

Chapter Notes



ALABAMA

Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/644-3606

Pipe organs aren't the only things going in Birmingham. June and July were "bustin' out all over" as the Alabama chapter joined in with other organizations for a couple of ventures centered at The Alabama Theatre. First, Operation New Birmingham and The Alabama Theatre hosted a walking tour of the newly designated Theatre Historic District with The Alabama as the focal point. Included in the tour were the Lyric Theatre, Famous Players Theatre, Carver Theatre, and The Alabama. Dinner and cocktails were served on stage as the Mighty Wurlitzer was played. A lot of enthusiasm for several upcoming projects was generated.

July 1 found Joe Giatinna and The Bama Cardinals on stage with a Big Band Dance. This event was well received, and the organ was used during the two intermissions. Nothing, of course, is more fun than a true 100% pipe organ concert, and on June 11 Jonas Nordwall delivered more than 100% of pure talent and entertainment. The crowd celebrated Jonas' first visit to Birmingham and honored him with praise and applause. We all know what an audience-pleaser Jonas is and hope to have him back soon.

The weekend of the Fourth of July found several chapter members working at The Birmingham Wedding Chapel completing the re-leathering of regulators for the 3/20 Wurlitzer going in there. Chambers are almost completed for the massive instrument, and work continues on the rebuilding of everything!

Another star visited The Alabama Theatre July 8 and 9 when Butterfly McQueen appeared at the gala anniversary showings of *Gone With The Wind*. Ms. McQueen, who played "Prissy" in the movie, received standing ovations each performance and warmed the hearts of thousands with her charm and wit. *Gone With The Wind* ran exclusively at The Alabama July 8-15. Gary W. Jones



Donna and Ron Carter at their 2/9 Wurlitzer.



Guest artist Gary Jones at the Carters' 2/9 Wurlitzer.



Greg Colson and Sue Goddard at the 4/70 Schantz pipe organ at Grace United Methodist Church.



Atlanta Chapter picnic.

2/9 Wurlitzer. Not only that, but, after the picnic, we had as guest artist on Ron's instrument Gary Jones from Birmingham, Alabama, vice president and program chairman of the Alabama chapter and director of Birmingham Landmarks. Not only that, but Gary brought along a tenor friend, Jerry Eason, and the two of them did an amusing voice and organ duet-with-commentary on several love songs.

The Carters' organ dates from 1926, and was originally a 2/7 in the Carolina Theatre at Greenville, South Carolina. Ron has added an 8' Post Horn and an 8' Wurlitzer Solo String. In addition, the Carters' baby grand piano can be played from the organ console, its expression controlled by the organ's swell pedal!

The artists played beautifully a generous variety of oldies and more recent popular numbers, from "Alice Blue Gown" to "Somewhere Out There." The organ sounded great. And there was the picnic in-between besides!

We went over to the Grace United Methodist Church on June 11, and sat in the choir loft to hear Sue Goddard and Greg Colson play duets (yes, duets!) on the church's 4/70 Schantz pipe organ. Gregory is Director of Music there, head of the Music Department at Georgia Tech and conductor of the Colson Chorale. Sue is Organist/Music Associate at Grace and accompanist for the Georgia Tech Chorale and the Colson Chorale.

As a duet team, Greg and Sue had performed frequently in the Southeast. At the ATOS national convention in Atlanta in 1978, their concert brought about more than six standing ovations. Their occasional "Choir Loft" concerts for Atlanta Chapter have been most successful.

They played the March and "Evening Star" from Richard Wagner's *Tannhauser*, "Serenade" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Three Spanish Dances by Moritz Moszkowski, Hoagy Carmichael's "Star Dust," and eight selections from Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady*.

It was beautifully done. What was especially nice, though, for those of us not usually found sitting in choir lofts, was that we could see the organists' faces, not often possible at ATOS or other organ concerts! We enjoyed the concert even more for being able to see how much the performers were enjoying it! Thanks, Sue and Greg, for a very pleasant afternoon.

Bill Hitchcock

ATLANTA

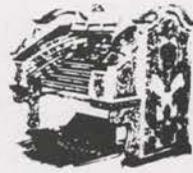
404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

Sixty-five of us had the great pleasure of gathering for a picnic on May 20 at the lovely, lakeside home of Donna and Ron Carter in Marietta, northwest of Atlanta. Not only that, but Ron, our chapter President, played for us on his home-installed

BUFFALO
 AREA CHAPTER, ATOS.
 New York
 716/694-9158

We are having a busy summer. Our June meeting was held at the Shea's Buffalo Theatre with a concert by Jim Leaffe, a Native American of the Seneca Nation. His formative years were spent on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in western New York State. While Jim was studying at the Juilliard School of Music, he met Ashley Miller and became Ashley's assistant on the Music Staff at CBS television. For ten years, Jim was staff organist at Long Island University (former Brooklyn Paramount). His musical voyage on Shea's Wurlitzer was popular music of the dance bands from the '30s and '40s. For having played the organ only one hour before our meeting, Jim gave an excellent evening of entertainment. He hopes to return to western New York and become active in our chapter and ATOS.

In July, our members made their way out to the country to the Shaffer Farm where our hosts were John Shaffer and Michael Mancuso. We all became kids again and went on a hayride down through the meadows — enjoying the quiet and peacefulness of the countryside. When we arrived back at the house, our catered meal had arrived and was enjoyed by all. The rest of the evening was spent playing volleyball, horseshoes, or just sitting and remembering the old times.
Norma J. Marciniak



CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

813/577-1898 or 813/251-8325

The death of Don Baker deeply saddened the members of this chapter. Don had been an honorary member for some years, ever since he played the inaugural concert on Ken and Ruth Hunt's 4/17 Mighty Wurlitzer at their home in Clearwater. We had the pleasure of seeing and hearing Don Baker several more times on this organ as well as on the Tampa Theatre's 3/12 Wurlitzer, which we maintain and which is heard regularly with volunteer chapter members acting as intermission organists. Don Baker had a long and musically productive life, contributing considerably to the enhancement of theatre organ. Fortunately, he leaves a large amount of musical material such as records and tapes, which can be enjoyed for generations to come. Our sympathy to his wife, Ann, and his family.

Our plans for a five-concert series received a setback when the Tampa Theatre/Hillsborough County Arts Council decided not to participate with us and Mid-Florida Chapter. However, our two chapters still hope we can put together a three-concert series, with the first scheduled for early December of this year with Bob Ralston tentatively scheduled. Work continues on a regular basis on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer to have

the organ in as good condition as possible for these concerts, as well as the continual use it gets several days a week.

Chapter President Rick Mathews played for a benefit reception and film screening at the Tampa Theatre on July 10, at which Florida Governor Bob Martinez and prominent citizens were present. This was the screening of the latest James Bond film, in which Governor makes an appearance. Martinez was Tampa Mayor when the decision was initially made to put the Wurlitzer into the Tampa Theatre and had a hand in that decision.

The chapter is delighted that our good friends from Wales, Audrey and Granville Williams, who pay us a visit every year or so, have decided to make us their ATOS home. Their visits, when they bring along one of Audrey's young organ students, is always a welcome event.

John Otterson

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CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

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Mother's Day, 1989 — and THE MANUAL ORGAN SINGS! Shut down for almost two years for renovation, our members finally heard "their" organ again. Warren York presented an outstanding performance playing on a make-shift console (dubbed Early-Orange-Crate) enabling us to hear eight ranks of a projected thirteen-rank Main chamber: Tibia, Clarinet, Tuba, Strings, Vox Humana, Concert Flute, Oboe Horn and Diapason. All ranks are Wurlitzer with the exception of the strings, which are Kimball. Warren opened his program with "Anything Goes," then, in honor of the day played "I Want A Girl, Just Like The Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad." A medley of tunes from the Big Band era followed, and the "shimmering Kimball strings" were used extensively in "Forever and a Day." The Oboe Horn (originally from the DuPont Mansion organ) was utilized beautifully in "Stardust." Warren ended with "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "God Bless America," complete with a large American flag rising from the floor of the auditorium stage.

This was an exciting day for all of us. Much time, energy, and money has gone into this project and this was our first opportunity to enjoy the fruits of our labors. Work continues on the Solo chamber every Saturday. Wednesday and Thursday evenings are spent in the workshop of the J.K. Aikman Company re-leathering chests, working on the console and doing myriad other chores needed to complete the task. The finished product will be one of the finest instruments of its kind in the Mid-West, and we urge you to come to Indianapolis for the 1990 National Convention to see and to hear this magnificent organ.

June found us at Ivy Tech to hear Tim Needler play a two-manual, six-rank

Wicks. This was a new meeting place for us and the first time any of us had heard this organ. Ivy Tech bought the building from one of the larger insurance companies in the area and the organ was original to the building. Unfortunately, when the auditorium was renovated at some time, a wall was built which partially blocked the organ chambers. This deadened and stifled the sound greatly. Mr. Needler and the console were located on a semi-balcony over the main floor of the auditorium and he had (in his words) "the worst seat in the house, sound-wise." Nevertheless, those of us on the main floor who *could* hear the organ thoroughly enjoyed his program. He opened with "Come To The Cabaret" and followed with "Hindustan." His Ger-shwin medley was particularly enjoyable and featured the Tibia and the Vox. "When You Wish Upon A Star" and "Doll Dance" finished his program. Many members made the elevator trek to the fifth floor, down a long, long hall, then down eight steps to the balcony for open console.

Central Indiana's Barry Baker won first place in the intermediate group in the Fifth National Young Organist Competition. Mr. Baker was also the overall winner, giving us four national winners out of five. Barry studies with John Ferguson. Our congratulations to them both!

Barb Johnson

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Not every day approaches the ideal, but Sunday, May 28, came pretty close. With cool, sunny skies and the gorgeous greenery of a burgeoning spring we held our May meeting in Urbana at the home of John and Betty Polesley. Unfortunately, the console of the Polesley's 3/13 Wurlitzer could not be brought outdoors, but that didn't dampen the spirits inside. Some 38 members and guests were present when President Henry Garcia conducted a short business meeting. New members Bob and Ruth Tyo were welcomed to the chapter following which host John

Polesley introduced our guest artist for the day, Calvin Prott, who resides in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Calvin came with a long history of organ, piano and electronic keyboard experience as well as some appearances before Central Indiana Chapter. His easy, listenable style featured such numbers as "The Boy Next Door," "Have You Met Miss Jones," and selections from *The Sound of Music*. The open console which followed provided us with continuous entertainment until 9:30 p.m.! But the competition was stiff, too; upstairs was a delicious array of potluck specials that made the decision difficult — to indulge in the food on the upper level or the melodious strains of organ music below.

Ohio Theatre's last organ concert of the '89 Spring series featured Dennis James who quite appropriately dedicated the evening to the late Roger Garrett — the Ohio Theatre's third house organist. Roger had passed away some two weeks previously. Dennis' performance opened with an obviously re-written arrangement of "Beautiful Ohio" which emphasized the Tibia from the left chamber, the woodbar harp and the newly acquired mixtures. In tribute to Roger he played the Ohio State fight song, "Fight The Team Across the Field." He also paid tribute to Mary Bishop, who was instrumental in the salvation of the Ohio Theatre and is now engaged in a similar rescue effort in Honolulu, Hawaii. It was timely to recognize the hundredth anniversary of Sir Charles Chaplin, a favorite of Dennis'. We were told that Chaplin really wanted to be a professional cellist — even to the point of composing a very moving tune entitled "Oh, That Cello." In his rendition, one could detect a wistful, plaintive, somewhat somber touch reminiscent of the silent movie era.

We were especially appreciative of Dennis' informative comments regarding the present status of our 3/16 Wurlitzer, which, in April, was demonstrated before the Worthington High School student body by both Trent Sims and Henry Garcia, the latter in an evening awards program.

(continued ...)

September 17	David Lutheran Church, Canal-Winchester, Ohio
October 2 to 16	FRANCE CONCERT TOUR
October 20, 21	University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
October 22	Bushnell Auditorium, Hartford, Connecticut
October 24	Wharton Center, Lansing, Michigan
October 27	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
October 28	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
October 30	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
October 31	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
November 1	Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana
November 12	Arlington Theatre, Santa Barbara, California
November 18	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
November 28	Olive Dale Center, Lancaster, Ohio
December 2	Gray's Armory, Cleveland, Ohio
December 3	Lakewood Methodist Church, Lakewood, Ohio
December 5	Al Ringling Theatre, Baraboo, Wisconsin
December 7	Oscar Meyer Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin
December 31	Austin Symphony, Austin, Texas
January 11, 1990	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
February 15	Paramount Theatre, Denver, Colorado
February 17	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California

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Calvin Pratt at the Polsley's Wurlitzer. J. Polsley photo

We were most grateful for Dennis' offer to donate 20% of his record sales toward the further restoration of our organ.

We learned that the Ohio's Robert-Morton is now a 4/25 thanks to the generosity of chapter member Leo Klise. As a result of his financial contributions, the organ now has a cymbal, a 32' electronic extension of its Tuba and five mixture-ranks.

After intermission, Dennis played a medley of Parisian tunes featuring such nostalgic numbers as "I Love Paris," and "Poor People Of Paris." This followed themes from *The Godfather* and, in tribute to Fay Wray, star of the first *King Kong* movie, her favorite silent era tune, "Paradise." In closing, the focus was again on Roger Garrett with renditions of "Nola" and Tschaikevsky's "Marcheslav." *John Polsley*



CHICAGO AREA

312/951-1098 or 312/282-0037

On June 18, we had a great show at the Patio Theatre on Chicago's northwest side. This theatre has been the scene, for years, of many excellent organ shows and we shall endeavor to continue this reputation. This show featured Gerry Gregorius and Kurt von Schakel, piano and organ, plus Dave Wickerham accompanying a comedy and a sing-along. All are sure-fire favorites and really enjoyable. "More! More!" was the response and there will be.

Gerry and Kurt made a big hit at the '88 Convention and this show, too, was a dandy. Dave was at his best and can be heard at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, where he is staff organist.

It was great news to hear that the famous Uptown Theatre on Chicago's North Side is getting the grand renovation treatment. Conrad Schmidt Studios, who did the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, has been engaged to do the Uptown restoration. A gem shall be reinstated!

The several theatres that have been recently restored are now engaged in popular presentations. Some have facilities for the installation of pipe organs. The Site Committee is seriously considering some of them and we shall report on their activities. *Almer Brostrom*



Gerry Gregorius, Kurt von Schakel and Dave Wickerham at Chicago Patio Theatre.

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CONNECTICUT VALLEY
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Our June membership meeting was held in the auditorium at the home office of the Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company in Hartford, Connecticut. Although the auditorium has been modernized, it retains much of the decorative flavor it had when it was opened in 1930. The feature was the Austin Premiere Quadruplex Player which is the only remaining quadruplex player organ in an original installation in Connecticut.

The mammoth Austin 4/75 organ has recently been rebuilt by the Austin Organ Company and reinstalled in the Bushnell Memorial Auditorium in Hartford. A rededication with a classical program is scheduled for September, and on October 22 Dennis James will accompany the 1925 film classic *The Phantom of the Opera*. Those who are familiar with this installation will be happy to know that the console has been returned to the pit after a long isolation behind a lighting cove on the left side of the auditorium.

Foundations for the addition to the Thomaston Town Hall have been installed and work is proceeding on that phase of the renovation. Some corrections to the fire code violations that closed the "Opera House" to public assembly have been made and our 3/15 Marr & Colton is in good condition.

Barry Goodkin

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CUMBERLAND VALLEY
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
717/263-0202

Our chapter is close to a major milestone in the restoration of the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Capitol Theatre's original 3/14 Moller. The main chest of the Solo division, which has required several hundred hours of releathering and unification work, is nearly ready for reinstallation in the chamber. Chapter president and technical director Mark Cooley and his crew have devoted much of their time and effort toward this goal since the restoration of the Moller began earlier this year, so it will be an accomplishment of note.

Two of our members, Mark Herr and theatre owner Gordon Madison, organized a film series "organ benefit" held at the Capitol Theatre on three succeeding Sundays in late spring. *Gilda*, *Bridge on the River Kwai*, and *The Gang's All Here* drew audiences that, though smaller than hoped, nevertheless generated a profit which has been invested in the Capitol Moller restoration.

For our June chapter meeting, we traveled to the home of Dick Kline near Thurmont, Maryland. The Kline 4/28 Wurlitzer is one of the finest home installations in the country, and Dick rolled out the red carpet and more for a delightful and entertaining visit. Member Bob Eyer, Jr. played for much of the day, and the wondrous sounds that issued forth reminded all of us that there is nothing in the world like a talented and gifted musician at the console of a theatre organ. Bob's repertoire included classical, popular, jazz, movie themes, and even Ragtime from the Weber Duo-Art baby grand played from the console. It was a tired but happy group that reluctantly left for home at the end of a memorable day.

Bob Maney



Cumberland Valley member Bob Eyer, Jr. at the console of Dick Kline's 4/28 Wurlitzer.

DELAWARE VALLEY
Philadelphia
215/566-1764

On June 17, members and friends traveled to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Shean in Levittown, Pennsylvania, to hear guest artist Wayne Zimmerman perform on the Shean's 2/15 Wurlitzer.

The console is located in the living room with pipe chambers on the floor above, and the pipes speak through openings in the ceiling. The voicing and tonal quality is ideally suited to the living room setting in that, even with full organ, one's ears remain entertained rather than assaulted with too much sound. The gilded console, too, has that desirable theatrical appearance, but the decoration is not overdone and manages to blend well with the setting. Also in the room there is a Bush and Lane player piano playable from the console as well as a large Mason and Hamlin grand piano.

For his program, Mr. Zimmerman chose music emphasizing the melodic line. His choice of material, for which he was roundly applauded and complimented, not only pleased his audience, but was well suited to the setting in which he performed. After his performance, about 20 people eagerly awaited their turns to play during the open console. To have a 4/115 organ at your disposal for open console is a wonderful experience, but it can be intimidating and somewhat overwhelming when it is your first time with that instrument. But to have a 2/15 "player friendly" organ, beautifully voiced and equipped with a variety of beautiful tone colors, before you for the first time allows the organist to make very beautiful music, indeed.

The Society thanks Mr. and Mrs. Shean for inviting the members and many friends into their home for a pleasant afternoon of music.

Earl E. Strausser

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DAIRYLAND
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Ron Rhode made his first Milwaukee appearance April 9 at the Riverside Theatre. Our beautiful Wurlitzer performed flawlessly for Ron's varied program of familiar and not-so-familiar songs. "Only Make Believe" and "Teddy Bears' Picnic" were two of this reviewer's favorites.

Our members have been very graciously opening their homes for socials. Treasurer Bob Leutner held a full social at his Racine home. He played a marvelous program and told us the history of his Barton organ. He also played various copyrighted arrangements of the same piece to show us the difference in arrangers.

Secretary Gordon Schwacke held a mini-social at his Wauwatosa home. Al-

most everyone gave the organ a try because of Gordy's thoughtfulness in providing stop list "spec sheets" for prior study. Gordy and Dusty's cocker spaniel, Maggie, doubled as an additional woofer when she felt the organist needed help.

The Avalon Theatre and Jerome Meyers Pipe Shop were included on this year's Historic Milwaukee Spaces and Traces tour. This coincided with the Avalon's 60th anniversary. Gary McWithey played a program and accompanied a silent film on the Wurlitzer for the enjoyment of over 250 tour participants. Many thanks to all for this opportunity to promote the theatre organ!

Our chapter celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special social at the Racine Theatre Guild on June 18. Dairyland was actually formed on May 30 (Dan Barton's birthday) in 1969. Several charter members were present. Board member Diane Jones read a piece she wrote on the chapter's highlights. Don Springer played a lively program on the Theatre Guild Wurlitzer, which was followed by a wine and cheese reception augmented by a gorgeous birthday cake.

Carrie Nelson



Ron Rhode at the Riverside Theatre Wurlitzer.

J. Groff photo

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EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Seldom has our Chapter engaged an artist two years in succession, but Bob Ralston again was our organist for a pair of concerts on our Babson Wurlitzer on May 20. The afternoon performance had many appreciative seniors in attendance, and Bob was his usual personable self. Both concerts were identical except for his audience poll of requests.

From a hodgepodge of numerous solicited numbers Mr. Ralston quickly formed a long medley with smooth bridging and changes in rhythm — a challenge to both his memory and registrational ability. Audience involvement is a sure-fire way to please, and Bob did just that. Variety is another with his singing "I Love A Piano" while playing accompaniment on the Steinway baby grand. Later, "Blue Skies" and the theme of "Rhapsody in Blue" were beautifully performed on the piano.

Irving Berlin celebrated his 101st birthday on May 11 and Bob honored this prolific composer by devoting the entire first half of his program, excepting the "Rhapsody," to his works. His opener was a long medley from *Annie Get Your Gun*. For novelty, our artist arranged "Marie" into three versions, a waltz, a Latin version and swing. Berlin's first big hit was in 1911 with "Alexander's Ragtime Band," and Bob had our 235 Special strutting from the chambers with cymbals, drums, brass and the rest of the band. With 20 years on TV with the Lawrence Welk show, the theme, "Bubbles in the Wine," ushered in the second portion as several spotlighted audience volunteers blue bubbles — a crowd pleaser. A change of pace was a reverently played, "In the Garden," before Bob recited a "poem" dedicated to all the Dads titled, "The Cat's in the Cradle and the Silver Spoon," with electronically recorded background music. Our organist gave a recitation written by Johnny Cash against an electronic organ background before recognizing the upcoming Memorial Day. With the American flag on the stage apron spotlighted, Bob gave a running commentary on the many battles that ragged old flag has survived. As the audience clapped in time, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" was played most effectively — the Unit Orchestra doing its thing!

As Bob began, so did he end his program with a Berlin favorite, "God Bless America," as the final piece in the audience request group, with all joining in

after the first chorus. This artist is a people pleaser by mastering his chosen instrument, inserting humor and diversifying his programming. He will return!

Our May 28 meeting was a rare field trip to Christ Episcopal Church, Needham, where resides the former Boston Radio Station WNAC 4-manual Aeolian-Skinner broadcasting organ. This 1941 concert organ was the largest radio broadcasting organ in the world and was specified, designed and played by the late Francis J. Cronin. Tonal changes were made in 1970 by the Philip A. Beaudry Co., but the traps and percussions are still installed.

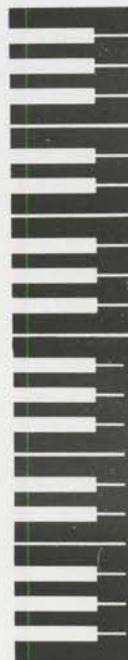
Robert K. Love, Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church, Malden, and chapter member, was our organist. His splendidly-played program ranged from his opener, "Marche Pontificale" (Charles Gounod) to Sir Arthur Sullivan's majestic "The Lost Chord." Selections such as Sousa's "King Cotton March," "Send in the Clowns," "Strange Music" (*Song of Norway*) and "When I Grow Too Old to Dream" utilized the orchestral elements of this large instrument. Bob did not neglect his hymns with a melange so suited to the organ. Mr. Love's encore was "Petite Waltz" (J. Heine), played with much delicacy. This gentleman can play anything on any type organ — he is so versatile and up to the challenge.

June 11 was the annual Rosalie and Patsey Fucci picnic for our club, and Connecticut Valley members were also invited. Their spacious home and adjoining "Crystal Palace," wherein resides the former Loew's State Theatre, Provi-

dence, Rhode Island, 4/20 Robert-Morton, is always an interesting venue. With the advance in date, many conflicts prevented more from attending, but those who did enjoyed themselves and the Fucci hospitality.

Sarah and Garrett Shanklin hosted the chapter at their Groton abode on June 25. Lee Erwin was guest organist on the now 3/16 mostly Wurlitzer and gave his usual fine performance with a couple of Irving Berlin favorites as openers. Music from the Broadway shows, *Annie* and *South Pacific*, some Scott Joplin rags and a medley of Leroy Anderson, among others, made for some smooth listening. Lee, being a Southerner and a native of Alabama, worked in a great "Stars Fell on Alabama" and "When It's Sleepy Time Down South." Garrett's super home installation could not have sounded better and has to be among the best. This instrument started as a 2/10 Wurlitzer from the Flynn Theatre, Burlington, Vermont, and has expanded to 16 crowded ranks and a three-manual console (ex-Radio Station WGN, Chicago). This unit has been completely refinished, with keys recovered in ivory and ebony. A Z-Tronics solid-state system is installed making for a state-of-the-art "traffic cop."

After Lee's ministrations, Garrett had both Gary Phillips and Tim Holloran play before open console and recognizing their many hours in tuning, regulating and chasing down the "bugs." Thank you, Rosalie, Pat, Sarah and Garrett, for so generously opening your homes to close our season. *Stanley C. Garniss*



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GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

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What can we say?

The end of this, our inaugural season of concerts on our 4/23 Robert "Wonder" Morton in the Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola, is history now, to be filed in memory. We can still hear Lyn Larsen, Tom Hazleton, Walt Strony, Jonas Nordwall and Donna Parker in our minds, but our ears are looking forward to our second series beginning November 11 with Chris Elliott.

We ended our 1989-90 season with Donna Parker. Our men artists had done such a superb job we were anxiously awaiting to see what the distaff side had to offer. Not to worry, we were more than pleased. No one could have been lovelier; lovelier to work with or listen to. Our assistant technician, Curt Goldhill, who filled in for our regular technician, Jimmy "Sleazy" Scoggins, was overwhelmed to be working with such a pretty lady. I think he did things to the organ that we couldn't see just to please Donna, who was so easy to please.

Our evening with Miss Parker took an especially delightful twist when Donna learned some lifelong friends of hers from California were living here in Pensacola. This must be a pleasant surprise to anyone in a strange town, alone and thousands of miles from home. The night of the concert, the four-year-old son of these friends "helped" Donna play a railroad song by sitting with her on the bench by special invitation, and using his small index finger, on cue from Donna, pressing the steam whistle "button" on the console. His "TOOTS" were firm, on time and tremendous crowd pleasers. You could see the child was tickled with the response his tiny finger evoked from the chambers. This four "TOOTS" will be a claim to fame, recorded on tape and film for posterity. How about it, Young Organist Competitions?

Immediately following the concert, our president-of-many-hats, Scott Brodie, and his lovely wife headed for a month-long vacation in Canada, with plans to end up

in Detroit for the National ATOS Convention.

B.C. Melvin, our board member and ready chauffeur, along with our capable assistant technician, Curt Goldhill, are continuing maintenance on the organ in our Emil Weil-designed theatre. On tap is a cover for the switch box in the blower room, re-leathering here and there, a dust cover for the console itself when it isn't being played and the million or so other things always needed in the care and feeding of pipe organs.

B.D. Rhea, MD, vice-president and treasurer for our chapter, who built this magnificent new console for us, had built a bench for our old, 2/7 Robert-Morton organ that was original to the theatre. Well, our new console is a different size (like BIG) and our old bench allows very little room for the artist to swing his/her legs around to address the audience. With the men, it was "watch the knees" or end up without a kneecap; but with a man's normal length of leg, he could swing around, touch the floor and return to playing position easily. Not so with tiny Donna. She could swing her legs around okay, but to reach the floor she literally needed a ladder. On the return swing-around, after speaking to the audience, she needed a ladder again. We were not aware of this problem until the night of the concert; now we are. Dr. Rhea plans to build a new bench, narrower, so knees, male and female, will have more room, and some sort of "step" where short legs can assume playing position without a short climb up Mt. Everest. Master builder that he is, you can believe this bench will be in the master category of the work he did on the console.

Dorothy Standley

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Five chapter members, Emma Baker, Connie Purkey, Father Gerard Kerr, Ed Mullins and Jack O'Neill went on the London and South of England Chapter's "Springtime in London" safari. They visited the "Tonawanda" residence of Len Rawle at Chorleywood, where the 4/26 Wurlitzer from the New Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, London, is installed. This was the first 4/26 Wurlitzer installed outside of the U.S., and Jesse Crawford played this organ for a month in 1933. He also made several recordings, including "A Broken Rosary," on this instrument. The "Birthday" special issue of our journal, THE POET, will be about Crawford's trip to England.

One high point of the safari was Miss Ena Baga's film accompaniment and concert on the New Gallery Wurlitzer on April 19 when she accompanied the Buster Keaton comedy *College*. A cue sheet of this film will be in a future edition of THE POET. Miss Baga has appeared once on the British television program "Upstairs, Downstairs," and three times on "All Creatures Great and Small," type-cast as a film accompanist. The following week Miss Baga accompanied a Swedish silent, *Ingemar's Inheritance*, at the National Film Theatre on piano.

Charlie Chaplin's Centenary was April 16. London's Dominion Theatre screened his *City Lights* with a full cinema orchestra for a whole week. THE POET recently had a special "Chaplin Centennial" edition. Charlie Chaplin and Jesse Crawford had many parallels in their lives. Both had Irish mothers and no known birth certificate exists for either. Their surnames began with "C" and both men were named "Charles."

(continued ...)

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THE POET Archives.

Of humble origins, both lived in institutions as boys. Crawford lived at Our Lady of Lourdes Orphanage near Seattle, Washington, and Chaplin at the Lambeth Work House and later at the Hanwell School for Orphans and Destitute Children, South of London.

Chaplin toured with the Fred Karno Pantomime Company, an English vaudeville comedy troupe. "The Wow Wows," a burlesque on initiating a member into a secret society, opened at the Colonial Theatre in New York City on October 3, 1910. A week later, *A Night In An English Music Hall* played the Brooklyn Orpheum. After Christmas 1910 they took them, plus *A Night In A London Club*, on tour of Canada and America, including Billings, Montana. They returned to England at the end of 1911.

In October 1912, the Karno Company set sail again on their second American tour. "The Wow Wows" played the Acme Theatre in Billings on December 4 and 5, 1912.

THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, December 4, 1912 published the following: "Acme Theatre — Most of us will remember with much pleasure the superb acting of Mr. Charles Chaplin as the "souse" in *A Night In An English Music Hall*, as produced here last winter by the world famed Karno Comedians. They are returning with a new piece and a company of 15 people and presenting "The Wow Wows," a secret society on the River Thames. The act is said to contain more laughable situations and clever comedy than its predecessor. Mr. Chaplin of course assumes the stellar role as Archibald, who is to be initiated into a secret order. What they do to Archibald is a plenty, but it furnishes the audiences a continuing scream of laughter and incidentally shows some of the various appliances used in secret organizations a decade ago. The act has been a veri-



Ena Baga at the 3/11 Compton with grand piano, Compton Solo Cello and Melotone unit at *The Plough* in Great Munden. Miss Baga accompanied Buster Keaton's comedy, COLLEGE, at London's New Gallery Wurlitzer for the Safari on April 19.

Ed Mullins photo

table riot along the line and already managers are clamoring for a return engagement . . ."

The Acme Theatre was located at 109 North Broadway and the building still stands in downtown Billings. Across the alley, on the same city block, at 120 North 27th Street was where the Gem Theatre once stood. 81 days after Chaplin's appearance, another "Charles" began his career there as a theatre organist — Professor Charles Crawford! He changed his name to Jesse on May 11, 1913. Another member of the Karno troupe appearing at the Acme was Arthur Stanley Jefferson, who later changed his name to Stan Laurel. Chaplin began making films in 1913 when he left Karno.

Chaplin and Crawford were also known

for their trade-mark moustaches; Chaplin wearing his in films only. Adolf Hitler was another man with a comic moustache who was born four days after Chaplin, April 20, 1889 in Linz, Austria. Hitler had an amazing similarity to Chaplin. Chaplin was one of the few who had the courage to ridicule Hitler when he made the controversial anti-Nazi film, *The Great Dictator*, his first talkie, in 1940.

Chaplin installed a pipe organ in his Beverly Hills mansion after he made his first million dollars. He would sit at the console for hours and pick out tunes on the instrument. Both Crawford and Chaplin were composers. Chaplin composed "Sing A Song" in 1925 for his classic *The Gold Rush*. He supervised the cue sheets of his films from *The Kid* (1921) up to *City Lights* (1931) which had a sound track.

Organist John Howlett related the following anecdote to noted British cinema historian Ian Dalgliesh. In 1953, Chaplin was in London for the Royal premiere of *Limelight*. He telephoned John Howlett, who was then resident organist at the Odeon Leicester Square cinema, in the organists's dressing room and hummed and whistled the *Limelight* theme over the phone so that Howlett could write it down. It hadn't been published yet. The Royal premiere was for charity and Princess Margaret attended. Howlett played the theme on the five-manual Compton organ for the premiere. The piece was very popular. Lyrics were added later and it became the hit tune "Eternally."

Whenever you enjoy a Chaplin or Laurel and Hardy silent comedy, accompanied by a theatre organ, it will be interesting to recall that Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Jesse Crawford appeared in Billings, Montana, over seventy-six years ago before becoming famous and known and loved by millions of people.

Ed Mullins



L to R: Dr. Ed Mullins, Jack O'Neill, Emma Baker, Connie Purkey and Father Gerry Kerr at Barry, Wales, Memorial Hall 4/15 Christie console with organist Len Rawle during Safari.

John Sharp photo



Chaplin's 1931 silent *City Lights* ran for one week at London's Dominion Theatre, with new score by Carl Davis to celebrate Charlie Chaplin Centennial.

THE POET Archives

JOLIET AREA

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Chicago, Illinois

Thanks to the cooperation of Lynne Lichtenauer, General Manager of the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, the club was treated to a social on May 17 featuring board member Taylor Trimby. Taylor is the house organist and obviously knows every nuance on the 4/21 Barton Grande housed in this magnificent Rapp and Rapp auditorium.

June 10 brought us to Joy Collins' Countryside Allen Organ Studio. The featured organist was President Lee Maloney who presided at the Allen theatre organ. Allen should really add a cipher and a flapping swell shade to convince us that theirs is not an electronic instrument. Lee's playing reflected his artistry as well as his obvious regard for the Allen. To cap a wonderful evening, Lee was joined by Vice-President Larry Henschen in a rousing piano and organ duet — Larry at the organ with Lee on the Yamaha grand piano. Their rendition of "Tea for Two" was special and brought demands from the full house for more. They obliged with a sensational rendering of "Dizzy Fingers." Lee closed the program with a requested "Love Is Here to Stay" before relinquishing the organ to open console. *Hal Pritchard*



LAND O'LAKES

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Since Jim Riggs appeared in concert as our guest artist for a chapter event on April 14 at the World Theatre, downtown St. Paul, we have been very pleased to have several new members join the chapter, and are they ever eager for open console sessions! We were able to secure an open date at the World on Sunday afternoon, June 25, at which time we heard Ruth and Joe Vaes, Tom

Neadle, Kim Crisler, Art Glessner, Greg Merrill, Don Johnson, concluding with Mike Erie, play their hearts out. It's a very casual happening with refreshments available in the "Green Room" — a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Summertime has also brought sorrow to two bereaved families by the death of Dorothy Hardenbergh, wife of George, on May 11, and the very sudden death of Alice Miller Rabus, who had passed away in her sleep early in the morning of June 22. Alice had been a loyal and staunch supporter of our chapter and was our treasurer for about nine years. Her brother, Alden Miller, was one of the founders of the chapter.



Mike Erie practicing at the Kilgen, T.B. Sheldon Auditorium Theatre.

Friday evening, July 7, Mike Erie, Treasurer and Editor of the chapter's Newsletter, THE CLARION, as well as being one of our favorite local theatre organists, played the 2/11 Kilgen in a concert for the Red Wing Pottery Collectors' Convention, persons coming from all parts of the country who filled the T.B. Sheldon Auditorium Theatre in Red Wing to its 487-seat capacity.

Mike is a native son of Red Wing, who studied theatre organ with Rose McNeil Morley, originally from Foorthenac, Wisconsin. In her heyday, Rose accompanied silent films at the Sheldon. Amid whistles, applause, and clapping time to the music, Mike played familiar tunes in his own pleasing style, and also accompanied a brief sing-along, much to the delight of the audience.

The T.B. Sheldon Auditorium Theatre is a splendid "jewel box" opera house built in 1904, the theatre re-opening in October, 1988, after a \$4 million restoration. The Kilgen, installed in the '20s has been completely rebuilt by organ technician, Murray Burfeind, who hails from Goodhue. "Wurlitzerized," and enlarged from its original single chamber 2/7 specification to a two-chamber, 2/11, it is a jewel in itself. After many, many hours of work on his first theatre organ installation, Murray was thrilled to hear the finished product. The promoters at the Sheldon hope to sponsor other organ concerts in the future. *Verna Mae Wilson*



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.

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As we came back to earth after our "Springtime Safari," we were soon planning what's next. The letters of appreciation have surely given us the urge to keep busy. A coach load supported our members in the West Country who have been busy restoring another theatre organ, and the opening was a huge success with people being turned away from the foyer. Our artist, George Blackmore, was no stranger to Comptons, and he rendered a great programme to suit the six ranks. Jean Martyn also livened up the opening with her breezy style.

Our club night was such a happy occasion with one of our previous competition winners, namely Rodney Pooley. His sense of humour won over our members immediately, and promptly another bus trip is being arranged to hear him in his home town at Eastbourne.

On May 28 we were all at the Top Rank Club Kilburn to hear the one and only John Mann, who made the fine Wurlitzer sing for joy. John never seems to alter and grow old like the rest of us. He puts new life into his audience with his lively programme.

We do not have a club night in June as many are on holidays and a few of us will be attending the convention in Detroit. Our chapter is so proud to have another winner in the national competition, this year in the Junior Division, and we are all looking forward to the young peoples' weekend of entertainment. Dena Cooper, our representative, is busy making plans and it is hoped all the goodies we shall cook for them will be purchased to swell their funds.

Our 1989 winner, Chris Bannister, will be entertaining us next month. We had hoped to feature him during the Safari, but schooling must come first. We are happy to report that, after chasing our

local schools to get the music masters to interest pupils in the theatre organ, we have won one class over by inviting them to have their music lesson at Wurlitzer Lodge, so we feel our efforts have at last borne fruit. We are hoping to continue after the summer holidays.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me in the recent National Board election. I am sure that the President was pleased to know that more members took the trouble to cast their votes this year. That is a good sign that members are taking more interest in our society.

New Year's resolution for us all — make ATOS a household name!

Edith Rawle



Theatre Organ Society

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or 818/792-7084



Allen Mills at the Orpheum Theatre 3/13 Wurlitzer.

Allen Mills entertained more than 200 dedicated, early-rising organ buffs at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday morning, May 21. Thanks to the dedicated LATOS crew that goes to the theatre every Saturday morning to keep the 3/13 Wurlitzer in first class condition, it was, as usual, in fine voice at the talented hands of Mr. Mills. Allen's concert was enthusiastically received by the early morning crowd.

Work is progressing on the Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer organ which is being installed in Sexson Auditorium on the campus of the Pasadena City College. The swell shades are in place, the keyboards have been recovered, and all the releathering is completed. Dick Obert, Paul Addis and Ralph Beaudry have been helping organbuilder Ken Crome one or two days a week and a new member of LATOS, Bob Grasier, has been working in the Crome shop. Larger volunteer work crews will be unpacking, cleaning and transporting all the pipes to Sexson Auditorium for final assembly as we move into high gear at the end of July. Lyn Larsen, who was a consultant in the design of our "new" bigger Wurlitzer, is scheduled to play the dedicatory concert for an expected sell out crowd on October 14.

(continued ...)



John Mann at the Kilburn Wurlitzer.

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LOS ANGELES continued

Meanwhile, the San Gabriel 3/16 Wurlitzer console is being overhauled by our volunteer crew under administrative crew chief Randy Becker. Harold Donze, the crew chief at San Gabriel for many years, is helping although he has "retired." Other dedicated crew members are: Vince Fisher, Bill Foulds, Tom Hadnforth, Bob Pasalich, Martin Walsh and Fred Williams. Ron Rhode will be at the renovated console in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium on September 23 at 8:00 p.m. ATOS members from other areas and chapters are always welcome at any of our concerts, and you are invited to join us to hear this popular artist.

Although not a LATOS-sponsored event a number of members traveled to Avalon on Catalina Island on May 28 and were among the near capacity crowd at the theatre in the Casino to hear Gaylord Carter accompany *The Black Pirate* on the 4/16 Page Organ.

Wayne Flottman

NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 718/225-1643

On May 20 Dan Bellomy returned to the New York area to play a concert for us on the New York Military Academy 4/31 Moller in Cornwall. Dan's performance was musically superb, entertaining and enthusiastically received by the audience. The up-tempo "Cosi Cosa" was his opener, and it was obvious early in the program that the audience appreciated the rhythmic and jazz arrangements that Dan has become famous for. A beautifully fluid rendition of "Don't Take Your Love From Me" proved Dan's ability to interpret a ballad and explore the soft lush voices of the organ just as masterfully as he performed the brassy sounds of jazz.

Two days later, on May 22, we were back to the Beacon Theatre on Broadway where Gary Phillips was our featured guest artist. Gary rendered a fine performance on the Beacon's 4/19 Wurlitzer, opening with a lift-raising arrangement of "Cherokee," and continuing with a balanced mix of traditional theatre organ favorites and more contemporary tunes.



Organists Bob Maidhof (L) and David Messineo at the United Palace (former Loew's 175th Theatre) in Manhattan.



Dan Bellomy at the 4/31 New York Military Academy Moller.



Dave Kopp at the Long Island University (Brooklyn Paramount) 4/26 Wurlitzer.

Ample time was left for open console, and several members took advantage of the relatively rare opportunity to play a mighty Wurlitzer in its original movie palace setting — on Broadway, no less!

On June 27 we hosted a concert for the Region II AGO convention with a 10:00 p.m. performance at the United Palace, formerly the Loew's 175th Theatre on upper Broadway. Radio City Music Hall organists Dave Messineo and Bob Maidhof played a delightfully entertaining program on the 4/23 Wonder Morton in the restored former movie palace that now serves as an evangelical church. The program featured several fine organ solos including a medley of tunes from *Oliver*. In addition, Dave demonstrated his keyboard talent at the piano playing "The Blue Danube," "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," and a Liberace-style arrangement of popular Gershwin selections, while Bob provided the orchestral back up on the Wonder Morton. It was evident from the audience response that theatre organ won new fans from among the AGO members present.

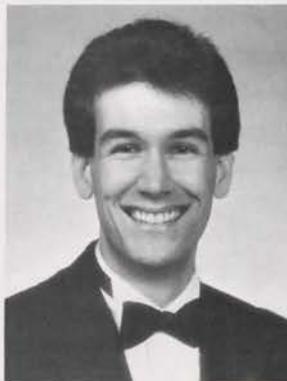
A University banquet on June 7 marked the first public performance of the Long Island University (former Brooklyn Paramount) Wurlitzer since it was damaged by a water leak in 1987. Bob Walker, assisted by several NYTOS crew members, worked tirelessly throughout the spring to satisfy the University's desire to have the organ play for this \$500-per-plate gala. Dr. David Steinberg, LIU President, has taken a personal interest in the restoration of both the organ and the remaining vestiges of the theatre itself, now a gymnasium, which was beautifully decorated and lighted for the occasion. As President Steinberg announced, "Let the Mighty Wurlitzer play!", the 4/26, in the capable hands of organist Dave Kopp, thundered forth sounding every bit its old self. The organ was featured throughout the evening along with a dance band to provide music for the 600 dinner guests. The instrument is not fully complete; two offset chests, chimes and some traps still need to be reinstalled. Bob Walker plans to have everything complete by the fall.

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NORTH FLORIDA

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First, congratulations are in order to our newly elected directors (in March). The transition has been smooth and even more opportunities offer themselves with the board's commitment to two major projects for the year; 1) to pursue establishing a concert series and continue regular monthly programs, with emphasis on theatre organ music style, and 2) begin accumulating the resources to locate, purchase, install, and maintain a theatre pipe organ in the City of Jacksonville.

Our May meeting was hosted by Austin Piano & Organ (the Allen and Hammond dealer in Jacksonville). Bob Austin gave an interesting presentation of the evolution of the electronic organ from the original KING OF INSTRUMENTS, followed by a mini-concert by staff member Phil Burgess. Our June 16 program was sponsored by Nice House of Music, the Kawai dealer. Don Leach, organ sales director, went out of his way to arrange for young Vince Mirandi to be our guest artist for the evening. Vince is a salesman for the Kawai dealer in the Orlando area and is a member of the Mid-Florida and Tampa chapters. Vince loaded his registrations into the Kawai and opened with the toe-tapping tune of "Sand," surprisingly, with full theatre organ registration!! Unknown to many, these modern organs do have the great theatre organ sounds, reproduced digi-

tally (once you get past the Big Band sounds, the church organ, and the instrumental chorus and solo sounds). Anyone who says they all sound like synthesizers hasn't heard a true musician play the new organs like Vince can, 100% theatre pipe organ style. Not only the sound of the theatre organ came out, but the style and techniques Vince played were true theatre organ. His enthusiasm for the theatre organ style was carried throughout his concert, sharing how he got hooked on it at an early age, what's going on in the two Mid-Florida chapters and supporting our growth as a chapter. What a delight hearing "Foggy Day in London Town," "Blue Moon," "I Believe in Miracles" and many others. We will look forward to hearing him again in the future.

As an extra for our chapter and all of Jacksonville, our own chapter member, Mark Renwick, performed an outstanding concert on June 18 at the St. John's Cathedral, Episcopal Diocese of Florida, Jacksonville. The uniqueness of this concert was a combination of many efforts. The Austin 62-rank church organ is voiced with many wonderful solo reeds and Mark took advantage of every one of them, especially in his opening tune, "Sassy Brass," featuring the Trumpet. In keeping with the title of his program, "A Program of Semi-Classical Music on a Great Organ," he performed many tunes from the 20s and 30s. John Barry, Music Director at St. John's, is so supportive of theatre organ style, he allowed theatre organ stops and traps to be installed on the Austin, which Mark used to the fullest extent. The Vox and traps were introduced in the song, "We Three," and more percussion used in "Stars In Your Eyes." Mark requested the traps

especially for his final number, "From Russia With Love," which received a standing ovation. One more beautiful voice was added to the program in the selection, "The Moon Looked Down on Cairo," the "Vox Humana" of his wife, Carrie. No, she wasn't wired to the console, but what alive wire she is. Actually singing from the pipe chamber, her haunting voice accompanying this number was the added touch to an already perfect concert. Showmanship, professionalism, a great organ, a beautiful environment, support of St. John's and the community, and perfect selections to highlight the great theatre pipe organ style, who could ask for anything more? The calibre of this performance rates a 10+ from this reporter. Special thanks go to Don Hyde from the Austin Organ Co., who flew in from Hartford, Connecticut, to install the traps, Jim Garvin, of Jacksonville, installer of the theatre pipe work, and Chris Secrest who, at the eleventh hour, supplied crucial parts to make the traps work from his supply of Wurlitzer parts.

The Arts Assembly of Jacksonville sponsors an annual "ARTS MANIA" in October, which is a three-day program, featuring local area talent in the different cultural arts. The Arts Assembly approached us to participate in this program — a real plus, to have others recognize the cultural art form that the theatre organ style justly deserves. This will be our chance to become more visible to the community and have more people involved in chapter activities.

Also in the making, Ken Brouche is providing opportunities for the technical wizards to work on his 12-rank Moller in Saturday work parties. Call for more information. *Chris Secrest*

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to . . .
DOUGLAS C. FISK, Executive Director of ATOS
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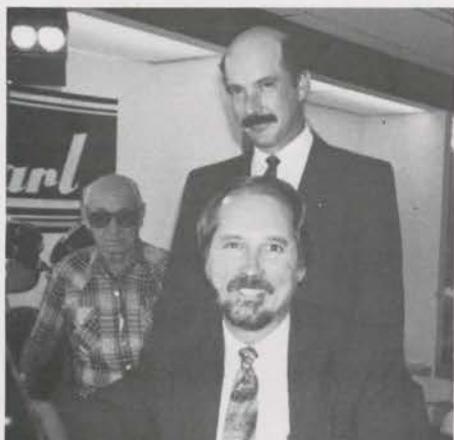
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Steve (standing) and Art Tunnell, hosts for North Texas at their Oak Cliff Music Company.



Jack Riley at the Oak Cliff Music Company.



Don Walker at Nachand's Allen in Bend. *John Olsen photo*



NORTH TEXAS

Dallas-Fort Worth

214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108

Work is progressing nicely on the restoration of our chapter organ in the Lakewood Theatre that was damaged by water in February. We now expect to have received back from Keith Henderson all of the damaged items, except the tuned percussions, by the end of August. By deferring other modifications and upgrades until later, we expect to have the organ playing again (without the tuned percussions) by early September and, in total, shortly thereafter. In the meantime, we plan to prepare for the enhancements to the organ and be ready to do the upgrades quickly during a brief down-time early next year. This course of action will cause the least delay to having our organ available for playing.

We were fortunate to receive an invitation from the Oak Cliff Music Company to hold our June meeting in their beautiful new store at the Red Bird Mall. We were particularly delighted to learn that they had arranged for Jack Riley, Dallas organist and long-time friend of all of us in the North Texas organ world, to play a concert for our enjoyment. Our hosts, Art

and Steve Tunnell, augmented our chapter attendance with an invited group of their store friends to fill the auditorium with over ninety enthusiastic organ lovers. Jack was presented on the new Technics SX-F5 organ which has a rich repertoire of both traditional organ voices and authentic orchestral sound. Jack used this resource to great advantage in his program selections, many of which were the well-known Big Band standards.

It has been over four years since our chapter last had the opportunity to enjoy Jack Riley's beautiful and exciting organ music, but you can be sure that this delighted group will be clamoring for a return performance as quickly as possible. Jack agreed that it had been much too long and promised to play for us again, soon. Jack is also well versed on theatre pipes, so perhaps we can entice him to favor us with a performance on the Lakewood organ when we again have this beautiful instrument available for our use.

Irving Light



Portland
503/771-8098

We held our June monthly gathering in central Oregon at the home of Bud and June Nachand in Bend. The Nachand

home boasts a breathtaking view of the Cascade Mountains. The majority of the audience journeyed from Portland for the concert. The three-hour drive from the Willamette Valley passes through some very spectacular northwest scenery, and the ever-changing panorama of the journey added to the festivities of the day.

The Nachands have a beautiful, three-manual custom Allen organ installation in their living room. The speakers are placed in a high chamber, speaking into the cathedral ceiling area of the room. Between the view of the mountains and the beauty of the room, the concert itself came as frosting on the cake.

Don Walker, our artist for the day, is a theatre organist from Eugene, Oregon. He is an ATOS member and a member of the Eugene Organ Club and is currently playing in a pizza parlor in Eugene. Mr. Walker's concert was a trip down Memory Lane. His medleys featured songs of the 20s and 30s with two side trips into the 40s. Following his concert, we were treated to music by two local organists, Dorothy Thomas and Alan Durkee, who were first to perform during open console. Cake and coffee were served by the Nachands, and our artist made an encore return to the console during the serving of same. We look forward to a return to Bend and the lovely home of the Nachands in the future.

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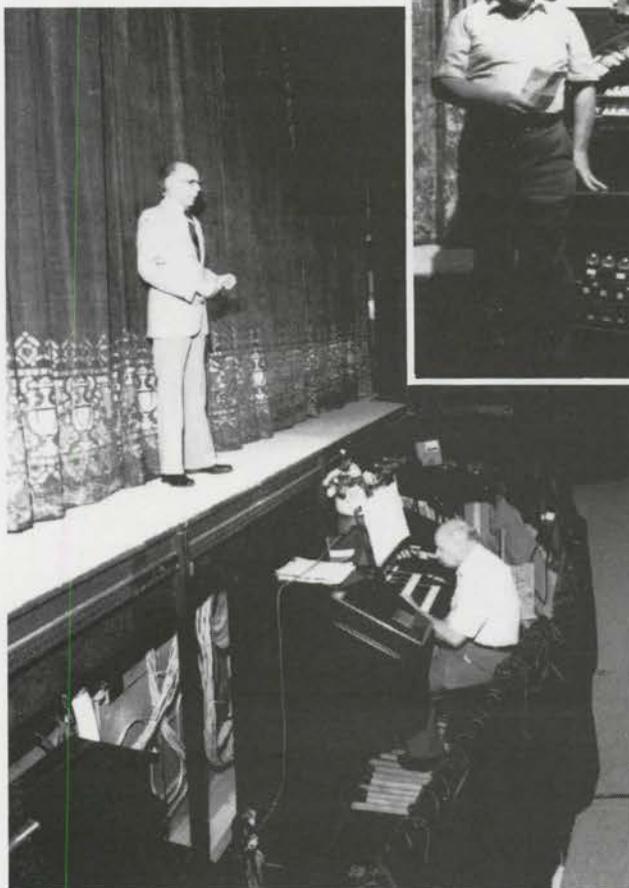
On June 3 we sponsored a bus trip that took 30 of our members and friends to John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Delaware. The attraction there is the fabulous Dickinson Kimball, a 1928 organ that was removed from the Boyd Theatre in downtown Philadelphia in 1969 by the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society which has done a fabulous job of enhancing it. Under the keen guidance of Robert Dilworth, it has grown from its original 19 ranks and five tuned percussions to 32 ranks and seven tuned percussions plus a "new" Moller console, modern electronic controls, and there is still more to come!

Originally, we expected to hear Karl Cole. Unfortunately, Karl had been savagely beaten by hoodlums and hospitalized in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fortunately, the house organist from the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Bill Vlasak, served ably as a substitute, and it was announced that Karl Cole is recovering nicely and is scheduled to appear in October. His attackers are now in jail!

Several of our members attended the ATOS Convention in Detroit in July.

Jack Little

Don Myers at Bremerton Community Theatre. Randy Rock photo



Emcee Robert Montgomery on stage as Don Myers waits in the pit. Randy Rock photo

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2100 or 206/631-1669

We have had a rather quiet spring season this year, but what we lacked in quantity, we made up with quality! Donna Parker gave us a beautiful concert at Dick Wilcox's home, and she was as lovely to look at as she was to hear. Her well-rounded program satisfied all tastes, and she left the enthusiastic audience clamoring for more. As a special added attraction we also got to hear Tom Hazleton play a few numbers. He came up from Portland for the concert.

Dan Bellomy, also from Portland, gave us a great program at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes, mixing his lovely ballads with his own inimitable jazz stylings.

We lost one of our most enthusiastic supporters in mid-April. Bert Miller, of Surrey, B.C., passed away very suddenly. Bert will be remembered for his efforts promoting live theatre organ music for which he had a great love and respect. Doris Miller is an old-time theatre organist from back in silent picture days, and we are always delighted when she can come down to play for us. Bert worked very hard to help young artists as a measure of preserving this glorious form of

musical expression. He will be greatly missed!

Bremerton Pipe Organ Society, most of whose members also belong to ATOS, hosted a concert at the Bremerton Community Theatre, with Don Myers at the keyboard. The program consisted mostly of Broadway show tunes from *Show Boat*, *Porgy And Bess*, and many others. This was a "first" for Don "across the pond," and many in the audience had never heard him before. They like what they heard. We hope to persuade him to give us another program, and hope he won't have to compete with such gorgeous weather.

Margaret C. Hill

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Stan Kann demonstrating a stamp-licking gadget.



Jelani Eddington at the Wicks organ. Mrs. Arnold photo

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ANDREW FLETCHER (C. 1703)

QCCATOS

QUAD CITIES

309/786-4215 or 309/797-9058

On May 6 Bill and Joan McFadden hosted their usual and famous night-before-the-show potluck which has now been named the "Meet-The-Artist Potluck." Artist Stan Kann was pleased to entertain the members and guests for about an hour on the McFadden's Kimball Xanadu. A sing-along completed the evening.

On May 7, at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, the house lights dimmed and yours truly stepped from behind the curtain to view an eager audience of approximately 800 and to introduce the guest artists, Mr. Stan Kann, organist and comedian.

Stan opened the show with "Birth of Passion," in the Jesse Crawford style, followed by "Stairway to The Stars." He also played the light classic "The Galloping Comedian" and a beautiful rendition of Rubenstein's "Romance." His program included variations of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," the original, as Bach would have written it, as a Strauss waltz, then as it would have been played in China, as it would sound in modern jazz and, finally, as a formal classic. In the second half of his program, Stan presented a comedy routine where he demonstrated various old household gadgets including vacuum cleaners, a stamp-licker and many others. This was followed by a sing-along of the usual favorites. Stan concluded his show with a powerful rendition of the "Knights Bridge March." For his encore, he proved his versatility with a rousing version of "Jealousy."



Stan Kann at the Capitol's Wicks organ.

Our May meeting was held at the Capitol Theatre where, after a short business meeting, one of our newest members, Bert Carlson of Rock Island, Illinois, presented a short program of various popular selections. Prior to his retirement, Bert worked as a budget analyst at the Rock Island Arsenal. He became interested in music and purchased his first organ at the age of fifty, not realizing that his hobby would turn into his retirement profession. He is now employed as an organist, salesperson and teacher at J. and B. Music in Moline, Illinois.

On June 11 the Fourth Annual Midwestern Social was held at the Capitol Theatre. A cold buffet was catered at the theatre by the Italian Village Restaurant in Davenport, who furnished enough food to serve more than the 80 persons who attended. Many guests came from far-away chapters: Chicago, Joliet, and Rockford in Illinois; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Omaha, Nebraska; Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and St. Louis, Missouri. The artist for this event was none other than Jelani Eddington, the youngest contestant ever to win the ATOS Young Organist Competition. Jelani, age 14, hails from Muncie, Indiana, and was accompanied here by his mother and grandmother. Jelani has a charming, gracious and unassuming personality and a style of his own at the organ. His style and outstanding talent were evident in his mastery of the theatre pipe organ as he played modern popular pieces, show tunes and light classics. Quad-Cities Chapter and all of our guests look forward to hearing Jelani in concert again and wish him the very best in his musical career. *Richard P. Withenbury*



Bert Carlson at the Capitol's Wicks organ.



RED RIVER

Fargo, North Dakota
318/287-2671 or 701/232-6325

On April 20 the Fargo Theatre played host to Minnesota Public Radio's *The Morning Show* with Dale Connelly and Tom Keith. The show airs from 6:00-9:00 a.m. and features different styles of music, humorous sketches, news and weather. The program usually originates in the studio in St. Paul, but occasionally takes to the road. The Fargo program was a rousing success as the theatre was open to the public to come and go at their leisure, have coffee and muffins, and be part of a live radio broadcast. With organist Hildegard Kraus, Lloyd Collins and Lance Johnson, strains of the Mighty Wurlitzer went out over the airwaves in solo and as background music for the antics of Dale and Tom as they acted out the exciting serial, "Spudzilla, Tuber Terror." Several local musical groups and vocalists were also part of the show. Because of the response, *The Morning Show* will likely make a return visit.

On April 28 and 29, we presented the 30th in our series of Silent Movie Nights. This program was a tribute to Charlie Chaplin, celebrating the 100th birthday of the great comedian. The enthusiastic audience participated in the sing-along, enjoyed the trip-through-the-organ, and the history of Chaplin's life with clips from his famous films. Lance Johnson provided an outstanding score for Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*. Pre-show and intermission entertainment was graciously provided by Hildegard Kraus at the lobby grand. The afterglow reception for members and guests was held on the stage.

North Dakota is celebrating its Centennial this year, and the local ABC affiliate, WDAY-TV, is airing brief spots of special interest — short "lessons" focusing on significant people and events in North Dakota history. We were pleased to see the Fargo Theatre get one of these recognitions. *Sonia Carlson*



Omaha, Nebraska
RIVER CITY
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY

402/571-6818 or 402/453-7769

Our May 13 meeting was hosted by Tom Wolfe in his lovely home. After a brief business meeting conducted by President Dick Zdan, we welcomed our guest artist of the evening, Barry Rindhage, who journeyed from Saginaw, Michigan, to present a concert for us. Barry is a graphic artist by profession and was a staff organist at Saginaw's Temple Theatre. Barry opened his program with "What Are You Waiting For, Mary?" a 1927 tune recorded by Jesse Crawford. He offered a medley of romantic songs, including Franz Lehar's "Yours Is My Heart Alone." For a change of pace, Barry conducted a sing-along, using slides made from his original graphics. His concluding numbers, were "Auf Wiedersehen," "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening," and "I'd Like to Call You My Sweetheart" with Tom Wolfe joining in on the last number, playing tuned wine glasses. Barry's theatre stylings and lovely registrations on the three-manual Conn were very enjoyable. Open console and refreshments rounded-out a very pleasant evening.



Guest artist Barry Rindhage (left) and host Tom Wolfe.
Tom Jeffery photo

Jeanne Cooper hosted our June 17 meeting in her home and was our guest artist for the evening. Following a business meeting for the election of officers, Jeanne opened her program with two old favorites, "Dark Town Strutter's Ball" and "Blue Bayou." Her polkas were rousing, especially "The Beer Barrel Polka." A medley of Blue Grass tunes followed, including "The Wabash Cannon Ball." To show the synthesizer effects of her organ, Jeanne played "Alley Cat." For a change of mood, Jeanne offered "Amazing Grace" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." A game of musical bingo, in which tune titles were guessed, resulted in the awarding of prizes when "BINGO" was called out. Finally, before open console and refreshments, everyone was given a kazoo and entered into the business of making music. We certainly appreciate Jeanne's generous hospitality and excellent program.



Maurine and Bill Durand enjoying open console at Tom Wolfe's Conn.
Tom Jeffery photo

On June 4, a sizable contingent of members and friends trekked out to The Office Bar and Grill in Hooper, where member Bob Tookey presides at the organ console. The food was excellent and Bob's musicianship made for a memorable afternoon. *Tom Jeffery*

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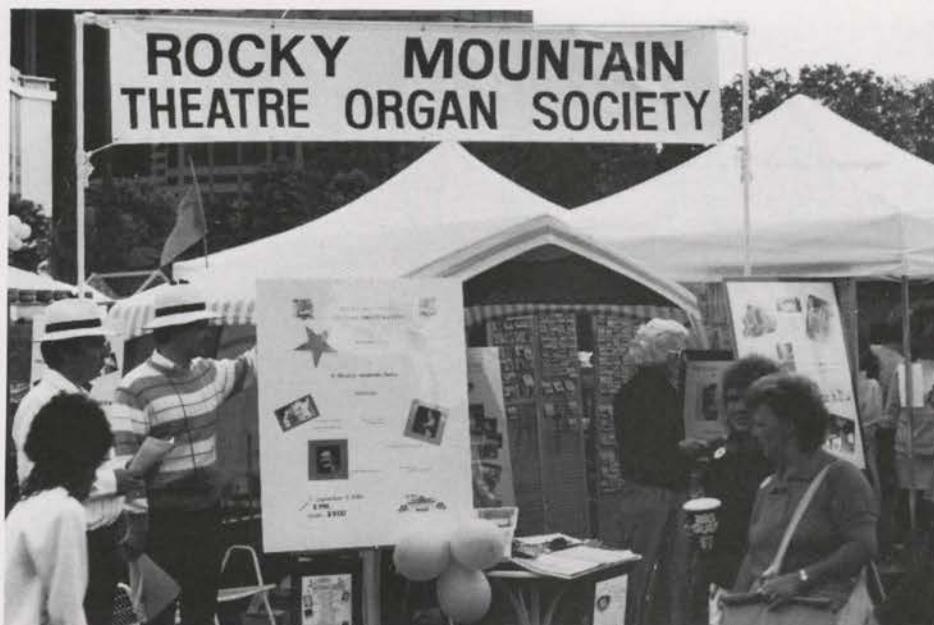
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Don Zeller photo



ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver, Colorado

303/421-1190 or 303/233-4716

Front Range theatre organ buffs were very busy during the month of June. We kicked off the month with the annual People's Fair in Denver's Civic Center. This annual event draws upwards of 200,000 folks for a weekend of music, crafts, games, displays, foods of all types and general frolicking. This was our chapter's first time at the fair and response to our booth was quite positive. Several thousand copies of our "Pipes Along the Rockies" were handed out along with flyers advertising our September "Musical Vaudeville Review" at the Paramount Theatre. The booth also featured posters about our activities and projects, including the Aladdin Wicks installation at Denver's East High School.

The next weekend was our "Alumni Day" at the Paramount. This Sunday affair featured an "Amateur Organist Showcase" and a very fine mini-concert by Detroit organist, John Lauter. John's well-prepared selections included "Another Opening, Another Show," Sousa's "Liberty Bell March," medleys by George Gershwin and Cole Porter, several John

William's compositions and a special added attraction, Patti Simon at the Paramount's twin console. The program also included a continental breakfast, open console and the annual club photograph. Special guests for this program were chapter alumni and past officers.

The third weekend and following week was devoted to the annual Summer Theatre Organ Workshop at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Gaylord Carter, Hector Olivera, Robert Cavarra and Kevin Utter were the headliners for this five-day event entitled, "The Theatre Organ — Past, Present and Future."

Rocky Mountain ATOS has a full slate of activities on tap during the fall to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its founding. Former chapter members are invited to join us for these activities. *Don Zeller*



John Lauter at the Denver Paramount. Don Zeller photo



Dale Zieger at the St. Louis Fox.

ST. LOUIS

Missouri

314/343-8473

Our May 15 meeting at the Fabulous Fox Theatre took many of us back about 20 years. Our guest artist was none other than the nationally and internationally known former St. Louisan, Dale Zieger. Hearing and seeing him again at the 4/36 Wurlitzer brought back some very special memories. Dale had been the assistant organist at the Fox for a number of years prior to his joining the Conn Organ Corporation as their top touring artist. For many years, Dale worked quite heavily in the dealer training department, put together the lesson course that Conn marketed, and thrilled delighted audiences around the world with his dazzling arrangements and compositions. He also owned his own recording company which was responsible for most of the recordings that Conn made to help market their instruments. He was also involved with the electronic theatre organ product development and was tonal consultant on a number of the two-and three-manual Conn theatre organs.

Dale was active in our chapter and performed a number of successful fundraising silent movie concerts for us. He was regularly featured on local television. His music is very upbeat, and he has a number of recordings to his credit. Since leaving Conn, Dale and his wife, Joni (a very special lady who is lots of fun and who could easily model for the cover of any of the major fashion magazines) have been active in the two music studios, Keyboard World, that they own in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dale, whose concert services are much in demand, teaches group organ classes of 40-50 students per class and is very active in the sales of a variety of musical keyboard instruments. Our sincere thanks to Joni and Dale for a memorable evening. If you have the opportunity to see and hear Dale perform, don't miss it — he is one of the best! *Dennis Ammann*

(continued...)

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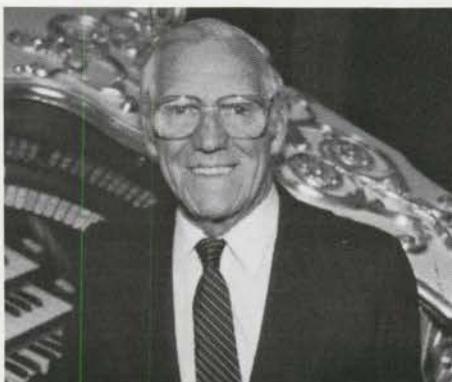
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ST. LOUIS continued

Another memorable evening, June 18, saw former Fox staff organist Stan Kann return to the Fox Theatre 4/36 Wurlitzer to play the 60th Anniversary show, the 1926 silent *Phantom of The Opera*. Members Marlin Mackley and Joe Barnes had the Wurlitzer in tip-top condition. The crowd numbered about 3000, and the show had to be delayed nearly half an hour to accommodate the line at the box office. What a compliment to Stan Kann.

Member Jack Jenkins, current staff organist at the Fox, had an excellent turnout at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on May 22 when he played for the AGO and ATOS members. This was a "Lollipops" concert on their super huge pipe organ which member Marlin Mackley maintains.

Dale L. Boring



Jerry Gerard at the Arlington Morton.

SANTA BARBARA

California

805/968-0335 or 805/687-2991

We have been busy promoting our coming concert series and providing intermission music at the Arlington seven nights a week. Local organist Jerry Gerard plays two nights a week, and Mike McLaughlin plays two nights a week. The other nights the organ is played via the Devtronix organ control system. With giant crowds attending movies like *Batman* and *Indiana Jones*, the organ is getting wonderful exposure to the community and tourists. It is a real crowd pleaser, and the organists always receive heavy applause. All 24 ranks are now playing, and our able technical crew, headed by President Bruce Murdock and retired Arlington electrician "Luckey" Hawkins, keep the organ in great condition.

Lyn Larsen enjoyed the organ, and the enthusiastic Santa Barbara audience is looking forward to a return engagement. Tom Hazleton will return on October 1 to open our four-concert series. The local group has grown from less than 20 members two years ago to 180 today. Theatre organists visiting in Santa Barbara are invited to drop by and play any morning. By calling John Oien at 805/682-1604, an appointment can be made for your own mini-concert. Several visitors have stopped by and report that it is a fun organ to play and the building is kind to the organ.

John Oien



Bert Kuntz and son Brad at the 4/20 Wurlitzer at Arden Pizza and Pipes.

SIERRA

Sacramento

916/961-9367 or 916/967-9732

An early morning concert by Bert Kuntz was held at Arden Pizza and Pipes on the 4/20 Wurlitzer for a very appreciative audience. Bert's program consisted of selections of popular, old-timers and movie themes. He featured special arrangements of Eddie Dunstetter along with novelty numbers that were a hit. Bert has been playing at Arden Pizza and Pipes for several months on Monday evenings. He has become quite familiar with the organ and came up with some registrations never heard before which were in very good taste. His playing was peppy and foot-tapping. At the end of his first set he invited his 11-year-old son, Brad, to join him in duet at the console. They played a nifty arrangement of the famous "Chopsticks." This kid has talent — watch out, Bert, the kid may get your job! Thanks so much, Bert, for a morning of fine entertainment. Also, thanks to Frank and Bob Hogan, managers of this lovely pizza restaurant, for your hospitality and use of the beautiful Wurlitzer.

Bud Taylor

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SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

The mini-concert for our May meeting was played on Tulsa's Central Assembly of God church's 4/14 Robert-Morton by Sam Collier. Sam had said to "Tell 'em they can come and listen to me practice," but needless to say, his "practice time" was most enjoyable. He played a program of favorites, opening with "Perfect Song," then a bouncy medley and a number of other old-time tunes including "Always" and "Memories of You." His cloer was "The Introduction to Tico Tico" . . . Sam IS fun to listen to! Open console followed.

Our June meeting was held in Pryor, Oklahoma, in the home of Hervey and Janice Barbour. The Barbour's home is built around their 2/11 Kimball, and it is a beautiful installation. Hervey's program included "Misty," "Georgia On My Mind," and "Can You Read My Mind." Young Richie Jobe, Hervey's protege, favored us with some classical selections, including Widor's Toccata from the *Fifth Symphony*. Again, open console followed.

Some fifteen persons from our chapter attended the May concert on the Wichita Wurlitzer played by Lyn Larsen in their Century II Auditorium. Lyn is always an inspiration, and we enjoyed his "Trip Down Memory Lane." We drove home the same night — along trip, but well worth the three-and-a-half hour drive each way.

We are delighted to announce that our chapter has at long last been recognized as a non-profit corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. This has been a project many years in the making, and we are looking forward to our "Tax-deductible" status.

Betty Weddle and Dorothy Smith attended the recent Theatre Organ Workshop held in Fort Collins, Colorado, at Colorado State University. Unfortunately, the Wurlitzer in Lory Student Center was not playing, but Gaylord Carter, Professor Bob Cavarra and Kevin Utter "made do" beautifully on an Allen digital organ borrowed for the occasion. And they were completely amazed by the

sounds Hector Olivera produced from a two-manual Yamaha instrument borrowed from Dick and Virginia Webb of Estes Park, Colorado. Hearing the fabulous Marcussen tracker organ in the First Methodist Church of Fort Collins was also a highlight of the workshop.

We are saddened to report the "Closing Chord" of member and friend Luter Eulert on May 16, 1989. Luther had been critically ill and hospitalized with pneumonia for five weeks prior to his death. Among our fond memories of him is an "Inspect the progress on our 3/10 Robert-Morton installation" meeting at the Vo-Tech high school one dreadfully hot and humid August evening several years ago — and hearing Luther tap out Christmas music (manually) on the Glockenspiel! We shall miss him. *Dorothy Smith*



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SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Kalamazoo
616/649-2742

On July 8, in collaboration with Motor City Chapter, our club had the privilege of hosting Afterglow II on its visit to Kalamazoo after the 1989 convention in Detroit.

We had two fine organs to show off in Kalamazoo. The first was at a surprise stop at the Episcopal Cathedral of Christ the King where the organist, Donalee Williams, performed on the giant Aeolian Skinner 3/49 pipe organ that dominates the unusual square cathedral. Open console followed her concert.

The climax of the day-long trip was the program at the State Theatre in downtown Kalamazoo. This is our 1927 John Ebersson atmospheric theatre, a Spanish courtyard with appropriate lighting and sky effect with twinkling stars and moving clouds.

Preparing for this event had occupied our club for several months in addition to our regular meetings. With a \$500 donation for materials from the owner of the theatre, Roger Hinman, plus much volunteer help, particularly by Jim Lauck, a local organbuilder who guided our efforts, members of our group re-leathered, rewired, and generally brought up to playing condition the 62-year-old Barton 3/13. Much still needs doing to fully restore this beautiful instrument, but it performed well and sweetly that evening under the fine musicianship of Rob Richards.

Rob showed his talent and virtuosity in giving us exactly the program we had hoped for — one that, as he said, demonstrated all the uses the theatre organ was designed for: as a concert instrument, as accompaniment to silent films and sing-along, and, to bring its use up to date, in combination with a synthesizer. As a plus, Rob accompanied John Giardina, an excellent Italian tenor, as he sang several solos then led the sing-along. Two silent comedies, Harold Lloyd and Laurel and Hardy, and the audience in stitches.

The almost capacity audience (the program was open to the general public as well as the ATOS) responded enthusiastically. We are still receiving accolades and requests that we put on another show! People enjoyed the varied and nostalgic program, getting back to the original uses of the theatre organ. Perhaps it has been used too much of late as exclusively a concert instrument!

Dorothy Butela



State Theatre marquee, Afterglow II, Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Afterglow II audience hearing Donalee Williams at the Aeolian Skinner 3/49 Central Church of Christ The King, Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Rob Richards at the State Theatre Barton 3/13, Afterglow II, Kalamazoo.



Rob Richards, State Theatre, Kalamazoo, Afterglow II, at the Barton 3/13.

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WOLVERINE

Central & Lower Michigan
313/284-8882 or 313/558-7118

May 21 brought a special treat from members Mary and Don McKinney, Dearborn Heights, to their Wolverine friends. They went all out to present us with a wonderful afternoon filled with fine music and delicious food. Don skillfully blended his capabilities at the organ, gained from 42 years of playing, with those of the Hammond Elegante. Mary and prepared a plentiful array of delicacies around some very delicious ham to feed a small army of 50 thankful Wolverines.

On June 25 Wolverine Chapter was once again welcome at the home of Don and Shirley Jenks in Brighton. About 32 members, who sought hospitality in the Jenks' home, found that, and more. Not only were they treated to entertaining music from the fingers of Father Andrew Rogers and Sharron Patterson, but Gerry and Marge Muethel provided an added treat by bringing some special guests to the gathering. They happily introduced New Zealand organist Richard Hore and his wife, who were in Detroit because of the ATOS convention, to the Wolverines and vice-versa. After Don guided Mr. Hore, who is blind, to the console and helped set the registrations, Richard had a ball entertaining new friends, while his wife was busy discussing craft work with Marv Spear and Barbar Kotyk. Everyone present enjoyed a fine afternoon of camaraderie. *Charlie & Betty Baas*



Don and Mary McKinney.



Father Andrew Rogers at Don Jenk's console.

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1/4 Horizontal (2 col.)	4 3/4"	3 3/4"
1/4 Vertical (1 col.)	2 1/4"	7 1/4"
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