation. But whenever we have a December meeting at the home of Ruth and Ken Hunt in Clearwater, things just naturally come alive. As usual, the Hunts had their beautiful home decorated with a huge tree in the ballroom with garlands draped from the bannisters around the balcony. Refreshments were beautiful and delicious as well as plentiful to take care of the membership and guests which included members of the Mid-Florida chapter and the Port Richey Organ Society.

The highlight of the day was a delightful concert by Don Baker. Don, dressed in a bright red coat for Christmas, thrilled his audience with a variety of tunes starting appropriately enough with "Anything Goes". He included a medley of Christmas songs and we sang along with him on "God Bless America."

During the meeting which followed, officers were elected for the coming year. The new officers promise an exciting and productive year.

Alleen Cole



Hector Olivera at his new, three-manual, custom-built "O-1" organ.



Linda and Gordon Johnson watch Walt Winn on their 2/7 Wurlitzer.

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to . . .

DOUGLAS C. FISK, Executive Director of ATOS
P.O. Box 417490
Sacramento, California 95841



CENTRAL INDIANA
Indianapolis
317/255-8056 or 317/787-4865



Cal Pratt at the Allen 436.

Don Newswanger Photo

Our November meeting was held at Classic Keyboards of Indiana, Indianapolis' dealer for Allen Organs. Guest artist was our own Cal Pratt who has developed a unique and pleasing style at the keyboard. He performed on the Model 436 Allen. Cal has entertained us with his electronic keyboards on our many bus trips over the years and plays often at open console at our regular meetings; however, this was the first time many of our members had the opportunity to hear him in a "full-fledged" program. Some of his selections were "I Just Called To Say I Love You," "I Write The Songs," "Fascinatin' Rhythm" and several medleys featuring hits of the 20s and 30s. Cal has a way with waltzes and his rendition of "The Boy Next Door" was beautifully done. We are blessed with much talent in our chapter, and programs featuring our own members are always a big hit.

December found us at the Hedback Theatre in a three-way joint meeting with the Indianapolis Organ Club and the Classic Ragtime Society. Santa brought Mr. Ron Rhode to play for us and his was an enjoyable program, indeed. Mr. Rhode put the 2/13 mostly Wurlitzer through its paces, from his opening "With A Shine On Your Shoes" to the closing number, "Who." We heard "Corn silk," the title cut from his newest recording, as well as a Jesse Crawford arrangement of "I Love To Hear You Singing." Tim Needler joined Mr. Rhode for piano/organ duets on "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" and "I Love A Piano." A most enjoyable program performed by one of the finest professional theatre organists in the country today. The refreshment table was loaded down with Christmas goodies (all calories removed, of course) and a good time was had by all.

Barbara Johnson

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

From the first time we heard Hector Olivera on the little 2/7 Wurlitzer at Fredricksburg, Maryland, in 1972, he has continued to amaze us, most notable of all being his concert at the Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield, Ohio, on November 10. The first half of the concert was on the 3/20 Wurlitzer; the second on his three manual 0-1 with even greater capability than the old 9-manual. The Hope-Jones unit orchestra incorporated into the mighty Wurlitzers (the original synthesizers), created because musicians pay had escalated so much (e.g. 25¢ per hour) did, and still do produce beautiful sounds. But no one could confuse the "strings" synthesized by pipes with real strings — nor the Vox Humana with real human voices. On pipes, the Clarinet is normally closest to real, but duplicate orchestral voices can indeed be produced electronically by digital techniques — even human voices and that's what the 0-1 does.

But then comes the need to play the keys orchestrally. To play a synthesized trumpet realistically, "one has to think like a trumpeter," quoting a young Paul Quarino some twenty years ago. Hector did Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" on the 0-1 so orchestrally realistically that one would swear that there were 100 musicians present, plus a 40-member choral group — and a live cannon. It seemed too credible to believe. So at home I rigged my modestly good (\$2000 new) stereo system to switch alternately between Hector's 0-1 cassette rendition and the compact disc of Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Symphonic Orchestra, augmented by a 12-piece brass band, plus sound tracks mixed in of real bells of the Emery Memorial Carillon, and real cannon on the campus of Baldwin College (which broke windows several hundred feet away). With passages synchronized fairly closely on cassette and CD, I found myself sometimes confused as to which was the source from which the sound was emanating. When I asked my wife to choose, she got them backwards.

A fantastic feat of musicianship on the part of Hector and a state-of-the-art feat of technology on his 0-1, plus two standing ovations and some wild cheering by a predominantly "older" audience indicated I was not alone in feeling so. Other pieces were top-notch as well, with one novelty thrown in of a Hector Olivera duet; with the 0-1 playing itself (memory) while Hector was at the Wurlitzer console — doing the Glenn Miller Orchestra theme "Moonlight Serenade."

An evening to remember, indeed. But with all the unique features I'm not sure that the 0-1 can capture the big pipe sounds of large pipe organs, especially the tibias — or those sounds you feel, rather than hear, from moving a large volume of air.

Jim Blegen

It was a pleasure once again to hold our November meeting in the home of Jim and Irene Blegen where Jim has through judicious speaker placement and electronic wizardry accomplished "chamber separation" on his 651 Conn installation. Following the business meeting, Harry Connett was the featured organist for the occasion who, as host Jim Blegen apologetically announced, had to play around an erratically functioning Leslie — but with Harry's improvisations the delightful music went on. He was followed by a steady troop of playing members at open console. It was a great afternoon and we're indebted to the Blegens for their hospitality.

Tastefully decorated with Christmas bows, ribbons and evergreen the Shadynook Restaurant located near Millville, Ohio, presented Ron Rhode in concert on December 7. The cuisine was excellent and long before 8:00 p.m. the mood was set by the crowd who were spirited and expectant. At the appointed time, up rose the venerable Helen Crawford four-manual slave console as Ron played his opening number "Winter Wonderland." White-jacketed Ron was unfortunately handicapped with laryngitis, but this did not interfere with his spritely performance. His repertoire included such lovelies as "The Green Cathedral," a 1932 Crosby tune, "Please," and a plaintive rendition of "So In Love." Closing the first half of his program with "The Repaz Band March" he devoted the remaining half of his program to Christmas tunes. The holiday spirit overtook us as we heard "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas," "It's A Marshmallow World" — and, of course, no Christmas program would be complete without "Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer." Perhaps the most fascinating number of all was his locomotive beginning and end to "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town," as he explained that in Phoenix the sleigh is out for Santa. Appropriately, his encore was a medley of Christmas carols.

We were privileged to hear Ron Rhode the next night in Dayton, Ohio, where he was the guest of Dennis Werkmeister. Dennis has every home organ hobbyist's dream: a large, free-standing building, two stories in height, for his 2/24 installation. The downstairs placement of his blowers, tremors and regulators makes his studio whisper-quiet. The organ sports the latest advance in electronics — a Wilcox computer relay/combo-action/player system which greatly enhances the console's capabilities. The ample listening area is provided with tables and chairs that give a cabaret atmosphere. Large, framed-glass panels afford a view of the chamber above which are located horizontal swell shades. Needless to say, Ron Rhode once again turned in a sterling performance; it was a pleasure indeed to have been guests of the Werkmeisters.

John Polsley



CHICAGO AREA

312/282-0037 or 312/698-6898

The "Baker Bash" was a dinner and raffle on October 2 at the Baker Hotel in St. Charles, Illinois. Mildred Berry organized and single-handedly collected an enormous amount of merchandise to be raffled and raised several thousands of dollars to benefit the Oriental Theatre's Wurlitzer. Now, we need to find a home for it.

Leon played the 3/10 Geneva organ during the cocktail hour and dinner, and it went over very well. *Charlotte Rieger*



Mildred and Leon Berry at the 3/10 Geneva console at the "Baker Bash."

By way of reflection, the Bob Ralston/Jack Moelmann show at the sold-out Patio Theatre last fall was a huge success as was mentioned. This is a great team that may be performing in your area. Chicago is not the only place to witness this show. Watch your local news.

Our Christmas show at Downers Grove High School with Jerry Kinsella at the console was another treat for us. Jerry is a local musician who teaches music and was WGN Studio organist Harold Turner's assistant. Jerry is always a welcome soloist at our programs.

The future of our local theatres and organs is too fickle to accurately report. Public schools and their auditoriums and organs are more stable, but they, too, can change.

Chairman Steve Dennis is planning a full year of programs which are being anticipated with great interest. It is always pleasant to learn that this difficult task is receiving good attention.

Some of our board members are busy inspecting sites for the Oriental Theatre organ. A few of the places being considered are: Cahn Auditorium on the Northwestern College Campus, Lane Tech High School, Main West High School, and the Uptown Theatre. The Auditorium Theatre was considered a few years ago, as was the Bismarck Theatre. Facilities of most of these places are good for pipe organ installations, but management has to be convinced that

the organ being offered is to their satisfaction (fussy? perhaps). Rarely does anything go smoothly.

Our board came up with an excellent idea of offering open console time of about one hour to the members of our chapter. This is not exactly new, but never extensively tried. It has good potential and is mentioned here for consideration by your group if such scheduling would be welcomed. Generally, a few of our members get about five minutes at a console at the end of a social. Hardly worth the bother.

The Congress Theatre has not been neglected. Art Fike and Fred Arnish, crew chiefs with a large group of appreciated volunteers are proceeding eagerly to finish this excellent theatre organ installation (most of it from the Montclare Theatre). This will be a great addition to the theatre organ field which is being housed in an interesting theatre on Chicago's northwest side.

Hal Pearl has not been forgotten. Last fall he accompanied a presentation of *Phantom Of The Opera* at Harper College in Palatine on piano and did a wonderful job. It was greatly appreciated by the students and friends. Hal Pearl was staff organist at Chicago's Aragon Ballroom for many years and is remembered for his versatile and interesting organ styling.

Soon the birds and blossoms will be with us Midwesterners, again, which is always a welcome sight. *Almer Brostrom*



Bob Ralston at the Patio Theatre.

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CONNECTICUT VALLEY

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Our annual meeting was held at the Shelton High School on November 12, and new officers were elected for 1989. Member Brian Colton was the concert artist for the scheduled program, and there was an open console after the concert.

Our Christmas concert was held on December 3, at Shelton High School with Chris Elliott. This was the first appearance for Chris in Connecticut and his first experience with an Austin organ. It didn't take very long for Chris to win the Austin over. He was in complete control of both the instrument and the audience for the balance of the evening. After opening with "That's Entertainment," he launched into "Tain't No Sin To Take Off Your Skin and Dance Around in Your Bones." Chris then played a medley of traditional Christmas music. There was a medley of three Irving Berlin tunes from *Annie Get Your Gun*. The "Ben Hur Chariot March" and "The Dance of the Blue Danube" concluded the first half of the program.

After intermission we were treated to "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson and Irving Berlin's "White Christmas". Then Chris accompanied a Laurel and Hardy two reeler, *Big Business*. If anyone noticed that we played the same film last Christmas, not a word was said and the laughs were just as loud and long as last year. Chris concluded his program with some traditional and contemporary

Christmas songs. He is a polished performer and a crowd pleaser, and we all look forward to the next opportunity to see and hear this talented young man.

The annual Christmas party was held again this year at the Kathy and John Angevine farm in Warren. There were over sixty people in attendance including a contingent of members from Garden State Chapter and no shortage of artists who took their turns at the Angevine 3/10 Robert-Morton organ. Even Santa Claus (Larry Hazard) entertained the members and guests, and everyone left with their musical appetites satisfied.

Barry Goodkin



DAIRYLAND

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

414/271-0277

In 1988 we started a new series of events — mini-socials. Designed for members who have organs in their homes, but limited space, the number of guests is determined by the host and reservations are necessary. So far, all have been "sold out," with reactions from both hosts and guests all positive.

Our fall concert on October 2 featured Bob Ralston at the Riverside Wurlitzer. Bob charmed the audience with his mixture of music, especially his timely salute to the Democrats and Republicans, the "Donkey Serenade" and "Baby Elephant Walk."

Organ Piper Music Palace was the site of our December annual meeting. On the agenda were bylaws changes and the election of officers.

Dairyland wishes to thank everyone who hosted a social in 1988 for their hospitality. Thanks, also, to everyone who played a social or who played the Wurlitzer at the Avalon on Monday nights, or who did any little behind-the-scenes job for an event, or even just attended! All of these helpers made 1988 a successful year for us.

Carrie Nelson



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley

617/662-7055

We gathered at our regular venue, Babson College, on November 27 for some nice Wurlitzer music by John L. Hubert from Providence. This gentleman is a teacher of voice, piano/organ and a church organist. His forte is classical/church playing, but he admits to always having a strong interest in theatre organ. He was one of the organists who gave of his services twice to the free hour "Wednesday at the Wurlitzer" series at the Providence Performing Arts Center on the big 5/21 instrument last summer. John's program consisted of well-known "pops," but with a touch of the religious and classical. His approach to registration is somewhat different, considering his background, yet interesting. After his "Winter Wonderland" ending he was asked to play "Happy Birthday" for member George Brunzell with all present joining in.

In the course of the meeting, a few moments of silence were observed in memory of long-time member, Elbert J. Drazy, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day. Elbert held several offices in the club in times past and gave freely of his electronic experience with the organ crew. He will be missed.

Our festive Christmas meeting at Babson on December 18 was replete with good food, good music and good fellowship. With colorful table decorations and so much to eat, we were in a proper frame of mind to welcome back former member Tim Bjarby as our afternoon's artist. Tim never plays a dull program with his unusual arrangements and use of the traps and percussions. With appropriate Christmas numbers to open his mini-concert, he played a blend of Broadway hits, winter-oriented selections and even a sprightly march — "American Patrol." Tim, recently married, had his bride, Elizabeth, sing some of the numbers as he accompanied at the console. Long applause brought an encore, "Five Foot Two," before Robert K. Love mounted the bench to continue in his professional manner with seasonal songs and hymns as we all joined in. The afternoon slipped by all too quickly before it was time to be homeward bound.

Stanley C. Garniss



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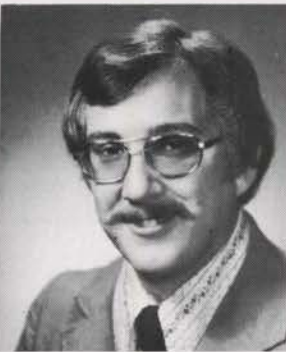
A silent film concert and sing-along took place on November 13 at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway, New Jersey. The film was a wonderful, silent movie featuring Buster Keaton, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* The star performer at the 2/7 Wurlitzer console was Don Kinnier. He is one of the finest silent film accompanists on the East Coast. Don's musical arrangements blend perfectly with the action. He has a delightful sense of humor which will pop up unexpectedly in his music and you laugh and enjoy the few measures of pure fun before he goes on with the movie action. The sing-along was led by Don's wife, the talented Judy Townsend. An enjoyable Sunday was had by all.

The third concert of the Trenton War Memorial series was held on December 4. This annual holiday concert featured Ashley Miller, well known to all here and abroad in England, Holland, Canada and Australia. The mood was definitely Christmas-flavored. The stage was decorated with an enormous wreath and a backdrop, glowing curtain made of hundreds of white, sparkling, tivolli lights. The white console trimmed with real gold leaf glistened. Ashley's opening medley was pure Radio City, with clever arrangements of pop Christmas favorites. During the first half of the program, guest artist Jinny Vanore joined Ashley in several medleys of piano and organ duets. A special Miller arrangement for the piano and organ of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" was the closing selection of the first half of the program. The second half featured the Greater Trenton Choral Society directed by Joseph Pucciatti. Many beautiful carols were accompanied by Ashley on the Moller pipe organ. The closing selection was the traditional "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel with full chorus, piano and organ.

Our happy picnic supper on stage followed. Members wished one another a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with theatre organ music.

Our Christmas mood changed when we were surprised and saddened by the loss of one of our most dedicated members of the Trenton War Memorial crew. Vinc DeBlois suffered a severe heart attack and died Christmas Eve. He will be missed by all. *Jinny Vanore*

**REMEMBER
TO VOTE!**



At Top: Garden State members enjoy music of Jeff Barker.

Above: Production crew of Trenton War Memorial: (L to R) Mike Cipolletti, Elaine Dawson, George Anderson, Karen Adams.

Pictured at Left: Youngest member of Trenton's production crew, Karen Adams and Don Kinnier.

Jinny Vanore Photos

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GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

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Lyn Larsen, who premiered our concert series in April 1988, is a hard act to follow, but Tom Hazleton filled the slot beautifully. His expertise at the console, and personality from the console delighted our concert-goers. The management of the Saenger Theatre, where we installed our 4/23 Robert-Morton, provided "Punch and Cookies" on stage for the theatre crowd following Tom's concert. This was a treat for all of us and a good way for everyone to meet and greet Tom.

Our chapter friend and recorder, Gene Auter, Jr., of Mobile Alabama, video tapes and records these concerts for us, so we can continue enjoying the music long after the organ is still.

We continue our chapter meetings at the home of B.D. Rhea, M.D., who built and installed our organ at the Saenger Theatre. There are so many plans to work out when you plan concert series of this caliber, that we are learning PR in a hurry! President Scott Brodie puts on the appropriate hat and leads us into our next project. He has learned to zip from folding, stapling and non-mutilating advertising brochures to presiding as host at dinners for our artists. I'm sure this is a familiar pattern to everyone in ATOS-land.

Then our official greeter-chauffeur-deluxe and general do-it-all expert, B.C. Melvin, ever-willingly cranks up his green Cadillac and runs interminable errands for us. If you need fuses or a console cover, "BC" is your man — plus he is a joy to work with.

We met our enemy and faced him square-on November 4, when Robert Wolfe arrived to play for us. An acute throat infection, a morning spent in the Emergency Room at a local hospital, admittance to the hospital and emergent surgery, felled his persistent insistence through pale lips, "I WILL play tonight." Needless to say, he couldn't play. At the time of the concert, Robert was in the Recovery Room following surgery, a very, very sick man with a life-threatening illness.

We pulled all stops, cancelled what we could through the local news media and theatre management, and made plans to re-schedule a concert to make up for this one in our series. Robert was a good patient, healed sufficiently in four days of hospitalization to be released, and left for his native land to begin a concert tour there.

We found this young fellow a delightful professional to work with and, until the doctor intervened, he intended for the "show to go on." A real trooper. We regret he was stricken while here with us, but we regret even further we didn't get

to hear him play our Robert-Morton. On his way to the airport, with the aforesaid "BC," he stopped at Dr. Rhea's house and played his in-house Hammond for a few minutes. The good doctor can be quoted as saying, "WOW!" when he heard Robert play. *Dorothy Standley*

It's Music Time In '89

Convention Note

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At least eight West Coast chapter members attended the 30th Anniversary celebration of Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in Hayward, California November 29, 1988. Joyce Henningsen is from Great Falls, Montana and she and husband Carsten were married in Bozeman, Montana where they attended college. Bill Langford and Jerry Nagano played the 3/13 Wurlitzer from San Francisco's Warfield Theatre.

The annual meeting "to commemorate the birth of Jesse Crawford" (Article V, Bylaws) was held in Billings, Montana, December 7 at the residence of Vice-President Steven K. Plaggemeyer. The officers from 1988 were re-elected for 1989. Dr. Mullins will continue as editor of our journal, THE POET.

After the business meeting we viewed a videotape of charter member Bob Ralston's concert on Mother's Day, 1988, at the 3/20 Barton organ in the Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kansas. Champagne corks popped and we toasted Jesse Crawford's 93rd Birthday which was December 2. President Kay Kayhill played "Happy Birthday" on the piano and we all sang "Happy Birthday, Jesse."

Steve Plaggemeyer then played "A Broken Rosary" on the Hammond organ. Kay Kayhill entertained us with Helen Crawford's "The Moonlight Reminds Me Of You" on the Hammond. A birthday cake in the shape of an English Wurlitzer music rack, was baked and decorated by Duane Bondy. Crawford's "fingers" were also served (these are Scottish short-breads brought back from England by Ed Mullins).



Vice-President Steve Plaggemeyer and Gene Schuman, at Jesse Crawford birthday party.

Ed Mullins Photo



L to R: Mark Putterbaugh, Bob Vaughn, Joyce Henningsen and Dr. Ed Mullins at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt's 30th Anniversary Party.

Martin Lilley Photo

Charter member Martin A. Lilley will be our chapter's candidate for the National ATOS Board of Directors. Martin is a British subject and a television engineer. He has worked in 22 different countries and helped install television stations

in many nations throughout the world. The officers of the Jesse Crawford chapter give him our endorsement and urge all ATOS members to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Ed Mullins



Amy, Jesse Crawford Chapter mascot, waits patiently for the cutting of the Wurlitzer music rack birthday cake.

Ed Mullins Photo

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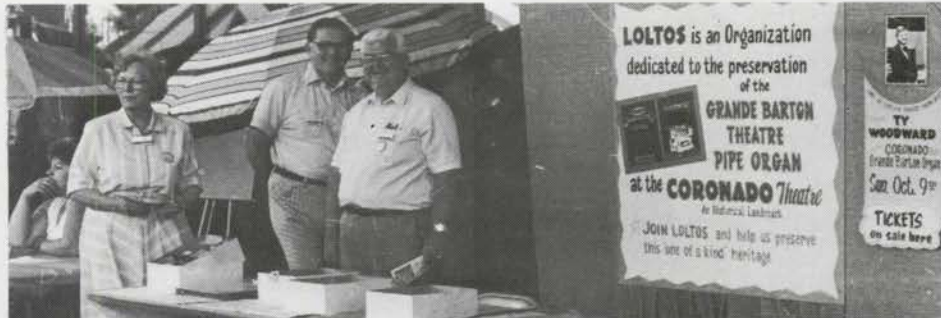
St. Paul-Minneapolis

715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

Today, January 8, the temperature in St. Paul is a chilly 2° with 40° below wind chill, a two-foot snowfall overnight with new, beautiful white stuff glistening in the sun!

The Organaires resumed their monthly sessions in the fall beginning at Marge Shepard's home in September, Burt and Jean Frank's on October 20, and Joe and Ruth Vaes' on November 17. Joe had us all scheduled for a long-distance hello to Larry Koch, a former member of the Organaires, now located in Kingman, Arizona. On December 15 our hosts, Thelma and Fred Nagel, arranged to have the Organaires meet at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, where we could try our skill at the big Wurlitzer, formerly in the KSTP Radio Station. It was fun for us amateurs to get up on stage and pretend that we were accomplished theatre organists.

Two nights later we were again at the Phipps Center to hear Ramona Gerhard Sutton, in a glittering gold-sequined gown, playing Christmas music and selections familiar to all. One of our members had purchased a whole row of seats for his



"On The Waterfront," (L to R) Ester Breckenridge, Bill Horn, Rev. Jim Breckenridge.

family and friends so they could see and hear one of our very favorite theatre organists!

We were saddened by the deaths of three of our members in the fall: Mrs. Claude (Sedonia) Newman on October 9, Mrs. Don (Joan) Johnson on November 10 following a very brief illness, and Mrs. Don (Alice) Taplin on November 29.

Our annual election/meeting was held at the Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis on November 20. The election was over in a minute because the nominees were mostly incumbents. (Do other chapters have problems getting members to run for office?) While there was available manpower on hand, Don Johnson and Bob Scholer were able to talk some volunteers into carrying the big 16-foot Tubas from the basement of the church to the chambers and rack them in. This is where the chapter's Wurlitzer/Robert-Morton installation is near completion. Member Tom Needle entertained us at the MCC's Hammond and played several selections on the grand piano. Dinner was at Nora's, a restaurant near the church.

In a festive mood, about sixty members and friends gathered at the World Theatre for open house on December 18, enjoying a light supper and beverages with open console at the Wurlitzer, a first time on a lift for some, much to their delight. We were especially happy to have Dr. and Mrs. Roland Matson come all the way from Spring Valley, Minnesota, to join us. We sang a few Christmas Carols and there were door prizes, too. We are grateful to the management of the World Theatre who make it possible to enjoy these occasions to play the mighty Wurlitzer. When our allotted time was over at the World, the Christmas mood continued at Verna Mae's home with about 18 people congregating and listening to more organ and organ/piano.

Verna Mae Wilson

LAND OF LINCOLN

Rockford Illinois

815/963-4640

On New Year's Eve members welcomed Rockford area residents to their sixth annual gala New Year's Eve Celebration. The program began as Bill Erlandson played Cole Porter's "It's De-Lovely"

on the mighty Grande Barton as it rose into view on the organ lift. The program consisted of the 1943 movie musical classic *Coney Island*, David Seebach's *World of Magic*, Loon comedy juggling, and a sing-along. At precisely midnight Bill and the Grande Barton broke into "Auld Lang Syne" as the audience joined in and balloons dropped from the star-studded theatre "sky." An afterglow followed on the ornate theatre mezzanine for members and guests as they enjoyed refreshments and good fellowship.

The men of our chapter have had a busy year doing organ repair. The main Tibia chest has been replaced, and the main Tibia stoppers have all been re-leathered. The treble pipes on the main Tibia have been reconditioned. All pouches were replaced in the main relay. The pouches were replaced with plastic 18 years ago and the plastic is still good, but the glue failed to hold, so all were replaced with leather.

Jeanne and John VanLeeuwen, tour guide chairpersons, report that over 1,500 people have toured the Coronado, "Rockford's Wonder Theatre," this year. A typical tour consists of an organ concert, usually performed by Don Milne. Don then relates some of the theatre and organ history and demonstrates the versatility of the organ including everything from thunder to the fire siren to the chirping of birds. Each tour guide takes a small group for a tour of the theatre including back stage, the pipe chambers, the lower dressing area and, as a finale, a ride up the orchestra lift so they can see the theatre as famous performers have viewed it.

Our annual picnic was enjoyed in August despite the hot weather. A September bus trip was taken to Wheaton, Illinois, to the home of Paul and Jan Van Der Molen. Father William Biebel of Erie, Pennsylvania, gave a concert on the Van Der Molen's 3/19 Robert-Morton named "Martha." Refreshments were served and a delightful time was had by all.

Labor Day found members occupying their booth in Discovery Village at the "On The Waterfront" festival. They distributed souvenirs and information on our organization, the Coronado theatre, and the Grande Barton organ.

We look forward to another busy year under the able direction of President Don Milne.

Marty Mangas



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We would like to thank all members who have sent deposits for our Safari and have booked the hotels. There are still a few seats available and we would like to hear from you no later than the first week in March from overseas. All members will be picked up at the hotels to start their days' activities. Itinerary packages will be given to all on Sunday morning the sixteenth.



Chairman Les Rawle presents the Dean Herrick Award to Graig Boswell. *John Sharp Photo*



Frank Fowler of Hill, Norman & Beard presents Christie Cup to Emma Seaton. *John Sharp Photo*

For arrivals to Airports . . . it is better to arrive at Heathrow. Taxi fares could be 15 to 17 pounds, but there is a public bus that leaves the airport going direct to Harrow on the Hill, number 140, red, double-decker with cream. When coming out of customs look for the bus and coach signs. Take your trolleys with you, no need to carry luggage, but keep it low for your own comfort. Time of bus ride could be 30 to 40 minutes.

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London Chapter is looking forward to welcoming you all to our Springtime Safari 1989. Safe and Happy Journey over to all.
Edith Rawle



London Chapter entrants (L to R): Simon Appleyard, second place; Christopher Bannister, first place; Susan Shaw; Paul Long, third place; Tracy Hart. *John Sharp Photo*



Theatre Organ Society

P. O. Box 1913, Glendale, California 91209

213/217-9202
or 818/792-7084

The loyal members and friends who attended our annual Christmas party and election of board members in the St. Cross Episcopal Church social hall not only had the pleasure of listening to one of the city's historical theatre organs but also helped make a happier holiday for the kids at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Thanks to Ralph Beaudry for spearheading this annual gesture of goodwill.

Ty Woodward, the organist at St. Cross, started the party with a medley of Christmas carols at the style 216 Wurlitzer organ in the social hall at St. Cross. The organ is originally from the Manchester Theatre in Los Angeles and is on loan to the church from Merle Bobzien who re-

cently purchased it from Loyola University. After Ty's medley of Christmas carols he introduced Paul Thompson who is a member of the church. Paul is a 747 pilot in real life and had no trouble finding his way around the console.

Following the mini-concert Donn Linton called the meeting to order. After the usual necessary reports were read and approved, an election of new board members was held. After the election it was open console while the rest enjoyed refreshments served by the Music Committee of St. Cross.

At the January board meeting held at Dick Sheafor's home, officers were elected to serve for 1989. After the election Ken Crome reported on the progress being made towards the installation of the Ross Reed Memorial Organ at Pasadena City College. If all goes well, the organ will be finished later this year.

Wayne Flottman

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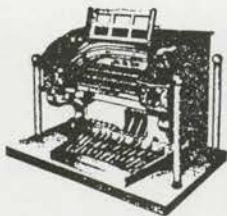
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MOTOR CITY

Detroit
313/537-1133

Melissa Ambrose, national winner of the 1987 Young Theatre Organist contest was presented in concert at the Redford Theatre on November 12. Also appearing was the Boys Choir of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Melissa's program was varied and interesting, and an enthusiastic audience showed their appreciation.

The chapter hosted a group from the Temple Theatre in Saginaw, Michigan, on November 13 at an informal get-together that included open console and a potluck supper.

Ron Rhode's Christmas program at the Redford, on December 10, was a pleasing blend of traditional and popular holiday favorites. Tenor soloist Chuck Rhode, accompanied by his brother at the 3/10 Bargon, gave a marvelous rendition of Irving Berlin's "I Wish I Were In Michigan, Down On The Farm," prepared especially for us, making it difficult to choose just which one of his selections, which included "'Twas The Night Before Christmas," was our favorite.



Lou Orlicki made this miniature theatre organ console as a suggestion box for film titles for Motor City's bi-weekly film series (the slot is in the music rack). Lou is pictured here with Peggy Grimshaw, chairman of the film selection committee.

Bill Vogel Photo



The Boys Choir of Christ Episcopal Church Grosse Pointe.

Ray VanSteenkiste Photo



Ron Rhode and brother Chuck at Motor City's Christmas concert.

Bill Vogel Photo

Our annual Christmas party at the Redford on December 11, was co-chaired by Irene FitzGerald and Marvin Spear and featured Gil Francis and Bob Mills at the Barton in addition to a mock fashion show with a parade of chapter members wearing costumes designed to keep the audience in stitches.

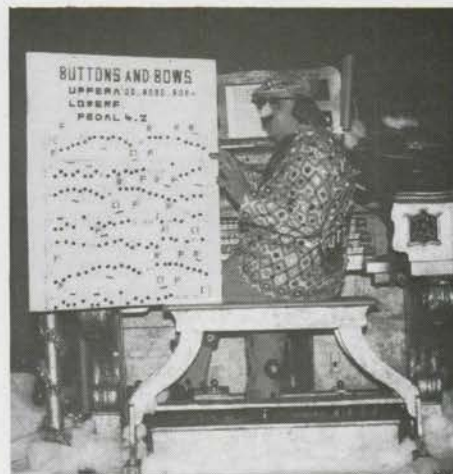
Our annual meeting was held at the Redford on November 6 and featured a catered dinner.

Over 40 people brought in 1989 at a New Year's Eve party at the Redford. Chaired by Irene FitzGerald, the annual get-together included a potluck supper, board and card games and open console.

Paul Kline, a well known artist at area roller rinks and lounges, was featured at our Fourth Sunday Show at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on November 27.

Don Baker will appear at the Redford Theatre on May 6. For more information, write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-2560.

Don Lockwood



Bob Mills wasn't sure he could read all those tiny notes (so he said) and brought a more readable version of "Buttons and Bows" to play at Motor City's Christmas party.

Bill Vogel Photo



The marquee on the day of Bill's funeral. A gathering was held there after the funeral.

Bill vlasak

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NEW YORK

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Organist Jim Paulin got us into the holiday spirit with a fine performance on December 10 at the New York Military Academy 4/31 Moller in Cornwall-on-Hudson. Jim's program included a balanced mix of holiday favorites along with a variety of selections that we have come to associate with a Paulin program. He opened with "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas" followed by his traditional opener, "S'Wonderful." Other selections covered the gamut from a clever novelty arrangement of "Frosty The Snowman," played spontaneously at the request of an audience member, through "Donkey Serenade," "Rufus" and "I'll Be Home For Christmas," to the Virgil Fox arrangement of "Now Thank We All Our God." He confessed to not having played many of the holiday selections since the 1970s when he was doing the Christmas shows at Radio City Music Hall. Jim's talent, both as a musician and an entertainer, was evident throughout the program, but especially with the Christmas sing-along which was his finale. Jim enjoys the ensemble sound, and it was evident that the audience did also. Following a standing ovation and shouts for more from the enthusiastic crowd, Jim raised the rafters with "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town," and as a second encore, "O Holy Night," building the re-

gistration Paulin-style to full organ. The big Moller was in good tune and performed well, thanks to the efforts of Bob Seeley, Bob Welch and Tom Stehle.

Meanwhile around the city, Ashley Miller was again helping New Yorkers get into the Christmas spirit with his daily performances on both Hammond organ and piano in the lobby of the Pan Am Building adjacent to Grand Central Station, an annual event that has become a holiday tradition. A few blocks away at Radio City Music Hall, member Bob Maidhof and colleagues Bob MacDonald and George Wesner entertained at the twin consoles of the giant Wurlitzer for the Christmas Spectacular which played several shows a day to packed houses throughout the holiday season.

Tom Stehle



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Jim "Skip" Paulin at the New York Military 4/31 Moller.



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NORTH TEXAS

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Another first for North Texas Chapter! In November, we made the short trip to Duncanville to hear, for the first time, the 2/10 theatre organ in the home of Bill and Donna Newton. The organ has been installed in a large area on the top floor of their residence which has been divided by a wall containing the swell shades, separating the large chamber from the listening area. Recalling the "Beast in the Basement," one is prepared to be inundated with the force of sound but, surprisingly, isn't. Apparently, the choice of pipe scale and the large chamber area (permitting some blending of the ensemble before it leaves the chambers) nicely tempers the effect. Our host spoke briefly to the group about the building of this organ in their home in St. Louis and the trials and tribulations of moving the instrument to Duncanville where everything had to be carried up two flights of stairs. Because it could be dismantled, the console and pipe-work turned out to be less problem than the player piano, which couldn't. Bill showed off the facilities of the installation, playing two selections. He followed this with a duet rendition of "Margie," accompanying a delightful player-piano roll. The program for the day was basically open console, with



Manning Trewitt (right) presents tuned Sleigh Bells to Earl McDonald for use on chapter organ.

Gene Randolph Photo

three of our "pro" members, Charles Evans, Bill Hanson and Helen Thomas, playing cameo programs to break the ice. A number of the members took this opportunity to try their hands at theatre pipes, possibly emboldened by the relatively uncomplicated console. The organ sounded great and we all enjoyed the afternoon. We look forward to accepting Bill and Donna's gracious invitation to return again soon.

Our Christmas Holiday meeting is always a special delight and this year's was made especially so by the gracious hospitality of Evelyn and Gordon Wright and the beauty of the home and Wurlitzer organ. Evelyn had the house beautifully decorated for the holidays and, from the moment we walked through the wreathed entry it was an afternoon of Christmas magic.

Charles Evans, who is a founding member of our chapter and a well-known theatre organist, presented a well-planned Christmas program, opening with "Jingle Bell Rock." This set the pace for a happy time. Other numbers in his

very entertaining program included "Christmas Waltz" and "Brazilian Sleighbells," the latter using the Chrysoglott most effectively. Host Gordon Wright has only recently completed the hook-up to the Wurlitzer of his reproducing grand piano. Charles showed off this addition to the 3/18 with his arrangement of "Holiday" written for the piano and unfamiliar to many of us but a great showcase for this piano/organ combination. A very festive buffet was laid by our refreshment chairman, Grace Johnson and her committee, using the goodies brought by all the members. The long dining table was draped with a dark green cloth, a cut glass punch bowl gracing one end and silver platters displaying all the Holiday fare.

Open console followed the planned program and some very lovely music was played by members. As an interesting side note by charter member Lorena McKee, those who had the biggest part in making this one of the best Christmas parties we have enjoyed were all founding members of our chapter: hosts Gordon and Evelyn Wright, Charles Evans and Grace Johnson.

President John Friedel used the occasion of this large Holiday gathering for a special presentation by member Manning Trewitt of his set of tuned sleighbells to Earl McDonald for use on our Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre. Earl thanked Manning on behalf of the chapter for his generous gift and proposed that a chest and actuators for the bells would be made for installation on the chapter organ.

Irving Light & Lorena McKee



Charles Evans at the 3/18 Wurlitzer in Gordon Wright home.

Gene Randolph Photo



Bill Newton

Irving Light Photo



Charles Evans, Helen Thomas, and Bill Hanson.

Irving Light Photo



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Portland
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In November we traveled the now familiar road to Pleasant Hill and the home of Ken and Doris Ensele. It is also the home of "Alice," their 2/9 Wurlitzer. "Alice" was in top form and a lively group of us spent the afternoon sharing a wonderful (as usual) variety of goodies and organ music. Later in the afternoon the tables and chairs were cleared away and quite a few couples took to the floor for dancing. Ken and Doris always make us feel so welcome. Once again a very special Thank You to the Enseles for their warm hospitality.

Karen Minear

Our annual membership meeting was held in conjunction with a potluck followed by a Christmas program with Paul Quarino and Gerry Gregorius. The meeting was conducted by Chairman Paul Quarino who gave a summary of the year's events which included the successful Convention '88. Afterwards we all walked the short distance around the corner to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre to hear the 3/8 Wurlitzer. Gerry brought



Above: a group of organ buffs in Ensele's barn.



Top Right: Doris Ensele & Alyce Long dance to Wurlitzer music. Bottom Right: Doris and Ken Ensele in chamber of their Wurlitzer installation.



the console up with seasonal selections followed by a vintage Lew White sing-along film supplied by theatre owners Bob Rothschild and Gene Stoller. The program closed with the silent Laurel and Hardy classic, *Big Business*, accompanied by Paul. The organ was in great shape thanks to the efforts of our own Captain Kimball aka Loren Minear and General Collector aka Paul.

PJQ



Gerry Gregorius at the Wurlitzer in the Sherwood Oriental Theatre.

Pat Hughey Photo



Lorraine Wert and Bud Abel in the lobby of the Sherwood Oriental. In the background is plaster artwork from the demolished Portland Oriental Theatre.

Pat Hughey Photo

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April 4, 5	Cleveland Art Institute, Cleveland, Ohio
April 7, 8	High Museum, Atlanta, Georgia
April 12, 13	Anthology Film Archives, New York City
April 22, 23	International Film Festival, Washington, D.C.
April 15	Senate Theatre, Detroit, Michigan
April 20	Civic Theatre, Akron, Ohio
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May 4	Oscar Meyer Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin
May 13	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
May 17	Public Library, Westerville, Ohio
May 20	Paramount Theatre, Aurora, Illinois
May 27	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
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Fay Marvin looks on skeptically as house guest Bob Ralston tries out Fay's Baldwin Cinema.

Mary Little Photo

Potomac Valley chapter held a special event on November 13, at Hope Lutheran Church in Annandale, Virginia, with Vice-Chairman Floyd E. Werle at the console, dedicating a 2/14 Lewis & Hitchcock pipe organ recently moved by Hope Lutheran members from a nearby Methodist church, converted to a Z-Tronic electronic relay, and installed in newly constructed chambers. Member George Johnson was the chief technician. Some reed pipes were reworked by Trivo Corporation of Hagerstown, Maryland, and brand new chimes were donated by Fay Marvin, to make an elegant first pipe organ for 31-year old Hope Lutheran.

Our annual business meeting, usually

held in late November or early December, was postponed until January and was held at the home of our newly-elected Chairman, Mr. Fay Marvin in Annandale, Virginia. Don Faehn, our excellent Chairman for the past three years, will continue to edit and publish our chapter newsletter, *The Static Regulator*. He has also ably maintained the chapter membership records on his per-



Fay Marvin decides that Bob Ralston really can play the Baldwin.

Mary Little Photo

sonal computer, and will continue to do so. Don received a much-deserved, big round of applause for his noteworthy efforts on behalf of the chapter.

Following the business session, open console on Fay Marvin's Baldwin Cinema organ provided great entertainment for those in attendance. Many of those present then proceeded to nearby Ribster's Restaurant for supper and organized sociability.

In the November/December, 1988 THEATRE ORGAN, there was included, in the Potomac Valley chapter notes, a photo of longtime member Bob Eyer, Jr., now President of the recently-formed Cumberland Valley chapter, seated at

ex-President Dick Kline's "4/37" Wurplitzer. In the January/February, 1989 issue, the PV chapter note show John Steel at Dick Kline's "4/28" Wurplitzer. Dick did not trash 9 ranks! The "4/28" has been correct for many years. We regret the mistake made earlier.

Jack Little

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

We had a wonderful concert at Dick Wilcox's home, with the incomparable Tom Hazleton doing the honors. Tom was having a ball and came up with some unbelievable sounds. As always, his program displayed his good taste and versatility, and he included a pre-recorded version of "Flight of the Bumble Bee," standing at ease beside the organ. There were many guests, and that huge bar was groaning with goodies contributed by chapter members.

Jonas Nordwall conducted a seminar at Dick's home on December 6. His subject was "Registration and Controlling a Large Instrument - Orchestral Approach!"

Our annual "Winter Doldrums" party at Haller Lake Improvement Club drew a rather small crowd on January 8, because of the fact that we had snow that weekend. We don't get much of the white stuff in this area, and for the most part it was very light and didn't last long, but many members played it safe and stayed home. Those who braved the elements had a good time with lots of good food, and open console was enjoyed. Several new members were welcomed, and the new officers were installed. Margaret C. Hill

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Many of you may have thought that our chapter was inactive because of the lack of news in the THEATRE ORGAN. 'Taint so! It was only the lack of a volunteer to do the job. That problem has now been solved. So, the task at hand is to back up and catch up.

On October 2, we had the pleasure of presenting a gala 60th Anniversary celebration of the installation of the 3/12 Wicks theatre pipe organ in the Capital Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. This writer had the privilege and pleasure to be the master of ceremonies for this event.

The audience is always delighted to hear the history of the theatre and the organ, so we thought that you might enjoy a brief glimpse of that history. The Capital Theatre was constructed during 1919 and 1920 at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. The theatre opened on Christmas Day 1920, featuring a silent movie entitled *The Man Who Lost Himself*, starring William Faversham. (I have been wondering if he found himself.) There is no record of who played the organ for that event.

The Capital Theatre was the largest theatre in Iowa, and only two other theatres in the United States were larger at that time. The original seating capacity was 2,500. In 1968 the seating was replaced with more comfortable seats and more aisle space which reduced the seating capacity to 1,600. It has been the good fortune of our chapter to have 1,200 to 1,600 in attendance at our bi-annual shows.

The Capital Theatre was elegant in its day. While most theatres of the time had about six employees, the Capital had 41: manager, assistant manager, 5 janitors, 2 organists, 3 ticket sellers, 2 projectionists, 8 ushers, 3 maids, a 15 piece orchestra, and a babysitting service in one of the upstairs rooms. You don't get that today! We are grateful to the owners and management, the Kahl Trust, for permitting us to use the theatre and for maintaining it in good condition.

The organ originally installed in the theatre was a Moller. No information is available about the size or the disposition of the organ. It was installed at a cost of approximately \$14,000 and served through the heyday of the silent movie era. Then in 1928 the Moller was replaced by the present Wicks consisting of 10 ranks of pipes at a cost of \$30,000. This organ pleased the crowds for many years, but when talking pictures became popular, the organ fell into disuse and disrepair.

The organ had been silent for more than twenty years when the Quad-City members of Cedar Rapids Chapter found the organ and spent more than two years repairing and enhancing the organ to today's 13 ranks, piano and toy counter. In 1981 our chapter was formed to repair, maintain and preserve this majestic instrument and to demonstrate to the public its magnificent capabilities. Since then, many thousands of dollars and man-hours have been spent maintaining the organ which is only one of about forty organs still playing in its original location.

When celebrating an occasion such as this, it is paramount that an artist be chosen who befits the era. We were fortunate to be able to have as our guest artist the foremost master of the theatre organ, who is still playing today, Mr. Gaylord Carter. No biography of him is necessary because his name alone tells all! The program started with his theme song, "The Perfect Song," made famous by the "Amos 'n' Andy" radio program, for which Mr. Carter played for many years. This was followed by selections from *Wings*. A ten minute Harold Lloyd silent movie *Billy Blazes, Esq.* had the audience in stitches. Then he played various numbers as a salute to Irving Berlin. A brief period of sing-along was enjoyed by all.

After intermission, the most anticipated part of the performance was a 60-minute Harold Lloyd silent entitled *Safety Last* which drew every possible emotion from the audience: silent awe, tears, fright, excitement, and laughter. Mr. Carter explained that the artistry involved in playing for a silent movie is to play with the changes in the mood of the movie so that the audience does not realize that the organ is actually playing. This was quite apparent during an ambulance chase



Past-President Joan McFadden being presented with gift by Richard Withenbury.

scene when the lady sitting next to me didn't realize that the siren sound came from the organ. The audience was duly impressed with his timing and expression when the scene or mood changed in the movie. When Harold Lloyd fell from the building and grabbed the hand of the clock, Mr. Carter played frightening passages as he fell and quickly played "Time On My Hands" when he was safe.

As is the usual custom, the famous Quad-City Chapter potluck dinner was served on the night before the show at President Joan McFadden's home where Mr. Carter entertained the guests for an hour on Joan's Kimball Xanadu Organ.

On November 20, another first for us! We had the privilege of having our monthly social at the B.J. Palmer mansion at 808 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa. This elegant home has never been open to the public, and it has taken over a year for the chapter officers to negotiate the arrangement. The mansion was the home of Dr. B.J. Palmer, the founder and developer of chiropractic practice, and is located adjacent to the extensive Palmer College Campus. Dr. B.J. Palmer and his son, Dr. David B. Palmer, traveled many times to the Orient, and an extensive collection of priceless artifacts procured on these trips is displayed in the mansion.

continued ...

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QUAD CITIES, cont.

A 3/15 Aeolian residential pipe organ, circa 1910, is located in the huge living room of the mansion. The organ was played frequently over Radio Station WOC during the early days of radio broadcasting by a nationally known local artist, Marjoria Minert. Since no arrangements had been made for a guest artist to perform, all members were instructed to bring music. Most members and guests took turns playing this fine organ over a three-hour period. The organ had an unusual but pleasant sound and everything worked except the lower F pedal which caused some to be slightly frustrated. An unusual feature of the organ is that the pipes and toys are located on the second floor of the mansion. A series of hinged windows open down to let the sound into the living room.

The attendance at this social was more than usual. Members and guests from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Chicago, Joliet and Rockford, Illinois brought the total to about 55, which did not begin to fill the huge living room.

Appropriate mid-afternoon snacks were catered by Bill McFadden, President Joan's husband.

December 18: During the winter the Capital Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, is not heated, so it is necessary for the chapter to meet in other locations which have an organ that we can play. But this is one time that we could not meet the organ requirement. Our usual Christmas-time social gathering was held at the Steeplegate Inn in Davenport. We went through the buffet line and then had our annual business meeting and election of

officers. During a brief ceremony the reins changed hands.

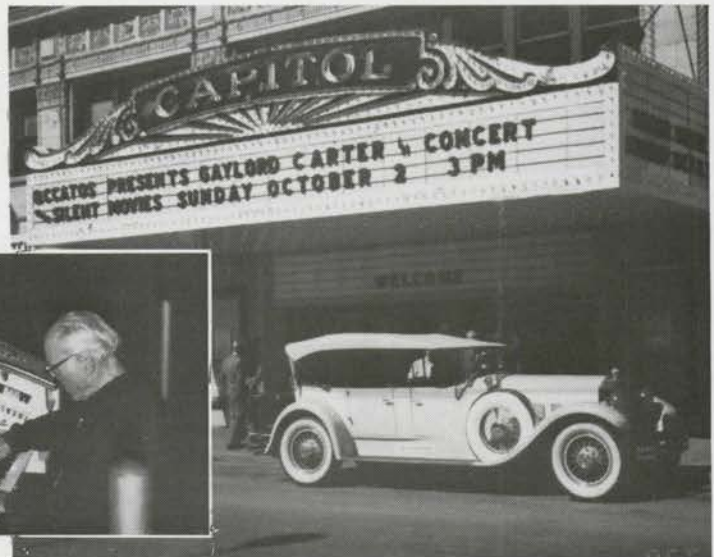
Joan McFadden has been our chapter president for four long, but pleasant, years. Not only has Joan served well as our president, she and her husband Bill have provided lodging and meals for each of our visiting artists in their spacious home and have also entertained members and guests with a night-before-the-show dinner party in their home. For such distinguished service to the chapter, Joan was presented with a heavy pewter plate showing a young woman playing an organ.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent singing Christmas Carols and other favorites accompanied on the piano by Selma Johnson. *Richard Witherbury*



3/15 Aeolian at the B.J. Palmer Mansion being played by Larry Henschen.

A 1928 Packard in front of the Capital Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. Below, Gaylord Carter practices at the 3/12 Wicks.



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Our November 14 meeting was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa, jointly with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Our host was Mr. John Hanson of the Lewis Pipe Organ Company, area representative of the Austin Pipe Organ Company, who had installed Austin Opus 2712 in St. John's. Mr. Hanson handed out specification sheets for this 3/42 organ and related a brief history of Austin Organs and the story of this installation. Our featured organist was Roger Arnold, who presented a classical concert to showcase the resources of this beautiful instrument. Among his selections were Handel's "Oboe Concerto in D Minor," and Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Roger is a very accomplished musician, and his concert was most enjoyable. Tours of the installation were offered after the concert, and the evening was concluded with refreshments. Many thanks to St. John's, to John Hanson and to Roger Arnold.

Bob Markworth opened his beautiful home for our December 10 Christmas party, hosting it jointly with Joyce Kelley. Our holiday festivities started with a bountiful potluck supper. Afterwards, a brief business meeting was chaired by Ron Bower, who announced that he would be leaving the area shortly for a new job in Florida. We are sorry to lose Ron, but wish him the best of luck. To fill the vacancy, Edward Martin was elected unanimously as our new Vice President.

Ron Bower opened the entertainment with his original Christmas slide show, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, with pre-recorded background music. Having set our holiday mood, Ron introduced our featured organist, Jeanne Cooper (alias Mrs. Claus) who made her way to the console in a bright red costume, complete with white wig and sleigh bells. Jeanne opened her program with a medley of Christmas songs, which was followed with a Latin medley and Viennese waltzes. Then our own Wendall Hall and his banjo teamed-up with Jeanne to accompany a Christmas sing-along.

Bob Markworth's 3/15 Kimball theatre pipe organ was in fine voice, and there was plenty of opportunity for open console. We're grateful to both Bob and Joyce for an excellent party.

Tom Jeffery



Jeanne Cooper, alias Mrs. Santa Claus, at our Christmas meeting.
Tom Jeffery Photo



Ron Bower's original slide show set our holiday mood.

Tom Jeffery Photo



Wendall Hall joined Jeanne Cooper to accompany our Christmas sing-along.
Tom Jeffery Photo



Bob Markworth and Joyce Kelley teamed up to host our festive Christmas meeting.
Tom Jeffery Photo

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November is the time for our annual meeting and election of officers held this year at the home of Priscilla Arthur. Following the meeting, Dorothy Retallack presented a concert, on the Arthur 2/10 Wurlitzer, of old favorites, including "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You," "April in Paris," "American Patrol March," and "September Song." It was a wonderful program enjoyed by all, as were the delicious refreshments also prepared by Dorothy.



Rocky Mountain Chapter officers (L to R): David Love, Alice Cutshall, Priscilla Arthur, Dave Sass. Don Zeller Photo

A few weeks later, members and friends gathered at the home of Dr. Bruce Belshaw for a special concert on the 3/22 Wurlitzer featuring Walt Strony of Phoenix. Walt's program was a delightful early Christmas present for those in attendance as he held his listeners' rapt attention from the very first notes of "It's De-lovely" to the last notes of his own arrangement, "Christmas Fantasy, 1988." In between he played such favorites as "When I Fall In Love," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," various Christmas favorites, and many others. After several standing ovations, Mr. Strony took requests from the audience and wove them into an extended encore. Refreshments for this extravaganza were provided by the "L/A Design Catering Service," David Love and Priscilla Arthur, proprie-



Dorothy Retallack at the Arthur residence Wurlitzer. Don Zeller Photo

tors. A wonderful start to the holiday season.

In January, we co-sponsored with the Friends of the Mayan, a "Saturday at the Mayan" open house at the restored Mayan Theatre. The event featured the Marx Brothers movie, *A Day at the Races*, as well as several special presentations. Proceeds from this event were donated to our Aladdin Theatre Wicks Organ project for installation of the organ at Denver's East High School. Work on that project, hopefully, will begin later this year.

Our officers are hard at work planning a variety of events to celebrate the Chapter's 25th Anniversary during 1989. Former members of Rocky Mountain Chapter are invited to take part in these events. Contact Chapter President, David Love at 303/421-1190 if you can join us during the year.

Don Zeller



Walt Strony at Dr. Bruce Belshaw's Wurlitzer. Don Zeller Photo

ST. LOUIS
Missouri
314/343-8473

So much has taken place that I hardly know where to begin. But, I know that most of you want to know all the good things that have happened in this very active society in St. Louis. Yes, the usual board meetings have occurred and new officers voted in at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in November. Chapter organ-builder Joe Barnes is again happy to report that he and his staff hold their Saturday morning meetings and workshops at the Granada Theatre — even though no new installations were made in the Solo chamber! Plans are afoot for a Peterson Relay in our second Wurlitzer up on the balcony level of the Fox. This work will be done in due course. Other organs we own are awaiting the planning stage to be completed when we find suitable locations for them. More information will be forthcoming.

To bring you up to date, our main entertainment-with-food event was Colonel Jack Moelmann's Christmas party on December 10. Each attendee brought a covered dish and five dollars (for the bar and table service), and Jack furnished the Hawaiian Style Ham with Pineapple. It was most tasty! President Dennis Ammann opened with short business meeting to bring all members current on the latest plans, etc. Jack Moelmann and Mark Gifford had worked up a surprise musical on Jack's souped-up Hammond with Mark on piano and a brand new Kurzweil synthesizer. They presented Handel's "Messiah." I, along with many members, have heard it done by a choir and orchestra, but these two artists did a fantastic job from start to finish. It was then time for our sumptuous meal — you'd have thought we were in one of St. Louis' finest buffet restaurants. We tip our hats to Jack, Mark and Chuck Wiltsch and many of the ladies for their culinary expertise. There was also time for open console, and we now heard from some new members who showed us what they could do on Jack's Hammond. Incidentally, we signed up six more members for 1989!

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Grant Union High School was the scene of a very exciting day, November 6, when a number of organ enthusiasts attended a fine concert presented by Gary Konas on the 4/20 Wurlitzer in the school auditorium. Sierra Chapter is very proud of young Konas, and it was, indeed a thrill to hear this magnificent organ once again. Don Wallin' and Dave Moreno and staff have made many changes in the instrument, and it has never sounded better since the days of the George Wright installation. A disastrous fire several years ago destroyed the console, and the new one is a beauty — it has the sounds of a new organ never heard before.

Gary played a five-star program which was greatly appreciated by his rapt audience. Highlights were selections from *Guys and Dolls*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate and Phantom of the Opera*. Gary put his heart and soul into these renditions along with a Sousa march, a couple of novelties and a Strauss waltz. His interpretations and registrations were as professional as one could ask for. He acted as his own emcee, and his subtle sense of humor drew many chuckles from the audience. I'm sure you will be hearing more of Gary Konas in other concerts. Thanks, Gary, you made our day!



Gary Konas.



Our Christmas party was a huge success. There were 44 persons present to enjoy the great variety of food and open console. Thanks to Kay Robinson and June Anderson for the lovely table decorations. Election of officers was held, and we want to thank all the past officers who have helped make Sierra Chapter what it is today.

Even though it was a cold, cold day on January 8, we had one of the largest crowds we've had for a concert during the past year. Our artist, Bert Kuntz, was a big drawing card as he is well known in this area. It was, indeed, a fine concert, and our "Mighty" little Wurlitzer performed beautifully for all of Bert's orchestral registrations and impressive tonal effects. His program consisted of old pop tunes, Latin numbers and musical comedy selections. The standing ovation at the end of his program was well-deserved. Thanks, Bert, for an afternoon of great entertainment.

Members of Sierra Chapter are in the process of a major rebuilding project of a three-manual Robert-Morton console which will replace the existing two-manual Wurlitzer. This has been a costly project, and our funds are low, but our hopes are high . . . thanks to those who are helping with this venture.

Bud Taylor

At left: Bert Kuntz at Sierra Wurlitzer.



Sierra Chairman Don Myers with sign he made for the Chapter.

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Our November meeting was held once again in Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Don Kimes and Phil Judkins, filling in on short notice for Lorene Thomas, who was ill, presented the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. Don played a program of old favorites, closing with a stirring "God Bless America." Phil's part of the program included three "love" songs, as well as "Chicago," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" and "Tico Tico." He told us he hadn't really practiced in 19 months — all the time it's taken him to dismantle his instrument and move it to its new home — but he proved he hadn't forgotten anything.

The organ never sounded better. Our crew, Harry Rasmussen, Don Kimes, Phil Judkins, Lee Smith and - "volunteered" for the job because they needed someone "little" - Julius Chapin, had been preparing the instrument for a concert to be played the following Sunday by Dr. June Kean, professor of organ at Evengel College in Springfield, Missouri.

Dr. Kean presented a delightful concert, choosing selections that demonstrated her ability to play any kind of organ music and show off many of the capabilities of the instrument. She played classical music: Pachobel's "Canon in D Minor," and Richard Purvis' "Canzon - Forest Green." She played Dudley Buck's "Variations on The Star Spangled Banner." She then moved into music from World War I and the 20s and 30s: "Musical Snuff Box" (played almost entirely on the chrysoglott), "Smile Awhile," "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby." We also heard a medley of Strauss waltzes. She closed with several gospel hymns, her own arrangement of "Nothing But the Blood," "Amazing Grace," and, assisted by Judy Werner on the grand piano, "There's Something About That Name." For an encore she played a rousing "Onward Christian Soldiers." And she was so delighted with our group that she joined our chapter!

A number of our members had traveled to Wichita earlier in November to hear Jonas Nordwall on the Wichita Wurlitzer. His program was truly outstanding and the variety of his music was tremendously entertaining. "Finlandia" was perfectly beautiful, the complete orchestral score, played flawlessly.

Our annual Christmas party and December meeting was held in the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. The three-manual mostly Wicks pipe organ was nearly completely installed, and had nine ranks playing by the time of our party. We were given a tour of their beautiful new home, designed around the organ. The console sits in the large music/living room, with ample space for listening. The pipes are housed in the basement in spotless chambers that reach to shutters behind the

console on the first floor. Phil and able assistants Don Kimes and Dan Kimes (with an occasional hand from other club members) did the entire installation.

Lorene Thomas presented the first mini-concert on the organ in its new setting. She entertained us with Christmas music: Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "Fantasia on the Hymn Tune 'Once to Every Man and Nation'" by Richard Purvis; Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song," and Richard Purvis' "Carol Rhapsody."

At the short business meeting following the program, president Lee Smith announced that two members had been selected as Honor Members for 1989 for their outstanding service to the chapter, and presented framed certificates to Harry Rasmussen and Dorothy Smith.

Then, while members and guests enjoyed a delicious planned-pot-luck dinner, the console was open to all who wished to play. *Dorothy Smith*



State Theatre (Kalamazoo) auditorium and organ.



Matt Edwards (Santa Claus) at the Barton organ in the State Theatre.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

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Just before Christmas, Matt Edwards and Ken Butela, of our chapter, conducted a field trip to Kalamazoo's historic State Theatre. Several hundred elementary students from the Comstock and Gull Lake Schools enthusiastically toured the Ebersson-designed building, heard about its history, listened to Ken and Santa Claus (Matt) play the Barton organ, sang Christmas carols to slides projected on the screen, even tried the organ themselves, and asked endless questions.

The theatre management was especially cooperative, providing a gingerbread village display and light refreshments.

The teachers expressed much appreciation and a wish to repeat the experience another year with more information about the theatre, its history and present use. The reception of this pilot program was so good our theatre organ group plans to do just that. After all, the more the younger generation becomes involved in a love for our historic buildings and pipe organs, the better chance we have of preserving them. The kids are interested! We should let them see what we have. *Dorothy Butela*



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"Somebody's been sitting in my chair." The hostess for our November pre-Thanksgiving gathering, Sharron Patterson, almost irreverently paraphrased this sentence from one of our children's tales into "Somebody's messed up my organ." This "somebody" was the Reverend Andrew Rogers, who had come to make music for his Wolverine friends. Father "Andy" took us beyond the "Persian Market," the "Monastery Garden" and the "Chinese Temple Garden," deeper into the world of British composer Albert Ketelby. Among the fond memories Father Jim Miller had brought back from his Australian tour were two musical nuggets by Mr. K. "Wedgewood Blues" and "The Clock and the Dresden Figurine." After Father Andrew's short mini-concert, hostess Sharron Patterson led off the open console show by restoring her own favored registrations on the organ.



L to R: December hosts David Voydanoff and Glenn Rank, and long time Wolverine Carl Ewald.

Marvin Spear Photo

The holiday spirit, ignited at the Pattersons' in November, was quickly rekindled in December at the Wolverine Christmas Party in the home of Dave Voydanoff and Glen Rank in Algonac. All the good music of the season, produced by a succession of open console artists, was embellished by a delicious self-catered potluck turkey dinner.

With this last installment of the 1988 story of Wolverine activities comes the board's expression of gratitude to ALL who have in any way contributed to the successful continuation of our chapter.

Charlie and Betty Baas



Herb Head is great at making a Wurlitzer sound like a calliope.

Marvin Spear Photo



Betty Heffer, mastermind of the Potluck Plot, and hubby Chuck.

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Sharron Patterson and Reverend Andrew Rogers.

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