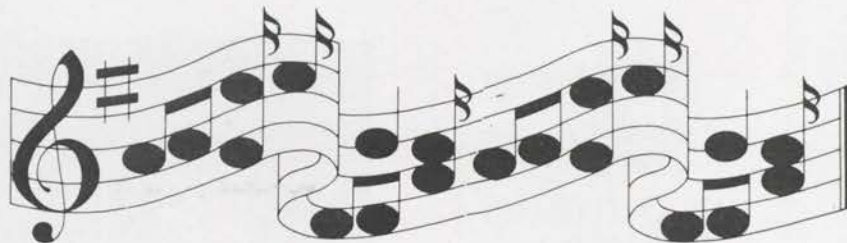


Chapter Notes



ATLANTA

404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

Long ago, somewhat before stereo equipment and VCRs, your grandmother and mine brought music to the parlor, without actually employing musicians, by installing player pianos. The more wealthy installed player pipe organs! And so, on January 21, our chapter went over to Callanwolde, the home of the first Coca Cola president, to hear the pipe organ that, 70 years ago, relaxed the master of the house after a hard day at the office. It was a 3/56 Aeolian, installed in 1920 with music-roll capability and still going strong. Then it was "played" by a servant who changed the rolls one after the other. There was even a special roll player, now missing, that changed the registration and expression according to the rolls' directions.

For our visit, it was our own Charles Walker who, though an organist himself, gave an almost completely no-hands performance with selected rolls from the organ's collection. Charles did have to set registrations and provide appropriate expression. All else, however, to the wonder of the chapter members, was automatic!

Charles played (well, why not? We "play" the radio, don't we?) some ten or eleven classics for us, including "Danse Macabre," "Valse Triste," and *Nutcracker Suite* overture, all prepared long ago by Samuel P. Warren of the Aeolian Pipe Organ Company. Warren orchestrated music so that the rolls could be produced. During the period 1910-1930, we understand, many orchestral pieces for the organ were produced as a result of the popular organ recitals in municipal auditoriums by Edwin H. Lemare. Our visit to Callanwolde gave us a fascinating excursion into the past.

A month later, on February 25, Charles Walker appeared on TV news, playing his 2/9 (mostly) Robert-Morton, under some somber circumstances. A deadly fire in a nearby high-rise apartment building for the elderly forced some 90 residents to flee in the middle of the night. Charles took 58 of them out of the cold and into his Theatrical Paraphernalia auditorium, and was caught by the TV cameras comforting them with his organ music.



John Muri shows them how it's done, on *Theatrical Paraphernalias' 2/9 Robert-Morton*. His admirers are grandsons of chapter members Mr. and Mrs. Al Greenway.

The Chapter had, meanwhile, met at the Theatrical Paraphernalia, on February 11, to see and hear three silent films accompanied by the well-known John Muri on the Morton. John showed Laurel and Hardy in *Sugar Daddies*, and in *Liberty*, and a pretty, little Czech film of the 1940s entitled *Inspiration*. The Czech film was lovely; the Laurel and Hardy films, hilarious, as would be expected. John's organ accompaniment was provided with his usual skill and sensitive interpretation, to everyone's delight.

Bill Hitchcock



"Look, ma, no hands!" Charles Walker operates the console of the Aeolian player organ at Callanwolde.



CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

407/870-7861 or 813/894-8323

The initial meeting for 1990 was held in January in downtown St. Petersburg at the Ponce deLeon Hotel, one of those fine old buildings with loads of character that are too quickly disappearing, like some theatres we all remember too well. Hosted by Mary and Sam Bond, a very nice crowd was on hand for the meeting and an excellent program presented by organist Mark Renwick and his charming wife Carrie, who has a lovely voice and a fine stage presence. Mark and Carrie are from North Florida Chapter and came in on a moment's notice to fill in for Central Florida member Vince Mirandi who had the chicken pox. Mark Renwick played a Rodgers which belongs to the hotel and the Bonds. The large area, where the meeting-concert was held also has a very nice Conn. Refreshments were supplied by members and the Bonds, and it was a most pleasant afternoon for everyone. Good music, good singing, and good company.

The February meeting was held in Hudson, which is slightly north of the Clearwater-Tarpon Springs area, at the lovely home of Libby MacIntyre. Chris Secrist, past president of North Florida Chapter, presented a widely varied program to some 50 members who attended the meeting. Libby is a new board member with some fresh new ideas for the chapter.

It looks as if the City of Tampa and the Tampa Theatre will be coming up with some monies to help repair some of the damage done when a large city employee fell on the console while he was walking around the stage in near darkness. Once the funds are advanced, we will be able to order the replacement parts and supplies, and when they are on hand the console can be taken out of service for as short a period as possible. At the same time, regulators in the Main chamber will be re-leathered and corrective winding can be done at the same time. We are starting to think "concerts" once again, although that must obviously depend on several things.



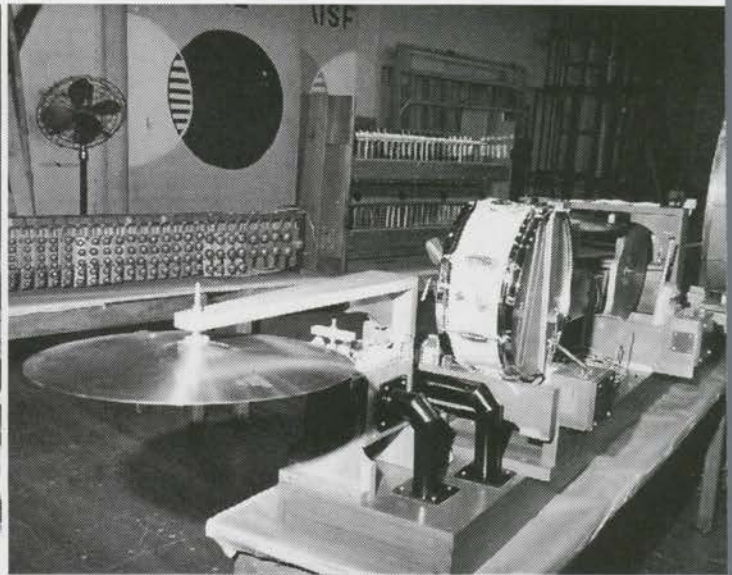
CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

317/359-4194 or 317/353-7321

Hello to all! We of Central Indiana Chapter have a low, low and a high, high to report. The low and sad is the loss of our Virginia Byrd Rectoris Wolfram on February 11. She was such an inspiration to us — always a smile and a willing hand. Virginia, we miss you.

Our high, high is getting "our" Manual High School organ ready for you this August. Pipes have been washed and shined, leather cut and formed, wood sawed and fitted — much carrying and lifting — and after 2½ years and many helping hands, it is just so wonderful to see it fall into place and think, "Maybe something I cut or sanded or glued is part of what's playing now!" And on top of that, we were privileged to hear it in February — and not with one artist, but with three of our very own — Barbara Johnson, Carlton Smith and Warren York. Barb is a great organist and has played numerous times at open console — but for the formal program — well, we were impressed. Carlton does not often play publicly so his splendid expertise with the instrument was an unexpected and pleasant surprise. And Warren who can play anything with great variations galore —



Portion of the toy counter ready for installation on stage of Manual High School.

◀ Bill Tandy at the Hedback Community Theatre.

we're glad he's one of us. From this writer's viewpoint, it was MOST interesting to hear these consecutive performances as their individual interpretations brought forth such varied combinations from "our" organ. The marbelized finish on our 3/26 Wurlitzer console is very pretty, different and intriguing to top matters off — like none in America, I'm told.

January found us at the Hedback Theatre on the 2/11 (mostly) Wurlitzer. This "kind" theatre organ is among our favorites and you're invited to come along in August to join us there. Bill Tandy was our artist for the afternoon. Besides play-

ing a delightfully varied program, he has a great sense of humor which prevailed throughout his performance. Tunes were mainly of the 1920s vintage with a few on into the '40s. Two "new" ones to most of us were, "True Blue Lou" and "Brazilian Sleigh Bells." "The Nearness of You" was absolutely fantastic.

We're getting very excited about National and our perfectly marvelous "new" installation at Manual. You'll just have to come to Indy to see it for yourself. So . . . save that money . . . get that reservation in . . . and SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

Betty B. Schmidt

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CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus
513/652-1775

The Blegen residence, ever a house of hospitality, was our meeting place January 28. 41 members and guests were comfortably ensconced in their joining living room/dining room listening area where they could view and hear Jim and Irene's Conn 651 organ with its remote Leslie and stereo sound system. The icing on the cake was quality of entertainment: Ruth and Bob Tyo. Ruth an obviously accomplished organist and (as we later found out) vocalist gave the major performance with Bob joining her in the latter half of their program on his Lowrey keyboard synthesizer.

Ruth's rhythmical renditions of "Grenada," "76 Trombones" and "Almost Like Being In Love" were followed by some nostalgic oldies such as Victor Herbert's "I'm Falling In Love With Someone." Nor will we forget Ruth and Bob's rousing rendition of "Beer Barrel Polka" and "Almost Like Being In Love."

After their performance, President Garcia conducted our business meeting, welcomed new members and introduced guests. The open console that followed lasted until 9 p.m. in no small part due to

the spirit of cameraderie that prevailed and the delicious food provided by our membership.

Our club is thrilled to have within short travel distance the opulent Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield, Ohio, where the magnificent Warner-Stearns-Carson Wurlitzer resides. We're thrilled also that manager Tony Miller and members Don and Virginia White, along with other devoted people in Mansfield, arrange four to five theatre organ programs on this instrument each season. And so it was that on February 18 we listened with rapt attention to 1989's Theatre Organist of The Year — Ron Rhode. Attired in white coat, a maroon bow tie and cummerbund he came across every inch the professional he is. The event was well attended and the audience was delighted with Ron's low-key humor, spiked with informative introductions to each of his numbers. Early in the program we heard such toe-tappers as "Oh By Jingles, Oh By Gosh," and Fats Waller's "Ain't Misbehavin'." His contrasting style, first with the sobbing Tibias in the right chamber and then the interspersed honky tonk piano rhythms, served to make his delivery spicy and intriguing.

Not too many of us were acquainted

with the "Chicken Dance." But we now know what it is. Recruited from the audience was a delightful young lady who proceeded to demonstrate to the audience what it was all about. With appropriate flapping, gyrations, squats and grinds she left no doubt in our minds what it's all about.

Ron's renditions of "In a Persian Market" and "Intermezzo" were impeccable. It was interesting to learn that on the reverse side of Ethel Smith's record of "Tico Tico" was another Latin rhythm she recorded entitled "The Carrot." The melody had a strange familiarity — almost as if it were the mirror image of "Tico Tico." Ron's reverence to Phoenix's Madeline LiVolsi was touching as he played old favorite "Paddlin' Madeline Home." Perhaps most striking of his second half of the program was the familiar "The Nearness Of You." Here the Carson Wurlitzer's lush Tibias and Vox, Diapason/Tibia brought out the melodious strains of this ballad with all of its nostalgia. The closing number, "Light Cavalry Overture," was followed by such sustained applause that Ron was persuaded to play two encores. It was easy to see why ATOS chose him Organist of the Year. *John Polsley*

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CHICAGO AREA

312/951-1098 or 312/282-0037

Once upon a time the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. Recently, in our time, the roof of the Granada Theatre came tumbling down, at least part of it did, but not as planned. This was part of the demolition of Chicago's beautiful Granada Theatre on the north side of town near the lake shore.

The theatre's organ left some time ago for known and unknown locations. These superb instruments rarely stay put, thus today's address for an organ may not be that of tomorrow.

We have had some very interesting socials which re-introduced some refurbished organs and their "homes."

Carl Schurz High School's 4/96 Moller was last heard by CATOE in March 1988. The organ has been improved since then and used for several programs. February 16 was a CATOE social at the high school with Mike Jacklin at the console. The weather was rough, but didn't hold back the enthusiasts and an enjoyable evening of music and sociability resulted.

Downers Grove, a suburb of Chicago, is the location of the Tivoli Theatre which is owned and operated by Willis and Shirley Johnson. They are pipe organ enthusiasts and had a 2/7 Barton installed in the existing chambers by Evan Chase and Frank Minnis. Tom Wibbels was soloist for the organ's premier in September 1986. Several young, local organists play this instrument during intermissions and before and after show time. This gives them added experience. The interest and cooperation of the Johnsons in the organ's use is greatly appreciated by our area's organ lovers.

Our January social was held at the



Paul Grosnick at the Rollerway 3/11 Wurlitzer.

North Avenue Rollerway in Melrose Park, with Paul Grosnick and Joe Skubish at the console of the 3/11 Wurlitzer. Paul and Joe are staff organists at the Rollerway and provided a terrific and varied program for this premiere of the new installation. This Wurlitzer has gone through some interesting moves and changes during past years. Its console was rebuilt and installed by Century Pipe Organ Co. and Greg Simanski.

Freddy Arnish, former staff organist of the now defunct Hub Roller rink, presented some of his many faceted talents at this Wurlitzer console during the social. We always appreciate hearing Freddy Arnish play.

Our entry for the ATOS Young Organist Competition is John Devona. He is being assisted by Lee Maloney, and his practice time is arranged by Bill Barry on the Downers Grove High School's 3/10 Wurlitzer for which Bill is crew chief. We are thankful to all concerned for this assistance.

Almer N. Brostrom

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

717/263-0202

In January about 20 members of the Chambersburg chapter of the American Guild of Organists visited the Capitol Theatre as guests of Cumberland Valley. Following a guided tour by Mark Cooley, which included a visit to the organ shop above the lobby where the theatre's original 3/14 Moller is being restored, the group travelled on to the home of Bob Eyer, Jr. and a silent movie accompanied by Bob on his 3/7 mostly Moller theatre organ. Open console followed, with several AGO members trying their hands. All present thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and the opportunity to share a common appreciation of organs and organ music. Several AGO members subsequently joined our chapter.

The Capitol Theatre Moller's four-rank main chest of the Solo chamber, which has consumed over a year of redesign and restoration work by Cumberland Valley's organ crew, is completely finished. A two-rank chest from the same chamber has been re-leathered and now is being rewired. Both chests then will be air-tested to detect any malfunctions, and are expected to be re-installed and playing by early Spring.

The organ's French Trumpet rank of pipes, an especially beautiful solo and ensemble voice, has been completely reconditioned by the Trivo Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. The pipes, many of which had been damaged over the years by improper tuning techniques, are as good as new and are ready for installation.

The chapter's first business meeting of the new year, held in January, included the election of officers. Membership continues to grow, and though most of our members live in or near Chambersburg, some of our members are from other regions of Central Pennsylvania, including the Harrisburg, York, Pottsville, and State College areas.

Bob Maney

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DELAWARE VALLEY

Glenside, Pennsylvania
215/828-8663

On February 18 members and friends returned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Shean in Levittown, Pennsylvania, to hear guest artist Barbara Fesmire perform on the Shean's 2/15 Wurlitzer. The organ and its setting were previously described in Chapter Notes September/October, 1989.

Ms. Fesmire was a student of Leonard McClain, later becoming staff organist at the Atlantic City Convention Hall for eight years. She is currently teaching piano and organ at a local music studio.

Ms. Fesmire presented a program of generous dimensions including unfamiliar material with the expected familiar tunes thereby adding additional interest to the program. She used her flawless technique and her mastery of registration to produce a beautiful musical sound. Percussions were used sparingly to decorate and emphasize the musical line rather than for the sake of novelty alone. If a tune indicated forte, playing the forte was evident, but Ms. Fesmire always eschewed bombast for musicality.

Open console followed the concert. To have a second opportunity to play this organ confirms last year's impression of a "player-friendly" instrument. Our turnout this year exceeded that of last year, and many people took advantage of the opportunity to play the Shean's Wurlitzer.

The Society thanks Mr. and Mrs. Shean for inviting the members into their home once again.

Earl E. Strausser



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley
617/662-7055

What nicer way to begin the new year and decade than with Donna Parker returning to our 235 Special Wurlitzer at Babson, January 6. Mrs. Robert C. Mac Neur, in private life, played an "out-of-the-rut" concert with selections of many tricky rhythms. Her large audience really appreciated her artistry to ensure a fine evening.

Donna opened her program with a lively "Clap Yo' Hands." Seldom heard numbers such as "Doing the Raccoon" (written when the rage was wearing a 'coon coat or hat), "At the Codfish Ball" (a Shirley Temple favorite), "Forever and A Day" (written by one of her pizza parlor patrons) and the "Jump Shout Boogie"

were included in her up-beat collection.

A requested classical number, Widor's "Toccatina in F" from his *Fifth Symphony* received most enthusiastic applause and reflected her Richard Purvis training. For this she changed into lower-heel shoes for the extensive double pedalling necessary. Her finale was an exciting "Slaughter on 10th Avenue." However, her several hundred listeners wanted more and Donna obliged with a fast moving "Hoe-down." With Lyn Larsen as her theatre organ teacher, her credentials were formidable and she did not disappoint.

The annual meeting was held at Babson on January 28 with the Treasurer's and Organ Committee Chairman's reports the prime focus. Dick Linder, on concluding his reading of the extensive organ work to be accomplished, resigned his long-held position; Gary Phillips will replace him.

Our artists for the afternoon were five in number with a limit of three selections each. President Bruce Netten led off followed by Bill Forbush, John Cook and the father/son team of Myron and Mike Bigelow. Considerable variety of style and material were forthcoming and made for not only good listening, but also showed much "home-grown" talent.

February 18 saw our "clan" gathered together again around our Wurlitzer. The indomitable Bob Legon was our organist with a nine-selection-plus-encore program of familiar tunes. One was a dance style in the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, manner to which he invited those present to "do their thing." Bob also volunteered to play the musical score for a showing of *Phantom of the Opera* for two viewings to paid audiences at Babson on April 27

Stanley C. Garniss

EGYPTIAN

Boise, Idaho
208/386-9506

This is the first, but assuredly not the last, report from the Egyptian chapter. Let me share with you a few facts about the organ and the theatre which is its home.

The organ is a 2/7 Robert-Morton that is still in its original installation. It is completely intact in two chambers on either side of the proscenium. There have been many years of neglect with dust and lack of maintenance taking their toll. Considering all this, however, the organ works remarkably well.

The Egyptian Theatre is patterned after Grauman's Egyptian, only on a smaller scale. The theatre originally had more than 1000 seats, but during a renovation in the 1970s the seat spacing was expanded for larger and more comfortable seats. More information will come in subsequent reports.

In early March the Idaho Centennial Committee presented a fashion show featuring original turn-of-the-century costumes. Chapter President Douglas Lemmon played the Morton for the entire show, which included a Charlie Chaplin short and a sing-along. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the movie. Doug always comes through with a great performance.

Music Week in Boise is always a big celebration and, with Idaho's Centennial this year, will be bigger than ever. Egyptian Chapter will host a free concert and silent movie, accompanied by Doug Lemmon. This is always fun and is sure to generate more interest in our group from people who might not otherwise go to an organ concert.

Phil Housh

There's no passion in the human soul,
but finds its food in music.

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A January picnic was planned to help counteract the winter doldrums which settle like a cold, dark cloud after all the Christmas festivities. Members were invited to the home of George Pasquaye in Wallington on January 14. His newly completed, large entertainment room features a 2/10 Wurlitzer with a toy counter attractively mounted in recessed areas on the wall. George also has a grand player piano connected to the organ. An added attraction is a beautiful hand-made cabinet which houses a rare roll player which registers and plays the organ.

Though the day was dreary and raining, it didn't stop a group of enthusiastic members who came loaded down with food and drinks and lots of music for open console. The party started at 2:00 p.m. and lasted well into the evening. We especially enjoyed the Jessie Crawford rolls played by the special roll player which uses three manuals on the organ. The third manual is a special-built relay by George who is a master pipe organ technician. As usual at any party, where everybody makes their own fun and enjoyment, the day was a nine-plus on a scale of ten.

NEW PROGRAM

The Garden State Theatre Organ Society is developing a new program in keeping with our tax-exempt status. This is a program which begins with students in high school, following a special course of study with lesson plans involving sound, electricity and musical instruments. This course culminates in a visit to a local theatre containing a theatre pipe organ and a large new projection booth.



Garden State picnic at home of George Pasquaye.

Bob Raymond photo

Dr. Jean Scibetta, a member of GSTOS was the key figure in formulating this type of program. She received school approval and inaugurated the course of study which was taught by the student's teacher, Leslie DeCarlo. Jean brought in samples of flutes, strings and diapason pipes. At the end of the course each student makes a type of musical instrument.

On February 16 a school bus with 24 students arrived at the Pascack Theatre in Westwood. The students were divided into four groups which rotated. One station was the large new projection booth (the theatre recently quaded) where theatre manager Austin Gordon explained and demonstrated the process of computer-operated film projection. Another group of students surrounded the Wurlitzer console and listened while Jinny Vanore demonstrated the various voices and toy counter. The third group entered the easily accessible pipe chamber on the former stage where Joe Vanore explained the mechanics of the pipes and wind chests. When the toy counter was demonstrated from the console the students had a touch-on experience. The fourth group gathered around Dr. Jean in the work area where examples of soldering pipes, and many pipes labeled helped the students to understand a little more what they were taught in class.

After each group rotated, they were

seated in the auditorium and viewed a short, silent Laurel and Hardy film. Jinny Vanore accompanied the film fulfilling the purpose for which these wonderful theatre organs were created.

The whole experience was enjoyed by the students and, hopefully, a few will follow up their curiosity and come to love the big wonderful sounds of pipes. Another group of students will visit in April.

The winter concert of our Trenton War Memorial Series took place February 25. The artist was Tony O'Brien, a young, talented organist from the Detroit area who captured our attention performing in the national ATOS convention held in Detroit last summer. This was Tony's first concert for us. He has been described as a "multi-faceted musician with innovative high energy performances," and his Sunday afternoon concert proved this without a doubt. While he played many favorite songs, he dressed them in new, interesting stylings and registrations. Tony's musical background in classical organ was constantly displayed in his pedal technique, ranging from a pedal solo string melody line of the "Ave Maria," to the latest upbeat, all-over-the-pedal-board, modern music. The audience was most enthusiastic, and we look forward to hearing him again. Tony joined our members on stage for picnic supper and getting acquainted.

Jinny Vanore

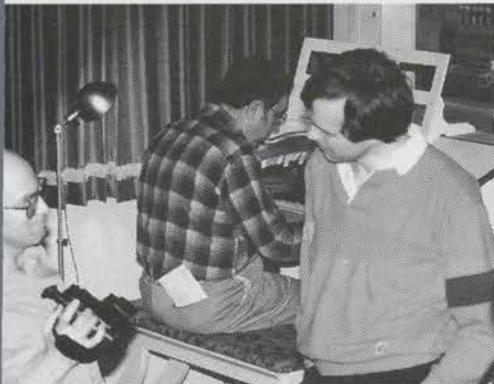


Pascack Theatre manager Austin Gordon explains film projector to students.



Ninth grade students watch Jinny Vanore at Pascack Wurlitzer.

Ed Marr photos



L to R: Bob Raymond, Tony Juno, George Andersen.



Tony O'Brien at Moller console. Jinny Vanore photo

GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida
904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

As usual, our last chapter meeting was held in the Pensacola Historic District home of our console builder/vice-president, B.D. Rhea, MD, with Scott Brodie, President, presiding. Our plans were firmed for the January 20 concert of Ron Rhode. Jimmy Scoggins, our top-notch technician, was sojourning along the banks of the Seine, seeing the Eiffel Tower and enjoying many of the organ installations in around Gay Paree, so our first-rate assistant, Curt Goldhill, capably filled his shoes for the evening. Poor Curt just got out of his cast for a broken leg a few days before, but trooper that he is, the show must go on, and he saw that it did.

Another twist we planned was that our members were to wear red/white/blue ribbon boutonieres for identification to the audience. This is just in case anyone wanted to question us about our organ or organization. Ron cooperated at the console by wearing one on his lapel. It matched his red cumberbund quite nicely.

Back to Ron. Here is another story. He was due to arrive here in Pensacola, on January 19, to play our magnificent 4/23 Robert-Morton in the Saenger Theatre on January 20, W-E-L-L, his plane came here with Ron aboard, but lacking parachutes to deplane — the plane, of necessity, headed 230 miles eastward to land in Tallahassee. We were fogged-in like San Francisco and London combined! Now all you gazeteer experts know that distance is just a mite too far for a taxi ride. So here was our official chauffeur, B.C. Melvin, in "Big Green" at our fogbound airport, waiting for Ron's plane, and Ron was in Tallahassee. By this time, it was almost midnight. Poor Ron. Many phone calls later, we made contact with him at the Tallahassee airport. Then he called us a little later to let us know the name of the hotel where they put him up, how he was and to tell us the only plane out of THERE into HERE arrived at 3:30 p.m. the next afternoon (the same night as the concert at 8:00 p.m.!).

The next afternoon the fog had lifted, and his plane could land. We met him, and rushed him to the theatre. He looked at and sized up the organ like the pro he is, and declared he was ready to go to his hotel here. After a brief respite, we fed him, took him back to the theatre, and he performed a magnificent program of the music of yesteryear and this year. Simply wonderful, too wonderful for words. How we do enjoy hearing our organ when these excellent artists play.



Ron Rhode at 4/23 Robert-Morton, Saenger Theatre.

The after-the-concert rehash was doubly enjoyable since we hadn't had a chance to chat with him before. To listen to his plans is a lesson in discipline. He is building a house, studying for a degree in elementary education, working, practicing his craft, and still flies all over the world giving concerts on the theatre organ. WOW! How do these people do it? All this for two or so wonderful hours of music to remember on the organ at each concert.

We have a most exciting piece of news to share. The Friends of the Saenger, a group organized to help expedite activities in and for our Saenger Theatre, and truly supportive of our efforts with the organ, have donated funds to our chapter specifying that we add to or improve the organ rather than apply this money to operating expenses. Mr. Brodie announced this news to the audience from the stage the night of Ron's concert. We have many plans for the money, but mostly we hope to add the two ranks that have been planned for some time. These ranks, both recommended by each of the professionals who played here, will be our first choice. Getting these ranks installed, plus a permanent installation of the xylophone are top priorities for our ever-capable technicians. At this point, our xylophone has to be "jerry-rigged" on the balcony under the right chamber for each performance and then dismantled and put away after the show. A royal pain-in-the-neck but necessary at this point.

We discovered an audience pleaser at our Ron Rhode concert when Curt, (our aforementioned technician) held "court" at the console during intermission to answer the eager questions asked by the curious and interested in the audience. Curt fielded these inquiries beautifully. We received many favorable comments on this aspect, so we decided to do this again. We, who are so totally familiar with the organ, must remember there is a vast audience out there who needs familiarization with the organ and this is a good way to do it.

Dorothy Standley

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The Spring 1990 edition of our journal, THE POET, is off the press. This issue's Addendum, for members only, is an advertisement from the May 3, 1933, edition of THE DAILY FILM RENTER, published in England. It reveals that Jesse Crawford made two short-subject sound films at the New York Paramount studio Wurlitzer. Besides *Trees* he also made *Koffee And Kisses*. The tunes listed are: A Cup of Coffee, A Sandwich and You, You're the Cream in My Coffee, Sugar, and Let's Have Another Cup of Coffee. *Trees* featured *Trees*, In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree, A Shady Tree, and Lullaby of the Leaves. Tenor Charles Carlile was the featured vocalist in the films. Carlile later sang with Jesse Crawford's Orchestra during their 1937 tour. Other organists in the series were Lew White, who made six films; Don Wallace who did three; Ann Leaf and Harold Ramsay each did one of the thirteen Sing-Song Melodies with vocalists.

Charter Member H. Clealan Blakely recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Although his actual birthday isn't until November 8, the celebration was held July 14 & 15, 1989, when his friends and family could attend. Blakely wrote the Preface to Dr. John Landon's book, *Jesse Crawford, Poet of the Organ; Wizard of the Mighty Wurlitzer*. He has been very involved with theatre pipe organs for over sixty years and is known as "Mr. Theatre Organ of Canada."

Clealan's two daughters, Mary Lou Lubeseder of Yellowknife, NWT, and Edith Blakely-Jackson of Baptiste Lake, Ontario, organized a special theatre organ concert for him with the assistance of the Kingston Theatre Organ Society. Rosa Rio played a special concert during which

family and friends were joined by the audience singing "Happy Birthday." Rosa Rio then followed with a piece appropriately dedicated to Clealan, "Young at Heart," on the Kingston Kimball. Charter Member Dr. John Landon was in the audience.

The following day Landon, Rosa and husband Bill Yoeman drove back to Blakely's Baptiste Lake home with Clealan. When they drove around the Fell corner turnoff they were startled by a big sign "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. THEATRE ORGAN OF CANADA." Arriving in the driveway they found a fully decorated yard full of balloons and crowds of people. Some of his oldest friends and fellow theatre organ enthusiasts came from Kingston, Toronto, Ottawa and Picton. A specially keyboard-decorated birthday cake was served. Blakely's Baldwin electronic organ and Heintzman piano got a workout that afternoon. The entire event was videotaped.

We are having a membership drive. Members enrolling in 1990 will receive membership certificates. For information write J.C.T.O.S., 3115 Second Avenue North, Billings, Montana 59101 enclosing stamped self-addressed envelope.

Ed Mullins



Don Springer at WGN-TV Wurlitzer. *Bill Rieger photo*



Lee Maloney.

Bill Rieger photo

JOLIET AREA

P.O. Box 471

Joliet, Illinois 60434

The February 10 social at WGN-TV Studios featured "Dandy" Don Springer at the console of the 3/11 Wurlitzer/Kimball. Don tailored his program to fit the limitations of this nationally famous instrument, originally meant to be heard as accompaniment or background music for monaural radio shows. Showcasing tunes associated with WGN, those written by his favorite composer (George Gershwin) and arrangements made popular by Jesse Crawford, Don entertained the club most satisfactorily. The gourmandizing made possible by voluntary donations of generous members was served on tables borrowed from BOZO's Circus!

On February 11, President Lee Maloney played a program for Land of Lincoln Chapter at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford. Lee surprised the audience by sticking mainly to ballads instead of the heroic circus and marches for which he is most famous.

On March 11, we traveled to Lyons, Illinois, to hear Bobby Ropollo and Don Springer duet on the 3/12 Barton and the Hammond X-66 electronic. Now, here is a team that has excellent coordination and knows which tunes its patrons enjoy. The 19th Hole is a watering spot featuring owner Bobby Ropollo, and is a favorite dance hall for the Over-29 set.

Hal Pritchard

June 22 thru 24	Chamber Music Festival, Naples, ITALY
July 7 thru 14	Farnham and London, ENGLAND
July 29	Konzerthaus, Vienna, AUSTRIA
August 4	Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
August 13	Spreckles Organ - Balboa Park, San Diego, California
September 14 to October 10	Glass Music Tour, FRANCE
October 13	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
October 16	Austin Symphony, Austin, Texas
October 26	Carpenter Center, Richmond, Virginia
October 29	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
October 30	Wharton Center, Lansing, Michigan
October 31	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
November 3	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
November 10 thru 15	Minnesota Theatre Organ Tour
November 17	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
November 30	Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California
December 2	Music Sources, Berkeley, California
December 10	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
December 12 thru 16	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
January 4, 1991	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California

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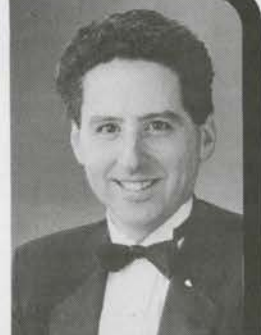
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Today, as I type, there is a winter storm watch, with freezing rain, big snowflakes and temperatures in the 30s. There is very little traffic and radio announcements report many cancellations of scheduled events.

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season over, January was ushered in by concerts on January 13 and 14 with Father Jim Miller at the console of the big Wurlitzer at Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin. This time Father Jim didn't have to rush home to Fenton, and we took advantage of his time by having open house at Verna Mae's home in St. Paul after his Sunday afternoon concert, when 25 friends showed up for refreshments and get-acquainted time. Her Kimball Stardust could always be heard from the music room and we especially enjoyed Father Jim's jovial friendliness.

The Organaires met at Bob and Jean Dewe's on January 25 and at the home of Joe and Ruth Vaes in Woodbury on February 15, the day Verna Mae left during a snowstorm for a visit in Lincoln, Georgia, with nieces and nephews. It was 81° when I landed in Augusta in bright sunshine, with many flowering shrubs in bloom — dogwood, camellia, forsythia — and dry highways!

We were saddened for the bereaved family of Bill Lundquist, our chapter's Vice President, when his wife, Jean, passed away after a brief illness, with memorial services held on January 18 in Stillwater. Many of us were unaware of Jean's awards and accomplishments as a famous Minnesota archaeologist and her "digging" jaunts.

Land O'Lakes Chapter's annual election was held on Sunday, February 11 at the Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis and we were pleased to have approximately 80 persons in attendance, including new members, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Hoffman from Mason City, Iowa, and the Routt family from Colorado Springs who has recently moved to Minnetonka, Minnesota and has a teenage daughter, April, who has performed several times in Colorado in concert.

Tim Stevens, house organist from Phipps Center for the Arts, was our guest artist for the afternoon, who delighted us with one of his creative selections —

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" which turned into "Home on The Range!" He used the recently installed Post Horn (usually an organist's secret weapon) to great advantage and was skillfully brought out by Tim. After the concert, several members gathered at Nora's Restaurant for dinner, reluctant to have the afternoon come to an end.

February 13 found Mike Erie a guest artist for the Robbinsdale Robinaires playing the Lowrey Spinnet recently donated to their club by Norma Carlson. As usual, Mike's artistry and especially familiar tunes were well received.

Verna Mae Wilson



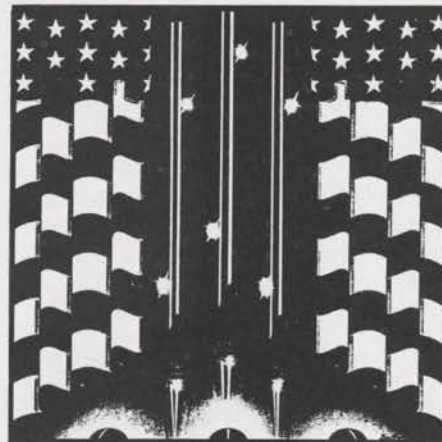
Father Jim relaxing while Tim Stevens plays the Kimball Stardust.

Father Jim sitting in rocker that belonged to Wendall Anderson, former Governor of Minnesota. Tim Stevens at the organ.



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Chris Elliott returned to Los Angeles on February 3 to play his first public concert for the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society at the J. Ross Reed Memorial Organ in Sexson Auditorium at Pasadena City College. He has performed a number of times at LATOS social events, either as an open console participant or as a featured artist in a mini-concert. He played for the 1987 ATOS convention at Founders Church in Los Angeles where he was resident organist at the time. As a staff organist, Chris has also played noon-time concerts at the impressive Hazel Wright organ in the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

The first half of the splendid concert had lots of variety, from a Gershwin medley to Vierne's "Carillon de Westminster." As the console rose with an empty bench for the second half of the concert, the organ was playing "That's Entertainment" and Chris had to make a mad dash across the stage to get control of the beast playing itself with the assistance of the Devtronix computer! Chris was soon in command and lowered the lift to accompany the Laurel and Hardy silent film, *Putting the Pants on Phillip*. There was a resounding thud that echoed around the auditorium as the lift reached the floor and the jolt caused the computer to signal for a cipher. After the computer was shut down and "rebooted," all went well for the film and Chris did his mentor, Gaylord Carter, proud.

On February 25, LATOS presented the winners of the Young Organist Competition in the Stars of Tomorrow concert in Sexson Auditorium at Pasadena City College with each of the four young people playing three numbers.

Thirteen-year-old Jason Koh from Arcadia impressed the judges with his rendition of "Bumble Boogie" to become the outstanding performer of the day. What a command of the pedals this guy has!



Stars of Tomorrow judges and contestants: (L to R) Rosemary Bailey, Gene Roberson, Gwen Harbert, Jason Pfeiffer, Willie Harbert, Jason Koh, Tony Wilson and John Ledwon. *Zimfoto*

Jason competed in the 1988 Stars of Tomorrow competition winning first place in the Junior Division.

Willie Harbert is 15 and lives in San Diego. He had placed second in the Youth I division in last year's competition. "Root Beer Rock" by Billy Joel gave this young man's fingers a real work out!

Another Jason, this time Jason Pfeiffer, who is also from Arcadia, is a 16-year-old and 1988 Stars of Tomorrow first place winner in the Youth I division. His rendition of "Begin The Beguine" was outstanding!

Gwen Harbert, Willie's 17-year-old sister, played her own arrangement of "Get Me to the Church on Time" with some nice embellishments. Gwen also competed in the 1988 Stars of Tomorrow show winning third place in Youth I division.

The show was emceed by Stan Kann, the ever popular organist, comedian, and sometimes vacuum cleaner promoter, and the tough and unenviable job of selecting LATOS' Young Organist of the Year was left in the very capable hands of Rosemary Bailey, ATOS President John Ledwon, Gene Roberson, and Tony Wilson. Each judge made a cameo performance while the score sheets were tallied. Each contestant, wearing a bright yellow and blue LATOS jacket then came onto the stage to receive a check presented by LATOS Board Chairman Donn Linton. *Wayne Flottman*

LATOS Chairman Donn Linton presents special award to Jason Koh. *Zimfoto*



Chris Elliott

Organist

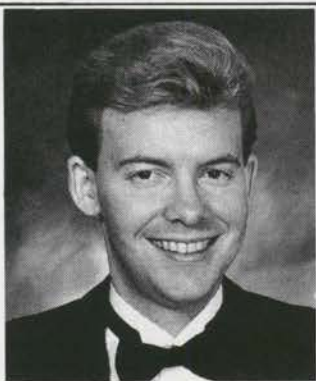
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A fine variety of foods was present at our February potluck dinner/open console meeting. Chapter members feasted as events of the past month were recapped.

President Cliff Shaffer appeared on the WFTV Channel 9 Community Calendar to increase public awareness of our Don Baker Memorial/Lake Brantley High School Organ Project. Media coverage such as this is a tremendous boon to an undertaking like ours. We look forward to getting more attention in the news as we continue to grow.

Member Susan Cole organized a Theatre Organ extravaganza on January 28, to benefit our Don Baker Memorial. Featured were nationally known artists Father Jim Miller and Wyn Wade and local artists Walter Kimble, Sean Muir, and Mark and Carrie Renwick. Father Jim's style and wit was a crowd-pleasing opener, and Wyn Wade's all Don Baker arrangements were a triumphant close. Many thanks to Susan for organizing this spectacular event which raised \$2000.

The Don Baker organ is progressing on course. The Seminole County Board of Education has approved the organ project, and we have met with the Board Architect and the Administration to discuss installation details. The structural modifications of Lake Brantley Auditorium will begin this summer.

Our gratitude goes out to all who have given to the project so far, but there is still a long way to go with our fund-raising. There are still many items needed to complete our Don Baker Organ. If you have any Wurlitzer parts, please contact us to see what is needed. We are also looking for Don Baker photographs and memorabilia to add to our archives.



Winners in Motor City's Young Theatre Organ Contest were: (L to R) Gil Francis, 1st Hobby Division; Andrea Welc, 3rd Pre-teen Division; Sara Harvale, 2nd Pre-teen Division; Ken Merley, 1st Junior Division and overall winner; Susan Lewandowski, 1st Pre-teen Division and Bob Mills, 2nd Hobby Division. D. VanSteenkiste photo

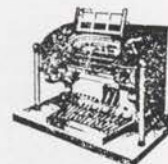
Mid-Florida has two entrants in the ATOS Young Organist Competition: Elanore Nardy and Vince Mirandi. Our best to both as they prepare their programs.

A lot was attended to at our March all-business meeting. Annual elections were held, and each individual up for re-election was returned to his post for another term. A check was presented to Mrs. Caroline Walsh for final payment of the former J. Burns organ. At this time, we would like to thank Caroline and Chris Walsh for their patience and generosity in helping us to purchase the instrument and keep it in the area. The meeting was adjourned to refreshments and a slide show by Walter Kimble.

Vincent Mirandi



John Lauter and drummer Jim Ellis at the Redford Theatre. Bo Hanley photo



MOTOR CITY

Detroit

313/537-1133

John Lauter appeared in concert at the 3/10 Barton at the Redford Theatre on March 3. John's program was upbeat and included many audience-pleasing selections. John was joined in several numbers by drummer Jim Ellis, and accompanied the Harold Lloyd silent comedy *Never Weaken*.

Our sixth annual Young Theatre Organist Competition was held at the Redford Theatre on March 4. Ken Merley, a student of Steve Schlesing, won in the Junior Division, was judged the overall winner and will go on to the National ATOS Competition. There were three contestants, ages 11 and 12, in a Pre-Teen Division, each playing two numbers of her own choice. Although not eligible for the National Competition, all were exuberant and excited to be a part of the program. Susan Lewandowski placed first in this division, Sara Harvale won second place and Andrea Welc placed third. All are students of Melissa Ambrose.

(continued...)

Bill Vlasak

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Hilbert Junior High School students seek an autograph from Steve Schlesing during a school outing to the Redford Theatre.
D. VanSteenkiste photo

MOTOR CITY cont.

Gil Francis placed first in the Hobby Organist Division and Bob Mills placed second. Ken Merley received \$200 as division winner and overall winner, and the Pre-Teen winner was awarded \$50. Plaques were given to all division winners as well as all contestants in the Pre-teen Division.

Competition judges were John Lauter, Father Andrew Rodgers and Shirlee Schenk. Brian Carmody was chairman of the competition and, in addition, prior to the competition, presented a one-hour workshop in the outer lobby on chord progressions in the most popular keys.

Hearing a theatre pipe organ in its original setting was a new experience to students from Hilbert Junior High School, in Redford Township, who enjoyed an afternoon at the Redford Theatre in mid-February. Steve Schlesing introduced them to the theatre organ in a short concert which included a sing-along and the Buster Keaton silent comedy *Cops*. A slide presentation showed views of the pipe chambers, and students were invited to blow through several pipes that create the sounds of different instruments. Coordinated by Dorothy VanSteenkiste, over a dozen chapter members were involved in this presentation, which will be repeated for other schools.

Our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre featured three chapter members, Judy Kline, Henry Calvert and Wally James, in January. Jack Uelsmann was the artist at the 3/16 Barton for our February Fourth Sunday morning concert at the Royal Oak.

Our seventeenth annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 88-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* will be on Thursday, August 2.

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



NORTH FLORIDA

901/268-9537 or 904/353-5812

The last five months have been full of activities for our chapter. In October we participated in the Jacksonville Arts Assembly Arts Mania, an event which allowed all different cultural arts groups to "show off." Although there was no theatre pipe organ at the venue, our own chapter members had created a video which described our organization and a presentation of the principles of the pipe organ, offered by Ken Brouche. Not only did the event give us exposure to the public, but it also made us realize what can happen when we all chip in and do it.

November's meeting was hosted by Erle and Marge Renwick. Our guest player was Betty Ragatz, a member of our chapter.

Our December meeting was right in tune with the holidays — lots of goodies to feast on. Our host, David Walters, presented a Christmas program with his niece singing selected solos. Our new board was elected and, with new blood, promises to spark new goals and projects for the coming year. Also in December, many of our members traveled to the Tampa Theatre for the Mid-Florida/Central Florida Chapter event. It truly was an exciting and harmonious time among all the chapter members in attendance.

January's meeting was hosted by Erle and Marge Renwick. Presidents Cliff Shaffer and Rick Mathews came up from Orlando and Tampa and, during the general meeting, contributed many good ideas for our development and direction. After the short meeting, each played a short program.

February's meeting was quite unusual. Held at Kelly's Piano and Organ, Erle Renwick offered a lecture on the fundamentals of the pipe organ. As a goal of our chapter, Erle has worked to begin development of a lecture/presentation program to offer to other non-musical groups, such as church groups, women's and men's clubs, and possibly public schools. This is in line with one of our goals — to further public awareness of our organization.
Chris Secrest

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NORTH TEXAS

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North Texas members returned in February to the Lakewood Theatre for our semi-annual business meeting and to again enjoy the majestic sound of our 3/8 Robert-Morton there. We were delighted to find that our hard-working organ crew had completed the restoration and installation of three of the four tuned percussions. Now only the xylophone and toy counter remain to be completed. It has been an arduous year coming back from the destruction caused by a frozen water pipe last winter.

We were treated to a masterful program of popular pipe organ selections by member Glen Swope. While this was our first opportunity to hear Glen playing *these* pipes, most of our members recall the pleasure of hearing him during his long tenure on the Pizza and Pipes' Wurlitzer a few years back. Glen is also one of the professional members who volunteer to play intermission music at the Lakewood on weekends. We are fortunate that Glen has chosen to remain in Dallas and to be a part of our organization. We look forward to hearing more of his talented playing in the future.

Officers for the coming year were nominated and elected at our February meeting. John Friedel was thanked for his leadership the past two years as President. This tenure included the challenge of the restoration of our chapter organ and seeing it again in playing condition. Thanks also to Kathleen McDonald for her contributions the past year. The 1990 officers have their work cut out for them in getting our chapter organ back in full concert condition and building our chapter stature and membership.

Irving Light



At left: Glen Swope at the 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre.



Center: Walt Strony at Uncle Milt's Wurlitzer.
Don Feely photo



L to R: Terry Robson, John Olsen, Walt Strony and Dean Lemire at Uncle Milt's.
Don Feely photo



North Texas officers for 1990: (L to R) John Beck-erich, Mabel Westbay, Lorena McKee, Irving Light.
Irving Light photo



Thelma Strickland and Matt Neill in Thelma's music room.
Irv Ewen photo



503/771-8098

We were invited to an Open House/Open Console on January 20 at Matt Neill and Thelma Strickland's Music Room and Railway Center. Matt and Thelma have, for several years, shared their mutual love of music and railway nostalgia with organ groups in this area by providing a setting of electronic organs combined with a miniature railroad display. We wish to thank both of them for the fellowship and fun that is always a part of a meeting at the Music Room.

On February 24 we were privileged to have Walt Strony appear in concert at Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza, just across the river in Vancouver, Washington. Bright, sunny weather was the order of the day, which must have made Walt feel right at home, and which brought out many members to hear the 3/18 Wurlitzer in the hands of a very capable artist. From the beginning "Hooray for Hollywood," to "Victory at Sea," Walt presented a program that all enjoyed. We thank Milt Kieffer for opening his restaurant to us, and Walt for filling it with music.

Don Feely

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POTOMAC VALLEY

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On January 27 our chapter sponsored a bus trip to John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Delaware, where 40 of our members and guests enjoyed hearing Stan Kann on the fabulous Kimball, originally in the Boyd Theatre, Philadelphia. This was Mr. Kann's first performance on that organ. He served as house organist at the St. Louis Fox for over 20 years, and has also appeared as a comedian on many well-known TV shows. His antics, humor, and demonstration of hobby-collected odd gadgets make a great supplement to his superb, old-time theatre organ playing.

On February 25 we had a fun meeting at the home of George and Olean Johnson in Alexandria, Virginia. The guest artist was Dave Fortner, president of Mountain State (West Virginia) Chapter, entertaining on George Johnson's 2/7 Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra. Others who took advantage of the opportunity to play the Wurlitzer were our Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle and members Hermon Hill, Lee Prater, and Ken LaCapria. Refreshments were served by Erdine and Hermon Hill.

We were saddened by the news that our chapter photographer Dan Swope, had suffered a stroke and could not be present.
Jack Little



Dave Fortner gives George Johnson's Wurlitzer a workout!
Herman Hill photo

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QUAD CITIES

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On January 27 we started the year off with a grandiose party at the Butterworth Center in Moline, Illinois, which was the home of the late Katherine Deere Butterworth (see May/June 1989 THEATRE ORGAN). Local members and guests from chapters in Cedar Rapids, Joliet, and Rockford filled the house. Next year, at the same time and place, we desire and expect to see more of you there!

A potluck buffet dinner was served at 6:30. Guests were seated in the huge dining room and in the parlor next to the music room. As guests made their way to the dining room, Ted Alexander seated at the organ began to play "Happy Birthday." As I escorted my wife, Carol, to the serving table, she realized that the crowd was singing to her. A large decorated birthday cake awaited the deft plunge of her serving knife.

Stanley Nelson, resident organist at the Center, presided at the dulcet-toned instrument which gave vibrancy to his program. His selections, twelve in all, celebrated the twelve months of the year. The first being "Auld Lang Syne" and the last "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas." Stan certainly knows how to get every last bit of sound and expression out of that organ, which has undergone extensive rehabilitation and tuning.

Our new president, William McFadden, has implemented a "Cameo Appearance" as part of our regular chapter programs. The intent is to give (or force) the more shy members to show off their talents. The first person selected to "walk the plank" was a lovely lady, Doris Wood, who is our secretary. With some initial help from Stan Nelson to set suitable registrations, she presented an excellent program of several selections.

Open console followed the program as the refreshment committee worked in the kitchen.



Doris Wood at the 3/26 Bennett organ.



Selma Johnson and Stan Nelson play for the sing-along.



Stan Nelson at the 3/26 Bennett organ.
Withenbury photos

On February 18 the residence of Dean and Selma Johnson, Orion, Illinois (pronounced or-e-un), was the setting for our second get-together of the year. Their elegant 1913 farm home has undergone extensive remodeling during the 26 years of their residency. Bill McFadden made a few announcements and introduced Selma as the guest artist for the day. She emerged from the kitchen and exclaimed "A woman's work is never done." As she came into the room, she explained that there was a small problem because the signal from Radio Station WHBF, whose enormous towers are only a mile or so away, was coming through the organ. However, it was hardly noticed. Once seated at the organ, she stated that she was ill-prepared. Don't believe it! An accomplished pianist, Selma plays periodically in the rotunda at Von Maurs, one of the largest privately owned department stores in the area. She says that she is a better pianist than organist. Don't believe that, either!

She informed the audience that she was going to play selections that she usually plays on the piano, and not necessarily theatre organ music. Her 30-minute program included some of my favorites: "Alfie," "Georgia," "Blue Skies" and "Stardust." During the program her professional stature was easily recognized by the improvisation, the registration changes, the interchord harmony, and the fills and frills. Ted Alexander made a short cameo appearance.

After the program, assorted snacks and beverages were served, and several members and guests took advantage of the open console period. The afternoon climaxed with a group sing-along accompanied by Selma Johnson at the grand piano and Stan Nelson at the organ. Thanks, Dean and Selma, for a wonderful afternoon! *Richard P. Withenbury*

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Tom Jeffery, left, receiving the chapter's Tibia Award from Harold Kenney. Host Tom Wolfe looks on. Bob Markworth photo



Harold Kenney and Ed Martin enjoy a break among the Tibias. Tom Jeffery photos



Donna Van Riper George Rice Bill Durand



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Tom Wolfe hosted our January 20 meeting in his lovely home. It was a cold and snowy midwestern evening, but we were greeted by a fragrant hardwood fire in the hearth and hot mulled cider in the kitchen. Our President, Dick Zdan, conducted a short business meeting, which included initial planning for our next public concert at the Orpheum Theatre. Then, on behalf of the chapter, Harold Kinney presented Tom Jeffery with the Tibia Award for his work as Chapter Historian. The Tibia Award is beautifully hand-crafted of walnut by member Joe Hogya; mounted on a red fabric back panel are a working replica of a Wurlitzer Tibia and an engraved brass plate.

Our program for the evening was billed as "Amateur Night," but that was a misnomer, as we were entertained by a slate of five talented musicians. Host Tom Wolfe opened the program by demonstrating the resources of his Conn theatre organ and playing one number. Then Maurine Durand followed with "Japanese Sandman" and "Because." We prevailed upon her husband, Bill Durand, to follow suit; Bill played one untitled melody which turned out to be his original composition. Then, as a change of pace, Donna Van Riper played J.S. Bach's "O Lamm Gottes Unschuldig" and "Melody in Mauve" by Richard Purvis. Last, but not least, George Rice favored us with "Mood Indigo" and a romantic medley which included "Just a Kiss in the Dark," "Getting Sentimental Over You," and "Kiss Me Again." The meeting concluded with open console and abundant refreshments.

Work continues on the major rebuild job on Bob Markworth's 3/14 Kimball theatre pipe organ. Bob has had a lot of help from chapter members on this project, and we are anxious to hear this fine instrument when it is re-premiered. Tom Jeffery

Patti Simon

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ST. LOUIS

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Our January meeting was held on a beautiful sunny afternoon at the Bethany Lutheran Church in North St. Louis. They have a 3/10 Wurlitzer, and even though it's an original church installation, it has a horseshoe console and Tibias. It was put through its paces by Tom Doctor (who backs up Ernie Hays at Busch Stadium and the Arena) and his former teacher, Mark Gifford. Both performers did a great job playing light classics, show tunes, and popular selections. Even in its liturgical setting, there's no mistaking it's a Wurlitzer. Thanks to Marlin Mackley for arranging this visit.

February found us at the O'Fallon home of Les and Mary Hickory. Les is our newsletter editor, and has brought "Shutter Chatter" a new look with his computer graphics. Les performed for us on his Lowrey MX-1, doing some jazzy numbers and ballads. Even though O'Fallon is quite a distance out of St. Louis City, we had a good turnout, including the Gladfelters and Kikendalls from Springfield, Illinois, a two-and-a-half hour drive. Thanks to Les and Mary for their hospitality.

Work progresses on our 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Fox Theatre lobby. We finally got the wind pressure stabilized only to find that one of the chests was "re-leathered" some years ago with Perflex. This will slow us up a few weeks while we re-cover all the primary and secondary pneumatics. We still hope to be ready for the summer Monday Night at the Movies series.

Best wishes to Chapter Correspondent Dale Boring, who is recovering nicely from major surgery. *Chuck Wiltsch*



Dennis James at the Arlington.



Gordon Estey, "Lucky" Hawkins and John Oien on a chamber tour.

SANTA BARBARA

California

805/968-0035 or 805/682-1604

The past several months have been busy ones for our chapter. In November, Dennis James dazzled a large audience with his accompaniment of *Safety Last* and *Hot Water* and several organ solos that really demonstrated what a 26-rank Robert-Morton can do. His performance was so well accepted that he will be back next season for another engagement.

Patti Simon presented a beautiful concert on February 4. Her gentle touch and beautiful style demonstrated still another dimension of the organ's possibilities.

Plans for next season are set with Gaylord Carter, Ty Woodward, Dennis James and one other big-name artist yet to be selected.

In addition to concerts, the organ is played during the 7:30 to 8:00 intermission every night that a movie is shown. On March 1, Jerry Gerard played a thrilling 30 minutes before the Soviet Gymnastic event. The large audience of mostly young people was as thrilled with the organ as they were with the gymnasts.

Many other Arlington events are planned using the organ as part of the program. Next season the Santa Barbara Symphony will showcase the organ as part of one of their performances. With the ongoing support of Metropolitan Theatres, the organ is getting lots of exposure.

We were pleased to have Gordon Estey, of the Rochester Theatre Organ Society as a guest in December. Anyone in ATOS who is visiting Santa Barbara is welcome to see and play the organ. Give us a call and arrangements will be made.

John Oien



John Oien (left), Patti Simon and Bruce Murdock at Arlington Theatre for rehearsal.

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IV tune list: Everything's Coming Up Roses, That Old Black Magic, You Made Me Love You, Can You Read My Mind, Give Me the Simple Life, If Ever I Would Leave You, Stompin' At the Savoy, Leibestraum, Misty, The Song is You, Blue Skies, Always, My Secret Heart, Moonlight Cocktail, Spring is Here, Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea, Love is Here to Stay, Angel's Chorus, En Revant, Saint Louis Blues.

Now Booking Concerts



Burt Kuntz at the new console.

SIERRA

Sacramento

916/961-9367 or 916/967-9732

March 4 was a dark and dismal day (because of a rain storm), but a large audience turned out for a return engagement of Bert Kuntz. This was Bert's third concert for us, and he really made the Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer stand up and talk. Bert's fine variety program kept his admirers tapping their toes. His style is very individual, and he has a large following in Sacramento. Highlights of his pro-

gram were the blending of a Tchaikovsky concerto and the "Rhapsody in Blue" plus a medley from *The Sound of Music* and a great arrangement of "Moonglow." The second half of his program consisted of requests from the audience, and his audience loved it.

Guests that day were the SIRS, a well-known organization here in Sacramento. The SIRS are the Sons in Retirement Society. Thanks to Kay Ruland and her kitchen crew for the excellent lunch and to Bert for a great afternoon. *Bud Taylor*

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

January's meeting featured a mini-concert by Dick Van Dera on the 4/14 Robert-Morton at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. We especially enjoyed a beautiful solo oboe playing the melody in "Til There Was You," and "Curt's Song," written by Dick's sister in honor of her son. And *nobody* plays "Chopsticks" on a mighty theatre pipe organ the way Dick does! At open console we heard from eight persons, including Doris Wood for her first time on a pipe organ.

Gareld Payne presented the mini-concert for our February meeting, again at Central Assembly of God Church. His professional stylings were evident throughout his program. He played a Walt Disney Medley that was especially enjoyable, as well as a number of other selections. Again, open console followed for all who wished to play.

At long last our club-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton is ready to play! Except for a few small things remaining to be done, the Vo-Tech High School installation is virtually complete. This has been a twelve-year project, involving the work of many volunteers. Now we are on the threshold of many, many *more* years of entertainment from our "King of Instruments."

We are saddened by the loss of another member. Mary Grossich died on February 5. We shall miss her.

Dorothy Smith

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Ron Rhode at the Organ Stop.

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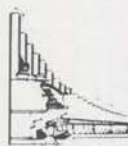
Simon Gledhill at First Christian Church

MLV photo



Lew Williams at FCC Wurlitzer.

MLV photo



VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Simon Gledhill was on his way to a Northern California recording session when he stopped in Phoenix to play for our January 28 meeting. The meeting was held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Simon's "Thunder and Lightning Polka" was much more appropriate to his British weather than ours that warm Sunday afternoon!

We returned to FCC on February 25 to hear local organist Lew Williams. Temperatures were still warm, and Lew began with "We're Havin' A Heat Wave." His varied program included "Baby Face" and the Scherzo from the *Second Symphony* by Louis Vierne.

Our chapter always supports the Organ Stop Pizza concerts. Several members attended Ron Rhode's February 4 program which was followed by a reception at the home of members Glenn and Barbara Vandiver. Clark Wilson's March concert also found VOTS members in the audience.

Madeline LiVolsi

WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio

216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

We opened the 1990s with a general business meeting and concert on January 28 at our home base, the Cleveland Grays' Armory. Performing from the keys of the 3/16 Wurlitzer, Dr. Larry Kass, whose fascinating home installation was featured in the January/February 1990 THEATRE ORGAN, provided a highly entertaining afternoon. His selections included "Slow Boat to China," "I Don't Want to Walk Without You, Baby" and an Irving Berlin medley featuring "Easter Parade," all presented in his amiable style. Following the business meeting, open console was enjoyed by everyone.

A spirited "refresher course" in the latest electronic home organs was provided by member Dennis Prichard of Sumwalt's Keyboard Music on February 11. Using a modern Yamaha home organ, our host enlightened us to the complexities of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). He demonstrated how computer storage can be used to load registrations of digital duplications of real instruments, provide the accompaniment for "One-finger" organists, and even per-

form and record full arrangements of entire compositions. Exemplifying this, we heard selections including "Tea for Two" and "Autumn Leaves." A more light-hearted look at Lowrey instruments followed. As our host pointed out, some of these automatic music-makers are so feature-laden they can even be played like an organ! What will they think of next? Light refreshments accompanied a chance for us to try these instruments which rounded out a highly informative afternoon.

Heartbreak came in the form of a winter blizzard which coincided with our chapter's presentation of Tom Hazleton in concert at the console of the 3/16 Wurlitzer in Cleveland Grays' Armory on February 24. Although advance ticket sales were high, the storm prevented all but 81 members and volunteer workers from attending. Embodying the spirit of the "Show Must Go On," Tom presented an unforgettable night of entertainment, showcasing both his own versatility as an artist as well as that of the Wurlitzer. We only hope we will have the opportunity to fill the house for Tom next time, proving northeast Ohio is not just an area of "fair weather fans."

Jim Shepherd

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