

Letters To The Editor

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given to the local Methodist Church in the late 30s. No one remembers what happened to it when it was replaced. In the theatre, under the stage are still some of the ducts and the pipe loft is still in place. It would be great if at some point we could replace the electronic one with an "Original."

The non-profit group, Associated Community Talents, Inc. (A.C.T., Inc.), that has owned the theatre for almost ten years has ongoing restoration projects. The acoustics in the theatre are almost perfect — at least they seem to impress the knowledgeable people who come in.

In the fly area, we found two backdrops from the 20s — hand-painted canvases — one is a street scene, the other is a garden gate. We also have in storage the original frontal curtain with a black velvet border and applied satin flowers. This is not in use at the present time, but we hope to restore it soon.

Our presentations have included *The Student Prince*, straight stage dramas, concerts and many variety shows featuring local talent. We also show movies at least one weekend a month.

It would be great if someone would come along and offer us a "Ben Hall" at some point. We do have several accomplished organists in our area.

Sincerely,

Ellen Combs Davis, Executive Secretary
A.C.T., Inc.
Middletown, Delaware

Dear Editor:

Is a US postage stamp showing a colorful theatre organ console an idea whose time has come? Several years ago some ATOS members wrote to the Postal Service in Washington about such a stamp and received polite, noncommittal replies. Postal authorities respond only to concerted efforts by thousands of letters and petitions. Anyone interested?

Your truly,

Phil Yankoschuk
Bayside, New York

Dear Editor:

During the 1930s the two best theatre organists on the radio were Fred Feibel and Ann Leaf. They broadcast daily on the Columbia Broadcasting System 4/21 Wurlitzer in the Organ Studio of the New York Paramount Theatre. One of their announcers was Bert Parks! If someone could contact him, he might have some interesting stories and even pictures.

Just a thought.

Al Hermanns
Clearwater, Florida



Opinions expressed in this column are those of the correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the policies of ATOS or THEATRE ORGAN. Letters concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are welcome. Unless clearly marked "not for publication" letters may be published in whole or in part.

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CLOSING CHORD

W.C. 'Chuck' Schrader

Charles Schrader, 69, longtime member and Past President of Delaware Valley Chapter, passed away in September following a heart attack. Schrader led the successful campaign to save the Keswick Theatre in Glenside and founded the Glenside Landmarks Society, which succeeded in having the theatre designated a national historic landmark. The group also raised \$15,000 to keep the theatre afloat until it could be purchased by a private partnership that reopened the theatre in 1987.

After the theatre was saved, Schrader became its most dependable caretaker, supervising electrical, plumbing and roofing repairs. Love of the pipe organ and service to Delaware Valley Chapter occupied a major portion of Chuck's life.

Prior to the funeral service, a one-hour program of organ music was played on the three-manual Schantz by organist/friend Biff Claflin.

"Phoenix" Walt Strony's First Digital CD Recording of incredible power and dynamics-captured on the Krughoff's 4/33 Wurlitzer at its finest !!!



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