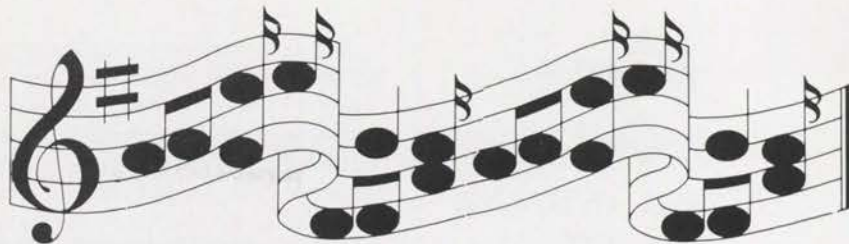


Chapter Notes



ALABAMA

Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/251-9492

We met on July 21 in the auditorium of E.E. Forbes & Sons Piano Company in Downtown Birmingham. Our own Gary Jones gave a concert on an Allen MDS Theatre III organ. The organ had a Yamaha Disklavier reproducing piano connected to it. The concert was well attended. About sixty people enjoyed the Irving Berlin and Disney tunes. A short business meeting followed the concert. That night, Gary played for the largest wedding ever at the Alabama Theatre. There were over one thousand people in attendance.

Our chapter was well represented at the Indianapolis Convention. Those who attended reported that the convention was the best ever.

August 19 was a day of record-breaking heat in Birmingham. With the temperature at 103 degrees on the outside, we held our monthly meeting in the cool Foster Auditorium in Southside Baptist Church. We were treated to a concert by guest artist Ron Carter, President of Atlanta Chapter. Ron's wife, Donna, and son John were with him. We were also delighted by the cameo performance by Rick Norton. Rick is Vice-President of Atlanta Chapter. These two artists gave an outstanding concert on the 3/6 Kimball which was formerly installed in the WAPI Radio Broadcast Studio. Because of the heat and vacations, our audience was smaller than usual, but it was enthusiastic about the music.

Virginia Robertson

ATLANTA

404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

On July 22 we had the great pleasure of a return engagement by Joylynn Huebner of Charleston, South Carolina. Joylynn is an organ instructor with more than 30 students, most of them 50 years old or more! She plays for parties and wedding receptions at Charleston's Victoria House, and is the regular Christmas organist at Thalheimer's Department Store there.

She performed for us at Atlanta's Allen Organ Studios in nearby Chamblee, on the MDS Theatre III Deluxe Edition, which succeeds the ADC-4600 as Allen's top-of-the-line three-manual theatre product. A bit about this organ. One of its primary innovations is its new TOTAL MIDI FACILITY (musical instrument digital in-



Joylynn Huebner at the Allen MDS Theatre III.

terface), by which what the organist plays can be "recorded" on floppy disks, including stop changes, expression and crescendo pedal. (Oh, yes, the instrument has a crescendo pedal — and toe studs, too — not usually found on electronic organs.) This enables theatre-organ enthusiasts who do not play to enjoy the organ in their own settings.

Joylynn's beautiful playing together with her charming personality made the afternoon very enjoyable. She gave us a lively demonstration of her virtuosity, from the rinky-dink ("Root Beer Rag") to the sacred ("Gentle Shepherd"), through the sentimental ("Kaminioi Ostrow," "Showboat Overture," and Cole Porter's "I Love You") to the heavier numbers ("Under the Double Eagle" and "Washington Post March"). One amusing piece was a combination of Bach's "Fugue in D Minor" with "Fly Me To The Moon."

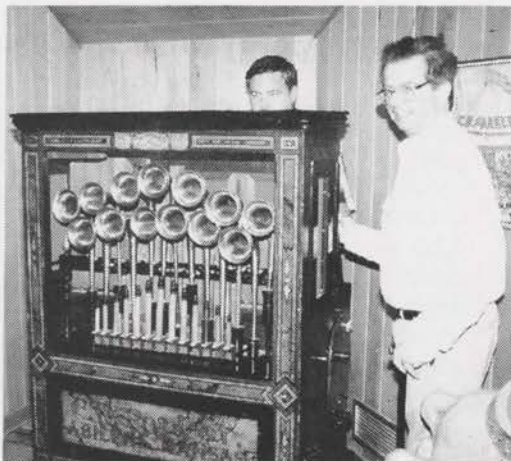
Thanks, Joylynn, and thanks, too, to local Allen president Jim Ingram, for a very pleasant couple of hours.

On August 19, we did something different and gathered at member Jim Gleeson's home in Stone Mountain to view and hear his wonderful collection of mechanical musical instruments. Jim claims no musical skills himself: "If it doesn't play itself, I can't make it play!" But he sure has a houseful of instruments that he makes play themselves!

Some of the more outstanding pieces in his collection: a Seeburg Cabinet "C" model nickelodeon, with xylophone and mandolin attachments, dating from the late 1920s; a big (27-inch) disk floor model (it has to be a floor model with disks this size) automatic changing Regina music box, shipped from the Rahway, New Jersey, factory in 1900; a North Tonawanda model 156 band organ, built in 1906 and converted from pinned cylinder to Wurlitzer 125 paper rolls in 1912; and, this correspondent's favorite, a DeKleist style 18 military band organ, manufactured about 1900-05 for one of C.W. Parker's (Abilene, Kansas) merry-go-rounds, playing a pinned cylinder. The latter we can call Jim's 0/10 organ. Why not? It has ten ranks of real, air-blown pipes (small ranks to be sure, none more than 13 pipes in number), and, of course, no manual at all. Its ranks include Trumpet, Piccolo, wood Flageolet and others, open and stopped. Boy, without earplugs, you don't go around the house playing more than one of these babies at a time!

The trip Jim gave us back into history was fascinating. Wish we had had more time to absorb it all.

Bill Hitchcock



Jim Gleeson at his 0/10 DeKleist; Charles Walker in back.



Jim Gleeson with his North Tonawanda model 156.



CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

317/359-4194 or 317/353-7321

The National Convention is now history, and for us it was a mountain-top experience. We found it absolutely fabulous to meet and get to know so many of you and to hear about the theatre organs and theatres where you live. It was especially exciting to contemplate the variety of places both here and abroad that were represented here in August.

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Our July meeting was at the Long Center in Lafayette where we heard Dwight Thomas. Dwight began piano lessons at a tender age and continued into his teens when he started classical organ study. Early in his program, Dwight used the Devtronix, left it all alone and came out to join the rest of us. He said you could hear the organ so much better that he was tempted to stay in the audience. He didn't, however, but proceeded with a beautifully registered rendition of "Music of the Night" from Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*. Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" was exceptionally well-executed. He concluded with excerpts of melodies from Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun*. Dwight told us that it was because of the death of another composer that Berlin was given the opportunity to compose the music for this show and that he was reluctant to do so. And aren't we glad he changed his mind! Otherwise we might not have had such tunes as "Got the Sun in the Morning and the Moon at Night," "S Wonderful" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." We enjoyed them all!

Betty B. Schmidt

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775

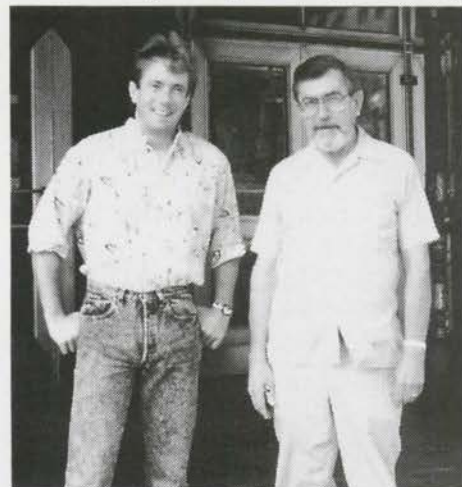
Once again we proved that we are a mobile society because on July 22, in spite of intermittent drizzle and gray skies, we traveled to Urbana, Ohio, from distant points (some as far as Charleston, West Virginia!) to meet at the Polesleys, who have a 3/13 mostly Wurlitzer installation in their home. President Garcia and Jim Blegen brought us up-to-date on the latest improvements to the club's Wurlitzer, located in Worthington, Ohio. All three manuals are getting new key contacts, new bushings and correct key travel adjustments by member Tom Hamilton. In addition, provision is being made for combination action with the inclusion of 12 pistons per manual. Mark Williams is developing a new membership brochure which will be shortly introduced in conjunction with National's. Following these announcements, Henry called for introduction of guests and friends after which he presented organist Martin Bevis. Martin, a resident of Dayton, Ohio, has been playing theatre organ for most of his adult life — an avocation he thoroughly enjoys but not to the detriment of his primary profession as a self-employed real estate title searcher. He attracted our attention last year at the Senate Theatre in Detroit when his impromptu performance at the jam session won him well-deserved recognition and applause. We feel especially proud to have him as a member.



Left: Patti Immel at open console. Right: Marvin Bevis at the Polesley's 3/13 Wurlitzer. J. Polesley photo

His program, before our 60 guests and friends, featured such favorites as the haunting and nostalgic "Laura," "Nevertheless" and a medley of Sigmund Romberg compositions. Martin's versatility was exemplified in his rendition of "Zip-a-dee-do-da" and selections from *Phantom of the Opera*. After his program many of our members took advantage of open console — that is when they weren't partaking of a delicious array of food provided by our potluck contributors. Again, we're mystified at how fortunate we are to have such a wide variety of dishes when one member doesn't know what the other is preparing — but then why question a good thing; it's the best of both worlds the way it is.

During one of Rob Richard's recent visits to Columbus to play for the Ohio Theatre's summer movie series he had a chance to rekindle a long-time friendship with COTOS Vice-President John Adams. Their friendship extends back to Rob's high school days in Aberdeen, South Dakota, when John worked in Rapid City. Rob's present home is in Phoenix, Arizona, where he is one of the associate organists at Mesa's Organ Stop Pizza. John Polesley



Rob Richards in front of the Ohio Theatre with Vice-President John Adams. J. Adams photo

THEATRE ORGAN



CHICAGO AREA

312/589-9363 or 312/282-0037

About the only lull for us is when the National ATOS Convention is in session. Winter weather sometimes slows us a bit, also.

We had a very interesting and rewarding musical spring which continued into the summer months.

The Gateway Theatre is the home of Copernicus Civic Center, a Polish performing arts group. The theatre's 3/16 Wurlitzer/Kimball organ is maintained by member Dennis Wolkowicz. Dennis also manages the theatre very well! The Gateway Theatre celebrated its 60th Anniversary this year with a gala, nostalgic show.

This program featured Hal Pearl at the organ doing his famous varied program and well-appreciated sing-along. The feature was *Paramount On Parade*, always a popular film. Also, the Gateway 30-piece concert orchestra was part of the program, plus a nostalgic entrance fee of 25¢. YES, a whole quarter. Needless to say, the house was jammed to the rafters.



Bill Rieger (left), John Devona and Lee Maloney.

July 15 was our summer social at the Patio Theatre. The well-known, well-traveled theatre organist and circus man, Lee Maloney, handled the 3/17 Barton organ admirably. Lee included in his program an introduction of John Devona to the audience. John was one of the entrants in the 1990 ATOS Young Organist Competition. Our congratulations!

John Ledwon, ATOS President, presented a marvelous program at the Rockford joint summer social in the Coronado Theatre. This social was a compatible combination of Joliet, Rockford, and Chicago Chapters with John Ledwon presiding at the Barton console. An outstanding program ensued.

Our fall schedule is planned to include Frank Pellico and his orchestra at the Copernicus Cultural Center. Frank is one of our active and talented musicians with great experience in programming. He is now staff organist for the Black Hawks at the Chicago Stadium.

Also this fall, Ron Rhode will preside at the Pickwick Theatre's Wurlitzer.

This year's programming will end at Oakbrook Christ Church with our Annual Christmas Social. Music Director and Chief church organist for the church, Devon Hollingsworth, will present this Holiday program. It will be a great finale to a grand year of music to our liking.

A healthy, happy 1991 to all from CATOE!
Almer Brostrom

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Cumberland Valley's organ crew at "one-seventh of the Capitol Moller," (L to R) Dean Faulk, Mark Cooley, John McBride, Gil Singer.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
717/263-0202

In July, Chambersburg residents Bill and Brenda Black, collectors extraordinaire of mechanical musical instruments, hosted a visit to their home. Arranged by chapter treasurer and Capitol Theatre owner Gordon Madison, the outing was an adventure in sight and (maximum) sound.

Bill discussed the history of each instrument — some of which included fire, flood, and astounding good fortune — and then let them speak for themselves. Heard that evening were a Welte reproducing baby-grand piano, several Wurlitzer military band organs, a Gasparini band organ made in France which used a "book" music roll consisting of folding pages of perforated cardboard, and an Aeolian upright player piano with mandolin effect.

One of the Wurlitzer band organs was an extremely rare Style 155 model known to collectors as "the monster." The instrument came from a Michigan roller-skating rink and, true to its nickname, produced a full and quite deafening sound. Bill had thoughtfully provided wads of paper towels to stuff in ears.

Cumberland Valley's ongoing restoration of the Capitol Theatre's original 3/14 Moller continued throughout the summer. The Solo (right) chamber saw the return of its refurbished 24-note chest and 16' string pipes, the first items to be put back since their removal to the Organ Shop above the theatre lobby two years ago. The chapter's organ crew next will be troubleshooting the restored four-rank chest and then returning it to the chamber, and also completing work on the toy counter and glockenspiel.

The organ console has been moved from the orchestra pit at center stage to the promenade on the second floor, a location closer to the Organ Shop, so that rebuilding can get underway. The size of the console required a brief trip outside the theatre and the efforts of a seven-person crew.

Bob Maney

DELAWARE VALLEY

Glenside, Pennsylvania
215/828-8662

On July 15 we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffner in Vine-land, New Jersey, to enjoy a short concert and open console. Their organ is a 3/20 Marr & Colton originally installed in the State Theatre in Easton, Pennsylvania. It is equipped with a Steinway Duo-art grand piano playable from the console. The orchestral tone quality so desirable in a theatre organ is strongly evident in this instrument and the lush sound does not pall on the ear.

Mr. Hoffner introduced guest artist Wayne Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman's program, which emphasized music from the Broadway stage, presented an overview of more than 60 years of the American musical theatre in less than 60 minutes. It is a credit to his artistry that he handled so well all the musical styles contained within that period. Needless to say, his program and performance were well received.

Open console followed the concert. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Hoffner for inviting our members to their home each year.

In conjunction with Garden State and New York Chapters, we traveled on September 9 to the Convention Hall in Asbury Park, New Jersey, to hear in concert former Radio City Music Hall organist James Paulin playing the Kilgen 3/8 theatre organ. Mr. Paulin brings to his music an enormous amount of electric energy. He is possessed of truly prodigious improvisational skills. One of his favorite expressive devices is the use of the extended and gradula crescendo after the manner of some of the overtures of Rossini.

Mr. Paulin established an immediate rapport with his audience which he maintained throughout his program. He generously responded to the enthusiastic applause by offering several encores.

The group was treated to an unannounced and unexpected pleasure when Ashley Miller of Radio City Music Hall fame presented an informal, impromptu program. Of course, Mr. Miller's name is

internationally synonymous with theatre organ and is known to everyone in the theatre organ world.

Open console was held before and after the formal program. Since the day's event began in the morning and continued until after 5:00 p.m., there was ample time for everyone who wanted to play to do so.

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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, Leibstraum, 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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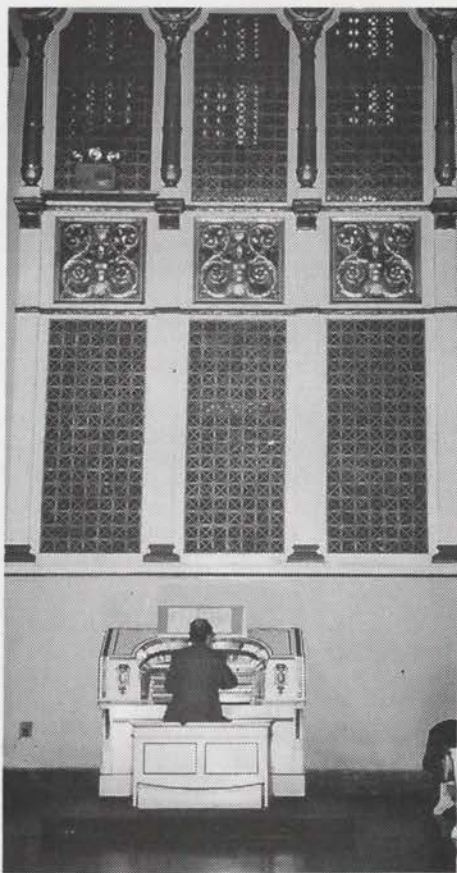
EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley
617/662-7055

While there were no meetings in July and August, our organ crew had no vacation. This devoted group completely gutted the Solo chamber as new windlines were needed to accommodate the new 8' Trivo Post Horn. That addition also required relay changes and rearranging the whole layout.

Preparations for the 32' electronic Contra Bourdon extension on the pedal have been made including two 7' x 20" x 30", 200 pounds each, speaker cabinets enclosing two Sound Design special sub-woofers. Babson College officials have been most cooperative in allowing us to break down sections of walls for the necessary openings.

Under consideration is a video tape including a portion of Lance Luce's recent concerts, photos of the destruction of Loew's State Theatre, Boston (the former home of our Wurlitzer), and related material. This project would require the showing by certain Boston TV stations and could generate excellent publicity. Dick Linder is exploring various possibilities at this time. *Stanley C. Garriss*



Ashley Miller at Kilgen Theatre pipe organ. *Mike Ford photo*



Asbury Park Convention Hall. *Jimmy Vanore photo*



New Jersey

609/888-0909 or 201/445-1128

The first of a series of Sunday afternoon summer concerts was held at the Asbury Park Convention Hall on July 15 and the last on August 26. It was an exciting, first-time venture of our chapter to introduce the 3/7 Kilgen theatre organ to the wide variety of people strolling on the boardwalk, enjoying the sun, beach and ocean waves.

The concerts were free and many passing the open doors were lured into the Convention Hall to hear the big, full sound of the organ. Some stood in the back listening. Others took chairs which had been strategically placed for the best sound. Organ and chapter literature was given out and all were encouraged to attend the following concerts.

This successful series of concerts was made possible by the untiring efforts of Russ Sattur, crew chief of the Kilgen, who not only brought the organ up to concert-playing condition, but scheduled all the concerts and obtained the six artists to play them. It was a 24-hour job for weeks on end. GSTOS especially wants to thank Russ Sattur and his crew, especially Dr. Jean Scibetta. We look forward to future programs. *Jimmy Vanore*

(continued ...)



Boardwalk spectators listening to Ashley Miller explain the pipe organ.

Jimmy Vanore photo



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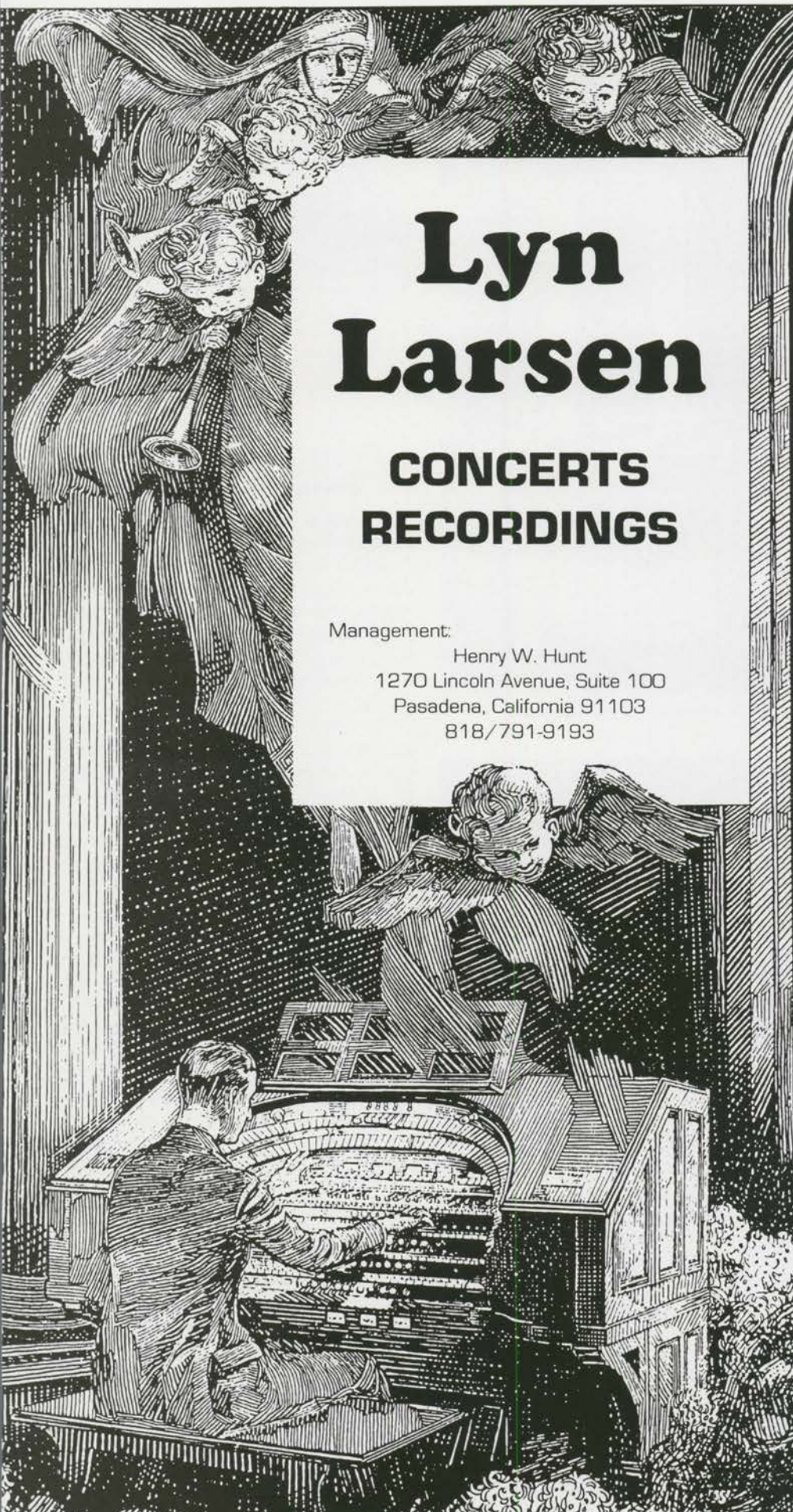
Nov. 21 Riviera Theatre - North Tonawanda, New York

Nov. 23 Rochester Theatre Organ Society - Rochester, NY

1991

Oct. 19 Detroit Theater Organ Society - Detroit, Michigan

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GARDEN STATE cont.

Organist Mike Brett kicked off the first summer free concert on July 15. Mike performed a wide variety of music including show tunes, popular standards, hymns and a sing-along. The concert was well attended by more than twenty chapter members and about 100 of the general public. The intent of the concert series was to provide a casual listening experience which was realized as the audience wore anything from jackets and tie to bathing suits. Donations totaling \$44 were received, and many expressed interest in the society.

The second concert was held July 22 featuring Bob Legon, who hails from the Boston area. Bob played a lively concert with more than a hundred people making a bee-line for the Hall. The concert attracted senior citizens, families with young children and young couples in their twenties.

Don Hansen, a GSTOS member from Staten Island, played the third concert July 29. He enchanted the audience with a mix of popular show tunes and more traditional theatre organ music. For the finale, he regaled the audience with a rousing rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Don's style was very popular with the audience who stayed planted in their seats demanding encores.

On August 5 the scheduled artist failed to show for the performance, so Russ Sattur substituted at the last moment. In addition to his dedication and proficiency in restoring and enlarging the organ, Russ proves to be a talented musician as well. Crew member Jean Scibetta knew that the quick fix for a cipher is pulling the pipe, but what do you do with a 16-foot Diaphone? (Anybody have a fork life truck?) Knowing the relay, Jean saved the day. Chamber tours followed the concert.

Bob Legon's eagerly awaited encore performance on August 12 was the 5th concert. It included selections from *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, and a sing-along. Bob even invited the audience to dance with a ballroom dance set. Thanks Bob, for two fine performances.

The last concert of the series was held on August 26 with Ashley Miller at the console. Ashley was in great form, having just returned from a great performance at the Visiting Artist Program during the ATOS convention in Indianapolis. The audience was the largest yet, including some of Ashley's fans from as far away as Rochester and Phoenixville. A standing ovation demanded several encores. Record sales were brisk, and dozens of people gathered around the console after the concert to talk to Ashley and tour the chambers.

George Andersen

GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

What more can be said about the National ATOS Convention that hasn't already been covered elsewhere? We went, we enjoyed, and it was great!

Such a thrill and delight to see so many friends, to meet the artists, and to hear such splendid performances. The hotel and bus arrangements were all top-of-the-line.

We have had two chapter meetings this summer, both in the Historic District home of our VP/Treasurer and console-builder, B.D. Rhea, MD. Scott Brodie, President, presided. Scott advised the chapter of the workings-in-the-mill for our application to the Arts Council for funding, the increased roster of our membership, and the appointment of a 10-member Board, instead of five. This last to be in line for approval of the Arts Council.

The two new ranks for our 4/23 Robert-Morton in the Saenger Theatre, an Orchestra Oboe and the Kinura are waiting-in-the-wings, literally, for permanent installation in the chambers. We need to get the dates set with the theatre management, with technicians Jimmy Scoggins and Curt Goldhill, and with other willing hands for the necessary step-and-fetch that goes with this sort of project.

Jeff Weiler is scheduled for January 26, 1991, and Jim Riggs for April 19/20. We are planning on a school participation program with Riggs. Scott is busily making arrangement with the power tower at the school board to complete the plans to transport buses of school children to the Saenger Theatre for Jim's performance. Another "first" for us. *Dorothy Standley*

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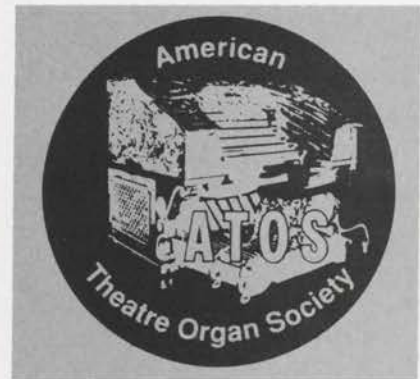


L to R: Dr. Ed Farmer, Ned Spain, Bill Hubert, Bruce Londen, Lucy Del Grosso at open console.

HUDSON-MOHAWK

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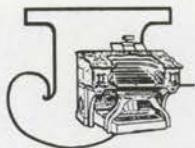
Many members of our chapter attended the Annual End-of-the-Season picnic at the home of Betty and Ted Wood in Washington County, New York. Their 125-year-old farmhouse is situated in a lovely wooded area and contains a 3/20 Wurlitzer theatre organ which formerly was in a Peekskill, New York, theatre. Everyone enjoyed the strains of music whether inside or outside. The weather, food, etc., was perfect for such an affair . . . everyone is looking forward to next year!
Mina Lungen



New ATOS Labels!



At the picnic (L to R): David and Lucy Del Grosso, Lois Bigelow, Jimmy Vanore, Joe Vanore, Gus Pratt, Bruce Louden. Don Wheatley is seated in front.



JOLIET AREA
Joliet, Illinois

The busy summer schedule continues . . . following the fantastic July 8 concert by Lew Williams at Krughoff's Wurlitzer Park, the first session of the 1990 Seminar Series began at the Rialto Theatre on August 1. President Lee Maloney presided.

On August 10 ATOS President John Ledwon played at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford for the combined chapters of JATOE, LOLTOS and CATOE. He also spoke extemporaneously, providing important information regarding maintenance of theatre pipe organs.

The Seminar Series resumed on August 15. Guest commentator Tom Gnaster critiqued each participant's performance and made suggestions relevant to tempo, fingering, registration and other pertinent factors that helped the "students" immeasurably. This format was continued in subsequent sessions.

The Fabulous Fox bus trip was a huge success. Over the weekend of August 25-26, a sold-out busload of theatre organ fans stopped enroute at the Wicks factory in Highland, Illinois. The Wicks family hosted a grand tour of their facility and gave members the opportunity to play their demonstration pipe organs. Lunch at Michael's Swiss Inn was a gourmet treat, and a treat for the ears with Les Hickory



Colonel Jack Moelmann in the pit at the St. Louis Fox.
Hal Pritchard photo

concertizing at the Hammond. Saturday night found us at the home of Colonel Jack Moelmann to hear his astounding array of pipes, transistors and toys during a one-man show that defies description. The colonel was in rare form, and he brought the house down with his super-patriotic production numbers. We also feasted at his home!

On Sunday morning we toured the Fabulous Fox in St. Louis. It is an overwhelming house. Thanks to our hosts, the St. Louis chapter, sixteen travelers played open console after Colonel Jack had wowed us again. On the way home we stopped at the Kikendall residence in Springfield to hear and play their Wicks and partake of generous refreshments.

The devastating tornadoes that raked the Joliet area spared the Rialto Theatre. A benefit performance there on September 7 helped alleviate the suffering.

Hal Pritchard



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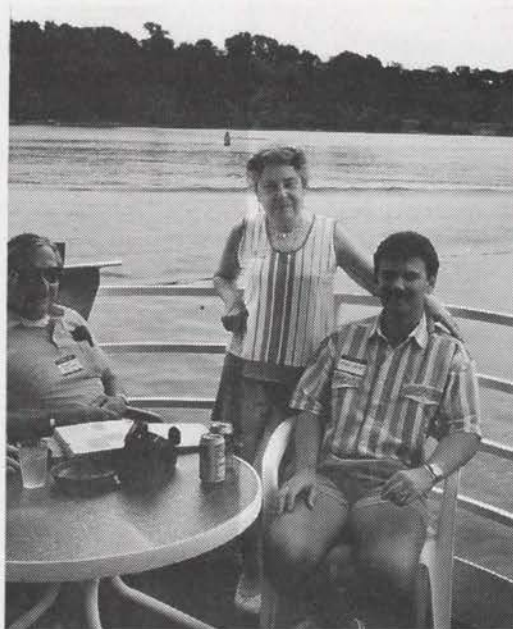
715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

Organ concerts came to a standstill for the long, hot and humid summer in our area. However, members who attended the ATOS Indianapolis Convention in August reported a wonderful time, beautiful music and organs, and friendly people.

Our three-hour cruise on the mighty Mississippi aboard the brand new \$175,000 houseboat *Spirit of the Croix* on July 9 provided a leisurely outing for 49 members and friends. The scenery from the middle of the broad Mississippi River traveling south from Prescott, Wisconsin, was different from everyday visions — trains meandering along the river, beautiful homes atop the bluffs AND quiet — no racing motor boats on this Monday!

The cruise was a very satisfying way to continue our outing which began with a bountiful luncheon served under a tented canopy adjacent to Mike's gorgeous flower garden in full bloom, his pride and joy. Even out in the garden we could hear music emanating from the sanctuary of Mike Erie and Roger Dalziel's church/residence in Prescott, as several people took turns at the organs and piano. We were especially pleased to have travelers and members John and Anita Moseng from Eau Claire, Emma Baker from Sycamore, Illinois, and Dr. Frank and Margaret Hoffman from Mason City, Iowa, join us for the day. A very pleasant time, indeed, and we hope to plan another for next year.

I have just received another communication from Mayor Don Fraser of Minneapolis, who heads up the Minneapolis Organ Trust Fund for the Kimball built in 1928, the largest organ in the Upper Midwest. All 10,000 pipes were made by hand. It boasts two consoles: a 5-manual, 122-rank concert console and a 4-manual, 24-rank theatre console. Played together, the



Aboard the *SPIRIT OF THE CROIX*:
Dr. Frank Hoffman, Verna Mae Wilson, Mike Erie.

► On the upper deck: Harriet Bateman, Emma Baker, Marguerite and Ted Espe. A train can be seen in the background.



consoles produce a sound equivalent to 25 brass bands. The National Organ Historical Society has added this organ to its register of Historic Instruments.

As you read this, one of the largest and most powerful pipe organs in the world lies dismantled and dejected in a darkened warehouse somewhere in Minneapolis. It was relegated there, after 60 years of service in the Minneapolis Auditorium to avoid the wrecking ball that has razed that structure. The new Convention Centre is open for business and Mayor Fraser and the Restoration Committee are soliciting contributions for the re-installation of this "King of Instruments."

If anyone feels they could spare a dollar or two toward this huge effort, checks should be made payable to the Minneapolis Organ Trust Fund and sent to Convention Center Project Office, 315 East Grant Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404. I'm sure any and all monies will be gratefully appreciated.

Verna Mae Wilson

CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS: PLEASE NOTE

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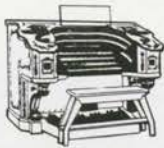
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LAND OF LINCOLN

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Our members gathered at the Tuttle farm near Poplar Grove, August 5, for fun and fellowship at a picnic.

Robert and Marcia Tuttle are collectors of all kinds of mechanical and electronic musical equipment. In their music room, the Tuttle's have a 2/4 Kilgen organ player, a 2/15 tracker John Brown organ, a player piano, a grand piano and various music boxes.

The adjoining room contains an electronic Wurlitzer organ and numerous antique phonographs and more music boxes.

In the theatre with its small stage, silver screen, flood lights and projection booth, the Tuttle's have a two-roll Page player organ (only 2 were built in 1937) and a piano that can be played from the organ. Guests were invited to try their musical talents on the various instruments and enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Marshall Biomberg, who has a rotisserie mounted on a trailer, prepared the delicious fork-tender roast beef and corn on the cob. Members brought a variety of favorite dishes for the potluck supper and a wonderful time was enjoyed by all.

We were honored August 10 when the ATOS President John Ledwon visited Rockford. John delighted LOLTOS mem-

bers and friends with music from the *Phantom of the Opera*, themes from *West Side Story*, and a medley of Big Band songs from the 40s that he played on the Grande Barton organ. After the concert, refreshments were served in the ornate foyer of the Coronado Theatre.

The Coronado tour and organ concert have become popular not only for out-of-town and local visitor tours, but as a part of high school reunion ceremonies. Their class loyalty songs played as the organ rises into view bring class members to their feet with enthusiastic applause. Many reminisce about childhood times in the theatre and graduations held there.

August 31, September 1 and 2 our members again opened their booth at "On the Waterfront," Rockford's largest downtown festival. This is the fifth year we have been there to give information and sell items to promote LOLTOS, the Grande Barton organ, and the Coronado Theatre.

Marty Mangas



LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND

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To all who worked so hard on the Indianapolis Convention, thank you from London Chapter. It was well worth the trip, and our young entrants were more than pleased to be there. These conven-

tions are so much a part of ATOS and a grand way of meeting and exchanging ideas. Also, the generous hospitality of our friends in Chicago made us feel so welcome that we had our own wonderful afterglow with visits to many home installations in that area.

We returned to a concert at the Top Rank Club Kilburn with four young artists: Mark Aston, Russell Holmes, Ben Vine and Simon Appleyard, names that will be heard a lot in the future. All are under 17 years of age, and all play very well. Our annual competition will be held on September 16, and we usually arrange a concert to show our members the progress that our young winners have achieved in the past year. We would like to have seen a few more members and the younger generation, but what we lacked in numbers we made up in enthusiasm. Mark, Russell and other members gave us lively musical items, and we were pleased to see Michael Maine from Portslade with his friends and others to entertain us on the Wurlitzer at Wurlitzer Lodge.

We were very happy to see Searle Wright over here for his annual visit. It is always a pleasure to just sit and chat. We would like to congratulate Jim Riggs as 1990 Organist of the Year, and we look forward to hearing him play again for our chapter.

With two big dances to plan, two concerts and a Christmas extravaganza, we are not idle. Holiday greetings to all our friends. We look forward to another successful year for ATOS.

Edith Rawle



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Lew Williams, 1988 ATOS Organist of the Year, returned to Los Angeles on July 21. This charming young man from Arizona last played in Los Angeles during the 1987 ATOS National Convention. His performance on the LATOS-owned and maintained 3/27 J. Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer in Sexson Auditorium on the campus of Pasadena City College included old theatre organ music, music of the 40s and 50s and novelties providing an opportunity to show off the many special effects of the toy counter. Lew displayed his versatility with several selections from his repertoire of classical numbers. The entire performance was outstanding, but the highlight of the evening had to be his popular rendition of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" featuring the concert grand on stage.

In August many of our members attended the ATOS National Convention in Indianapolis. The artists and organs were great and Tim Needler and his committee are to be thanked and congratulated for a truly memorable week!

The Fall General Membership Meeting on August 19 was a salute to two long-time LATOS members and supporters as well as artists of renown. Being the veteran troopers that they are, Ann Leaf and Del Castillo delighted the membership present with almost non-stop playing on the J. Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer.

Former Lawrence Welk Show organist Bob Ralston made a return appearance at San Gabriel Auditorium on September 9. While the outside temperature soared to over 100 degrees, the auditorium air conditioner malfunctioned making it necessary for Bob to perform in the breeze created by a large fan directed at him and the console. In addition to accompanying a short Laurel & Hardy comedy, *Sugar Daddies*, Bob augmented his performance on the 3/16 Wurlitzer with numbers performed on a Yamaha keyboard. Soprano soloist Patricia Welch joined him performing several vocal numbers. The many fans from the Lawrence Welk era of Bob's career were obviously delighted with the afternoon's entertainment, in spite of the uncomfortable conditions, while others vocalized their displeasure and disdain.

The 1990 season of LATOS concerts is being finalized and Angelenos will have the opportunity to hear a number of outstanding artists on the wide variety of theatre pipe organ installations in the metropolitan area.

Wayne Flottman



MID-FLORIDA

Orlando, Florida

407/894-4243 or 407/933-8368

We have changed our name. We are now the Orlando Area Theatre Organ Society. We hope this will end the confusion caused by people getting us mixed up with the Central Florida chapter in Tampa. We are the chapter that is doing the Don Baker Memorial Organ.

After a delay that has caused us to move our dedication date from February 1991 to September 1991, work on our project has resumed. We have moved the instrument to a warehouse in Orlando. Our crew chief is Ted Campbell, who many will remember as the man who installed the Surf City Wurlitzer and the Panama Hilton Wurlitzer. The chest work is nearly complete, and we have purchased the remainder of Wurlitzer opus 1099, the Wurlitzer that Jesse Crawford used for many recordings.

The Don Baker Wurlitzer is to be a 3/24 and will be a fitting tribute to this great organist. We wish to thank all who have contributed to this project, and we hope for continuing support from those who wish to help in reaching our goal. We still need a Post Horn, a glass music rack (like the Alabama) and two wood-inlaid Wurlitzer nameplates. Happy Holidays!

Walter Kimble

NOTICE:

The ATOS Board of Directors at the meeting in Indianapolis approved a slight increase in the advertising rates in THEATRE ORGAN effective January 1, 1991.

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Colonel Jack Moelmann at the Redford.

Ray VanSteenkiste photo



L to R: Tom and Allen FitzGerald, Mickey Estes, Marge and Ray Nicholl, Mary Estes and Irene FitzGerald at Murray Lake.
Ray VanSteenkiste photo



MOTOR CITY

Detroit

313/537-1133

Colonel Jack Moelmann accompanied *The Freshman*, starring Harold Lloyd, and *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, with Buster Keaton, as a two-day double feature at the Redford Theatre on July 20 and 21. Scheduling this silent film festival as part of our biweekly classic film series probably resulted in a larger total audience than if the program had been promoted as an organ concert. The audience was enthusiastic about the presentation, especially Jack's patriotic finale.

An afternoon barbecue, hosted by Ray and Dorothy VanSteenkiste during Jack's visit, was attended by some 60 chapter members.

More than 900 people enjoyed balmy summer weather on our 17th annual private charter moonlight cruise, chaired by Don Lockwood, on the 88-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* the evening of August 2. Paul Kline, Shirlee Schenk and Steve Schlesing played Shirlee's Hammond for dancing, while the Harmonica Varieties

also provided music for dancing on the ballroom deck. Meanwhile, up on the bar deck, Fran Carmody, accompanied by Sharron Patterson, sang and led a sing-along; Carolyn Conway played the flute, accompanied by her mother, Sue; Terry Carmody also sang and several members availed themselves of open console at the Baldwin organ. A barbershop quartet, Four-of-a-Kind, serenaded passengers on all four decks of the *Columbia*, America's oldest passenger steamship, during the three-hour cruise on the Detroit River.

A highlight of our annual picnic, held at Murray Lake, a private preserve near Ann Arbor, on August 26, was fresh corn, provided by Sandy Krueger, roasted on the grill. While some played cards, others went swimming and boating. Chaired by

Irene FitzGerald, picnickers this year enjoyed exceptionally warm summer weather.

Norma Meredith, Bob Mills and Joel Still were the artists for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on July 22. Wilma Steslick was the Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton on August 26. It was the first such appearance for Norma and Jack and we appreciate the time and effort that all put into their programs.

Tony O'Brien will be featured in our Christmas 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



For Jack Moelmann, with knife in hand, cut time is a piece of cake. With Jack are Jennifer Candea, Dianne Bellamy, Brian VanSteenkiste and Nick Tapler.
Ray VanSteenkiste photo

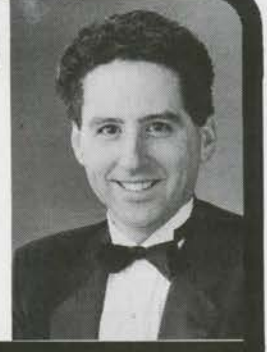
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| November 25 | | Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia |
| November 30 | | Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California |
| December 2 | | Music Sources, Berkeley, California |
| December 3 | | Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California |
| December 7, 8 | | Bing Auditorium, LACMA, Los Angeles, California |
| December 14-16 | | Symphony Hall, San Diego, California |
| December 22 | | National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. |
| January 4, 1991 | | Symphony Hall, San Diego, California |
| January 20 | | Bing Auditorium, LACMA, Los Angeles, California |
| January 26 | | Paramount Theatre, Oakland, California |
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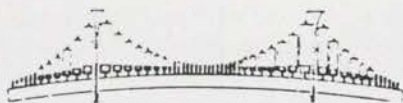
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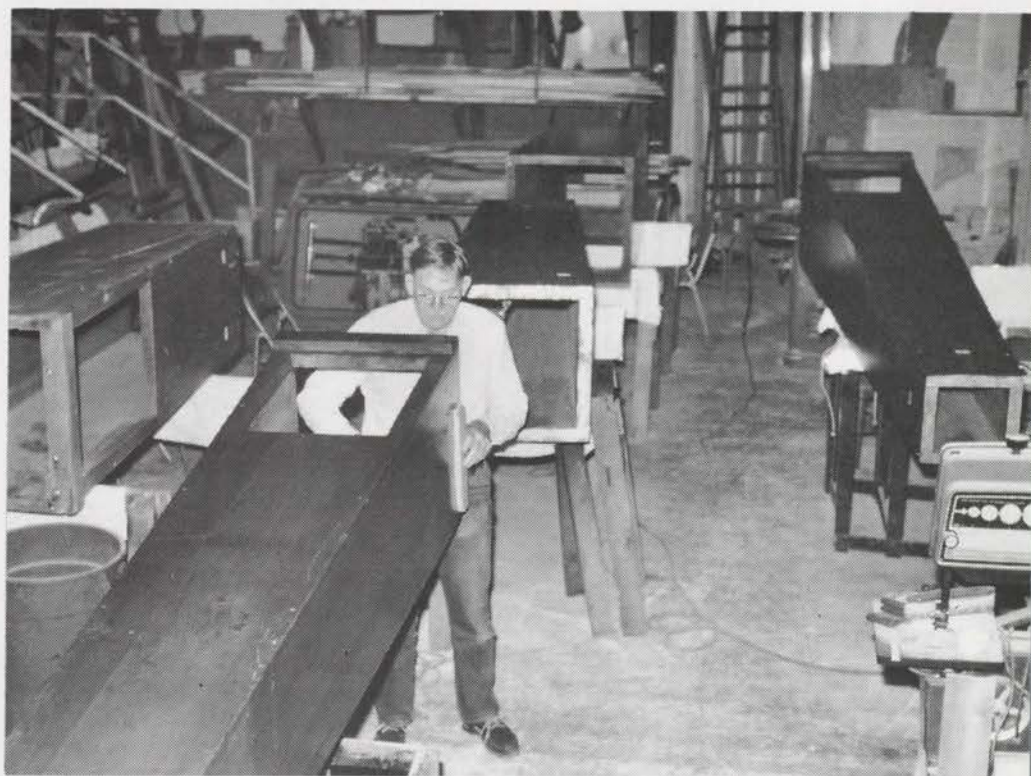
NOR-CAL

San Francisco Bay Area
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On September 9, David Reese played the best concert I have heard him do, and thanks to Ed Stout and Dick Taylor, the Castro Wurlitzer was in its usual impeccable condition. The crescendo pedal had been activated just for this concert, and Ray Taylor introduced David as the "Master of the Crescendo."

David opened with "San Francisco," making nice use of the romantic, wood pipes to express a quiet affection for the city. "Rose Room" featured the piano in player-roll style. Leroy Anderson's "Phantom Regiment" was both militarily precise and properly haunting. Expressing gratitude for their saving of the Bella Roma establishment and its organ, David dedicated "The Desert Song" to its new owners, members Les and Rita Schaefer. He celebrated the 25th anniversary of *The Sound of Music* with a lively medley played with great appreciation and enjoyment.

The second half of David's program opened with "Take A Number From One to Ten." He informed us that Harvey Blanchard is currently in Hillhaven Convalescent Home in Concord and would enjoy cards and letters. Harvey was the first organist to help David when he was new to California, and a medley of "Counting the Stars Alone," "A Birdseye View of



My Old Kentucky Home" and "I Want to Go Home" was dedicated to Harvey, followed by "Happy Birthday." David closed his program with a medley of marches associated with the Armed Forces. Following a standing ovation, David dedicated a highly jazzed up version of "Up A Lazy River" to Ray Taylor. He concluded with a reprise of "San Francisco."

Evelyn Woodworth

Nor-Cal's professional woodworker Carl Pinnow repairs cracked resonator sections by doweling, glueing and clamping, restoring the chapters' four-manual Wurlitzer. The organ was originally the Toledo Paramount Publix I. Restoration is scheduled to be completed in time to highlight the instrument at the July 5-9, 1991 meeting of the ATOS in San Francisco.

Leon Fletcher photo



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NORTH TEXAS

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A valiant effort is being mounted by a group of public-spirited North Texans to "save" the Dallas Texas Theatre for use as a performing arts center. The Texas closed last December after more than fifty years of continuous use. Built in 1931 by the legendary Howard Hughes as a 1350-seat movie palace, it was furnished in the grand style, has a working presentation stage with rigging loft, and originally contained a theatre pipe organ. What has saved this theatre from demolition up to now, no doubt, is the fact that the real estate on which it sits has not had the escalation in value it would have enjoyed had it been in downtown Dallas, rather than "across the river" in Oak Cliff. A group calling itself the Texas Theatre Historical Society and a number of business sponsors have crossed the first hurdle by getting an agreement with present owners, United Artists, on terms for acquiring the theatre. Now faced with raising nearly \$200,000 as a starter, the sponsors are having a black-tie affair at the Red Bird Mall in September to help in raising the necessary cash. It is expected that the planned restoration will cost about \$2,000,000. For North Texas Chapter, this presents a potential location for another theatre pipe organ in our midst. Chapter member Roger Smith is one of those dedicated to preserving the theatre as a Performing Arts Center and he reports that he and his fellows would like to see a theatre pipe organ re-installed in the theatre. He believes that the existing chambers are suitable for about a 12 or 15-rank instrument. We will be following the progress of this effort with great interest and wish them success.

Roger Smith is even more deeply in-



Charles Evans, with North Texas officers Lorena Mc Kee (left) and Mabel Westbay in Lakewood Theatre lobby.



Bill Newton at Robert-Morton during open console, August meeting in Lakewood Theatre.

involved with theatre pipe organ reclamation and restoration on his own as he is installing a ten-rank Barton in his helicopter hanger in nearby Arlington. As is not unusual with projects of this type, it is taking much longer than Roger had anticipated (or wished) to get his instrument

fully rebuilt and playing. Roger hopes to have things far enough along by late spring 1991 for its debut to North Texas Chapter.

In August we were entertained royally by Dallas organist, teacher and fellow member, Charles Evans, playing our chapter's Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre. Charles is always a joy to hear on theatre pipes and, though we call on him frequently to play for us, his programs are always fresh. His opener, "Everything Old Is New Again," was indicative of what followed. Replete with familiar melodies, Charles' unique and richly ornamented arrangements did, indeed, make them new for our enjoyment. In the NEW category, he played the melodic "I Want To Be Part Of Your World," from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. With a tip of his hat to Lyn Larsen, Charles closed with Grieg's "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen."

Irving Light



Grace McGinnis, Dennis Hedberg, Jay & Stephanie at Oregon picnic/sale.



← Garry & Rachel Zenk.
Below: Terry Robson, Irv Ewen and Gerry Gregorius

Paul Quarino photos



OREGON CHAPTER
ART-O-S
Portland

503/771-8098

Planning a picnic in Oregon requires playing Russian Roulette with the weather, so careful Oregonians usually look for indoor/outdoor facilities, just in case. Again, this year we were fortunate to be able to hold our picnic at the home of Don and Alva James, where we also had access to their smooth little 2/8 Wicks. Nice! This year we held a "One Man's Turkey Is Another Man's Feathers" sale at the picnic. Members brought everything from records and tapes to books and boodles, and we raised about \$160 for the Cleveland organ project. We heard organ music from several members while we consumed an inordinate amount of goodies, and believe it or not, there was no rain!

Work on the Cleveland installation continues apace, and the prospect of sound in 1990 is looking very promising.



POTOMAC VALLEY

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On July 15 we had a fun meeting at the Bethesda, Maryland, home of Elaine and Frank Stoner, where we were entertained magnificently on Stoner's Allen ADC 4600 digital three-manual concert/theatre electronic organ, featuring Mark Hanak, who has a degree in Organ Performance and is Frank Stoner's teacher. The Allen has a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) for its Solo, Great, Accompaniment and Pedal divisions, and Mark Hanak demonstrated the MIDI by connecting and playing the Allen from his own electronic keyboard. Then open console on the Allen was gladly participated in by chapter Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle and by members Ardis Sneddon, Lee Prater, and our newest member, Mike Hartley. Refreshments were served by the Stoners, and all present agreed that the event was a chapter highlight.

Several of our members attended the ATOS Convention held in Indianapolis in early August and agreed that it was a great success, too.

Jack Little



Lee Prater's digits tickle the digital Allen and the attendees!
Frank Stoner photo



Guest artist Mark Hanak at the Allen. His connected electronic keyboard is alongside.
Frank Stoner photo

PUGET SOUND

On July 22, a very warm Sunday afternoon, we met in the Lobbereg's meadow for our traditional summer picnic. For those not familiar with Bert and Frankie's Farm/Museum/Home-with-pipe-organ, it can be said there's something to satisfy almost anyone's interest.

First, the food: brought by each family and spread upon one of the several red-checked table covers under the shade of the giant firs; then, to wander about to view the tidy, organically grown garden behind deer-proof fencing, and the many other beautiful plantings about the estate; or, into the house to enjoy listening to, or playing, the seven-rank Wood's organ, or to see what Frankie has displayed this time from her collection of vintage dolls and furniture; finally, on to the museum featuring Bert's lifetime collection of classic autos, player pianos, music boxes, and assorted treasures. Frankie's special room features turn-of-the-century clothing, dishes, glassware, utensils, books, on and on, all for browsing or for sale. Many of us went home with an article that struck our fancies. A most enjoyable and relaxing afternoon, altogether.

The name of Puget Sound Chapter has been officially changed to Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society.

We welcomed for a week's visit in July our beloved member Thelma Barclay, who had suffered a stroke and been moved to Arkansas to be near her family. Two receptions for her at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes gave most of us a chance to renew our friendship.

On August 13 an open console session at the Paramount was scheduled. Always a popular event, it was attended by members and friends who kept the Wurlitzer bench occupied and the air filled with pleasant sound.

Reports from members who attended the convention in early August were all positive except for the account from Pat Lajko, concerning his experience with what has to be the ultimate lost airline baggage debacle.

Pat has developed a process for a realistic pipe organ sound which he calls "Digital Pipes," in which he scopes a rank of pipes from attack to decay. Using a technique not understood by me, he has produced a String and Celeste, Vox, Flute, Tibia, Tuba, Trumpet and Xylophone so far, all from existing pipe organs. A two-manual Wurlitzer console, some speakers, and a bank of mother boards (?) mounted on a rack are all there is.

So it was packed in three crates to travel to Indianapolis to be presented in one of the display rooms at the hotel. The time before the convention allotted for erecting it came and went, but none of the three crates had arrived. Frantic searching revealed that one crate had been off-loaded in Chicago, another had gone on to La Guardia, and largest of all, the console, had been trucked to San Francisco. The Chicago and LaGuardia strays arrived Saturday night, and the console Sunday midnight. The assembled organ made its debut Monday, halfway through the convention. It was enthusiastically received, and invited to appear next year at San Francisco. Pat vows it will travel by truck.

Genny Whitting

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Our meeting on July 15 at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, was business-as-usual with no particular entertainment planned. What am I saying? The major business was to finalize the arrangements for the Davenport debut of Melissa Ambrose on September 30, at the Capitol Theatre. And we had many volunteers to help. This year our emphasis is on youth, and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Melissa! We want to make this a performance that she will not forget.

Entertainment! We had the best. The playing members of the chapter showcased themselves at the console of the 3/13 Wicks organ with an astounding variety of selections and styles of playing. Included were: Selma Johnson, Ted Alexander, Martin Leon, Stan Nelson, and yours truly. As the playing members played, the other members and guests gorged themselves on the plentiful tasty refreshments displayed on stage left.



Ted Alexander takes his turn at the Wicks organ.



Hosts Robert and Marcia Tuttle.

Our second annual picnic was held at the farm of Robert and Marcia Tuttle in Poplar Grove (10 miles east of Rockford) on August 19 when the theme of the outing was FUN, FOOD 'n' FANTASY, not necessarily in that order, but inclusive! (See November/December 1989 THEATRE ORGAN for story about the Tuttle farm.)

During the afternoon the members and guests from Quad Cities, Joliet, and Rockford toured the premises inspecting the many antique organs, pianos, radios, and recording instruments which are the hobby of the Tuttles. However, being able to play these instruments was a joyful experience to those who did so. Howard Adams perhaps enjoyed playing the Page organ the most.

We had the unexpected pleasure of having two guest artists at this gathering. The first to be introduced was Jerry Adams, from the Rockford area, who began organ lessons at the age of 13. Other than a few years of lessons, he is basically self-taught. In 1971 he met and became personal friends with Gaylord Carter who has been an influencing inspiration to his love of the organ. He is employed as a

counselor at a chemical dependence detoxification clinic and occasionally plays at parties and clubs.

The first part of Jerry's program consisted of a medley of songs made popular by Judy Garland, including "Over the Rainbow." In the second part he turned to the blues: "Birth of the Blues," "Basin Street Blues," and "St. Louis Blues." Then he was joined by Ron Lawson at the piano, and they played: "It Had to Be You," "Sentimental Journey" and "Alley Cat." We could not see Ron's fingers as they flew from one end of the keyboard to the other. After a spontaneous applause that nearly caused the "barn" to collapse, they played an encore, "Tenderly" and "Misty." Jerry concluded the afternoon with a very inspiring rendition of "I Believe." Ron is a self-taught pianist from the Rockford area who also plays at parties and at the local country club. His is employed by his father's Lawson Construction Company.

After the program the group enjoyed all of the trappings of a festive picnic. Just after all was cleared from the tables, many of us headed for home through the worst thunderstorm I have ever seen. (continued...)

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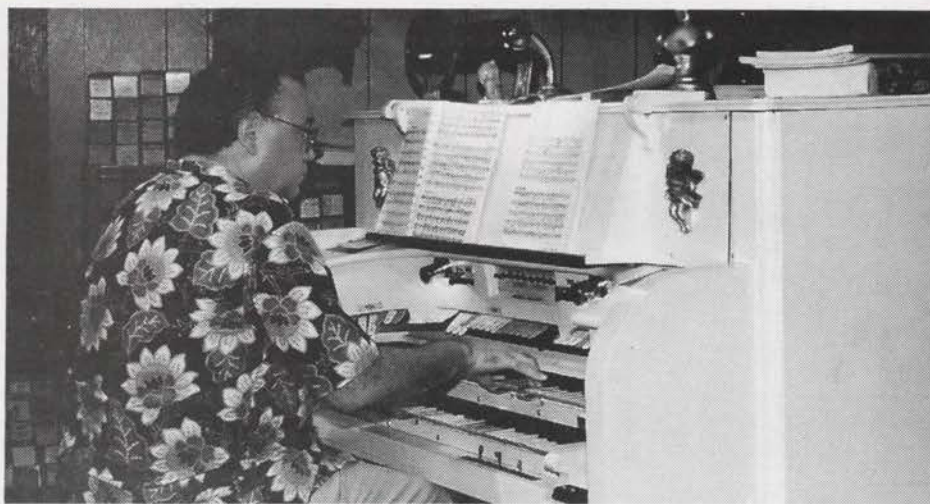
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Selma Johnson applies her talent to the Page organ.



Jerry Adams at the Page.



Ron Lawson at the Page Phantom piano.

Jerry Adams disclosed to us a statement made to him by Gaylord Carter after his concert in Davenport in 1988, and I almost quote: "You know that they have a lady in that chapter who can play any song that you would request and do it with style." Who could that be, other than Selma Johnson? When that got around the picnic table, someone suggested that she should be the guest artist for a future public performance. *Richard P. Withenbury*

Chris Elliott

Organist

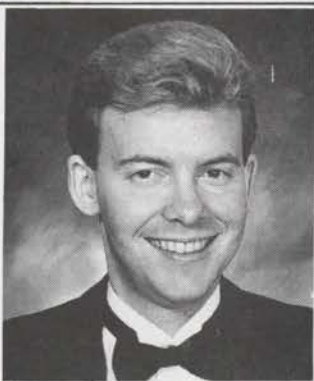
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Once again, Moorhead State University's summer cinema programs, providing a series of weekly film programs, was a success. As in the past, members of Red River Chapter provided the pre-show music and film scores on the theatre organ in Weld Hall. Of the 10 programs, four were silent films: *Lost and Found* (1918-21) with Buster Keaton, *My Boy* (1921) with Jackie Coogan, *The Nut* (1921) with Douglas Fairbanks, and *The Cruise of the Jasper B* (1926) with Rod LaRocque.

Planning is underway for the fall Silent Movie Night shows October 26 and 27, presenting the Tri-College Percussion Ensemble, followed by the Harold Lloyd comedy *Speedy*. We are also looking forward to the arrival of Donna Parker for her concert February 8 and master class February 9.

Every Labor Day weekend finds Lance Johnson at the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion near Rollag, Minnesota. This annual event draws thousands from all over the country, with this year's crowd estimated at 80,000. The main attraction for Lance is the merry-go-round, which he spends many hours operating, and for which he also built a band organ. The music rolls play tunes from the early 1900s, with 10 tunes per roll. For carousel buffs, the 24-horse unit was built around 1920 by the C.W. Parker factory in Leavenworth, Kansas. About a year ago, a major restoration was begun, and now it is operated by steam, one of only two in the country. The decorative trim has been painted by Dennis Terhark. All the horses are being restored by Al Delaware and Lance Johnson, following careful research for authenticity. Four of the original horses are gone, but they hope to have replacement horses made.

Also, this year, a special shelter complete with cupola, was designed and built by Merlin Meyer, to completely enclose the carousel the rest of the year. As always, young and old alike, stand in long lines, waiting for their rides, which are FREE.

Sonia Carlson

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

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

ST. LOUIS

Missouri

314/343-8473

July saw our chapter at the home of ATOS Past-President Jack Moelmann for our annual picnic. This well-attended event was a potluck dinner, with barbecued chicken and hamburgers provided by our gracious host. Jack made a point of putting together an all new program for our enjoyment, closing with his traditional "Tribute to America."

The last weekend in August, we were delighted to visit with members of the Joliet Chapter, who bused down to St. Louis for an organ weekend. They visited the Wicks Organ factory, enjoyed dinner and a program at Jack Moelmann's house, and capped off the weekend with a tour, mini-concert, and open console at the Fabulous Fox Theatre.

Your reporter is working on a deal to move his Spinet Wurlitzer from Christ Memorial Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall out to the Lutheran Medical Center. The organ will be placed in the hall next to a spinet piano in our Hospice Section. There are more than 80 patients who will have the pleasure of 20-minute stints by organist Dale Boring now and then to cheer them up. Also when large various meetings are held in the Conference room, here's another area where show tunes will liven things up when the group is coming in and until the program begins. Our Rev. Mr. David Johns, Chaplain, is all for having organ music as he is an accomplished organist himself. The Chapel has a beautiful Rodgers Organ designed and installed by none other than member Mark Gifford. Occasionally this chaplain puts on a wonderful concert that fills our Chapel. Sunday Evening Vespers has organ music for patients and families and guests. With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up, it's a time for organ music to be heard down the halls, a first for LMC Hospital. I hope to sign up Rev. Johns as a full member of SLTOS and ATOS.

Dale L. Boring



*Music is well said to be
 the speech of angels:
 in fact, nothing among the
 utterances allowed to man
 is felt to be so divine.
 It brings us near to the
 infinite.*

THOMAS CARLYLE, *THE OPERA*, 1832



SANTA BARBARA

California

805/968-0035 or 805/682-1604

The summer months went quickly for our chapter, with much energy being put into planning and promoting our series of pop concerts and silent films. The season began with Gaylord Carter and the delightful *Mark of Zorro* with Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. For our November concert, featuring Ty Woodward, we will admit all young people free. Our goal is to attract a younger audience, and much attention will be paid to getting them into the theatre.

During summer blockbuster films shown at the Arlington, the audiences loved the organ. Local organist Mike McLaughlin and Jerry Gerard perform frequently to the delight of the moviegoers. A recent and talented addition to our staff organists is Hal Terrell, who

taught organ years ago and has moved back to Santa Barbara where he has mastered the giant 4/26 Morton.

A delightful summer free event was a two-hour performance by Lloyd del Castillo. No one could believe that he is 97 years of age. His skillful touch and quick wit were a delight to our Saturday morning concert audience.

A summer potluck was well attended at the home of Otto Kornethuer, our treasurer. His Baldwin Cinema organ got a good workout from many of our talented performers.

We are looking forward to a very special Christmas spectacular to include four local musical groups and a silent comedy. This will be free and will be centered on children who will be brought to the Arlington for what promises to be a great event centered on the organ. *John Oien*



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September 1 presented RCTOS members with a menu of choices: to attend the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln, to be a loyal Husker fan and attend the University of Nebraska's season-opener football game with Baylor University or to attend the River City chapter meeting. Naturally, the RCTOS meeting won out; we knew that our guest artist would be the incomparable Jeanne Cooper (Mrs. Steve Mehuron). Our host for the evening was Tom Wolfe, whose comfortable home boasts a Conn 3-manual theatre organ.

Vice-President Ed Martin chaired a short business meeting to elect our next slate of officers. In addition, Harold Kenney was given a round of applause, in recognition of his excellent job in spearheading our profitable July public concert at the Orpheum Theatre featuring Bob Ralston.

Being a loyal Husker gridiron fan, Jeanne Cooper opened her program with Nebraska's fight song, and then launched into an all-request program with "Step to the Rear" from the Broadway musical, *How Now, Dow Jones*. A country medley included "Green Green Grass of Home." A potpourri of Hawaiian tunes was requested, including the "Hawaiian Wedding Song." After polka time, Jeanne rounded-out her concert with songs in a romantic fashion, including "The Anniversary Waltz" and "There, I Said It Again." Open console followed Jeanne's performance, with an abundance of treats and beverages in Tom Wolfe's kitchen. We are indebted to both Jeanne Cooper and to Tom for a splendid evening of music and fellowship. *Tom Jeffery*



RCTOS members and guests in Tom Wolfe's lovely home.



◀ Jeanne Cooper at the Conn.

An appreciative overflow audience also occupied the dining room and the den. *Tom Jeffery photos*



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L to R: Rex Koury, Stan Kann and Bud Taylor.



Stan Kann at Sierra concert.



Stan Kann with his 1875 vacuum.

SIERRA

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July 8, a beautiful, warm day, had a large group turning out to hear Gary Konas, one of Sierra's favorite organists. A very personable young man with oodles of talent and a large amount of knowledge about the history of Broadway shows and their music, Gary had the audience in the palm of his hand with his stories and music from many shows. Music is a hobby of Gary's as his career is as a teacher at the University of California. This was his fourth return engagement for our chapter. While many of his selections were from Broadway shows, he also included selections such as "Greenwich Witch," by Zez Confrey and "Night in the Tropics," by Gottschalk. He dedicated "In A Monastary Garden" to his father. The audience left humming many of the tunes and commenting on how much they enjoyed the program. Our thanks to Charles Robinson for emceeding the program and to Key Ruland for the delicious luncheon. We don't know what we would do without Dave Moreno who maintains the organ.

August 12 was a fun day for the 65 people who came to our potluck picnic at

the great studio of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartzell in Lodi. The studio looks like a big, blue and white barn sitting in the vineyard, but when you enter the building, you find the interior to be a beautiful, large living room-studio with a 3/15 Robert-Morton and a grand piano on a balcony to its right. There are three chambers (Solo, Main, Percussion) across the room from the console in a wall which is 26 feet high. This organ, which sounds just great because of the acoustics in the room, also has a Devtronix record and player system. A few were brave enough to give this beautiful instrument a try. Rex Koury used the Devtronix system making a recording and playback dubbing . . . much to the delight of the group. Others who played were Emil Martin, Randy Warwick, Richard Unger, Ed Smith and Dave Moreno, who also accompanied Beverly Harris in several selections on the clarinet. Young Jason Poteet played a fine set of classical numbers which the picnickers thoroughly enjoyed. A young student of Ed's played a classical selection using the piano stop on the organ. Also, Mr. Hartzell gave us a verbal tour of the organ and played a few selections. It was a very entertaining afternoon. The people were

thrilled with the sound of the organ and enjoyed each artist, and we wish to thank the Hartzells for their hospitality and for sharing a dream that all of us have of owning an organ in our lifetime.

It has been a long time since I have seen our audience sit on the edge of their seats taking in every note, every word, every move of our entertainer as they did on September 9 when Stan Kann was here. In addition to his many great selections of novelties, pop tunes and classics, he presented a fifteen-minute sketch with his vacuums and novelty gadgets. This had the audience in stitches — they loved it! And they let me know they want Stan back again next year. Thanks, Stan!

Stan Kann and I have been friends since his teen years, and we hadn't seen each other in more than forty years, so we gabbed like mad for almost two days. I recalled that he played such great classical music when he was young that I had tried to discourage him from switching to the pop field, and look where he is today!

Sierra Chapter has been granted the Regional Convention for 1992, so mark your calendars for October 17, 18 and 19 and plan to come to Sacramento for some great music!

Bud Taylor

Donna Parker

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SOONER STATE

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Our July meeting was once again held at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Don Kimes presented the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton playing an enjoyable program of mostly show tunes. He closed with a patriotic medley consisting of "Dixie," "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America." Twelve persons played at open console.

Our August meeting was also held at Central Assembly of God Church, with Bob Gerdes as artist for the mini-concert. Since the chrysoglott and the chimes are the only "toys" this organ has, Bob provided his own wood block to add spice to his selections — he set the wood block on the console and rapped it with a screw driver as the occasion demanded! He played a varied program, opening with "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and closing with "Sayonara" (which he had learned from a Japanese girl in Hawaii). Especially enjoyable was a medley which included "Quando, Quando" — complete with wood block. Open console followed, at which twelve persons played.

Our Vo-Tech 3/10 Robert-Morton, although playable, is still receiving finishing touches. The one regulator has been re-leathered and re-installed. Some keys that don't play are being fixed, and other "little stuff" is being taken care of. Part of the toys are at the home of Dorothy and Lee Smith, to be re-leathered and refurbished. Lee, growing weary of hand-sanding those big power pouches, persuaded Louis Chalupsky to try his power sander — it took the biggest machine he had to get the job done. And we have accomplished the ultimate in recycling: a discarded pocket-book of Dorothy's had had two dowels inserted, with wooden knobs on each end, to hold the handle straps; the wood block on the Morton toy counter is missing its beater . . . and the dowel with the wooden knob on its end makes a perfect replacement!

Our dedicated crew has consisted of Sam Collier, Louis Chalupsky, Phil Judkins, Dan Kimes, Don Kimes, Harry Rasmussen, Eldon Rhodes, and Lee Smith.

But the organ IS playable. Carolyn Craft played a fifteen-minute program early one morning before the start of the school semester for an area-wide meeting of Vo-Tech personnel. They loved it!

Dorothy Smith

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

409/886-1609 or 409/886-5601

Our chapter secretary has been unusually busy the past six-eight months which is why we haven't reported much until now. Work on the 3/8 Robert-Morton organ in the Jefferson Theatre continues, and the instrument sounds better and better with each program presented.

In April, approximately 250 connections in the relay were resoldered by Chapter President Floyd Broussard, with the assistance of Carter Bidwell and Quentin Whitman. Essentially all notes of all stops

on all manuals and pedals (with the exception of one or two) are now playing, and, boy, has that made a difference! A regulator and the swell shade pneumatics in the Main chamber (left side) were re-leathered, which resulted in a very noticeable decrease in wind noise. In August, Floyd made a "new" Robert-Morton bench out of mahogany, using original plans, to replace the cumbersome "semi-Howard" seat that was not adjustable. This bench matches the organ perfectly and is much more comfortable to play from than the original. In August, the organ pressures were adjusted and then some of the reed pipes were revoiced by John Steele from Michigan (prior to his concert) and Tom Martin from Houston, again with assistance from Floyd and Carter. Many of the pipes were overblowing, which made the instrument difficult to tune and stay in tune (especially after the concert was over!) but that problem has been solved now. The Tuba rank was revoiced and sounds the best that it has in some time. Tom, who owns the Artisan Organ Works in Houston, also fabricated 5-6 missing pipes

(continued...)



Members of the Southeast Texas chapter prior to John Steele concert. L to R: Quentin Whitman, Floyd Broussard, Lee Bryant, John Steele, Bill Tetley, Tom Martin and Carter Bidwell.



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Bob Ralston at the 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Jefferson Theatre.

needed at the top end of the Violin and Celeste ranks, thus completing those sets of pipes. We now have no more missing pipes. Many thanks to these two gentlemen for vastly improving the sound of this organ!

From a program and meeting standpoint, we presented Bob Ralston in concert on April 7 and had 510 people at the program — a record for us. Bob presented a mixture of oldies and some newer songs on both the organ and a grand piano which was brought in for the concert. He also had a slide sing-along which went over well with the audience. The next month, the chapter had an open-console meeting at the theatre and more than 100 people were present (a record for an open-console meeting), including eight artists (another record!), with a number of people from Houston who tried their skill on the Robert-Morton. Apparently, interest in theatre organs is growing in this part of Texas!

On August 25, John Steele presented a musical show with an Edgar Kennedy silent comedy, and the audience loved it. John has been playing for audiences lately at the Detroit Fox. He included some show

tunes, and music from Jerome Kern and others which showed off the improved sounds of the organ. The chapter has also recently acquired its own set of "Slide-A-Song" slides which we hope to use for future shows and meetings for variety.

One of our next goals is to work on the combination action to improve its operation. This has never been reworked and has always been weak but workable. Stay tuned for more developments!

Carter Bidwell



Richmond

804/355-0051

We hosted an open house on Saturday morning from ten until one-thirty on August 11. The event was in cooperation with the annual Watermelon Festival held by the merchants of the bustling retail area in the west end of Richmond. A total of more than forty-thousand people visited the area, and the Byrd pulled in over four-thousand of these enthusiastic fun seekers. The lobby was decked out in fresh flowers; the carpets were cleaned the night before, and all employees wore fresh costumes (the Byrd attendants wear clothes copied after those of the twenties). The crowds were so huge that groups of three to four hundred were taken into the auditorium at a time where Bob Lent explained the 4/17 Wurlitzer and played several spectacular numbers. Then Miles Rudisill took over and explained the building and its decorations. Bill Enos, chief projectionist, conducted small groups through the projection booth. Small groups such as this were conducted throughout the day. One of the things that created the most interest was the raising of the huge screen, in plain view, and letting the crowds see the large speakers on the stage. A table was set up in the lobby and we sold tapes and CDs of Ron Rhode's Byrd recording.

Thousands of pieces of literature about the chapter and ATOS were distributed. Paul and Joyce Harris were busy with "Little Otto," a vintage Wurlitzer Band Organ which they own. The instrument was set up in front of the theatre and it could be heard from blocks away. After the crowds had left, Michael Pacaud, the Byrd manager and also president of our chapter, was wondering how to get the balloons that had escaped to the dome in the auditorium fifty-five feet up.

Some good news about the Mosque. The company that has taken over the operation of the building from the city has great plans for the old theatre AND its famous organ. New carpet and stage curtains will be installed, seats repaired, the marquee will be reworked, and a general clean-up and painting. But it is most encouraging that they are considering the organ in their plans to renovate the building.

Miles Rudisill

WESTERN RESERVE

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On June 24 our members enjoyed a program at historic Cleveland Grays' Armory. Because the console of the 3/16 Wurlitzer was disassembled for maintenance by the "Tuesday Night Crew" during the summer months, our concert that afternoon was pre-recorded and presented through an electronic sound system. Nonetheless, the sounds of the organ were enjoyed by all. The volunteer crew will have the console working and refinished for our 1990-1991 concert series.

Damp weather failed to dampen the spirits of those who gathered for an August 19 potluck picnic at the home of members Clar and Victoria Ullman. Healthy doses of summer food and ample open console time at the grand piano and Kawai electronic organ combined to outshine the sun, who regrettably turned down our invitation to attend.

Warmest wishes for a musical holiday season from all of WRTOS!

Jim Shepherd

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WOLVERINE

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313/284-8882 or 313/558-7118

On July 29 Dr. Chester Summers once again welcomed Wolverine Chapter at his "Church of the Second Spirit." With its Austin and Wurlitzer pipe organs, harpsichord and grand piano, all in fine working condition, this unique combination of a residence and chapel is a much sought-after venue for music lovers in general, organ fanciers in particular. A gratifying flock of sixty Wolverines and guests traveled the considerable mileage to Fowlerville to hear the afternoon's featured organist, John Steele. His program included Jerome Kern tunes, music from the movie *Ben Hur*, and a group of Latin American selections. Then John and host Chet were heard to mix it up: Chet playing "Alleluja" on the Austin while simultaneously John played "When The Saints Go Marching In" on the Wurlitzer.

In the open console segment of the afternoon, Mary Griffin and friend Pat were heard playing "A Closer Walk" in duet (Austin and Wurlitzer) while in the music room Beatriz Pilapil, who we got to know last year, again played the grand piano. She treated us this time to Lecuona's "Malaguena," Debussy's "Arabesque" and "The Blue Danube."

On August 26 fifty Wolverines and friends gathered at the ever-popular "Wurlitzer House II" in Algonac for the chapter's Annual Picnic. Our hosts, Dave Voydanoff and Glenn Rank couldn't have been blessed with a better day. While several members were inside enjoying the open console, most of us were outside, enjoying the beautiful weather and a bountiful potluck dinner. Again, the chapter treasury provided the delicious ham. A novelty to the chapter was a successful auction sale of articles, donated by members, for the purpose of boosting the treasury.

In the first week of September we were saddened by the news of the death of Fred Bayne. Fred, who survived a critical illness in December of 1987, had been one of the performers during the 1989 ATOS Convention in Detroit. Fred also was one of the Charter Member of our chapter.

Charlie and Betty Baas

Moving?

Send your change of address to:
ATOS MEMBERSHIP
P.O. Box 417490
Sacramento California 95841



Chet Summers at the Austin console while John Steele plays the Wurlitzer.

Season's Greetings

FROM YOUR ATOS
OFFICERS, BOARD & STAFF

JOHN LEDWON
DALE MENDENHALL
BOB MARKWORTH
DOUG FISK
TIMOTHY NEEDLER
PAUL QUARINO
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