

Letters, News, and Views

NOTES FROM NEW YORK

... Bill Floyd was at the console when the New York Paramount Wurlitzer was heard, April 2nd, in one of its all-too-rare public appearances. The occasion was the world premier of "The Young Lions." Bill played a 45-minute program, ranging from selections from his current Cook recording, "The King of Organs," to the new pop idiom. Letters addressed to The Managing Director, Paramount Theatre, New York, *might* have a great influence in bringing back this Mightiest Wurlitzer of them all to regular use.

Visitors to the Radio City Music Hall during the famous "Glory of Easter" stage show were treated to the rare sight of both Wurlitzer consoles. Few of them realized that only one was being played; the other organist was a spare Rockette, who looked impressive sitting there, but didn't hit a note.

Tape buyers wondering who Kenneth Lane (playing The Wurlitzer in the Metropolitan Theatre, Boston, on Manhattan Tapes MRC 108) might be . . . if they haven't guessed, can relax. It is none other than Ashley Miller. His recording for Cabot records should be out soon under his own name. While we're on the subject of *noms de console*, it's probably general knowledge by now that the "Guy Melendy" on Camden 414 . . . "Pop Pipe Organ in HI-FI" is George Wright playing the Kearn Wurlitzer. Don't let the \$1.98 price tag fool you; this is no bargain-basement Wright. And still another unmasking: Alfredo Mendez, who appears on Victor's "Siesta For Pipe Organ" . . . (LPM 1444) is plain old Freddie Mendelssohn in a toreador suit, temporarily forsaking his Hammond for the Paramount Wurlitzer. *But who the heck is George Montalba?*

BEN HALL

WHO'S RIGHT

DEAR EDITOR:

In the Summer, 1957, issue of THE TIBIA there appears an article concerning George Wright's concert in Los Angeles. He also appeared at the Grant Union High School, North Sacramento on June 2, 1957. I am certain that the audience enjoyed themselves more than George. Sacramento can get hot in the summer and Mr. Wright, being the performer, could not dress quite as casually as we could. The second issue of THE TIBIA had a biographical sketch on George. The program notes also had a brief resume of his career. There were many discrepancies, as noted below. Why did he allow them to print this?

In this issue you have two pictures of the Fox-Oakland get together of the A.T.O.E. but I believe that you have the wrong man at the console. He looks like Floyd Wright, to me, not Dave Quinlan.

In the article on "Myrtle" the specs show the blower to be 5-hp, 2200-volt, 3-phase. This seems a little high. Could it be 220-volt, 3-phase instead of 2200 volts?

TIBIA ARTICLE

1. He took organ lessons from Mrs. Inez McNeil.
2. He played at a Chinese night club in Oakland.

PROGRAM

1. With only piano lessons and no formal organ instruction.
2. He played at a Chinese night club in San Francisco.

3. No mention is made of his winning a contest.

3. He won a radio talent contest at the age of twelve.

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(You are entirely right in your questioning the voltage on Myrtle's blower. The picture you noted looks like Floyd Wright to Dave Quinlan, too. As to the other items, when we again run a feature on George Wright, we shall attempt to get his personal approval and settle the points. Ed.)

NOTES FROM MASS.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am no longer Secretary, but will give you a little fill-in dope on current Eastern Mass., activities. Our present officers are:

- President: Donald L. Phipps, Medfield, Mass.
Vice Pres.: Edward McCallum, Foxboro, Mass.
Secretary: Charles LeBlanc, Waltham, Mass.
Treasurer: Howard G. Silva, Cambridge, Mass.

The following is a list of our members who have residence organs, with a bit of information about each.

1. Leonard Alpert, Belmont, Mass.—3/13 (235) Wurlitzer from Proctor's Theater, Schenectady, New York. Organ about 50 percent installed, completion date about May 1.
2. Donald L. Phipps, Medfield, Mass.—4/20 Robert Morton from LOEW'S THEATER, Providence, Rhode Island. (1928) Currently being removed from the theater.
3. John L. Samuelson, Hingham, Mass.—2/5 Wicks (1928) from NORWOOD THEATER, Norwood, Mass. Complete and operating.
4. John Blakeley, Winchester, Mass.—2/4 Wicks/Wurlitzer. Complete and operating.
5. John Phipps, Milton, Mass.—2/7 Wurlitzer. Complete and operating.
6. Brenton E. Tyler, Jr., Waltham, Mass.—3/7 Kilgen/Wurlitzer. 75 percent complete and operating.
7. Joseph A. Muise, Waltham, Mass.—3/8 Hook & Hastings Church organ. This organ is complete, and was the residence organ of Mrs. Hastings, widow of the Company's founder.
8. Gustav Erlanson, Auburndale, Mass.—2/18 Estey Straight, from the Armenian Church, Cambridge, Mass. 50 percent installed.

In addition to the organs listed above, several members have electronic organs of various makes, so you can see our group is well represented as to make, size, and types of residence organs.

We have been holding regular monthly meetings, except through the summer months, and have been entertained at the console by William Bunch, who is certainly well-known to you on the west coast; Ralph Woodworth, Jr., who played our Spring Concert last year; and Ed Gress, TIBIA contributor and recording star. We are planning another concert to be held in April of this year, and I will send details on it as they evolve.

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