

Chapter Notes



Theatre organ "fool" Gary Jones at the Alabama Theatre on April 1.
Bill Ward photo

ALABAMA

Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/251-9492

What better way to celebrate April 1 than with a theatre organ "fool?" Our own chapter president, Gary Jones, provided an afternoon of fun, music, and frolic with special selections and dedications for all. The Alabama's Wurlitzer never sounded better, and with Gary at the helm, these two old friends had a wonderful time.

May 20 moved us off site to the Birmingham Wedding Chapel — future home of a 3/20 Wurlitzer. This organ is still being releathered, rebuilt, refinished, rehabilitated, "re"-everythinged, and we were very fortunate to have the incomparable Jimmy Costello at the grand piano. Jimmy played, told stories from yesteryear, told jokes, and related some fascinating facts from the golden era of radio and music. Jimmy's career is one continuous and fascinating story and he shared many a thought with us.

June being a full month, we dispensed with a regular chapter meeting and made way for four weeks of booked shows and movies at the Alabama.

Gary W. Jones

Frolic in Fresno!

Oct. 19-21



ALOHA

Honolulu, Hawaii

808/732-1224 or 808/732-7979

Our first party of the year was held February 11 at the home of Doug and Margaret Dauterman in Kaneohe, Hawaii. There was no short supply of good food or good music. Some of us got together in small groups where we resolved all the problems of the world. MAHALO! We all had a great time.

(Mahalo is Hawaiian for "Thank you." Many fast-food establishments have this word on their rubbish containers leading mainlanders to think Mahalo is Hawaiian for trash can.)

On May 20 the chapter picnic was held at Shriners Beach which is on the windward side of the island of Oahu. Shriners Beach is a sensational location. The grounds and beach are kept in remarkable condition considering the effects of salt corrosion, wind and rain. On the pleasant beach located inside the breakwater is a volleyball net, a stage for our performers and everything necessary to have a good time. Richard Harger and Al Jackson brought a portable organ and sound system, and our renowned musicians performed for our enjoyment. Food appeared by the truckload, and the picnic was on! Mary Schaen, our Activities Director, and her crew made sure everything went well and, as usual, left the area completely spotless.

Work at the Bishop Museum on our Style D Wurlitzer has begun, although very slowly. We decided to give all the items not being used in our installation to the group in Hilo who are restoring the Palace Theatre. Now that these parts will be out of our way, we are back at it again.

The Hawaii Theatre's Morton console is in storage and will be rebuilt as soon as Allen Miller finishes the multiplex system. The Waikiki-3's Morton will be coming out while a new building is being built. We were afraid at first that it was going to be eliminated, but now rumor has it that the organ will be reinstalled in the new building.

Al Jackson



L to R: Ron Carter, Charles Walker, and Lloyd Hess by the Charles' 2/9 Robert-Morton.

ATLANTA

404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

We met at Charles Walker's Theatrical Paraphernalia theatre on May 10, and heard not one, not two, but three artists on Charles' 2/9 Robert-Morton. The performers were chapter members Ron Carter, Lloyd Hess and Charles Walker who each played one piece and then relinquished the console to the next one, round-robin style — which somehow added to the suspense! They performed wonderfully, from Charles' "Beautiful Dreamer" and "12th Street Rag" to Lloyd's "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "Ein, Zwei, Suff" to Ron's "Rockaby My Baby With a Dixie Melody" and "Skye Boat Song" ... any many more, five rounds altogether! We enjoyed it immensely. (We gave you Lloyd's background in our report in the November/December 1989 THEATRE ORGAN.)

We visited Linda and Gordon Johson, again, over in Marietta, nearby, on June 24, to hear a performance on their 2/7 Wurlitzer. (See March/April 1989 THEATRE ORGAN about the organ and its installation in the Johnson's beautiful home.) First, though, the well-known John Muri was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the chapter "for life-time accomplishments in theatre organ". We're proud to have John in the chapter.

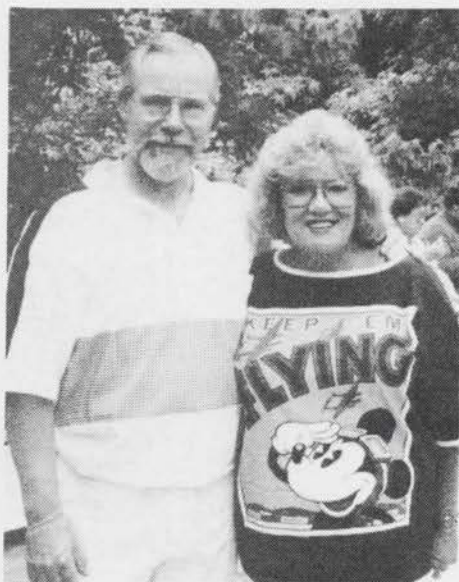
The guest artist was an old friend, Dolton McAlpin, who practices law with his wife, Lidia, in Stockville, Mississippi, and we appreciate his coming over to

continued ...

ATLANTA cont.

treat us with his playing. He gave us "Taking a Chance on Love," "On Green Dolphin St.," "Satin Doll," and lots of others. His smooth interpretations and exciting harmonies and counter-melodies made the organ sing! Performers like Dolton can bring out the beauty of the Johnsons' instrument.

Afterward, we had a picnic by the Johnsons' pool ("pipes and pool," someone said). Many thanks to Linda and Gordon for having us again. *Bill Hitchcock*



Gordon and Linda Johnson host our poolside picnic.



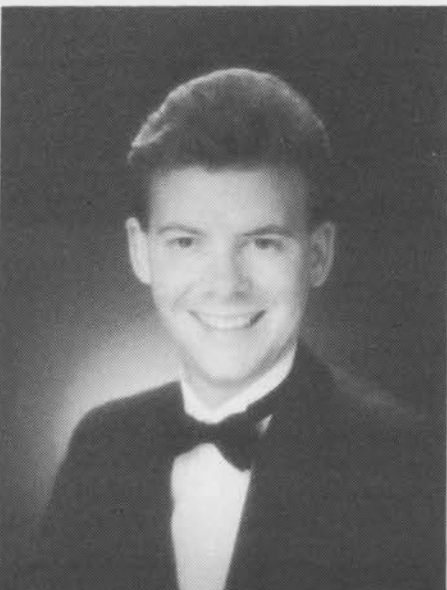
Dolton McAlpin at Johnson's 2/7 Wurlitzer.



President Ron Carter awards John Muri a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the chapter.

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

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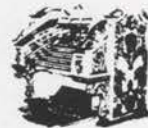
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CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

407/870-7861 or 813/894-8323

On May 12, some 125 individuals gathered at the home of Ken Hunt in Clearwater to hear Frank Cimmino play a very fine program on the Hunt 4/17 Wurlitzer. The instrument was in very fine shape, and Frank did himself and the instrument well, indeed. Frank, who played for many years at the Suburban Restaurant at Wanaque, New Jersey as well as at New York's Beacon Theatre has relocated to Cape Coral, Florida. He drove up to Clearwater and only had approximately 20 minutes to acquaint himself with the Wurlitzer prior to his program. We look forward to Frank's return at a later date.

The June meeting was held at the home of John Smart, Mayor of Lake Helen, Florida, a small town north of Orlando. The Smart residence, known as Edgewood, was built in 1886 and is a fine example of homes built during that period. The Wurlitzer installed there will eventually be a 3/17 and now has some 12 ranks working. Recent extensive work on the organ has been done by Mathews & Shaffer Pipe Organ Co. Some 35 individuals including members from the North Florida Chapter were in attendance for this dedication and an open console period.

Mr. Smart is a very gracious host and everyone enjoyed the residence as well as the opportunity to hear and play the Wurlitzer. *John Otterson*



CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

317/359-4194 or 317/353-7321

Hello to all! At the time of this writing, the 1990 National Convention here in Indy is still in the future. Anticipation is running high as we await your arrival in a few weeks. We're anxious to see old faces — sorry, not old faces — old friends and meet new ones and we're excited for you to hear and see artists, organs and the complete package we have awaiting you. But just think, by the time this reaches you, the Convention will be history. Now that's sad. Oh, I must mention, the Manual organ is great — we had a June 22 program with Ken Double and Jelani Eddington, and it was a sell-out except for a few scattered seats here and there, but after all, Manual's auditorium holds 1100 bodies.

Moving on to our May meeting. This was a program in memory of Virginia Byrd Rectoris Wolfram given by three of her friends: Sue Downs, John Ferguson and Tim Needler. Another friend, Harold Daringer, artistically prepared a collage of some of Virginia's family and professional pictures. Her husband, Dr. Don Wolfram, daughter Virginia Hobbs, and two grandchildren were also present.

Tim started the program on an Allen Organ. Songs included "The Breeze & I" and numbers by Gershwin and Berlin ("Stairway to Paradise" and "Soft Lights and Sweet Music"). Sue followed on a concert grand with numbers by Debussy, a portion of "Children's Suite" and "Claire de Lune." Chopin was represented with the "Butterfly Etude." Don'tcha just love these classics intermixed with popular songs? And two of these popular songs were, "Isn't It Romantic" and "Honeysuckle Rose." John Ferguson then proceeded to bring the



L to R: Tim Needler, Sue Downs and John Ferguson at Meridian Music Company.

organ back to life with yet more of Virginia's favorites, a medley of "Masquerade," "Small Hotel" and "With You." Then came one of my all-time favorites, "Don't Fence Me In" — love that catchy tune. And the finale — two pianos and an organ and three very, very talented people with more of Virginia's favorites including "Begin the Beguine." Now this event took place at Meridian Music Company where only a scant year earlier, Sue gave a stunning program. At the end of which she surprised Virginia by calling on her that they might play a duet. The song was "Begin the Beguine." It had been such a fun time. Virginia, you would have enjoyed May 1990, too.

Warren York, whom I sincerely hope you were able to hear sometime during National, presented the June program at the Wilking Music Store. The instrument was the Wersi — a very complicated engineering feat. Warren opened with a rousing rendition of "Strike Up The Band," and we knew we were in for a great afternoon. There was a swinging rendition of "Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer" — Nat King Cole's 60s hit. Another 60s hit, Sarah Vaughn's "Misty," was a dreamy version using a Musette.

Warren said he reads both verse and

chorus of songs and gave us some insight to the verse of "Meet Me In St. Louis." Seems that a man came home and his wife was gone — in fact, everything was gone — clothes, furniture — even the pictures on the wall. If he wanted them back, he could "Meet Me In St. Louis." Cute verse. Nice touch, Warren. My personal favorite of the day was, "Have I Stayed Too Long At The Fair?" Warren created a breathless sound with the Pan Flute — brought tears to the eyes — just great. *Betty B. Schmidt*



Warren York at the Wilking Music Store.



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1990

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Nov. 23 Rochester Theatre Organ Society - Rochester, NY

1991

Oct. 19 Detroit Theater Organ Society - Detroit, Michigan

Nov. 2 Gray's Army - Cleveland, Ohio



Bob Schmitt takes advantage of open console at our 3/16 Wurlitzer. J. Palsley photo

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus
513/652-1775

Chicago's Tom Wibbels appeared in the final concert of the '89-'90 season at Mansfield Ohio's Renaissance Theatre, May 20. As he came up on the lift playing his familiar theme, "For You Only," the audience again thrilled at the white and gold elegance of the Warner/Carson console. Tom's rendition of the endearing favorite, "Memories of You" brought out the lush Tibias this instrument possesses; this was followed by "How High The Moon," played in a Latin rhythm with generous use of the organ's orchestral voices and percussions.

We laughed at Tom's inventive story of having uncovered some Mansfield "dirt" which concerned the presumed existence of a band of little old ladies known as the "Marionettes" who gathered regularly to butcher popular music. This was humorously illustrated in two old time melodies: "Chinatown, My Chinatown" and "Has Anybody Seen My Gal" with the use of a honky tonk piano style coupled with an off tune flute.

We got a real treat in the surprise appearance of Ted Gysan who is a resident organist at Chicago's Pickwick Theatre. Ted played some stirring renditions of "On Broadway," "Who Am I?" and "A Great Day" to establish himself as a talented performer in his own right.

The second half of the program, with Tom back at the console, featured such soothing ballads as "Secret Love" and "Love Is Here To Stay." A very enjoyable performance attesting to the musical versatility of this young man, and try as we might, we couldn't induce him to do an encore in spite of thunderous applause.

June 3 was gorgeous — a crisp, clear day with balmy temperatures and a cooling breeze. It was an ideal day to hold our monthly meeting at Worthington High School, home of our 3/16 Wurlitzer — even though our beloved instrument was minus three ranks, down for repair. Chalk it up as part of the learning process; the depressing discovery that pylonon is not the choice material for secondary pneumatics — it does wear and it can leak. So our work is cut out for us — it's the laborious task of re-leathering our wind machine chest by chest — this time with leather.



Organ technician Lynn Bullock demonstrates a newly re-leathered flute chest. J. Palsley photo

Nonetheless, the missing ranks didn't daunt our spirits nor seriously impair our performing artist, Henry Garcia, even though we had some last minute glitches (like a silent "G" pedal and a nonfunctioning keying relay). These minor annoyances were quickly repaired by our organ technician, Lynn Bullock.

Henry played a delightful program of tunes from the 40s, mixed with some semiclassics. After a short intermission he reappeared complete with a dashing sport jacket, bow tie and straw hat to accompany our sing-along. We are indebted to member John Adams for his humorous parodies of well-known tunes and his marquee posters of coming attractions of movies of yesteryear. Our 40 members and guests loved every minute of it, and applauded so enthusiastically that Henry was persuaded to give us an encore. The open console that followed saw able organists Pattie Immel, Steve Brockman and Bob Schmitt bring us continuing music. John Palsley



Featured organist Henry Garcia, appropriately dressed, instructs a sing-along. J. Palsley photo

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CHICAGO AREA

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In many respects, theatre organs are a nostalgic entity, of course when in the command of an experienced organist as we all know. Such is Gaylord Carter whom talent and time have equipped with the necessities for marvelous programming.

Our May 6 show at the beautifully restored Patio Theatre with Gaylord at the 3/17 Barton was a complete success. There was variety from the "good old days" to the present. This was augmented with a showing of Carter's personal print of the Harold Lloyd film *The Kid Brother*. Gaylord accompanied this showing beautifully, as he always does. The theatre is immaculate as is the well-maintained Barton organ. It was a great program, thanks to all involved.

Our annual election eve was also a social with Larry Roou at the WGN Studio console. Larry did the honors last year and always gives an excellent program for which we are all grateful.

Our June social was at the Aragon Ballroom with Brian Durback at the 3/10 Wurlitzer. Brian is a local talent who appears occasionally to give a varied and appreciated program. Though the weather was a bit too moist, the organ buffs appeared to absorb the nostalgic atmosphere and sounds. We thank Brian for a beautiful program.

Baker Bash #3 is planned for October 14. Mildred Berry is busy with the arrangements and Leon Berry will again preside over the musical portion of the program which promises to be an excellent afternoon of enjoyment. This is a popular fundraiser and is well attended (actually sold out!) by curtain time! Happy Fall.

Almer Brostrom



Gaylord Carter and niece Barbara Haffner at the Patio.
Chuck Włodarczyk photo

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

717/263-0202

Cumberland Valley's restoration of Chambersburg's Capitol Theatre 3/14 Moller is progressing remarkably well. Except for a small amount of painting needed for the Solo (right) chamber's tone opening and grille, the chamber is ready to start receiving the restored organ that has been the subject of our organ crew's efforts for over a year and a half.

We are hopeful that real, live music will be heard in the very near future.

Bob Maney



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley

617/662-7055

What a busy, enjoyable weekend we had at Babson on May 19 and 20 with Lance Luce and his attractive wife, Nancy! This Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon pair of concerts attracted large audiences despite this being his first appearance with us. About 50% of Lance's programs were entirely different

and each included a sing-along together with a Laurel and Hardy silent, *Two Tars*. Their zany antics were a howl and were followed expertly by Luce.

The writer and his wife knew to expect the crispness, speed, accuracy and solid musicianship of this young man of the pipes. We had the pleasure of a leisurely pizza and visit at The Organ Grinder, Toronto, with Lance last summer on our way to the Detroit Convention.

Luce's teacher was Jack Franz, organist at the Detroit Fox from 1928-1939. Our artist made it all look easy as his hands and feet flew across the manuals and pedalboard with several polkas, his "Tico Tico" and "Gallop Comedian" as examples. Medleys comprised a fair portion of the concerts with Broadway musicals *Oliver*, *Fiddler on The Roof* and *Cats* contributing some fine listening. His medley of two currently popular requests at The Organ Grinder were "La Bamba" and "Tequila" with the audience shouting the title of the latter at the appropriate spots.

Our new mirrored light ball was evident a few times during each performance and added sparkle as the spots of light circled the auditorium. The more serious side of Lance's playing emerged with "Amazing Grace" as the cathedral chimes were heard to advantage.

Each audience, after long applause, was given encores; the first with "One O'Clock Jump" and the second, "Boogie Woogie" — both foot-tappers leaving everyone wanting more. Lance is a perfect example of the newer genre of theatre organists with style, verve, appearance, just the right amount of conversation and humor to introduce his numbers; he and his kind are our guarantee of keeping theatre organs alive for future generations.

Memorial Day weekend, on May 27, was our regular meeting at Babson with member Mike Bigelow our artist. "Nice Work if You Can Get It" was his starting number and included a segment of

continued ...

Donna Parker

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EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS cont.

"bump and grind." A pair of medleys from *Sound of Music* and *Babes in Arms* produced easy listenin'. "Without You," composed by member Marion Sutcliffe, featuring the marimba in the second chorus, was one of the highlights. Our organist had to remount the bench for an encore of "Elmer's Tune."

Mike is one of our all-too-few young persons who not only enjoy theatre pipes, but play them very well. This young man is largely self-taught and makes some fine music. Keep those pipes singing. Robert Wolfe is our next featured artist on October 20 and he will have the benefit of our splendid Wurlitzer's improvements and enlargements — we can hardly wait!
Stanley C. Garniss

GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

We have just closed another season of concerts. We have heard some marvelous music, met some wonderful people, heard our magnificent organ sing and had the chance to meet and enjoy the artists firsthand who played for us.

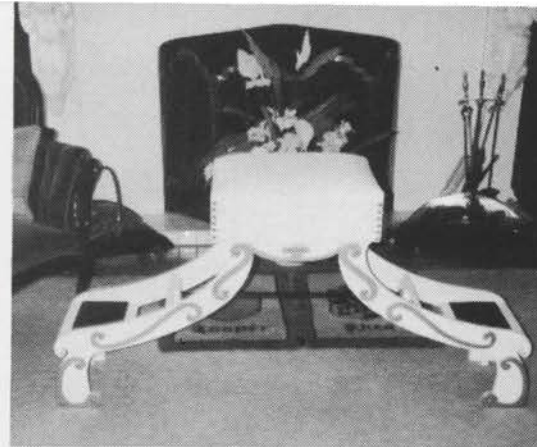
Of course, you know our organ is unique in the world of theatre organs, in that it was built from scratch and is an exact copy of the original Wonder Morton that is now in Santa Barbara. B.D. Rhea, MD, who built this organ for us, wasn't satisfied just building the console, he also built a new bench for it. The old bench we have been using went with our old organ. Dr. Rhea designed and built this brand new bench when he saw the need for it, which was two-fold. First, the old bench was a mite too wide for the maw of our new console and knees were constantly at risk when the artists turned around to address the audience. We were well aware of this problem. Then when Donna Parker played we acquired another need for the organ bench — steps. Yes, a step for a small person to "climb" to the seat without mountain climbing

equipment. So it was back to the drawing board for console builder/Vice-President Dr. Rhea. Our new bench will be formally dedicated when Dolton McAlpin plays for our chapter meeting July 7. Dolton graciously consented to leave his law practice long enough to drive from his home in Mississippi to play for us and our guests that Saturday morning. So he will get the first chance to use our new bench. The steps are on each side of the bench so the console can be approached either way. The seat is narrower to allow the artist to turn around safely without the danger of dislocating a knee-cap. Too, the seat itself is adjustable. It can be made higher or lower for those who desire height adjustment.

We held our last meeting in the historic district home of Dr. and Mrs. Rhea; Scott Brodie, President, presided. He advised the members of the facts and figures of the chapter following our last concert season and discussed with us plans for our next season. We'll start with a Sunday afternoon concert on November 18. This is a new time for us.



"Old" organ bench at rehearsal of Dan Bellomy concert.



New organ bench still at builder's home before going to the Saenger Theatre.

We have tried many facets and are willing to try yet another one. Oh! for the day when our treasurer's report can be written in black ink!!! We have plans for three concerts this coming season, so the few of us have our work cut out for us.

Our Mayor, the Honorable Vince Whibbs, has agreed to emcee our opening concert with Bob Ralston in November. Now "Hizzonner" is a professional car dealer by trade and has one of the most progressive Pontiac dealerships in the country, but he missed his calling. He should have gone into show business. He is a natural entertainer, world traveler and a first-class promoter of our Sunshine City in the Western Gate of the Sunshine State.

We have purchased two ranks for our organ through the generous donation of the "Friends of the Saenger." One, an Orchestral Oboe, the other a Kinura. Now we are working toward getting them installed. Jim Scoggins, aka "Sleazy," and Curt Goldhill, our super technicians, have their work cut out for them to have them ready for our next concert.

Dorothy Standley

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Chris Elliott

Organist

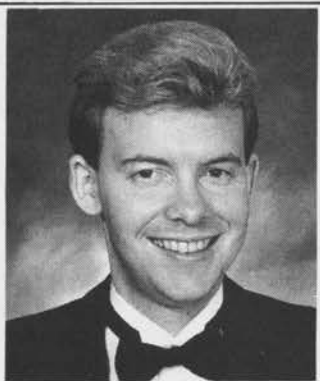
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Gus Pratt (left) and John VanLaak at the St. Vincent de Paul organ.

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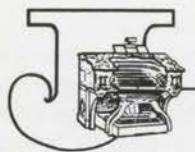
On April 29, through the efforts of Ned Spain, a group of our members traveled via bus to the Long Island University Brooklyn Center to hear Hector Olivera. LIU was formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, and the organ is a 4/26 Wurlitzer. Hector played tunes that had been requested and announced his program from the console. Everyone was amazed at his rendition of "The Flight of the Bumble Bee" played with his feet only. What a thrill to hear him perform!

Then, there was another thrill in store for the group. Bruce Loudon led the way to the home of Jinny and Joe Vanore in Ridgewood, New Jersey. There they were able to see, hear, and play Jinny's upright Estey Minuette with all its toys and her Grand Piano. Need more be said? Never saw such enthusiasm! Two such great events in one day!

In May, we met at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Albany to hear their 4/55 Romantic-Orchestral Organ. A while back, the coupler on the blower expired; they were able to find our own Gus Pratt to repair it and contracted with him to do additional restoration. The church itself is beautiful and the strains of liturgical, classical, and romantic music sounded terrific. What an organ! The Rev. Father O'Brien, Pastor, and Sister Joan, Administrator, gave us a brief history of the church and organ.

Gus Pratt gave us more details and John VanLaak demonstrated some of the voices with selections such as "The Lost Chord," "Moonlight and Roses," and "America the Beautiful." Even Gus played "If I Were a Rich Man." Bill Hubert, Ned Spain and Don Wheatley added other tunes. John Wiesner played Scotch tunes and "We Gather Together." Michael LuBrant played "Praise The Lord, the Almighty," "The First Advent Hymn" and others. The formal program was ended with John VanLaak playing the "Minute Waltz" in a minute and 10 seconds. From then on, many melodies floated through the building. We are grateful to Gus for being the means for us to have the opportunity to hear such a fine instrument.

Mina Lungen



JOLIET AREA

Joliet, Illinois

The club hosted a reception for Kay McAbee after his performance May 20 at the Rialto Square Theatre. Kay told the 40 members who attended that the Barton had never sounded better. The efforts of our volunteer crew and organbuilder G. Fred Gollnick paid off as did the newly installed Post Horn rank which was given its first serious test by Kay — it passed!

We were treated to a rare performance by the team of Lee Maloney and Larry Henschen (the Lyn Larsen/Tony Fenelon of JATOE) at Krughoff's Wurlitzer Park on May 26. Maloney and Henschen presented a well-balanced program both separately and romping through duets with Henschen at the organ and Maloney at the Steinway.

Our annual picnic was held on June 24 at the home and gardens of Norman and Mary Martin. The Normans provided

picnic tables, the weather cooperated, and this combination almost made the reading of and voting on the revised Bylaws somewhat of a pleasure. Norman entertained us on his Gulbransen Rialto, and Mary explained their role in growing endangered species for seed which they contribute to a central seed bank.

Demand for entry to the Lew Williams social at Krughoff's on July 8 was so great that we had to request reservations. Lew is well-versed on this organ as he played it in Phoenix, and he exhibited his knowledge with a flair and style that are his trademark. Lew's sensitivity in presenting concert versions of semi-classical old standards is legendary. Lew received two standing ovations and returned to the console during the mandatory feeding session to play spontaneously for another hour or so.

A few of us traveled to St. Louis to hear Lew Williams at the Fox. That is a fine organ, well maintained by Marlin Mackley who deserves a great deal of credit for his skill. JATOE President Lee Maloney played the Shrine Circus in Busch Stadium — he led a 20-piece band.

Hal Pritchard

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With the bountiful rains we have had recently, trees, grass and shrubs are a lush, heavy green. The huge oak trees on my property form a canopy over my house and provide all the shade I need to keep my house cool without air-conditioning. It's a gorgeous Sunday as I type my Chapter Notes!

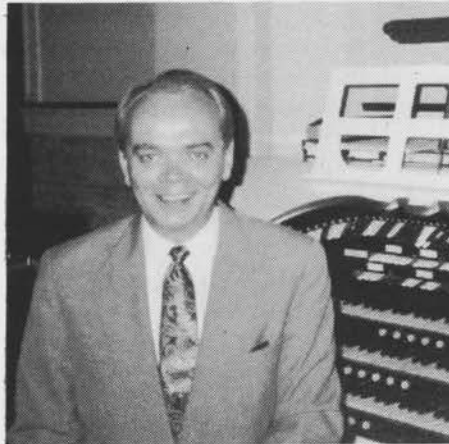
The ORGANAIRES met at the home of Bill Lundquist in Lake Elmo on May 17. Bill has an easy-to-play Conn 3/651 which was formerly owned by deceased member Clarence Munson. Bill also has a KAWAI piano, electric, with all kinds of embellishments! Then on June 19 the ORGANAIRES met at the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul, thanks to arrangements made by Glenn Bateman, with also big thanks to Jim Moe, Minnesota Theatre Organ Association, and John Zetterstrom, of LO'LTOS and MTOA, who spent many hours tuning and preparing the instrument for our use. It's fun to play the big Wurlitzer, but also "intimidating" for some of us amateurs. The ORGANAIRES have disbanded for the months of July and August but will convene again in September.

(In the last issue I stated that congratulations were in order to Don and Gen Kubik on their marriage. I should have said Don Johnson and Gen Kubik. Hope you weren't thoroughly confused!)

Our silent auction/bake sale and concert on June 10, at the Metropolitan

Community Church, was considered a success by the Events Committee. More than 50 members responded with goodies for the bake sale and items for the silent auction. Organ records and music donated by member Lillian Swanson were a big hit and claimed the attention and perusal of some old-timers. Veteran Twin Cities Organist Mike Grandchamp, entertained us at the MCC Wurlitzer, our own chapter organ on which Don Johnson, Bob Scholer, and Bob Schmidt (of Richfield, not St. Paul) still spend a lot of time. Mike's 90-minute program included many of his jazzy, Big Band tunes for which he is famous. The development of his ability began at age ten with two instructors, one of which was a former Paramount Theatre Organist in the 1920s. His credits include a long list of prestigious clubs throughout the Midwest with a repertoire of over 2,000 songs.

Space does not permit a complete recap of the article that appeared in the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* on June 14, and in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, but the



Mike Grandchamp at the console of the Wurlitzerized Robert-Morton, June 10, 1990 at the Metropolitan Community Church.

leading paragraph stated "The World Theatre announced plans Wednesday to scale back from a 'full-service' operation to an 'ala carte' facility because it continues to lose money, and will lay off 10 of its 12 employees." Patrick Ruble, Director, and Ken Schumacher, Operations Manager, will remain.

Verna Mae Wilson



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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.

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It does not seem possible that half of 1990 has already passed by. The month of May started with a very pleasant evening with John and Mavis Sharp giving us a story of their very busy life when John was on the Granada Circuit and when he later switched his interest to camera work. We all know the high standard he obtains in his work. Unfortunately, Mavis was not her usual bright, cheery self, and we were all saddened to learn she was rushed to a hospital suffering from a severe stroke. We are all praying that she will soon recover and be back on duty as we know she loves to be.

Our concert at Barry was supported by a coach from London to hear John Mann at the Christie. It was the first time he has played it since being moved from Edmonton. He was very pleased at the installation and would like to return to Barry.

Our BBC program, *The Organist Entertains* celebrates 21 years on the air, and we were treated to a concert at



Nicholas Martin at the State Wurlitzer John Sharp photo

Manchester which included John Mann, Douglas Reeve, Len Rawle and one of our young winners, Peter Holt. The 1500 in attendance should prove to the BBC that there is still considerable interest in the theatre organ. Now we are treated to two weekly spots.

Our final get-together this month found us being entertained by the one and only Ena Baga. We really don't know how we packed so many in. She still has the magic of being an entertainer with all her stories of behind the scenes at many of her venues. To this remarkable lady, life is nothing without music. And we hope she will be playing for us again soon. So keep going, Ena.

We are looking forward to the results of the National Competition this year. We have entered two classes, Junior and Intermediate. It is a good thing to have these events as it certainly brings all the chapters together. We also enjoy reading about other chapter activities and would like to see more chapters writing in to the editor. We can all learn so much from one another.

Keep pedaling!

Edith Rawle



Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

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or 818/792-7084

On June 2, the one and only "Mr. Flicker Fingers," aka Gaylord Carter, entertained us royally with his scoring of the 1924 Arabian fantasy *The Thief of Bagdad* starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. This event was in Sexson Auditorium at Pasadena City College where the J. Ross Reed Memorial Organ is installed. This organ get better each time it is heard, partly because it has not been fully completed but mostly because Lyn Larsen and Kenny Crome are not quite satisfied with the sound and keep making adjustments to make it sound better. For this concert, most of the toy counter was up and running which added a dimension not heard before.

Even though the pistons went out when Gaylord took the console down to start the movie, he continued playing like the pro that he is. During intermission our J. Ross Reed/Pasadena City College liaison (now computer technician/engineer) got the system back on line and the pistons working properly. With over 800 in attendance, this proved to be one of the best attended events in recent memory.

Twelve students taking the organ courses being taught at Pasadena City College presented a recital on June 12. ATOS President John Ledwon is the instructor for these courses and should be proud of his students' accomplishments.

Wayne Flottman



The London Team ready before the doors open at Kilburn.

John Sharp photo

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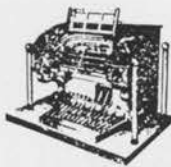
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MOTOR CITY

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One of the most popular silent films, *The Phantom of the Opera*, was presented on a grand scale seldom seen these days by the 60-piece Allen Park Symphony Orchestra at the Redford Theatre on May 12. The final program of the symphony's 1989-90 season, the evening was aptly titled "A Night at the Movie Palace." The first half of the program consisted of orchestral selections with Tony O'Brien featured at the 3/10 Barton and the Taylor Ballet on stage. The second half of the evening was devoted entirely to the film. The accompaniment alternated between the orchestra and Tony O'Brien at the organ and consisted of appropriate classical selections chosen by the orchestra's conductor, Dr. James Hammann. A soloist in the pit, Julie Costa, added a certain realism during the operatic moments on the screen.

John Steele appeared in concert at the Redford Theatre Barton in a program entitled "A Spring Bouquet of American Composers" on May 26. John's inventive program ran the gamut from Stephen Foster to Simon and Garfunkel. Just after he had accompanied the Edgar Kennedy silent short, *A Pair of Tights*, in the second half of the program, a lift malfunction caused the organ lift to remain in the down position for the remainder of the evening. In spite of the mishap, John's professionalism and musicianship made for a marvelous evening of musical entertainment.

Our Annual Garage Sale, chaired by Jeannette Duncan, was held at the Redford Theatre on June 8 and 9. Chapter members provided organ music at the Barton throughout the two-day sale.

Evelyn Markey was the featured organist for the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in May. Ken Merley and Chris Schweda, the winners of our Young Organist Contest, were the artists for our Fourth Sunday presentation at the Royal Oak 3/16 Barton in June.

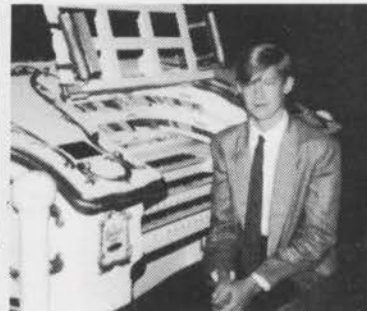
Dwight Thomas will appear at the Redford Theatre on October 13; Father Jim Miller will be at the Redford on November 24, and Tony O'Brien will be featured in concert at the Redford on December 8.

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

Don Lockwood



John Steele at the Redford.



Steve Schweda and Ken Merley played Fourth Sunday Program at the Royal Oak.



Tony O'Brien and fan at the Allen Park Symphony concert.

D. VanSteenkiste photo

BILL VLASAK

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AT THE PARAMOUNT

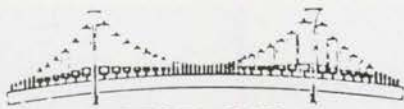
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NOR-CAL
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"The leaders of this chapter are like an expert 13-ball juggler — but someone has thrown in one more, especially big, 14th ball!"

So said one Nor-Cal member to another member as they left the club's most recent concert.

The 13 balls the leadership juggles regularly are the club's yearly schedule of monthly concerts, picnics, and parties — plus installing the chapter's own world-class Wurlitzer in the Berkeley Community Theatre.

Nor-Cal's most recent concert was on the 3/13 Wurlitzer in Oakland's Grand Lake Theatre, by Dean Cook. Cook was just three years old when he first met a pipe organ — at a local pizza parlor. His serious organing started when he was 14, when his parents bought him a small electronic spinet. Since then, Cook has played professionally at the Pipes n' Pizza in Billings, Montana, St. James Episcopal Church in Oakland, various other San Francisco area pizza shops, and frequent appearances at this Grand Lake Theatre.

At his recent Nor-Cal appearance, Cook presented a truly impressive, upbeat, varied concert. Typical of many

enthusiastic comments exchanged by members as they left the grand old Grand Lake Theatre: "He certainly has a good command of that organ."

But for Nor-Cal's leaders, there is now that additional, truly big ball they are busy juggling — the multitude of details for the national convention of ATOS, to be held in San Francisco July 5-10, 1991. Still, like a skilled juggler, they're handling the added challenge smoothly.

"It's a little too early to announce the artists, organs, venues, and such — but we've got most of them set," says Robert Gilbert, publicity chairman for the convention.

Conference co-chairman Lowell Wendell adds, "Our committee is right on schedule on the really important factor — budget. By the end of August we'll have all prices pinpointed — costs for the hotel, registration, and such."

Whatever the prices come out to be, consider this tip from one convention planner:

"If you view San Francisco as nearly all visitors do, the cost will certainly be modest — remember, for no additional charge, you'll see those famous bridges — the dramatic Golden Gate and the majestic Bay. And it won't cost you a cent to tour mysterious Chinatown, intriguing Fisherman's Wharf, watch those 'stairways to the stars' — the fabulous cable cars — and see many other charms of this great city by the bay."

Leon Fletcher



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NORTH FLORIDA

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On May 20 we were invited to the Arlington Presbyterian Church to hold our general meeting and to be present for a Pops Concert on their 1978 Schlicker, nine-rank, church organ. Resident organist Tony Testino gave a wonderful performance. His program included "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Blue Moon" and a medley from *Fiddler on The Roof*. A real surprise to all of us was the duo presented during his concert with pianist Clea Lloyd. Some of the shared selections were great standards like "Darktown Strutters Ball," "12th Street Rag" and "The Piano-Roll Blues." Although church organs cannot imitate the great theatre organ sound, it has been a real surprise in recent months to discover organists with the artistic talent to draw out pleasant sounds for popular/theatre organ music on non-theatre pipe instruments.

Our June meeting, our last for the summer, was hosted by Dave Walters and his sister, Patsy Pound. Member Elmer Olsteen gave an interesting presentation of all the theatres that were popular during the era of the theatre organ here in Jacksonville. This included some of his own experiences of that time. Wilbur Phipps was then presented at

Dave's Conn 650 and then open console. As always, it was a pleasant afternoon of fun, music and friendship.

As I was writing this, I reflected on how our chapter has maintained an active level of membership and participation during the past two years considering that we do not have a theatre pipe organ in our area. It is a realization that many people appreciate popular music on the organ, not necessarily only theatre pipe organ styling. Although a core group of members strive to maintain the purpose of our chapter, preserving the theatre pipe organ (with its own unique musical style), we are more and more open to the wide variety of musical variation which can be offered through our organization. With this attitude, the result can only be growth, as has been proven in our chapter. It is exciting to think what the future holds for our chapter and for ATOS.

Chris Secrest



NORTH TEXAS

Dallas-Fort Worth

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Planning an outdoor event is one of the activities that causes the most anxiety (and gray hairs) for those who plan programs for a chapter. Planning one for June in the North Texas area is especially hazardous due to the potential for

very hot weather and sudden thunderstorms. However, when invited by member Bobb Partridge to picnic at his lakeside "spread," and enjoy the wondrous sounds from his three-manual custom Allen, all caution was forgotten and plans were made. After a couple of weeks of near 100 degree temperatures, the appointed day arrived to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning and heavy showers. Though early arrivers were forced to seek shelter under the deck roof, at the appointed hour the rain stopped, temperatures moderated and perfect conditions prevailed. Host Bobb Partridge (barbecuer extraordinaire) stoked up the barbecue and prepared the meat to accompany the sumptuous potluck offerings. And, with the recorded sound of theatre organ music in the background, the feasting proceeded.

After our appetites for food were satisfied, we assembled in Bobb's indoor music room for the gratification of our appetites for beautiful theatre organ music. For this treat, Bobb had invited a friend, Tulsa organist Loreen Thomas, to play the program. Loreen, while well-known by Tulsa ATOSers for her organ performances in that area, was a new treat for our chapter. Her immense talent for theatre organ was obvious from the opening march, and we delighted in an afternoon filled with jazz tunes, ballads, upbeat melodies and toe-tappers. Loreen also included show tunes and a trem-off classic to round out a very enjoyable musical program.

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President John Beckerich (checkered shirt) held brief chapter meeting while the barbecuing progressed.



Bobb Partridge prepared barbecue and ignored the smoke in his face.



Loreen Thomas played the Allen for Chapter picnic.

Irving Light photos



Donna Parker at the Organ Grinder. Roy Fritz photo



Our Saturday morning Spring Special at the Organ Grinder was the premiere presentation of the Portland area's newest resident and first lady organist, Donna Parker. It never ceases to amaze us that a person can get up with the birds on a Saturday morning, look lovely, act graciously and manage to control the Mighty Wurlitzer's 48 ranks of pipes. Donna, however, did all four! Our members particularly appreciated her music of the fifties, some of the more delicate sounds she elicited from the organ and the anecdotal introductions to her selections.

Captain Kimball (aka Loren Minear) and his dauntless crew are making excellent progress on the installation of the Kimball in Cleveland High School. Before too many moons they will be racking pipes. Dennis Hedberg is wiring the console for the Wilcox relay, and we are anticipating a fall dedication.



Bashful Eddie Weaver says, "Who-me play that thing?" Frank Stoner photo



Eddie Weaver shows Jean Lautzenheiser that he can play an organ, too. Frank Stoner photo



Jean Lautzenheiser gives Gallagher's Rodgers Trio a work out. Sara Gallagher photo

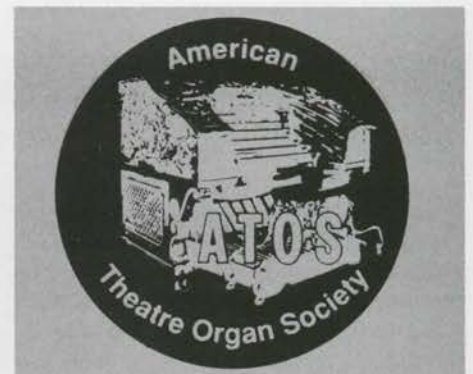


POTOMAC VALLEY

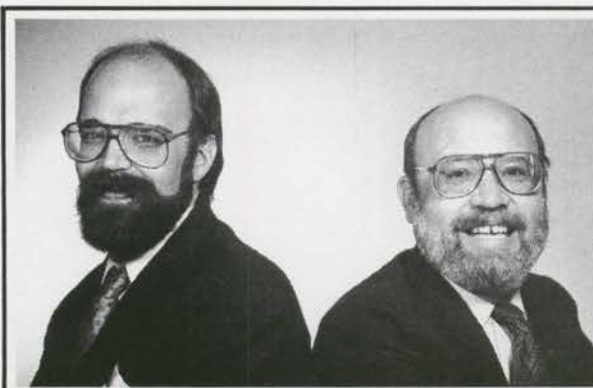
703/256-8640 or 301/652-3222

On May 20 we had a fun meeting at the elegant home of Jack and Sara Gallagher in Culpeper, Virginia, where we were entertained magnificently by old-time theatre organists Jean Lautzenheiser and Eddie Weaver on Gallagher's Rodgers Trio. Jean got everybody singing with the aid of a handout word sheet containing such classic numbers as "Mairzy Doats" and "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag!" Frank Stoner was busy taking still photos, but got in a 20-minute run on video tape of Hall-of-Famer Eddie Weaver at the console. Refreshments were thoughtfully served by our hosts, the Gallaghers, and a great time was had by all.

Chapter member Lee Prater and Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle have been busy accompanying silent movies on the 2/8 Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland. Lee did Harold Lloyd in *Speedy* on May 26, and Floyd worked over a Laurel & Hardy Festival, sponsored by Sons of the Desert, on June 17. The audience was ecstatic at both of these events. Jack Little



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QCCATOS

QUAD CITIES

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It was a beautiful sunny day on May 27, as we stood outside the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, waiting for our guest artist to arrive. At last — a beautiful, custom-designed Cadillac bearing "Show Biz" license plates pulled up to the curb and out stepped Lee Maloney, also referred to as Mr. Circus. Lee, who is the President of Joliet Chapter, is also on the Board of Directors of Quad Cities Chapter.

It was unusual for Lee to start off his program with a quiet ballad. When he finished he put on a different hat, per se, and explained that the intent of his program this afternoon was to explain the operation of our Wicks Organ — what it can do and what it cannot do. First he explained the reason for the different colored tabs and demonstrated their individual sounds and various combinations.

A combination of Tibias and Violin Celeste gave an ethereal quality, while the Vox Humana was meant to imitate the human voice. The use of the couplers to add 16' pipes to the accompaniment manual while playing on the lower octaves would produce a muddy distortion. Lee continued to explain the operation of the various toys; he cautioned us that



Jelani Eddington at the Wicks organ.

when we are playing a piece using one of the toys, be sure to turn it off if we intend to play without it.

It had been previously announced that Bill and Joan McFadden would be moving to Phoenix, Arizona, because of Joan's promotion and transfer. We all wish them bon voyage and good luck in their new venture. Appropriately, Lee played "Auld Lang Syne." Not wanting to end the afternoon on a sad note, he played what you would expect, "Show Business."

It was on June 11, 1989, that 14-year-old Jelani Eddington performed for our Fourth Annual Midwestern Social. One year later, on June 20, Jelani again entertained us at our Annual Regional Social.



Lee Maloney conducts workshop at the Capitol.

For those of you who don't know or remember Jelani, he was the young man from Muncie, Indiana, who was the youngest contestant ever to win the Young Organist Competition. It was certainly apparent what one more year of study, practice and experience has done for Jelani's technique and repertoire. His personality, stage presence and variety programs pleased everyone in attendance.

An old fashioned, free, box-lunch was arranged for by Helen Alexander. Open console followed the program, and many out-of-town guests enjoyed playing the Wicks organ for the first time.

Richard Withenbury

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May 26 was a red-letter day for River City. We re-premiered Bob Markworth's 3/16 Kimball theatre pipe organ after completing a major rebuild job that took over a year. The gathering started with open console and a bountiful potluck buffet picnic out on Bob's patio. Joyce Kelley co-hosted the event with Bob. Our featured artist for the occasion was one of our favorite sons, Colonel Jack Moelmann, who made the seven-hour trek from St. Louis to do the honors. Jack opened with "The Star-Spangled Banner" and then offered a toe-tapping medley that included "The Trolley Song" from *Meet Me in St. Louis*. In a more serious vein, Jack played highlights from *Phantom of the Opera*. Our own Wendall Hall joined Jack for a banjo/organ duet of old-time melodies. Then Donna Van Riper, on piano, joined Jack for several lively piano/organ duets, including "Canadian Capers." Following a short intermission, Jack cued Laurel and Hardy's long-lost *Battle of the Century Pie Fight*. Jack concluded the program with a sing-along and with his legendary patriotic salute to America. It really was a treat to have Jack Moelmann back in our midst again.

Our June 15 meeting was hosted by sculptor John Walz in his studio, Fleuve-Ville Art Gallery, near The Old Market district in Omaha. Member Joe Hoga introduced our host and his lovely wife, Judy Walz. John gave up a career as an engineer for Union Pacific to pursue a new career as a sculptor. He opened Fleuve-Ville both as his studio and a gallery to display his art. Charlie Stoll introduced our guest organist, Norman Pier-



Maurine Durand and Jack Moelmann at the buffet.



Jack Moelmann at the Markworth console and Wendall Hall on banjo.

Tom Jeffery photos

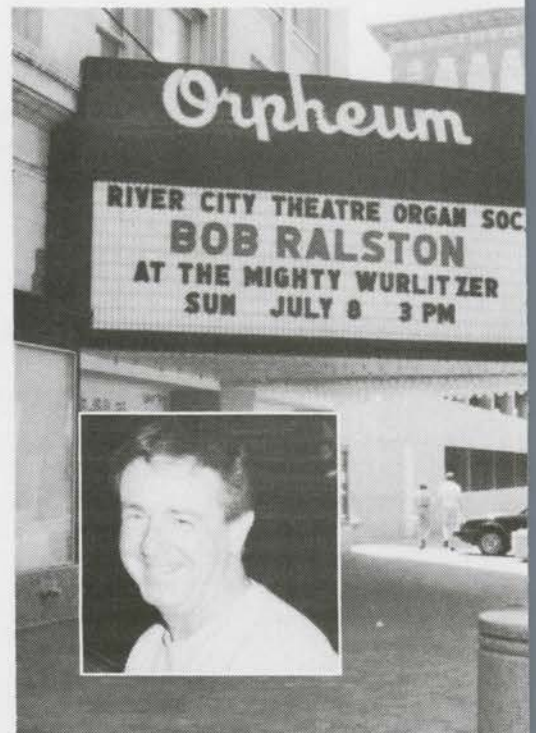
son, who traveled from Neola, Iowa, to entertain us on his three-manual Conn spinet. Norman presented a lyrical medley that included "My Happiness," "Release Me" and "It's No Secret What God Can Do." Then he offered a lively set which included a memorable rendition of "Jambalaya." We are deeply indebted to John and Judy Walz for this hospitality and to Norman Pierson for an evening of delightful organ music.

July 7 was a work session at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre to prepare for our Bob Ralston concert to be held the next day. Everything was in readiness, and the theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer was given a workout and was in fine voice. The Sunday show featured Bob Ralston with Colonel Jack Moelmann as emcee. Just prior to the public concert, Ralston and Moelmann went through a complete dress rehearsal, and again, the organ was in perfect shape. Finally, the audience of more than 2,000 paid admissions was admitted, the house lights dimmed; Jack Moelmann made the opening announcements and Bob Ralston and the console rode the orchestra lift to stage level, playing the opening number. Horrors! The organ died; Ralston couldn't coax a single note out of it, and the combination action wouldn't work. While the organ crew chief George Rice and a host of helpers tried to isolate and repair the problem, both Bob Ralston and Jack Moelmann continued with the program, playing the Steinway grand, singing, tap dancing and even telling a few jokes. Meanwhile, George Rice, Bob Markworth, Derren Ferreter and Jack Moelmann were trying to "jump start" the console with batteries hastily removed from their cars. They tried just about everything except giving the console windline mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Finally, the audience was given a fifteen minute inter-

mission. During intermission, George Rice discovered the problem: platforms stored under the orchestra lift had snagged the 12-volt cable to the orchestra lift deck, shattering a connector, resulting in a partial short and a low-voltage condition at the console. A temporary repair was made, and the second half of the program continued with a perfectly-working organ.

To the best of our knowledge, only eight patrons left the theatre at intermission. Both Bob Ralston and Jack Moelmann are best described as consummate performers; by modifying a well-planned program, they were able to turn a potential disaster into a fun time. At the finale our valiant troopers received a much-deserved standing ovation. Yes, the show must go on!

Tom Jeffery





ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver, Colorado

303/671-8333 or 303/233-4716

Summer is a time for the chapter to put its "cause on the road." We had a very good summer with various booths throughout the metro area. The Capital Hill People's Fair, being the largest, gave the opportunity to talk to over 2,000 people. The interest in the club and its activities is there. At the close of the summer the chapter has given out over 3,000 pieces of information about the club and the Wicks organ project.

Nine elated participants proudly displayed their certificates proclaiming: "I played the Paramount." The chapter's Play the Paramount amateur organist showcase is held each year expressly for those secret musicians who only play at home. With the cooperation of the Paramount Theatre personnel, each participant had practice time set aside, complete with instruction from staff organist Ed Benoit, on the large Publix #1. There are no winners; all are winners, they did themselves proud. After the amateur organist showcase, Scott Smith from Lansing, Michigan, was the guest artist. Scott gave an exciting program that everyone enjoyed.

Sold out was told to the people who waited until the last minute to get their tickets to the spring "Meet the Artist" concert. Ashley Miller treated the largest "Meet the Artist" concert to date to a



Amateur organist participants: (L to R) John Diffendal, Art Bragg, Lon Zeiler, Hal Gloystein, Ed Mullins, Marta Eckhardt, William Lewis, Charles Steenbarger, Ivan Duff.

fine concert that Ashley's artistry could only provide. We are very excited that our "Meet the Artist" organ concerts are growing in popularity.

The fall season will find the club at many of the fine home installations throughout the area. Plans are being

firmed up for our expanded Fusion concerts at the Paramount Theatre for the Denver public school kids. Rocky Mountain Chapter is a doing organization and are always trying the "New Idea" to keep the Theatre Organ alive and well in Denver area.

David Love



Janet Kremer working booth at People's Fair.



Ashley Miller at Riser's Music Hall.

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Lew Williams

ST. LOUIS
Missouri
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St. Louis Chapter was treated to a FREE concert in June by 1988 Organist of the Year Lew Williams. Lew played the 4/36 Wurlitzer at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, and it never sounded better! About 250 members and their guests heard Lew put the Fox Special through its paces with a superb program, starting appropriately enough with the "St. Louis Blues." Highlight of the evening was his raucous arrangement of "Elvira," made popular by the Oak Ridge Boys. The Fox management was most generous in letting us use the theatre for the evening. Thanks to Marlin Mackley and Jack Moelmann, who took Lew into the theatre that morning and spent several hours at the thankless task of setting pistons, amid jackhammers, power saws, and sound system checks.

This program was made possible for our members by a group of 43 sponsors, who shelled out \$25.00 per person to bring Lew to town. These sponsors then enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and a private concert by Lew on Jack Moelmann's custom Rodgers 340 theatre organ. Lew is a most gracious gentleman and entertainer, fielding requests as quickly as they were suggested. It was an evening the sponsors will never forget. Mark Gifford did an outstanding job of organizing and communicating with the sponsors.

Jack Moelmann, as always, was the perfect host, both at the dinner concert, and for Lew's accommodations. The weekend was such a rousing success that plans are underway to repeat this concept twice a year. Several other touring artists have expressed an interest in participating in this unique way of providing top-caliber entertainment to our members.

Dale L. Boring

SAN DIEGO
California

619/563-8702 or 619/488-5954

On June 24 the huge audience attending the FINAL CONCERT at San Diego's California Theatre was greeted by Chris Gorsuch, whose enthusiastic message got everyone's adrenaline flowing as he introduced organist and Wurlitzer crew-chief Greg Breed, who in turn fired-up the crowd further with a rousing "Strike Up the Band." Among Greg's selections was an especially beautiful arrangement of music from the *Phantom of the Opera*.

Part two of this concert on our Mighty Wurlitzer was played by the very talented, blind organist, Chuck Kramarich. Many of his numbers brought back memories as well as tears, such as those he designated as the "wind songs," (i.e. "The Wayward Wind," "The Breeze and I," and "Tara's Theme" from *Gone With The Wind*).

Theatre organist Russ Peck presented part three with a group of very exciting toe-tapping show tunes; and then, as he slapped on his distinctive Laurel & Hardy Club hat, he expertly accompanied the very amusing silent comedy, *Should Married Men Go Home*.

The fourth and final part of this special concert had the audience very keyed-up and was expertly performed by professional organist Chris Gorsuch, who made the entire theatre resound with his own special arrangements and selections, which included a George Wright "red-light special" titled "Love for Sale." The extremely beautiful music from *The Marriage of Figaro* brought cheers from



California Theatre Final Concert artists (clockwise from top left) Chuck Kramarich, Chris Gorsuch, Greg Breed, Russ Peck.

the crowd; and the very last number played at the California Theatre's Final Curtain was the great classical number, "Tu Es Petra," perhaps better known as "Thou Art the Rock." Chris brought cheers, tears and a standing ovation from the audience who then unceasingly applauded these four wonderful artists who again appeared on stage for a final bow. Almost the entire audience stayed around for two hours after the concert, talking with the organists, visiting with friends, enjoying open console, taking snapshots, and feeling happy and sad at the same time — what a tear-jerker!

However, we will NOT quit. Our Triad Committee is very actively pursuing another location for our special 3/22 Mighty Wurlitzer. The Historic California Theatre was built in 1926, and to avoid the wrecking ball (why do they need so many skyscrapers?), the organ was removed from the theatre the first week in July and temporarily put into storage. There has been great interest shown in helping San Diego Chapter save and promote this treasured musical instrument, and we welcome and appreciate all the financial help we can get to defray the overwhelming moving and storage costs. Those interested should write to TOSSD, P.O. Box 1788, Chula Vista, CA 92012, or call 619/236-0532. Please note that all donations are fully tax deductible.

Daphne Hoskins

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SANTA BARBARA

California

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Our chapter continues to grow in numbers and activities. Our biggest event of the year was May 6 when Hector Olivera thrilled more than 850 people with a dazzling performance. His range of music and unique registration made us believe we had more than 26 ranks of pipes. The audience wanted more and more of him . . . and he will be invited back soon. A compact disc player was given away following intermission, and the registrations from that drawing gave us a much larger mailing list.

Our fall concert season will begin with Gaylord Carter on September 20. We have also scheduled Ty Woodward, Dennis James and Ron Rhode. The Arlington Theatre will celebrate its 60th birthday next May 22, and the club is planning a major party for the theatre featuring a stage show and silent film.

In addition to concerts and silent films, a constant flow of visitors come through to hear and play the organ. Several local organists are ready (or getting ready) to play more movie intermissions. Currently Mike McLaughlin and Jerry Gerard perform regularly on weekends. Some console improvements will be made this summer, and two additional ranks of pipes will be added to bring the total to 28 ranks by fall. New stops and some syndynes will be installed. Several social events are planned and visitors to our community are all invited to come and hear and play the organ. Any mornings are available.

John Oien

SEQUOIA

Fresno, California

209/431-4305

We closed out our spring chapter meetings with concerts by Dennis Scott from San Francisco and, in May, Dave Hooper who treked in from San Jose to also play at the 3/23 Wurlitzer in Pizza and Pipes, Fresno.



Guests at dinner honoring Hector Olivera: (L to R) Bonnie Murdock, President Bruce Murdock, Hector Olivera, Monte Bennet, Steve Leslie, Debbie DeCaro, Diane Davis.
Tom DeLay photos



UCSB organist Dr. James Welsch at the Santa Barbara Arlington with guests from East Berlin.

The chapter is rapidly preparing for the Fall 1990 Central California "Mighty '90" Regional Convention. Registration has been booming and we expect a sell-out.

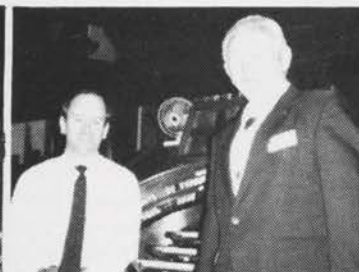
We look forward to the private chapter premiere of our 2/10 Wurlitzer in late September, with "Silver Haired Daddy" Bob Vaughn romping us through some silent films. Roughly one month later, Ron Rhode will play it for the regional convention, with Tom Hazleton's public premiere of the organ two days after that. Big things are happening with our little group.

If visitors to central California can arrange it, there is a most unique theatre about 45 miles south of Fresno in Visalia. The 1930 Visalia FOX Theatre has suffered the fate of being tripled in a most uncomplimentary way. However, virtually all of the auditorium architecture remains intact, with a spectacular lobby. The house style could best be described as East Indian/Burmese/Chinese. Designed by Balch and Standbury, the house is a radical departure from their typical California "mission style" atmospheric designs. Generally, if one is able to get to the house before 11:00 a.m. there is a good chance to see the house. There has been some talk in the local press about purchasing the FOX Visalia and restoring it to a performing arts center. With its unique architecture, this house should be on the "must save" list. Even the original blower trunk lines are in place from the original 2/8 Maas-Morton, removed in the early sixties. It would be a "cinch" to put an organ back in the theatre.

Thomas L. DeLay



Dennis Scott.



Dave Hooper and President Tom Borgstrom at Fresno Pizza & Pipes.

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 2	.....	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
November 8	.....	Wexner Center, Columbus, Ohio
November 13	.....	Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
November 15	.....	Oscar Meyer Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin
November 17	.....	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
November 25	.....	Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
November 30	.....	Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California
December 2	.....	Music Sources, Berkeley, California
December 10	.....	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
December 14 thru 16	.....	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
December 22	.....	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
December 29	Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver, B.C.
January 4, 1991	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
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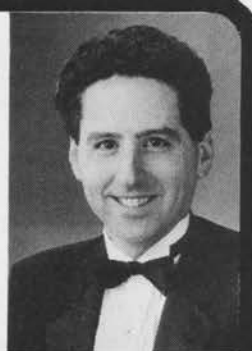
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Our Mother's Day gift to our audience was the presentation of San Francisco's favorite organist, Larry Vannucci. This was Larry's third return engagement for our chapter. He plays very authentic theatre organ style with a surprise jazz tempo now and then. He acted as his own emcee and at times was very humorous. His selections included "Rhapsody in Blue," novelty and show tunes plus "pop" and jazz themes. You could call Larry "Mr. Toe-Tapper," because of his rhythmic renditions. His keyboard work is always flawless. His fine playing and great personality left the audience wanting more. He loved our new console. Welcome back at any time, Larry, and thanks for a great program.

On June 3 we were privileged to hear the fine artistry of Dave Hooper, a California organist who is making a name for himself in both the classical and theatre styles of playing. Dave presented a fine variety program and accompaniment to the silent movie, *The General* featuring Buster Keaton. A rousing round of applause attested to the pleasure of the audience and their response to Dave's pleasing style and friendly personality. His flawless technique and registrations reflect his extensive studies — a very talented young artist. Dave has played the Wurlitzer in Angelino's Restaurant for the past 17 years (when not on concert tour). He is also Senior Organist and Director of Music at Mountain View's First Presbyterian Church. Highlights which brought tremendous applause were "You And The Night And The Music," "Ritual Fire Dance" and "The Continental."

We thank Dave Moreno for the organ maintenance, Charles Robinson for acting as emcee and Mac Wurtsbough for furnishing and operating the projectors. Thanks, too, to Key Ruland and her crew for the delicious luncheon which always seems to be a big drawing card for the club. Also, thanks to Steve Restivo and Roy Dawson for furnishing the film.

Bud Taylor



ATOS Archives/Library

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Larry Vannucci, Mother's Day artist for Sierra Chapter.



Dave Hooper loved our new console ... said, "It was easy to play."

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

We returned to Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church for our May meeting, with the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ by Lorene Thomas. Lorene played an enjoyable program, opening with "Stout-Hearted Men" and "This is My Country." She went on to play a number of old favorites, and closed with a beautiful "My Tribute," Cole Porter's "I Love You," and "Find Someone." Open console followed.

Hervey and Janice Barbour hosted our June meeting in their home in Pryor, Oklahoma, some forty-five miles east of Tulsa. Hervey played a short program consisting of "Georgia," "I'll See You, Again," and "Misty" on their 2/11 Kimball, all nicely done. Again, open console followed.

On June 24 we were privileged to hear John Scot in concert on the Central Assembly of God Robert-Morton. He played a delightful program, beginning with a group of songs from *Oklahoma!*. He then played selections from *Fiddler on The Roof*, and an "At the Cross" medley consisting of arrangements of several gospel hymns. He then moved to the "fifth manual" — the grand piano — for a beautiful "He Touched Me," "The Impossible Dream" and "Memories" (from *Cats*). Back at the organ, he played music from *Phantom of the Opera*, and a medley of patriotic songs. He closed with a lovely "Lord's Prayer."

A freewill offering was received to be used to refurbish the keyboards on the organ and to re-leather several regulators.

We are doing some finishing touches on our club-owned 3/10 Robert-Morton. Leather is being replaced on the toy counter, the traps, and a regulator.

We are saddened by the death of another member. John Barhydt's wife, Aileen, died on June 13. *Dorothy Smith*

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Kalamazoo

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We concluded an interesting six months of varied programs with the installation of new officers.

In January we had another successful meeting at the McLeieer Oil Company in Kalamazoo where member Matt Edwards played the Conn 653 in his happy style to the enjoyment of over 30 members and guests.

February we went up to Grand Rapids to Good Time Charley's for a special concert by Charlie Balogh at his mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ.

In March we were in Hastings, Michigan, at the interesting old First United Methodist Church where Rob Styberski played the Reuter pipe organ. We finished the meeting at Don Reid's home where he played his Gulbransen organ.

April found us in an unusual setting — the restored Victorian home of Paula Romanaux, organist and organ instructor at Kalamazoo College. One of her students, Cynthia Vande Riet, presented a fine concert, including selections by



Lee Hohner at his 3/10 Morton.

Bach, on the beautifully crafted pipe organ, built and installed by Jim Lauck. We were also interested in Paula's handsome harpsichord, a copy of an eighteenth century model.

By courtesy of the State Theatre management, we held our May meeting in that beautiful Ebersson environment. Don Reid and Ken Butela entertained on the Barton. Don Welsh gave a short tour of the organ chambers. While we refreshed ourselves with lone Higa's tasty treats, several of our members took advantage of the opportunity to play the Barton.

In June we went to Three Rivers to the home of Fred Hohner, father of member Lee Hohner. Lee gave us a concert on the 3/10 Morton, originally from the Riviera Theatre in Detroit, now a beautiful home installation. It is always a pleasure to go to the Hohner's.

Altogether we've had an exciting six months. We find our members becoming more and more involved in club affairs, including playing and helping with maintenance of the State Theatre organ. We look forward to the months ahead.

Dorothy Butela

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Michael Allyn in open console at Danford residence. MLV photo



VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

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New chapter member Doyle Essink was the organist for our March 18 gathering which was held at Gerber's Piano and Organ store in Glendale. Essink performed on a Rodgers organ and Kawai synthesizer.

On April 22 we went a little farther west, to Sun City, to the home of Ray and lone Danford. A brief business meeting was followed by open console on the 2/8 Wurlitzer, Kawai DX1900 and player piano.

Many members attended the Lyn Larsen/Tony Fenelon duo concert at the Valley of The Sun Center on May 12. Our American organist and the Australian concert pianist presented quite an impressive program. A few days later the Wurlitzer was to be dismantled and moved to a new location.

Our May 20 chapter meeting was held at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. Artist for the afternoon was OSP co-owner Mike Everitt. His program included music by Gershwin, Joplin, Webber and others.

An evening of great music and fine food was enjoyed by chapter members at David Lindsay's Yesterday's Restaurant on June 24. Chapter member Johnny Harris substituted at the organ for David, who is recovering from surgery. Yesterday's talented singing staff added to the fun.

Madeline LiVolsi



Tony Fenelon, Gene Larsen, and Lyn Larsen following May duo concert. MLV photo

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The chapter's organ crew, headed by John Stenstrom and Paul Harris, will undertake the tedious job of rebuilding the horseshoe rail of the 3/17 Wurlitzer in the Mosque in Richmond. The organ is an intricate part of this 3400-seat city auditorium which opened in 1927 as a movie and vaudeville house. The organ will be closed down on June 15, the day of the last graduation ceremony. It was on this organ that Reginald Foort made those legendary recordings on the Emory Cook label for which many credit the revival of interest in the theatre organ in the middle fifties.

A work shop has been set up in an area on stage right and it is here where all the contacts will be replaced and all pneumatics releathered. No major work has been done on the console for the past eight or nine years. When finished, all of the action on the console will be in working order. The work will take at least two months and will be done at no cost to the city. According to John, the chambers are in good shape. The writer heard the organ a few weeks ago and it still has that grand, mystic sound for which the building and the organ are so well known.

Sales of our recording, "The Byrd Sings," are going well. The CD's and cassettes are still available. The recording was reviewed in the May/June issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

Bob Lent continues to play at the Byrd Theatre every Friday and Saturday evening. The picture, *Dick Tracy*, is pulling in

record crowds, especially young people who have not been exposed to the theatre organ. They find it "awesome!!"

Although not a chapter undertaking, all of us are keenly interested in the re-installation of the original 3/13 Wurlitzer in the Carpenter Center, formerly Loew's Theatre, in downtown Richmond. Fred Berger stated recently in a local newspaper that the installation should be completed "by year's end."

Miles Rudisill



WOLVERINE

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

The Wolverines are still a "going club." In February they went to the ever-charming home of the Mumbrues; in March they visited the home of chartermembers Pat and Bob Burk, and in April Dave Brewer hosted the Chapter. Featured organists at these events were Steve Stephani, Grace Joslin and Dave Brewer.

In the past four months we were hit three times by the loss of dear and dedicated members. In January, Maurice Sandidge, known especially for his many hours spent in the maintenance of Motor City's Wurlitzer in the Royal Oak Theatre, passed away. In April we lost one of the kindest gentlemen the Wolverines had as a member, Jim Dunn. In May a shock went through the whole organ community when it became known that organist Jim Fox had died. Jim was more than an accomplished organist, he was a man full of ideas, who had been instrumental in creating a program of theatre organ music, played by Brian Carmody, on the

Allen 2160 organ, installed in St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, East Detroit, on December 10. It had been a wonderfully successful afternoon.

On May 20 a strong representation of Wolverines traveled to Grand Rapids for a concert by Lyn Larsen at Good Time Charley's (Charlie Balogh). Also in May, many Wolverines happily accepted the invitation by the Parish of St. Dennis Catholic Church, Royal Oak, extended by Parish Director of Music Ministries Brian Carmody, to attend the Inauguration Concert on their newly installed Allen Custom Classical Organ, played by "the Pavarotti of the Organ," Carlo Curley. For lovers of classical music, Carlo played a great concert, and he endeared himself to all of us who wished to collect his autograph, shake his hand or have a few words with him by making himself accessible. Thank you, Carlo, for a memorable event. *Charlie and Betty Baas*

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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It was wonderful seeing over 2200 people enjoying themselves so much when Bob Ralston played our 4/27 Wurlitzer on April 21, 1990. We're still hearing praise about his concert.

Peter Botto, Mgr. OAKLAND PARAMOUNT

DOUBLE THE ATTENDANCE

The Southeast Texas Chapter was privileged to have Bob Ralston here on April 7, 1990. The attendance was more than double our best previous concert attendance.

Floyd Broussard, Chairman, SETCATOS