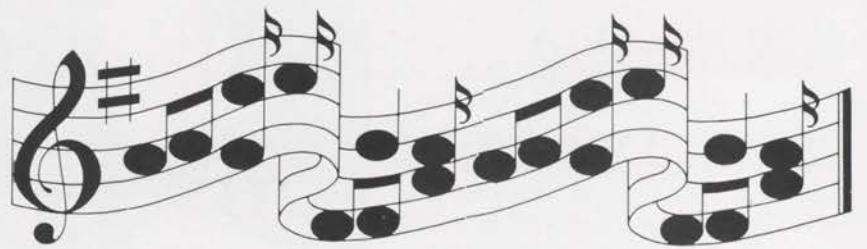


Chapter Notes



ALABAMA

Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/251-9492

On November 18, Alabama Chapter presented Paul Quarino in concert at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. He gave a delightful concert on our "Big Bertha," a 4-manual, 21-rank Wurlitzer Publix #1. This organ is one of the three original installations remaining in the United States.

We were very fortunate to have an artist like Paul come and give a concert for us. The music was a pleasant variety. His pleasing microphone style and the obvious personal joy that Paul derived from the concert made it a very special occasion indeed. After the concert, chapter members gathered on the stage for a covered dish supper to honor Paul and another special guest, Grace McGinnis. After the supper, Paul presented an original factory photograph of "Bertha" to the Alabama chapter.

On December 6, we were guests of E.E. Forbes and Sons Piano Company for a concert by Chris Anderson on the fantastic Yamaha HX-1 Electone.

On December 7, the event that all of Birmingham looks forward to each year opened. The "Christmas At The Alabama" show gets bigger and better each year. The director of the show was Mildred Ann Tatum. Rick Phillips was again organist and musical director. The show featured local musicians and dancers. It is a combination of the beautiful Christmas story featured in song and pageant, and the happy hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, Santa Claus, and family reunions. As usual, one of the "Show stoppers" was the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" featuring Rick Phillips at the console and a group of very good dancers on the stage. The show ran for three performances, concluding with a matinee on Sunday afternoon, December 9. The show, together with the beautifully decorated theatre and thousands of mini Christmas lights from the top of the dome to the bottom of the stage, really set the tone for the Christmas season.

The December chapter meeting was held at the Alabama Theatre on December 16. A concert by Walt Winn of Atlanta followed the showing of the classic movie *Oliver*. Following the concert a brief busi-



Paul Quarino at The Alabama Theatre.

Bill McClure photo

ness meeting was held. Among the items of business was the election of officers for the year 1991. Following the meeting, everyone made their way to the lobby for delicious refreshments and the exchange of Christmas gifts.

December was really a busy time at the theatre. We had a full week of classic Christmas movies that climaxed the weekend of December 21-23 with the all-time favorite *White Christmas*. The Christmas movies were well attended. The audience enjoyed the Christmas carols played on "Big Bertha" as much as the movies.

On December 31, we met at the Birmingham Wedding Chapel in Woodlawn to welcome the New Year. The party began

with a delicious covered-dish dinner. Following the meal we played bingo. A table full of beautifully wrapped gifts were the bingo prizes. Just because all of the gifts had been claimed didn't mean that the game was over. Everyone continued to play and when there was a "bingo," the person simply chose a gift from someone who had already won. The game got pretty wild as the count-down to midnight continued. Finally, after one last game of "black-out" bingo, everyone opened the gifts. There were many exclamations, for the beautiful packages contained everything from coffee mugs to a garbage can lid. A midnight group toasted the New Year with champagne. *Virginia Robertson*



Perennial Christmas favorite, Walt Winn at the Alabama.

Bill McClure photo



Grace McGinnis and Paul Quarino relax after Paul's concert in Birmingham.

Bill McClure photo

ATLANTA

404/355-6680 or 404/641-7159

At Walt Winn's gracious invitation, the chapter visited his warehouse/studio on November 3 for an old-fashioned jam session (open console) reminiscent of the ones we had at Walt's first studio. Walt himself started the festivities in his own unique style. He was followed by Rick McGee, Rick Norton, Ron Carter, Lloyd Hess and others. Each one showed his own style of playing.

Walt's 4/18 Page never sounded better: the regulation and the tremors were just right. Everything worked perfectly, reflecting Walt's penchant for perfection. The music lasted past the wee witching hour and pleasant memories even longer. Needless to say, the some fifty guests there had a great time.

Clay Holbrook

On November 18, we met at George and Barbara Whitmire's, in Gainesville, Georgia, 54 miles northeast of Atlanta. George and Barbara have installed a 2/5 Marr & Colton over their health food store, making the establishment a place for vitamins and violes and tablets and tibias. George has made a beautiful installation under glass. The chamber walls are glass and the swell shades are wood — a reversal of some installations.

The Whitmires knew they liked organ music but were not familiar with the technical aspects of theatre organs. So Barbara researched the topic in *THEATRE ORGAN*, *Posthorn*, *Bombard*, and *Console* publications as well as *Contemporary American Organ* and other books. Last but not least, she consulted with local organ aficionados like Charles Walker, Nelson Guard and Clay Holbrook, and with John Tanner, a professional. George put his experience with Ma Bell to work and the whole thing came together, a fantastic job. They successfully wandered through the maze of magnets, reservoirs, springs, pressures, voltage, ciphers and what else, and the resulting journey was a delightful Marr & Colton. This is the only Marr & Colton known hereabouts to have ventured this far south.



◀ Rick Norton at the Whitmire's 2/5 Marr & Colton.

Our own Rick Norton was the guest artist, and he put the organ delightfully through its paces with his sensitive interpretations. Given the opportunity, Rick will be a rising star on the horizon.

Some fifty members traveled the distance to Gainesville on a textbook-beautiful fall day to partake of the healthy concert, the healthy refreshments provided by the Whitmires and the healthy fellowship.

Walt Winn had us back at his place for the chapter's Christmas party on December 9. First, our officers for the new year were elected by acclamation. Then the master himself showed us, again, what a splendid instrument his Page is, with a full spectrum of Christmas music, from "What Child is This?" and various carols, to "Winter Wonderland," "Toyland," and "Jingle Bell Rock." Walt's very pleasant hour and a half of playing was followed by refreshments we all had a part in supplying. We are very grateful to Walt for his generosity in providing a party site, a great organ and his beautiful performance.

Bill Hitchcock



◀ Our hosts at Gainesville: (L to R) Barbara and George Whitmire and their daughter, Kay Muntower. Below: Walt Winn at his 4/18 Page.



ashley miller
a.a.g.o.

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CEDAR RAPIDS

We have had a memorable 1990. Our spring show, featuring Walt Strony, was another fine evening of entertainment in our long list of spectaculars which we have had since our first one more than twenty years ago. It was at Walt's April performance that our new Brass Trumpet rank was initiated. With the purchase of the new pipes, new chests were made and complete installation of the rank was done by our chapter members. Everyone attending the show responded enthusiastically when he featured the new rank.

Our fall spectacular's artist was Ron Rhode, 1989 ATOS Organist of The Year. For that show, we also had the Harmony Hawks, Barbershoppers who entertained the audience for one-half hour with their chorus of over 60 voices. The entire performance was well received. Both 1990 spectaculars were given very favorable reviews by Mr. Les Zacheis in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* following each concert.

In addition to routine meetings with local members presenting the program and open console following, CRATOS enjoyed a summer picnic with a good attendance, an abundance of food and rain! Luckily, we held it in a city park pavilion! Our annual meeting was held in December in conjunction with a dinner at a restaurant in the Amana Colonies. Elections were held, and the annual report of the treasurer was given. A discussion was held on future activities.

Recently, by death, we have lost two of our fine members. Howard Burton was a charter member of this chapter and the temporary chairman at our organizational meetings in 1969. Only four charter members remain in the club: George Baldwin, Pat Marshall, James Olver and Clarence Schneider. The other decedent was George Kuba who set up the \$10,000 Ruth Kuba Memorial Fund at a local bank from which CRATOS could use the interest generated therefrom to award an annual \$500 scholarship to a child or grandchild of a current chapter member. To date, four such awards have been made. Both George Kuba and Howard Burton will be missed as each had contributed much to CRATOS in his own way.

We are excited with respect to our spring activities. Our January meeting will be a business meeting formulating plans for appointing committees working the spring spectacular on May 11. Open console will follow. Our artist for our spring show will be Jim Riggs, 1990 Organist of The Year. On Friday, May 10, we will have the third annual "Charlie Chaplin Festival" performance in conjunction with the Cedar Rapids Public Schools. All 1,700 fifth graders will come in school buses to our Paramount Theatre for the Performing Arts where Jim Riggs will perform for them, giving them a "tour of the organ" as well as a sing-along of melodies they have been practicing at school relating to the 1920s, and a short silent comedy of that era. For

the first time this year, there will be two such performances, the second one for fifth graders of our surrounding towns. School officials are most receptive and interested in our doing this event the day before our spectacular. Rob Calcaterra did the initial "Charlie" program in 1989, and Walt Strony handled it nicely in 1990.

Chapter members Paul Montague and George Baldwin attended the Rocky Mountain Chapter's "Mile High Week-end" regional at Denver, Colorado, in September as well as Sequoia Chapter's "Mighty '90" regional at Fresno, California, in October. Both conventions were enjoyed greatly as was sightseeing several National Parks and a drive down the coast of California. Only five hours after leaving Yosemite, it was "rocked" by a 5.7 earthquake!

CRATOS is now privileged to conduct tours of our beautiful Paramount Theatre including a mini-concert on the 3/12 Wur-litzer. We feel confident it not only gives the organ more exposure but also should help attendance at future spectaculars. It is understandable why we look forward to the months ahead with great enthusiasm.

■■■■
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GEORGE GERSHWIN



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CENTRAL INDIANA

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Ken Double at Manual High School.

Our November meeting found us at Manual High School with an artist we always love to hear. He also accomplished a great deal of work toward restoration of this 3/26 Wurlitzer, including the design, building and installation of the lift. When he wasn't working, he was a morale booster with his playing — way back when it was still "Early Orange Crate." And consider this — Warren York lives clear over in Urbana, Illinois. I understand there were many hours spent sleeping in his vehicle.

We were treated to a dreamy "Maybe I'm Right And Maybe I'm Wrong." Then there was "The Prather" (the name of a ferris wheel located in a park in Vienna, Austria) — a very interesting composition. Then songs associated with Disney, songs we forget we even know until brought to life by Warren: "Give A Little Whistle," "Got No Strings On Me," "When You Wish Upon A Star," and "An Actor's Life For Me." Three bouncy tunes followed including the perennial favorite, "Elmer's Tune." A real swingin' "Tuxedo Junction" was thoroughly enjoyed as was Sousa's "Liberty Bell March," a rousing, spirited rendition in honor of veterans — it being the month for Veterans' Day. We were asked to dwell on the rose, not the stem of thorns, for "Keep Your Sunny Side Up." And the encore "I Love A Piano" was just excellent! And you know what instrument really got a workout! Our thanks to Warren for a splendid afternoon.

Our multi-talented sports announcer, Master of Ceremonies and organist extraordinaire, Ken Double, entertained us in December at our proud installation in Manual. And talk about hectic schedules — Ken had been out west. Sunday morning he flew from St. Louis to Chicago,



Warren York at Manual in November.

picked up his car, drove to Indianapolis and got here just in time for the business meeting (during which time he set up the organ). I'm impressed with the split-second timing. Ken kept the motion going with some of his favorites: "Happy Holidays," "Hail To Old Purdue" (Ken lives in their home town of West Lafayette. He was also instrumental in the Long Center's existence and continues to be its spark plug.) He is exceptionally good at capturing the mood of ballads, and we were brought into that mood with "When You're Away," "One Kiss," and "I've Got You Under My Skin." "Indianapolis, Indeed" (Sandy Patti's song) turned into a fun sing-along which just kept right on going through "Winter Wonderland," "Toyland," and "Jingle Bells." Open console was a hit as usual, and our yearly fun raffle was a huge success financially. Also, we had an extra special treat — Tim Needler's mother graced us with her presence.

Betty Schmidt



Warren York at the temporary "orange crate" console in Manual High School.

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CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus
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A music store interlude can be a real treat. We found that out November 25 when we met at Kincaid's Piano and Organ showrooms in Springfield, Ohio. After a short business meeting, store manager Mike Klontz introduced member Martha Hoyle, who he characterized as "a legend" in keyboard artistry. Martha, who has played piano and organ all of her adult life, has legions of students, amateur and professional, who owe their beginnings to her patient ministrations. So we were especially privileged to have her perform for us on a top-of-the-line instrument, the Hammond CX2000. With its programed computer insert cards, countless pressure-sensitive tabs and pulsating LED's, the organ displayed its wide variety of voices — especially notable among which was a very realistic piano, and a gorgeous sax. Martha threaded lightly through such old favorites as "Georgia," "Tumbling Tumbleweed" and a Latin rhythm number "Girl From Ipanema," and in typical chopped Hammond style we heard "S Wonderful." The second part of the program featured Mike Klontz, who demonstrated to good advantage the seemingly endless array of synthetic voices this instrument possesses. We'll say this — it was an entertaining afternoon, and for anyone who thinks he might be bored with a plug-in, the XC2000 is an antidote!

On December 16 we were especially pleased to have been asked to participate in a Worthington High School program, sponsored by the Worthington Songsters. On this occasion our Pattie Immel played the club's Mighty Wurlitzer for some forty minutes, regaling the audience with Christmas music and earning well-deserved, sustained applause. Now — maybe Worthingtonians will come to realize there is a priceless instrument nestled in their midst, something that deserves their support and needs to be heard more often.



Bob Cowley at our December meeting J. Polsley photo



Martha Hoyle at the Hammond CX2000. J. Polsley photo

Home Remedies from the Wurlitzer Cookbook:

Eau Sedative

A French Remedy

One handful of salt, dissolved in 1 quart of water. Put 1 tablespoonful of spirits of camphor into a quart bottle and 2 tablespoonsful of ammonia. Shake well for a few minutes, then add gradually the salt water, and shake it as you fill up your bottle. Cork it tight, and shake it well every time before using it. This water is excellent for nervous headaches or anyone having fever and is delirious. Wet a cloth or handkerchief and apply on your forehead and one to the back of your neck. Also for swelling or any bruises or pain it is quieting and relieves pain; only do not use it on wounds, because it would smart too much.

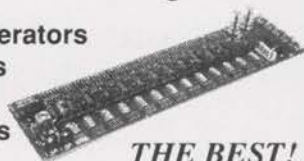
The same day it was our pleasure to host the chapter Christmas party at our house. Some 46 members and guests made the trek to Urbana for an afternoon of Yuletide entertainment. At the preliminary business meeting, President Henry Garcia announced the outcome of the election of officers for the coming year. The club welcomed new members Walter and Betty Douglass, then, following an update from the organ crew, John Polsley introduced member Bob Cowley who was the featured organist for the day. Bob owns and operates the Southwest Pipe Organ Company and has had extensive experience in theatre organ and church organ installation and maintenance. He captivated his audience with his opening number which, by way of an introduction, had a simulation of a symphony orchestra checking their clarinets for pitch, followed by the sharp rap of the conductor's baton after which the piano abruptly breaks out with a ragtime rendition of "When My Sugar Walks Down The Street." His unforgettable "Louise" was followed by "Memories Of You" and the durable "New York, New York." Breaking from ballads, Bob invited the audience to join him in a round of Christmas carols. While most of us harnessed our voices in close approximation to the melody line, we were suddenly aware that we had some gifted voices in our midst, singing two-part melody. The lovely soprano voices of Cora Huffman, Dorothy Long and Dorothy Smith, aided by the baritone voice of Steve Brockman, really fleshed out that Christmas music! Resuming his program, Bob gave us a stirring rendition of "Under the Double Eagle" and finished with the pleasing melody, "Nevertheless."

While the membership made some chamber inspections and stepped up for open console, those gifted gourmet cooks in our membership served up a most tempting selection of food. When our members bring a dish there's no pot "luck" about it; we know its going to be good from the word go. *John Polsley*

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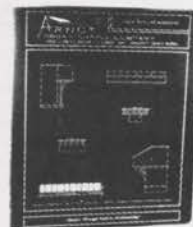


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Ron Rhode at the Pickwick Wurlitzer.

Chuck Wlodarczyk photo



CHICAGO AREA

312/589-9363 or 312/282-0037

Maintenance and improvements are ongoing on the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer. This good news is welcomed by all. The dedicated crew, with Bill Reiger as Chairman, continues to enjoy their activity. We all appreciate their effort.

The Carl Schurz High School organ crew is another dedicated group with Mike Jacklin as crew coordinator. This Moller pipe organ has gone through numerous interesting phases in its history. In the past it was used by CATOE at several socials, and we look forward to its being used again many times in the future.

The 3/10 Wurlitzer, formerly in the Indiana Theatre of East Chicago, was installed in the Maine North High School a few years ago. It was purchased by CATOE and used for several shows and socials. Alas! The fate of many pipe organs fell on this 3/10 and it is now in storage in Downers Grove. A new home is being sought by the CATOE Board so that this instrument can be heard and seen again. All we need is patience!

Conventioneers of former years will recall seeing and hearing the Hinsdale The-

atre 3/27 Hybrid pipe organ. It is a beauty and was and is maintained by Jim Glass throughout the many past years. This organ was quiet for about 2½ years, but now has been reawakened and brought to life again. Don Springer put this instrument through a three-hour musical test recently and it never faltered. Congratulations to Jim for his dedicated and beautiful maintenance job.

As mentioned in previous columns, theatre doors keep swingin. Now they and the theatres are opened; then they are closed. Occasionally for good! Such is the Nortown Theatre on north Western Avenue, Chicago, near Sally's Stage Pizza (also closed). Rumors are that the Nortown will reopen — we shall see. Willis Johnson of Downers Grove, keeps his Classic Cinema theatre group operating. It is his Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove that provides opportunities for budding theatre organists to "try their wings" on some of these instruments. Jerry Kochka does this Monday nights on the 2/7 Barton in the Downers Grove Tivoli which is a pleasure for all concerned. We appreciate Willis Johnson's cooperation in this respect.

Ron Rhode's CATOE show at the Pickwick Theatre last fall was super and greatly appreciated. His program was excellent and the two acts that were on the bill were class acts. We hope to have more in the near future.

A pleasant spring season to you all.

Almer N. Brostrom

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

717/263-0202

The cold winter months of south-central Pennsylvania have not slowed down one bit the ongoing restoration of Chambersburg's Capitol Theatre 3/14 original Moller. Organ crew chief Mark Cooley reports continuing progress in the redesign and complete rebuilding of this fine instrument.

Cumberland Valley members celebrated the holidays in theatre organ style at the home of Bob and Francie Eyer, traditional hosts of the chapter's annual gala holiday party. Bob's 3/7 mostly Moller thrilled all of those present and was the centerpiece of an evening of good music and good friends.

Bob Maney



DAIRYLAND

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

414/271-0277

Gary Hanson's Organ Piper Music Palace was the site of our annual membership meeting on December 2. Chief order of business was the election of officers. Open console on the Kimball followed the meeting, and many members stayed after to enjoy the Piper's delicious food and the great organ entertainment by Dave Wickerham.

DTOS would like to thank all who hosted or played for socials in 1990, and its officers and directors for their work in making the year enjoyable and successful.

Our first meeting in 1991 was a mini-social at the home of Gordon and Dusty Schwacke and their two-manual Conn Martinique. This mini-social setting has been shown to give the many of us who feel reluctant to play before a large group, a chance to play comfortably, exchange playing ideas and have a fun time.

Carrie Nelson

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Two younger, yet among our most talented members, Michael Bigelow and John Cook, shared the console as our artists of the day at Babson, November 25. Between them were played seven of member Marion Sutcliffe's romantic compositions. These are very listenable selections and deserve publication.

Mike opened with a medley including "Turkey in the Straw" and "Let It Snow," — sort of a bridge between Thanksgiving and Christmas. His mini-concert finished with the popular "The Wind Beneath My Wings."

John began with a spritely "Young and Healthy," and a nice Rombert medley was included in his brief program. "Somewhere" was his closer, but each received such applause as to give us an encore. People listen when these two gentlemen mount the console bench for they know their abilities — home-grown talent with professional renditions.

On December 16 our Christmas meeting gave our ladies a little break from cooking as we had a catered meal. It was a pretty scene while sitting at round tables with the console prominent. Gary Phillips, Tim Holloran and Mike Bigelow alternated at the Wurlitzer with Gary playing for the Christmas sing-along.

We were honored to have several of the Babson College staff as our invited guests. Chamber and under-the-stage tours were conducted during open console. This was a nice, relaxed gathering as a prelude to Christmas. *Stanley C. Garniss*

■ ■ ■
**"NINETY-ONE-DERFUL"
 CONVENTION**
July 5-9, 1991
San Francisco



Jimmy Vanore and fourth grader Alysun Lundy at Trenton Moller. Joe Vanore photo



Ashley Miller at console while children jingle bells. Rick VanderWende photo



New Jersey

609/888-0909 or 201/445-1128

A special first event at Trenton War Memorial took place on November 26. A group of 42 children, third through fifth grade students, accompanied by chaperones and two enthusiastic teachers came to see and find out all about the big theatre pipe organ there.

This trip was possible because teacher Lois Cohen had heard the Moller at a previous concert and fell in love with it. She wanted the children to experience it, so she called crew chief Bill Smith and set up a date.

Her school maintains an unusual, unique program called the "Brown Bag Forum" which enables teachers and children to visit interesting places on an extended lunch hour.

The three groups of children were well mannered, interested and asked many questions. Crew members Bill Smith, Tony Juno and Jim Vitarelli explained the parts of the organ. Slides of pipes and organ parts were shown.

Because the children had never seen a theatre organ, Jinny Vanore brought up the console playing a rousing chorus of

"It's a Small World" and proceeded to play music which demonstrated the myriad of sounds of the organ.

The children were divided into groups and toured both chambers. The exciting part of the morning for five students came when they were encouraged to climb up on the bench and play their little songs on the Mighty Moller. When the teachers asked if there could be programs for other classes in the future, the answer was a unanimous "YES" by all the crew.

The annual dinner and installation of officers was held at the Trenton War Memorial on October 13. The catered buffet was delicious, and the wonderful surprise mini-concert by Candi Carley-Roth, who has recently moved to nearby Pennsylvania, thrilled everyone present.

The second annual holiday concert at the Pascack Theatre in Westwood was held December 15. The concert artist was Ashley Miller. Garden State is indeed lucky to have Ashley perform at this time of the year. He graciously fit our concert between many daily Christmas concerts at the famous Pan Am building in New York City. A concert at 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning seems strange, but this is the only time available in this busy, quaded, working theatre. We are also very fortunate that Austin Gordon, theatre manager, loves theatre organ and is willing to feature it on any occasion. *(continued...)*



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April 14	Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, Virginia
April 16	Lansing Symphony, Lansing Michigan
April 20	Institute of the Arts, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
April 24	Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts
May 4	American Radio Company, New York City
May 14	Al Ringling Theatre, Baraboo, Wisconsin
May 17	Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
May 19	Lakewood Methodist, Lakewood, Ohio
May 24-26	Long Island Mozart Festival, New York
June 1	Oj Ai Festival, Oj Ai, California
June 2	San Diego Mozart Festival
June 9-23	European Concert Tour with Marc Grauwels
June 30	Connecticut Early Music Festival, New London, Connecticut
July 7	Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto, California
July 15	Midsummer Mozart Festival, San Francisco, California
July 20	Strand Theatre, York, Pennsylvania

GARDEN STATE cont.

On the day of the concert, theatre one, which contains the 2/8 Wurlitzer, was comfortably filled despite a dreary day with sleet and icy roads. Approximately 98% of the audience was from Westwood and nearby towns, which delighted the committee and crew members who spent many hours preparing the organ for concert.

Ashley pleased the audience with a varied program of pop holiday songs. "Jingle Bells" was the hit of the morning as the children were given all kinds of sleigh bells to jingle. A sing-along ended the program. All in all, it was a delightful program and put all in the holiday spirit.



Bill Vlasak at Trenton War Memorial. Jimmy Vanore photo

December 16 was the annual Christmas concert at the Trenton War Memorial. Featured was Bill Vlasak, well-known performer at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis. The first portion of the day's program was all wonderful theatre music. Bill's talented, expert fingers flew over the keys. He played innovative music and used about every stop on the organ. The second portion of the program opened with a large group of singers known as the Greater Trenton Choral Society. This group has been included in our Christmas programs since 1976. Bill played the remainder of the concert and did a super job. The audience love it. Jimmy Vanore



Bob Ralston and Jimmy Scoggins at the 4/25 Robert Morton.

GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

Now, I ask, how many professional theatre organists have received a Key to the City when they played? Well, Bob Ralston did when he was our guest artist in November 1990 in the historic Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola.

Our ever-ebullient, should-have-been-in-show-business mayor, the Honorable Vince Whibbs, presented Bob with said key during the show. It was our honor to have "Hizzoner" emcee our presentation of Bob, and a dandy job he did. Mrs. Whibbs is a beautiful asset to the mayor and they added much to our first-ever Sunday afternoon concert on our 4/25 Robert (Wonder) Morton.

Reynolds Music House provided us an on-stage Yamaha electronic, complete with speakers almost as big as the stage. Some instrument, I'm here to tell you!! You know the old love story that exists between electronic instruments and REAL pipes. This is one time we LOVE the electronic. As irony would have it, not once, but three times during Bob's show on the Mighty Morton, the theatre experienced temporary power failures. Our expert technician, Jimmy Scoggins, ever on the alert, remedied the situation "stat," but Bob was a step ahead, expert showman that he is, leaped from the Morton to the afore-

said electronic and kept right on with his "wunnerful, wunnerful" music. When the first failure happened, during the "Battle Hymn of The Republic," Bob left the bench, picked up the mike and told the audience, "Well, you know how that song ends, anyhow."

Great sense of humor here. The elements gave him lemons and he made lemonade. The audience loved it. They really didn't care which instrument was being played at this point as long as he continued playing. His music is a real crowd-pleaser, you know.



Saenger Theatre lobby during intermission of Bob Ralston concert. Mrs. Whibbs, interested customer and the Honorable Vince Whibbs, Mayor of Pensacola. On the right, Board Member Howard Rein.

We had our regular meeting in the historic district home of B.D. Rhea, M.D., Console Builder/Vice President/Treasurer of our chapter. Dr. and Mrs. Rhea are always the gracious hosts to allow us this privilege. Our annual election of officers was on slate for the meeting. Mr. William Linne, a local attorney, met with us to help in establishing ownership of our organ at the theatre. It's our organ, their theatre.

Again, in 1991, we are applying to the Arts Council of Northwest Florida for some supplemental funding. Again we are keeping our fingers crossed. Budget cuts have become a by-word in the American vocabulary.

Our two technicians, Scoggins and Curt Goldhill, with help from our own chapter members, are in the process of installing our Orchestral Oboe and Kinura ranks in the organ, with expert help from Dr. Rhea. Dr. Rhea can take a pipe that looks like a piece of spaghetti (after cooking) and make it into a usable piece of equipment for a pipe organ. Anyhow, we are making progress on this task. These two ranks were the generous donation of the organization "Friends of the Saenger."

Scott Brodie is still busy with the power-tower at the local school board offices to see about having a performance for middle school children prior to Jim Riggs' evening concert for the general public. These wheels grind slowly you know. But first, we welcome Jeff Weiler to our town, our theatre and our audience.

Dorothy Standley

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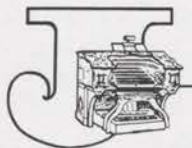
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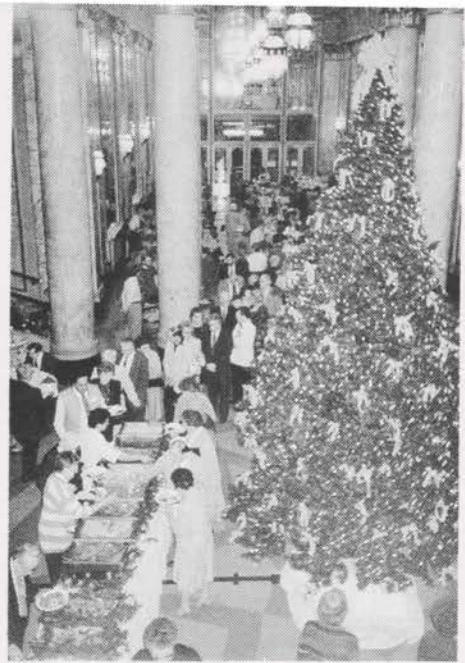
Christmas Gala: (L to R) the Pasquales, Krughoffs and Berrys. Hal Pritchard photo



JOLIET AREA Joliet, Illinois

The combined social with CATOE at Christ Church in Oakbrook on December 1 combined business with pleasure. A new JATOE board was elected and an excellent Christmas-oriented program was played by the church's music director, Devon Hollingsworth, who also accompanied a witty sing-along. It is always a pleasure to hear Devon and to enjoy the "umpteen"-rank (and growing) pipe organ in a glorious room. The facilities at Christ Church are impressive.

The Second Annual JATOE Gala on December 12 in the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet was spectacularly successful. The beauty of the rotunda and theatre are truly incomparable. The catering was impeccable, but the show-stopper was a stunning performance by Tony O'Brien. Tony's registration, his utilization of the beautiful Solo voices of the Barton Grande, and his personal demeanor were all highly professional. This young man is a superb concert artist. He obviously enjoyed himself and he made the Barton produce sounds that



The Great Rotunda Tree serving line. Hal Pritchard photo

reflected his joy. We look forward to hearing Tony again in the future.

The January social at the 19th Hole in Lyons displayed the talents of member/owner Bobby Roppolo. This popular club features a 3/12 Barton as well as a Hammond X-66. The atmosphere is well suited to the dance stylings of Roppolo. It is one of the few dance establishments left in the area. Hal Pritchard



Montana-Northern Wyoming
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The Annual Corporate Meeting celebrating the 95th birthday of Jesse Crawford was held on December 16. Crawford was born December 2, 1895, in Woodland, California. Election of Officers was followed by the screening of a videotape of the Harold Lloyd silent comedy *The Kid Brother*. This was videotaped at the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco several years ago with Charter Member Bob Vaughn at the 3/15 Wurlitzer. The organ was originally in Chicago's State-Lake Theatre. It was removed from the Avenue in 1984 and placed in storage. It is currently being re-installed in a theatre in San Francisco's Bay Area.

There has been renewed interest in Bozeman's Ellen Theatre. This is the only original installation in Montana: a 2/7 Wurlitzer, former Vice-President Ken Kajkowski has been caring for the organ since 1984. Ken and wife Juanita run the Kajkowski Family Organs pipe organ business in Deer Lodge. Montana State University has had several events there this past Christmas season using the theatre and the organ. There is a possibility of the chapter presenting a silent film program there this summer.

Ed Mullins



Christmas Gala: (L to R) Hal Pritchard, Lee Rajala, HRH Lili Zuber, Tony O'Brien, Don Walker. Hank Zuber photo



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1991

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LAND O'LAKES

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The ORGANAIRES, home organ group with eleven participants within the chapter, met at the home of Verna Mae Wilson on the East Side of St. Paul. She has a Kimball Stardust and her mother's old Bauer upright piano. She kept everyone busy for a while so they could have an opportunity to look through folders and folders of organ music, some that had never been opened. Lillian Swanson, longtime member of LO'LAKES, in her late 80s and who used to come to our sessions, has been clearing out her music, tapes, cassettes and instruction books so that her family won't have to be saddled with that chore "when her time comes."

On December 20 the ORGANAIRES met at the lovely home of Beryl and Harold Ponthan in Stillwater, on a snowy, Christmas night. Beryl plays a Baldwin Cinema and has a Steinway grand so we can always have piano/organ duets. Our group has been together for at least eleven years! We may not be the best amateur organists in the world, but we are not shy about trying our skill at the various organs owned by the members of this group.

Our Christmas party on December 23 was attended by 66 members and friends at the Historic Cedarhurst Mansion in Cottage Grove. The mansion was festively decorated with a tree, ornaments, poinsettia plants and garlands of the season, and everyone seemed to be in enthusiastic spirits, hugging each other, shaking hands and meeting new friends. There was open console at the 3/8 Robert-Morton.

At break time President Roger Dalziel welcomed guests and then proudly displayed the certificates acknowledging the Chapter members' contribution of \$1,825 toward the restoration and reinstallation

of the Kimball in the newly constructed Minneapolis Convention Center.

Roger then introduced Tim Stevens, genial house organist at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, who was our guest artist. Tim entertained us for an hour with appropriate selections of the season and a few Christmas Carols sung by the audience to his accompaniment.



Gerald Orvold at the 3/8 Robert-Morton, Cedarhurst.

The buffet supper was ample, indeed, thanks to all the members and friends who brought potluck dishes and sweet concoctions, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It seems that "Cedarhurst" is the magic word for our people to get out in the cold and snow to attend a Chapter Event. Thank you, Ron and Jean Nienaber, host and hostess at Cedarhurst, for a lovely afternoon. Thanks also to Mike Erie for manning the beverage table, Roger Dalziel for collecting monies for reservations, dues, guest cards, etc. and yours truly for assisting in the kitchen and dining area, pouring coffee.

The following was submitted for publication in THEATRE ORGAN by the Minneapolis Organ Trust Fund and edited by Verna Mae Wilson, correspondent:

"The 10,000 pipe mighty Kimball may be dormant and dismantled but she created a stir at the grand opening of the Minneapolis Convention Center on December 15,

1990. The Kimball was saved from the wrecking ball when the old Minneapolis Auditorium was razed in 1988. Thanks to the gifts of over 1900 donors, the organ has been saved. On December 15 hundreds of people toured the organ chambers with Michael Ryder and several other volunteers conducting the tours. Comments frequently heard were: 'I'm so glad we were able to save this musical treasure'; 'I remember hearing the organ as a child'; 'I'm eager to hear the mighty Kimball played again.'

"For a dollar, visitors entered into a contest by obtaining five "nerfs" (balls) which were thrown at a mock organ for a chance to win a T-shirt. Mike Barone (host on "Pipedreams" broadcast every Sunday night from Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul); Philip Brunelle (organist, composer, choir director and orchestral director) and Minneapolis' Mayor Don Fraser instituted the game, also answering questions from the general public, who were really curious about the huge Kimball. Mike Barone, Phil Brunelle and Dr. Edward D. Berryman (well-known Twin Cities classical organist), were chairs of the Steering Committee and have been providing leadership for several years. The preservation project began in 1986 with a goal of one million dollars. Only \$150,000 remains to be raised. The Mahadh Family has given a very generous gift of \$100,000. The concert console will bear their name. A sponsor for the theatre console is being sought. Pledges may be made over a three-year period. It's still not too late to make a contribution toward this worthy project, and to do so, please make checks payable to the Minneapolis Organ Trust Fund and send to the attention of Rosemary Dineen, Convention Center Project Office, 315 East Grant St., Minneapolis, MN 55404. All gifts are welcome and appreciated. A gift of \$25 will preserve a pipe and the donor will receive a certificate. One other note, to make a reservation for a tour of the organ chambers and more information, please contact Rosemary at 612/348-8300."

Verna Mae Wilson



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Four faces of the future: (L to R) Russell Holmes, Simon Appleyard, Ben Vine, Mark Aston.



A very proud winner of London Chapter's competition: David Eaton is ten years old.



Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

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Lyn Larsen returned to Pasadena City College to play an anniversary concert on the 3/27 Ross Reed Wurlitzer on November 17. Lyn was a consultant and tonal finisher on the rebuilding of the organ and spends time improving the organ whenever he comes to town. A crowd of more than 500 enjoyed the concert from the opening "Hooray for Hollywood" to the closing "William Tell Overture."

The combined annual meeting and Holiday Party was held on the P.C.C. campus in Sexson Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, December 16. Admission, as in years past, was a toy to be donated to Children's Hospital. The admission "tickets" were accumulated on shelves placed at the front of the auditorium creating an impressive display of toys which would later cheer many young patients! After business was concluded with the election of three new members to the LATOS Board, refreshments were served while Del Castillo entertained at the Big Wurlitzer. Open console followed giving members an opportunity to play the LATOS owned and maintained organ. Beverly Rounds, Virginia Klomp, Hilda Pasalich, and Maria Olivier were responsible and deserve many thanks for creating the decorations and serving the refreshments.

ATOS President John Ledwon will be the artist at the Ross Reed Wurlitzer on April 13, and Ralph Wolfe will entertain LATOS on the Orpheum 2/13 Wurlitzer in downtown Los Angeles on May 19, at 9:00 a.m. Visiting ATOSers, as well as the public, are welcome at all LATOS concerts.

Wayne Flottman



*"The song people praise
is always the latest thing."*

FRANCOIS FENELON, 1699



LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND

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We had a wonderful concert at the Top Rank Club Kilburn on November 17 with Nigel Ogden and our Young Organist of The Year winner David Eaton. Our Safari folk will, we are sure, be more than surprised at this young ten-year-old's approach to the theatre organ. Nigel gave us the varied program that we had come to look forward to, always a little surprise up his sleeve. We look forward to hearing him at the Barrie Christie during the Safari. Hope you have all got the date marked: May 17-23, with an Afterglow to Holland and a visit to the beautifully restored Tushinsky Theatre in Amsterdam.

We had an excellent Christmas concert on December 16 with the ever-popular Lowell Ayars along with the Queen of The Keyboards, Ena Baga, at the Wurlitzer of the State Kilburn. Both artists thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave us some

beautiful music to suit all tastes. Other performers at this concert were the Barbershop Men's Chorus. We were unfortunate to have our concert opening time altered to an earlier hour due to management's change of opening time and some twenty people showed up just as we were finishing. It is sad when things like this happen, although we had done as much as possible to contact members and pass the word about the time change. There were, however, some 150 members to enjoy this special concert with a Christmas flavor. The theatre looked lovely with Christmas trees all lit up and Christmas garlands everywhere.

December 17 it was Carols at the Lodge, packed to capacity with the local church choir. We look forward each year to this event. Children do not stay young forever, and we are delighted with each year as a new batch comes along and we see the Christmas Spirit through the young ones.

The new year is a busy one, and we look forward to seeing some of you on Safari '91. Do drop me a line if you have a query. And may we extend New Year's Greetings to all chapters! May it be a happy, peaceful one. Keep the pipes singing!

Edith Rawle

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MOTOR CITY

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A large, enthusiastic audience turned out to hear Father Jim Miller in concert at the Redford Theatre on November 24.

His warm blend of music and showmanship proved to be an audience-pleaser and they showed their appreciation for a highly entertaining evening.



Father Jim Miller

The annual Christmas party at the Redford Theatre on December 3 featured member talent on stage, coordinated by Sandy Krueger. A newly organized combo, playing before an audience for the first time, was made up of Richard Brookshire, Terry Carmody, Carolyn Conway, Sue Conway, Eric Kraase and Joe Tournier. Carolyn Conway played the flute, accompanied at the piano by her mother; Sue, and Margaret Tapler accompanied a Christmas sing-along at the 3/10 Barton. An "Oldie-Wed Game" featured two couples and was hosted by emcee Will Walther, who is also the newly elected chairman of the chapter's Young Theatre Organ Enthusiasts. The get-together, chaired by Irene FitzGerald, also featured an array of light refreshments in the lobby.

Tony O'Brien played to a capacity house for the annual Christmas Show at the Redford Theatre on December 8. Entitled "The Magical Music of Christmas," Tony's program won the approval of his dedicated audience. Also appearing was the choir from St. Michael's Church in Livonia, directed by Margaret Ross, and baritone soloist David Reynolds. "The Nativity Suite" featured music arranged by Tony from the film *Ben-Hur* interspersed by the King James version of the Christmas story narrated by Don Lockwood. A snow scene in the orchestra pit included a creche,

stuffed animals, dolls, toy soldiers, carolers and an old-fashioned electric train, all surrounded by Christmas trees with individually controlled strings of colored lights. Set design and construction was by David Martin and Tony O'Brien. Art directors and set consultants were Irene FitzGerald, Donald Martin and Dorothy VanSteenkiste.

Paul Kline was the artist at the 3/16 Barton for the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on December 16 (held on the third Sunday because of the Christmas holidays). Paul was joined, for the latter part of his concert, by drummer Skip Wilkinson.

Ron Rhode will appear at the Redford Theatre on April 13 and Tony O'Brien will accompany *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Redford on April 26 and 27.

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



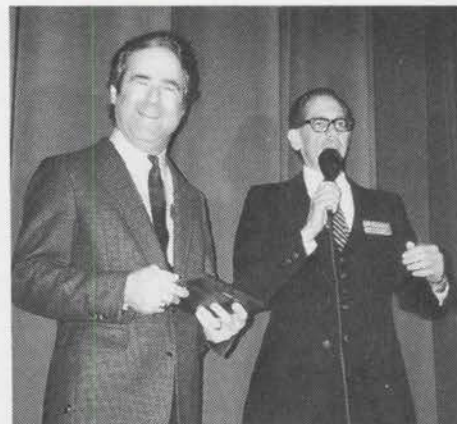
Manning Motor City's Holiday Craft Sale in the Redford Theatre lobby are crafts chairman Irene FitzGerald, Diane and Jerry Skelly, Janet Lathrop, Mary Estes, Hilda Muethel and Helen Vogel (seated).

Ray VanSteenkiste photo



Tony O'Brien enjoyed a full house for his program, "The Magical Music of Christmas," at the Redford Theatre.

Ran VanSteenkiste photo



Mike Deja, host of the Sunday morning program "Patterns in Music," accepts a plaque, on behalf of radio station WJR, in appreciation of the community service promotion they have given Motor City over the years. Pictured with Mike at the November presentation is emcee Don Lockwood.

Ray VanSteenkiste photo



The choir from St. Michael's Church performs at Motor City's Christmas show.

Ray VanSteenkiste photo



David Messineo and Vickie Fisk lead the sing-along at New York chapter's Christmas concert.

NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 201/302-1255

A hearty group of members ventured out to Middletown, New York, in torrential rains on November 10, for an open console session on the chapter's Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre. Those who came enjoyed an afternoon of good company and music, with ample time for everyone to try out the recently installed Morton console, and put the Wurlitzer through its paces in the Paramount's acoustically excellent setting. Paramount crew chief Bob Seeley hosted the event, and thanks to his hard work with the help of crew members Lowell Sanders, Bob Welch and Tom Stehle, the Wurlitzer was in fine voice.

Following open console, chapter members headed a few miles east to Cornwall for an evening concert by Lou Hurvitz at the New York Military Academy's 4/31 Mighty Moller. Lou's excellent program



Lou Hurvitz at the New York Military Academy 4/31 Moller.

included a wide range of theatre organ favorites that showed off the resources of the big Moller. In spite of the rainy night, Lou sent everyone home in good spirits, ending the evening with a hilarious Laurel and Hardy comedy, followed by an encore and his theme, "With a Song in My Heart."

December 9 brought us to Long Island University in Brooklyn for a chapter first — a Christmas holiday concert on the 4/26 LIU/Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer. Radio City organist Bob Maidhof took the afternoon off from playing the Christmas Show at the Music Hall to join with associate Dave Messineo for a delightful program that featured entirely the music of Christmas. Dave opened the program with "We Need A Little Christmas" and pointed out that all but one selection to be played had been included in the Music Hall Christmas Shows.

A highlight of the afternoon was a marvelous vocal performance by soprano



Bob Maidhof, vocalist Vickie Fisk, and David Messineo at the Long Island University/Brooklyn Paramount 4/25 Wurlitzer.

Vickie Fisk. Vocal selections spanned the range from an inspirational "Ave Maria" to a humorous parody, "The Twelve Days After Christmas." Dave also demonstrated his wonderful singing talent and joined with Miss Fisk in several duets including a beautiful performance of "O Holy Night," which he also accompanied at the console. The audience also had their chance to join in with a sing-along to song slides. Dave and Bob shared the console for the closing selection, a spectacular, four-hand rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," permitting the big Wurlitzer to take full advantage of the cathedral-like acoustics of the LIU Athletic Center (formerly Brooklyn Paramount Theatre). Bob and Dave again shared the console for an encore, their own jaunty arrangement of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." Thanks, as always, to Bob Walker and Warren Laliberte, the Mighty Wurlitzer was in top form.

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Jim Riggs, Nor-Cal member, at the Nor-Cal/Berkeley Wurlitzer. Rudy Frey photo



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With just 19 of 33 ranks up for playing (a mere 57% of its ultimate planned installation) the Nor-Cal/Berkeley Wurlitzer "sounds like one of the very finest organs in the nation!" Such was the claim of at least one organist after hearing the instrument at a recent special preview concert for members only.

The organ is being readied to be one of the stellar attractions at the ATOS National Convention to be held July 5-9 — by then, all 33 ranks will be playable.

The preview playing of the Nor-Cal Wurlitzer was the highlight of the club's annual membership meeting on December 2. The concert followed a champagne brunch for members at Hs. Lordship's Restaurant, which overlooks San Francisco Bay from the atmospheric Berkeley Marina.

After dining, members gathered at the Berkeley Community Theatre for Nor-Cal's traditional counting of ballots for electing the next year's Board of Directors and the installation of the new directors.

But the unquestioned highlight of the day was the preview of the Nor-Cal/Berkeley Wurlitzer, presented by Jim Riggs — a Nor-Cal member and recently named Organist of the Year by the ATOS. Riggs is also house organist at Oakland's Paramount Theatre and a regular player at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto. And he is busy year-round presenting concerts throughout the United States and many other countries.

The final preparation of the Berkeley Wurlitzer is being led by Ed Stout and Dick Taylor, Nor-Cal members who are doing the tonal finishing of the organ. At the preview, they demonstrated some of

the individual and combination sounds of the organ.

The theatre housing the Berkeley Wurlitzer seats 3,500 people, making it one of the largest traditional auditoriums in the nation.

The 1991 ATOS convention — focused through the slogan "Ninety-One-Derful" — will be headquartered at the magnificent St. Francis Hotel in downtown San Francisco.

For information about the convention or the club, contact Jack O'Neill, Nor-Cal Secretary, P.O. Box 2741, Oakland, CA 94602, or phone 415/632-9177.

Leon Fletcher

NORTH FLORIDA

Jacksonville
904/268-9537

After taking the summer months off, we started the fall with a bang by participating in the annual Arts Mania Celebration at the Landing in downtown Jacksonville. For the second year in a row the chapter had a booth inside the landing, providing information about theatre organs, the local chapter, and the national organization. There was a real good flow of people, estimated to have been in excess of 100,000. The chapter got some very good exposure to the public, and even picked up a few new members, as well as some "interested parties" to add to our mailing list.

In conjunction with Arts Mania, we sponsored two concerts in the Independent Life Auditorium. On Saturday, October 6, Mark Renwick performed on a Conn 650 electronic theatre organ, and was joined vocally by his wife Carrie. They performed several wonderful tunes from yesteryear and provided a short glimpse back to a time of big bands and beautiful singers. On October 7, Dave Walters played a wide range of selections, from theatre style to pop, to give a sampling of the many sounds the Conn 650 can reproduce.

(continued...)

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NORTH FLORIDA cont.

Both concerts had a smaller-than-hoped-for crowd, but those in attendance were appreciative of the fine music provided. The use of the Conn 650 was generously donated by Dave Walters. Transportation and set-up of the organ was donated by Kelly's Music of Jacksonville and Orange Park, Florida. The chapter extends its gratitude to both Mr. Walters and to Kelly's Music for their generous support.

Plans are already underway to participate in the 1991 Arts Mania Celebration, and it is hoped that we can work with the local cinema society to provide organ accompaniment for the showing of a silent film next year. Preliminary discussions with a few contacts in that organization look to be promising!

We are now the proud owner of our own organ! In July, we acquired a Gulbransen Model D electronic theatre organ, which was donated to the chapter by Mr. Jim Rankin of New Hampshire. Transportation of the unit was paid for by the generous donations of our members. Upon moving the unit to Florida, it was immediately taken to the home of Dave Walters, who has been diligently working to get it in top performance condition. With Dave's donation of storage space for the organ, and his electronics expertise for working on the unit, he has become quite an asset to the chapter, and we would like to formally thank him for his gifts and talents!

The Gulbransen Model D is almost a one-of-a-kind, in that it was one of only two built by Gulbransen, but was never put into production. The Model D was designed to demonstrate the many possibilities of sounds that could be built into an electronic organ that would duplicate theatre organ sounds. This particular unit was once owned by Mr. Bob Page, former program director of Diamond Jim's Night Club in Minneapolis.

Before being donated to the North Florida Chapter, the unit had been in storage for a few years and is in need of some repairs and a few adjustments to the reed



The Arts Mania Booth, manned by (L to R) Chris Secrest, Patsy Pound, Dave Walters and Terry Weems. voices. Repairs are being handled by Dave Walters. We are hopeful that the organ will be in top shape by this spring when we plan to place it in a stable location and new home for chapter meetings. Negotiations are underway with a couple of local retirement communities to place the organ in one of their small performance halls, suitable for monthly meetings and periodic concerts. The chapter realizes that the Gulbransen obviously is not a pipe organ, but this is a good step in the right direction of eventually owning and operating a chapter pipe organ some day!

Our monthly meetings resumed in October, with a meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Renwick. Mark played a wonderful program on his Gulbransen Rialto II, and was joined vocally by his wife Carrie. It is always a pleasure to hear the music these two can perform! And, as always, Carrie was the perfect hostess,

providing some wonderful refreshments for the group.

The November meeting was held at Holloway Music Center. They generously donated the use of their facilities and the use of a new Baldwin electronic church organ, which Mark Renwick played. He chose several different numbers to play in order to show the vast difference between a church organ and a theatre organ. Refreshments were provided by Jean Klemm, of Holloway Music. We would like to extend our thanks to Holloway Music for being such gracious hosts to our group.

The December meeting has become a traditional "Old Fashioned Christmas" meeting at the home of Dave Walters. He and his sister, Ms. Patsy Pound, provided a wonderful bounty of holiday goodies and a beautifully decorated home for a traditional Christmas get-together. The program was played by Jim Lawson, of Palatka, Florida. Jim played Dave's Conn 650, and performed many of the old time favorites. When looking around the room, one could see many a foot tapping to the tempo of Jim's music!

The chapter would like to extend its deepest sympathy to member Elmer Osteen in the loss of his wife, Helen, who passed away in December. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. *Terry Weems*

"BOB'S BEST OF 1990"

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER YOU BY

Tom Hazleton at the 3/15 Marr & Colton, in the Thomaston Opera House. Excellent organ, good recording, and Tom Hazleton at his best. *See March/April issue.*

FAIR DINKUM

Tony Fenelon at the Manchester Free Trade Hall Wurlitzer. Superb instrument, recording lacks clarity, good performances. The closing "Grande Tarantelle" is worth the entire price of the tape. *See March/April issue.*

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Chris Elliott at the Wilcox 4/48 Wurlitzer. All aspects of this recording are excellent. Of particular note are Chris Elliott's clean, accurate, and refined performances. "Danse Macabre" is probably the best you'll ever hear it. *See September/October issue.*

PHOENIX

Walt Strony at the Krughoff 4/33 Wurlitzer. This is the most outstanding recording job in my memory. This defines what a digital recording should be. *See September/October issue.*

BILL VLASAK

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"Visions of Sugar Plums..." always occupy our thoughts at Christmas time, and for our members, these visions encompass all of the other pleasures of the season — including our annual Christmas Party. In addition to the pleasure of fine organ music, we also get to feast on the array of Holiday fare offered by attending members.



The Hansons, Bill and Jean, hosts of NTC Christmas Party.

This year we gathered at the beautiful Lakewood residence of Dr. Bill Hanson and his wife, Jean, who had prepared their home for the Holidays (and our party) with a 12-foot, beautifully decorated tree and the colors of Christmas in every room. As we gathered for our festivities, we were put in the joyous spirit of the season by these and by the warm welcome of our hosts.

The musical fare was served up by host Bill Hanson on his Allen digital theatre organ (equivalent to about 38 ranks). Though Bill is a practicing dentist, which

alone is enough to keep one busy, he is also a fine professional organist. As such, Bill plays pipe organ in his church and also takes his turn as intermission organist on our chapter's 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas. Bill played a beautiful assortment of Christmas music — ranging from traditional carols and popular tunes to classical organ literature — which was a joy to all!!

Thanks to our hosts and to Social Chairman Frieda Routt, her husband, Reggie, and helpers Chris and Muriel Christopher, the food and beverages were beautifully arrayed on tables in the several rooms. As I didn't see a single sugar plum, I guess there just aren't too many of those around any more!

As usual, the call for open console talent was generously answered, and we were delighted with musical offerings by Johnny Batten, John Alford, Helen Thomas and several others. Their music provided a continuing festive ambience for our partying. A big thanks to all.

Our chapter sends Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a most Happy and Fraternal New Year to all our ATOS associates.

Irving Light



Newest member, John Alford.



Helen Thomas at open console.



Social committee Frieda and Reginald Routt, Muriel and Chris Christopher stirring up a new batch of punch.



Visitor Lloyd Hess, former Dallasite, now resides in Atlanta.



OHIO VALLEY

Cincinnati

513/681-8108 or 513/471-2965

We celebrated two landmark events this year — 30 years as an ATOS chapter and 12 years of showing movies at Emery Theatre. Staffing a 1300-seat theatre requires a lot of devoted people and ours are members, "Friends of OVC," plus volunteers who simply love theatres. And behind it all we never forget what we are about — theatre pipe organs, specifically our 3/29 Wurlitzer. From our professionals, we have a staff of 12 organists, all real artists. We would like to share with you some information about these folks who never seem to tire of being in show business part of their week.

Chapter President James R. Teague is retired from a career in the Cincinnati school system. He puts in more hours for us than he did when he "worked for a living." (At least he doesn't have to get up so early!) Jim books films, traces them when they are late, and is on hand for all shows when our organ and some of our equipment is used. We were involved in 126 shows in 1990 at the Emery Theatre, and Jim participated in the majority of these. The Mighty Wurlitzer was used in most all of these shows, even though only for an organ prelude.

With the organ being used almost every three days, good maintenance is a *must*. Organ crew chief Bill Ahlert, a retired Building Commissioner of Cincinnati, also helps keep the 3/16 Wurlitzer in his church operating well. We believe this may be the remaining Wurlitzer church organ still in use in the area.

Chapter meetings are held on a Sunday in each month having five Sundays. One in April let us know we'd been ATOSers for 30 years. This was held at the theatre, but the July meeting was at the home of Jack and Joan Strader where the local chap-

ter was formed by a group of "Enthusiasts." (Remember them?) This is also the home of the Wurlitzer organ that once was housed in the RKO Paramount Theatre in Cincinnati.

The September meeting was held at the store of member Jerry Dulski, local Rodgers dealer. We closed the year on December 2 when we met at the Emery for lots of organ-playing and food-eating. Members brought part, and the chapter furnished the rest. Other than playing the organ, food is closest to the hearts of ATOSers!
Hubert S. Shearin



Karen and Loren Minear in chamber at Cleveland High School.
Paul Quarino photo



Patti Simon at Uncle Milt's.
Irv Ewen photo



Dennis Hedberg shows old theatre slides for Oregon chapter.
Paul Quarino photo



Patti Simon was presented in concert at Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza on November 24. Patti is always a delight to listen to and to visit with as she shares a love of the Pacific Northwest with us as well as a love of the big pipes. Patti's selections included "The Wedding of The Winds," an elegant Duke Ellington medley, the "Emperor's Fanfare" and a lively "Black and White Rag." Patti Simon is always a welcome addition to the concert scene in our area.

Our annual meeting and dinner was held on the stage of the Cleveland High School auditorium where we were treated to a "chamber tour" of the nearly completed Kimball installation (from Benson High). After dinner, Dennis Hedberg provided the non-musical entertainment by showing some of his slides of beautiful old theatres. Next Christmas we are anticipating a program of exciting music as well as a dinner on the stage.

We are planning on a late April dedication of the Cleveland organ. Terry Robson is in charge of the premiere program and presentation of this exciting newest Portland organ venue.

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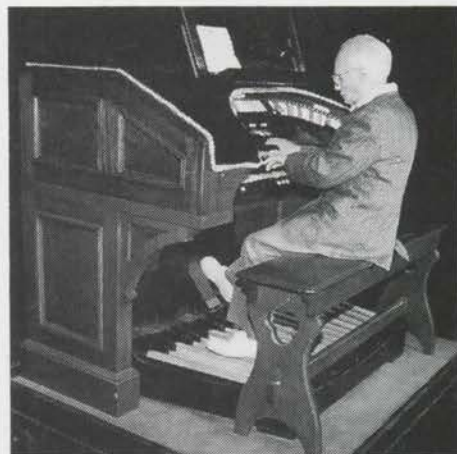
Mike Hartley relaxes the audience with his swinging style. Frank Stoner photo

POTOMAC VALLEY

703/256-8640 or 301/652-3222

We held our annual business meeting on November 30 at the home of Fay and Peggy Marvin in Annandale, Virginia. There was much discussion of the future of our two chapter-owned theatre pipe organs now installed in university auditoriums. It was decided to proceed with a chapter meeting at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, during the year-end holiday break. Treasurer Joe Beaty gave a summary treasurer's report. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lee Prater, recommended re-election of the 1990 officers to serve in 1991, and that slate was approved unanimously. Open console then followed on Fay Marvin's Baldwin Cinema organ. Those who took advantage of the opportunity were George Johnson, Ardis Sneddon, Lee Prater, J. Pinoake Browning and Fay Marvin.

On the surprisingly warm Sunday afternoon of December 30, we closed out the year with a rousing introduction to our chapter-owned 2/9 Wurlitzer in the magnificent Harris Theatre on the campus of George Mason University, near Fairfax, Virginia. That organ was originally in the Rialto Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C. Entertainment was skillfully furnished by Vice Chairman Floyd Werle and members Lee Prater and Mike Hartley. Intermission refreshments were thoughtfully provided by Artis and John Sneddon. Technical explanations and chamber tours were headed by our chief organ technician, George Johnson who, along with other volunteers, has contributed thousands of man-hours to make that day, and many future events, possible. Jack Little

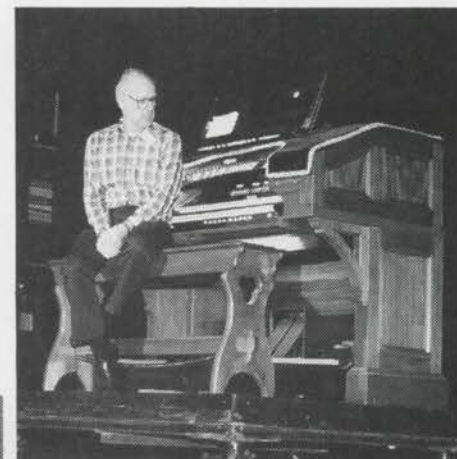


Lee Prater gives the Wurlitzer a vigorous workout. Frank Stoner photo



Fay Marvin invites Floyd Werle to climb aboard the Wurlitzer on wheels! Frank Stoner photo

Below: Chief organ technician George Johnson basks in the limelight.



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Back stage snacks are gobbled up at the intermission.

Frank Stoner photo



Outgoing chairman Dick Schrum and Incoming Chairman Marilyn Schrum with Cymbal of Office.

PUGET SOUND

On November 25 we met at Bellevue Pizza & Pipes to hear John Atwell of Australia at the Wurlitzer, with Jay Kenney of Seattle on the piano, following the format introduced by Lyn Larsen and Tony Fenelon. John is on a concert tour of the States and Europe, accompanied by his wife and teenage son and daughter. His playing is both polished and gutsy, and should require all his time to keep it that way. But it doesn't. He also has a PhD. in Immunology and Biochemistry. He works as a research scientist for the Australian government in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering. And that still isn't all. He wind-surfs!

The program consisted of organ solo work, and some special arrangements with Jay Kenney. Jay grew up in Wisconsin and studied classical Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin. After a few years of performing there he came to Seattle where he is now employed by Evans Music/MIDI City (Music Instrument

Digital Interface). He's a stunning performer, and we're glad that he is now ours.

December 9 saw us all at the Haller Lake Improvement Club (which Puget Sound Chapter has improved by installing our chapter-owned Wurlitzer/Marr & Colton a few years back). We enjoyed our annual Christmas party with all the goodies to eat, a chance for all interested members to hold forth on the organ, and time to visit with old friends and new. The organ, under the care of Bill Exner, never sounded so good.

There was time, too, for the election of officers.

Our Paramount Theatre has squeaked through again and avoided foreclosure. An infusion of meaningful money from a Portland group and some individual Seattle investors has saved the "heroine." A new partnership has been formed with the owners, and an upgrading of the building is contemplated. The Historical Theatre Association, a non-profit group, will continue to lease the theatre and produce shows there.

Genny Whitting



Mehlspeisen from the Wurlitzer Cookbook:

Dampf Noodles

Take a little more than 1 quart of flour. Set sponge with ½ cake of yeast; when raised, take milk, make dough, work into it 3 eggs, butter size of an egg, and make a rather stiff dough. Let it raise. When light, form into biscuits on molding board, cover, and set board in a warm place, so the biscuits raise. When ready, put some lard into a deep pan with lid; have lard very hot; put in the biscuits, with ½ cup of boiling water, cover quickly, and bake.



John Atwell (left) and Jay Kenney.

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Our annual meeting was held at the Deere-Wiman House in Moline, Illinois, on November 18. The meeting was held in the living room of the former Charles Deere mansion with its Steinway grand piano, fireplace and period furniture overseen by the painted portraits of the family principals. In addition to the normal business of the chapter, new officers were elected for 1991. A buffet luncheon was served by Jeanne VanLeeuwen and her gracious committee in the formal dining room.

Resident organist Richard Withenbury demonstrated with ability the potency of the Kimball 2/16 residential organ located in the music room, just off the library of this elegant Victorian home. If any complaint on Dick's program were to be made, it would be that it was too short. It consisted of well-handled medleys. The first was six selections from *The Phantom of the Opera*, while the other was four selections from *Les Miserables*. Mr. Withenbury dedicated the program to his mentor, Dr. Frederick Swanson, who had died two days before. Needless to say, this was thoughtful for a former music student to do. Obviously Dr. Swanson was an inspiration to him. Dick handled the recently reconditioned organ well in light of no practice time to warm up and acquaint himself with the "old Kimball."

Everett Geurink



Enjoying a gourmet feast at Blackhawk College.

The Atrium at Blackhawk College in Moline was the setting for our annual Christmas gathering on December 16. More than sixty persons attended this extraordinary affair hosted and arranged by the very capable culinary expertise of Helen and Ted Alexander. Included as our special guests were members of the Quad City (electronic) Organ Club. A gourmet dinner was served and our guest artist was Don Grimm from Foster Family Music, who graciously furnished the Wersi Organ and the Yamaha Piano for our entertainment. Don opened his program with Lawrence Welk's theme song (you know what that is) as Jeanne VanLeeuwen stood by and blew bubbles. Don continued playing songs which demonstrated the organ's rhythm and registration capability. Included were: the old Hammond Organ sound; the Big Band sound, country and western; a medley of Christmas music, popular and classical, all of which combined into an evening of top entertainment. But wait! We haven't finished yet. Did you know that we have two very top notch



Marilynn Incerto sings and Selma Johnson plays the Yamaha.

singers in our chapter? The first to respond to our requests (and threats) was Ralph DeReus, whose powerful baritone voice reverberated the hall with "Old Man River," "Without a Song," and "Sweet Little Jesus Boy." The second voice to be heard is a voice that I have heard since my high school days, and I would recognize anywhere because of the outstanding quality. And that would be none other than Marilyn Incerto, a lyric soprano. She stated that she had received many calls from her family saying "I'll be home for Christmas," so that's what she sang. At the request of her mother, Elizabeth Barclay, she concluded with "O Holy Night." Quite to our surprise, out of the woodwork came some dancing dolls and a wooden soldier who performed beautifully to the strains of *The Nutcracker*. These children were students from a local dance studio.

Hark! Do you hear those jingle bells? It's Santa Claus coming up — up the elevator! Each person was to bring his own stocking to be filled by Santa; and if they didn't, then they would get a gift-wrapped piece of coal. The evening concluded with a sing-along of Christmas carols, and all of the folks took their filled stockings home and hung them by their chimneys with care and tucked themselves in their own little beds while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads! Richard Withenbury



Don Grimm at the Wersi organ.



Ralph Withenbury at the 2/16 Kimball.



Ralph DeReus sings and Selma Johnson plays.



Young dancers entertained.



Omaha, Nebraska
RIVER CITY
THEATRE
ORGAN
SOCIETY

712/328-8725 or 402/453-7769

Our members were invited to attend the inaugural concert of a new Allen digital computer organ at the Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha on November 16. This dedicatory concert was presented by Paul E. Oakley, an artist of national and international prominence from the Minneapolis area. The instrument was Allen's largest stock-model concert organ. Mr. Oakley opened his recital with "Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals" by Sigfrid Karg-Elert and "Three Chorale Transcriptions" by J.S. Bach, followed by Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." To showcase the antiphonal organ, Mr. Oakley offered Nikolau Bruns' "Prelude and Fugue in E Minor." Other compositions included works by Paul Manz, Cesar Franck and Robert Elmore. The program concluded with improvisations based on six familiar hymn tunes suggested by the audience, each designed to highlight special resources of the instrument. An appreciative congregation honored the artist with a standing ovation. River City Chapter is indebted to the Lutheran Church of the Master and to Denis Ketcham, owner of Church Organs of Omaha for our opportunity to attend this splendid concert.

On December 15, Bob Markworth once again co-hosted our annual Christmas party with Joyce Kelley in Bob's spacious north Omaha home. The party started with a "chili feed" furnished by Bob, with



Above: River City members and guests at Dan Bellomy's concert.

At Right: Our host, Bob Markworth (left) with Dan Bellomy after the concert. Tom Jeffery photos

potluck salads and desserts. Bob served his famous chili in two degrees of "hotness:" mild and call the fire department! After dinner the capacity crowd of 70 adjourned to the family room for a short business meeting chaired by President Ed Martin. Bob Markworth introduced the evening's guest artist, Dan Bellomy, well-known to theatre organ enthusiasts. Dan originally hails from Houston, Texas, but currently lives in Portland, Oregon. Dan opened his concert with a peppy tune from the Marx Brothers film, *A Night at the Opera*, "Co Si, Co Sa," followed by "When You and I Were Young, Maggie, Blues," using piano and organ. With his lively swing tune version of "Teach Me Tonight," Dan disproved the old dictum: never play jazz on a pipe organ. Some of the Christmas favorites played by Dan included "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," with rich glissandos and "Jingle Bells," played with organ, piano and glockenspiel. His "Rudolph" (the Red-Nosed Reindeer) featured piano, glock and tuned sleighbells. Dan closed with a medley of Christmas tunes, including "Gloria in Excelcias Deo." An enthusiastic audience called for an encore, and was treated to "The Tennessee Waltz" and "Blue Skirt Waltz." During open console we had the opportunity to chat with Dan Bellomy and to enjoy the festive holiday decorations and a crackling fire in the hearth. Many thanks to Joyce, Bob and Dan for a memorable evening. Bob Markworth's 3/15 Kimball theatre pipe organ was in primo voice, thanks to Bob and two of his loyal helpers, Paul Kanka and Wendall Hall.

Tom Jeffery



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The growing and ever-expanding horizons of Rocky Mountain Chapter were met this fall by their annual meeting and election. The new board has been putting together a very exciting year by continuing with proven programs and starting outstanding and thought-provoking new ones. If you would like information on our 1991 calendar of events please give us a call.

We have been getting some phone calls from other chapters asking for information on our two success stories, The Amateur Organist Show Case, and the "Fusion" Organ Concerts for the Denver Public Schools. David Love has put together some information on "how to" on both of these programs. If your chapter is looking to get some "new life" in its programming, these are two great ways. Feel free to call David at his home, 303/421-1190.



CONVENTION

July 5-9, 1991



ST. LOUIS

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Our November meeting was held in "Steinway Hall" at the Ludwig-Aeolian Piano Exchange in Earth City. One of our new members, Richard Rodgers, oversees the six stores in this chain, and was our gracious host for the evening. As this was our annual business meeting, we elected officers and board members for the new year. We wish them well in their endeavors.

Richard Rodgers then introduced our program, which was a grouping of four cameos. First was instructor Beth Plasko at the Gulbrandsen organ. She was followed by Steve Tate, one of our members, and also a Ludwig-Aeolian instructor. Our host then followed at the organ with several lively numbers. Richard then introduced our featured artist, St. Louis legend Dick Balsano, at the Steinway Concert Grand. His marvelously intricate arrangements kept us all spellbound.

Bad weather threatened to ruin our annual Christmas Party, but in the end, some 40 brave souls made the trek to Jack Moelmann's O'Fallon residence. Open console, a lavish potluck buffet, and cocktail hour started us off. During a brief business meeting, President Dennis Amman presented our first Honorary Life Membership to Joseph S. Barnes. A long-standing member of SLTOS, Joe has been our dedicated crewchief on all of our organ projects. In addition, his very well-equipped shop is always at our disposal for re-

leathering, and other small projects.

After the presentation, Jack Moelmann took the console and dazzled us with a program of Christmas melodies and show tunes. A Laurel and Hardy silent film and Christmas sing-along followed. Unfortunately, the party broke up a little earlier than usual as it had begun to snow heavily again!
Chuck Wiltsch

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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For myself, I can only say that I am astonished and somewhat terrified at the result of this evening's experiment. Astonished at the wonderful form you have developed and terrified at the thought that so much hideous and bad music will be put on records forever.

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN (1842-1900)
On a "phonogram" to Thomas Alva Edison, 1888

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SEQUOIA
Fresno, California
209/431-4305

1990 was a great year for Sequoia Chapter. Not only did it see the completion of our chapter's 2/10 Wurlitzer, it also saw the hosting of the 1990 Regional ATOS convention.

September saw a sneak preview of our chapter Wurlitzer in a silent film program by Bob Vaughn. As always, Bob did a superb job of silent film accompaniment. *Steamboat Bill* may well have been the first silent film played in the Hanford Theatre in 50 years. All present were delighted and surprised at the sound ten well-chosen ranks could produce.

Certainly, October was the big month for us. The Regional Convention unofficially started three days early with the first arrivals of artists. The only major flaw during the convention was during John Seng's program when the Warners Theatre Robert-Morton acted like a spoiled child. Believe it or not, the last time the organ ciphered was during a Halloween show in 1975. It more than made up for lost ciphers during John's program. The Monday following the convention found Tom Hazleton with a gala grand opening of our chapter Wurlitzer. The following day the Hanford *Sentinal* had a large photo and story of the concert — on the front page. How long has it been since a theatre organ has found its way to the front page of a daily newspaper?

In November, we were treated to a fine program by David Lowe, who was on tour in the United States. He did a superb program at the 3/23 Wurlitzer in Fresno's Pizza and Pipes. He also played a Sidney Torch composition "In Springtime."

Larry Vannucci made his way to the Hanford Theatre Wurlitzer in January with a program of wild, bizarre jazz. Larry can take an otherwise ordinary tune, turn it inside out, upside down, and create an entirely new arrangement each time he sits down to play. This was a homecoming of sorts as he played a very similar Wurlitzer for many years in San Francisco's Lost Weekend Lounge. The style 216 is very well suited to the stylings of "The Vannootch."

The chapter is also very interested in the potential preservation and restoration of Monterey's State Theatre. A 12-rank Wurlitzer has been offered for use in the house.
Tom DeLay



Larry Vannucci recreates jazz stylings from his "Lost Weekend" days.
DeLay photo



Bob Vaughn, shown here at the DeLay Wurlitzer, played a "sneak preview" of the FOX Hanford Wurlitzer.



David Lowe at the 3/23 Wurlitzer in Pizza and Pipes.



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Our November "meeting" was our very first genuine public performance at our Vo-Tech installation! Bill Flynt, from Dallas, was here to play a musical accompaniment to the silent movie *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, starring Buster Keaton, on our own 3/10 Robert-Morton. Bill did a marvelous job — you *know* it's a measure of his expertise when you have to remember to listen for the organ during the film. We counted close to a hundred people in the audience, many of them children, many of them persons who "had no idea an organ could sound like that," many others who "remembered the old silent movie days." What was truly remarkable above all, however, was the fact that the "old" silent movie was being shown from a copy — on videotape!

Bill also played us a pre-movie program of music from *My Fair Lady* and *Phantom of the Opera*, as well as showing his collection of old-time slides (such as "Ladies, please remove your hats"). We also enjoyed an old-fashioned sing-along, with Paul Craft leading the singing. We even had free popcorn for our audience (provided by DECA organization at the school), thanks to Barbara and Laquita Kimes, who fired up the school's popcorn machine. The ladies also donated punch and coffee. And we enjoyed meeting Bill's charming wife, Cherie'. It was indeed a fun beginning.

Early in December we enjoyed a program of Christmas (mostly) "Pops" music played by our talented member Dick Van Dera. Dick was demonstrating the *Technics* electronic instrument, as well as the *Galanti* electronic church organ. His "Adeste Fideles" on the *Galanti* was magnificent!

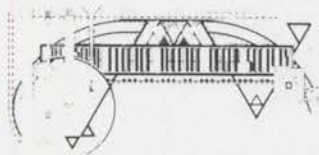
Our December meeting was our annual Christmas Planned Potluck Dinner Party, held again at the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. Our host opened the festivities with a few selections on his 3/10 Wicks Hybrid theatre pipe organ. Several others also played before dinner was served. Sam Collier then played our mini-concert ("First

open-console player after we eat," he insisted). Afterwards we had more open console, with at least fourteen persons playing. We had a couple of doubling-ups of piano and organ, and Paul Craft and Bonnie Duncan each sang a couple of songs with organ accompaniment. An added treat was having a few "play-alongs" by Bob Whitworth on his trumpet. (He "just happened to have it with him.")

We also presented certificates to four Honor Members, for enthusiasm, dedication, and outstanding service to Theatre Organ and our chapter. We congratulate President Lee Smith, treasurer Barbara Hamilton, Vice-president Sam Collier, and secretary Don Kimes, for being selected for this honor.

Dan and Barbara Kimes, assisted by Don and Laquita Kimes, hosted an open house just prior to our party, to show what they had accomplished so far on the installation of a two-manual Wicks pipe organ in Dan's home. Eight ranks are ultimately planned. Dan's father, Don Kimes, is helping with the installation.

We are saddened to report the death of Paul Haggard, long-time pipe organ installation expert, in Oklahoma City just before Christmas. *Dorothy Smith*



SOUTH FLORIDA

Miami

305/458-2912 or 305/443-2651

South Florida Chapter held its annual membership meeting and election in June 1990, at Miami's Gusman Center for the Performing Arts. The membership re-elected Vivian Andre president, and Dave Thurman as vice-president. Mrs. Andre named Michael Kinerk as program chairman and Ken Whiting, organ restoration chairman.

Unfortunately, to everyone's great sorrow, Vice-President David Thurman, music director at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Miami, and a popular organist

known to many in both ATOS and AGO for many years, died on December 4, 1990. He was a proud charter member of ATOS (then called ATOE).

We had two meetings over the summer, both in downtown Miami's Gusman Center for Performing Arts — our National Historic Landmark venue. We started our fall season with Mr. Lee Erwin, world-famous *Moon River* Cincinnati WLW radio — Arthur Godfrey Show organist. Erwin has performed many times for our chapter, last appearing at Gusman during the 1989 Miami Film Festival, where he galvanized the audience with Clara Bow's *It*, a classic silent film.

Our Christmas party was December 2 at the wonderful waterfront residence of Cal and Mildred Jureit in Coral Gables Estates. We heard the exciting 1989 ATOS Young Organist Competition winner, Mr. Barry Baker, at the great Wurlitzer/Kimball pipe organ in the Jureit music room, where the console overlooks Biscayne Bay lagoons. There was a full moon that night, so we enjoyed "Moon Over Miami" for real. Baker, who played a regular ATOS convention solo last August in Indianapolis at the 1990 National Convention, began playing at the age of 12, and is now a college student; modest, but fabulous. His talent is awesome.

In January, we had Walt Strony, always a very popular attraction here. He performed for club members on the original 1925 Wurlitzer installation at Gusman Center. At that time the chapter had several international visitors in town. They were in Miami Beach, attending the First World Congress on Art Deco, which Strony attended. They were so impressed by Strony's Gusman performance that they agreed to include a theatre organ concert — hopefully by Strony — at both the 1993 2nd World Conference in Perth, Australia, and in 1995 at the Number 3 World Congress on Art Deco, in London, England. Said the chaps from London's *30s Society*: "We've heard cinema organists before in England — but never anything like this!"

Michael Kinerk

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VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Chapter meetings for September, October and November were all held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. The artist for September was Michael Alyn. He referred to his program of mostly ballads as "some real sweet, nice music." He included numbers from operettas, show tunes, love songs, and the first song he ever learned to play, "How Great Thou Art." Michael's closing song was a vocal rendition of "All I Ask of You."

October 21, Johnny Harris was at the console, opening with his own composition, "Let Me Hear That Wurlitzer Again." His medley of "Dream," "Nothing Can Stop Me Now" and "This Nearly Was Mine" told of his association with Organ Stop Pizza. Three weeks after he became an associate organist there, "OSP became part of the Phoenix landfill." Johnny's musical and comedic talents made for a fun afternoon.

In November, chapter member Don Story of Tucson played the Wurlitzer for us. His program consisted of lesser known songs not usually heard in concerts.

December 9 found us at the home of Bill and Barbara Brown. Walt Strony was in command of the 5/28 Wurlitzer. Much of Walt's program was Christmas music, both contemporary and traditional. He also played music of Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein and Irving Berlin — three greats lost to us in the past year. Our thanks to the Browns for their hospitality.

Many VTOS members were in the audience for the December 16 OSP Christmas concert. Organist Ron Rhode offered an assortment of music during the first half, including a tribute to Ruth Etting. Part two was filled with songs of the season. Glenn Waddell, an employee of OSP, assisted Ron in the Fred Waring arrangement of "The Night Before Christmas." Glenn read the poem while Ron provided the musical accompaniment. Too bad Rhode couldn't find a nightshirt!

With some new officers on our board, we look forward to an active 1991.

Madeline Livolsi

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to:

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



Michael Alyn at First Christian Church. MLV photo



Ron Rhode's Christmas concert at Organ Stop Pizza. MLV photo



Walt Strony at Wm. P. Brown residence. MLV photo

LET ME HEAR THE WURLITZER AGAIN

by Johnny Harris

Well, rock and roll is here to stay
And Dixieland will never go away
And I like to go to the opera now and then

Today it's "rap" that's the latest rage
And musicals are still on stage
Country music's bigger then it's ever been

All that music has its places
But look at all these smiling faces
That have come to hear the Wurlitzer again!

Oh, let me hear the Wurlitzer again
I long to hear the tibias sob
And think of times back when
Uncle George and Jesse Crawford
and the other "greats" have offered
Their talents through Her leather, wood, and tin

Oh, let me hear the Wurlitzer again
Just fire up the blower,
and push those pistons in
I'll giggle while Walt Strony
Plays his song about baloney
Just let me hear the Wurlitzer again.

Oh, let me hear the Wurlitzer again
Tell Bill Brown we're comin' down —
he always takes us in
Here's what we can do
Bring that Williams boy named Lew
So that he can play Bill's Wurlitzer again.

Oh, let me hear the Wurlitzer again
Mama, drop the mop; lets all go to Organ Stop
Young Rob Richards or Ron Rhode
will lighten up our load
With their mastery at the Wurlitzer again

O, let me hear the Wurlitzer again
Let me thrill as that old posthorn
sends shivers through my skin
Lyn Larsen makes us smile
And he'll bring up — gulp — Kurzweil
Which he'll add to the Wurlitzer's great din
Yes, we're here to hear the Wurlitzer again
And, although it may not sound
as though my fingers number ten
It's a thrill beyond compare
That we're all here to share
In the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer again!

Christmas got off with a bang at the studio home of David Barnett. What is more appropriate for a theatre organ club party than to have as a centerpiece a real live theatre pipe organ. Such it was at the Barnett home where the vintage Wurlitzer is king. Not to be overlooked is the Weber Duo-Art reproducing grand with its hundreds of rolls. Needless to say these are the ingredients of a real fun-time which was had by all.

Carrington Goode, Jr. entertained at the 3/7 Wurlitzer. Carrington really knows what it takes to please a crowd. He was followed by Lin Lunde who needs no introduction. He was featured soloist at the annual ATOS convention last summer in Indianapolis where he played the 2/11 Page in the Hedback Community Theatre. He was staff organist at Richmond's Byrd Theatre until 1987.

We had an unusually large turnout for our annual Christmas Party, and our thanks go to David for hosting us again this year. *Miles Rudisill*



Lin Lunde at VTOS Christmas Party.



Carrington Goode searches for that darned cypher at the Christmas Party.



Carrington Goode at the Barnett Wurlitzer as Wesley Dudley looks on.



VTOS Christmas Party: (L. to R) Dave and Sharolyn Heatwole, Jeanne Geiger, Mike Comley, and David Barnett.

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1/3 Horizontal (2 col.)	4-7/8	4-7/8
1/3 Vertical (1 col.)	2-3/8	10
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1/4 Horizontal (2 col.)	4-7/8	3 3/4
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Wolverines assembled behind the pretty centerpiece arranged by Pat Judson and Betty Clark. Marvin Spear photo



Bob Jackson enjoys open console at the Plum Creek Inn Kimball. R. MacCallum photo



Maintenance crew members (L to R) Dave Cook, Jim Shepherd, and Dick Shepherd. R. MacCallum photo

WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio

216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

We celebrated the Yuletide season with a party at the Plum Creek Inn of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, on December 2. Veteran theatre organist Billy Buswell was featured at the console of the 3/9 Kimball, entertaining with both traditional and holiday favorites. The food, as always, was delightfully prepared, and dessert shared the spotlight with lots of open console and Christmas merry-making.

Organ maintenance crew members Jim Shepherd, Dick Shepherd, Dave Cook, and volunteers Greg Pollock and Amy Burkett have been working to repaint and revamp the console of the Grays' Armory 3/16 Mighty Wurlitzer in preparation for our February 23 Candi Carley-Roth concert. The console is being refinished in an antique white with gold and blue trim, while the natural wood is being varnished into a lustrous mahogany. *Jim Shepherd*



Refreshments coordinator Janet Lathrop (front) and assistants Pat Judson, Betty Clark and Mary Przybylski. Fred Page photo



WOLVERINE

Central & Lower Michigan

313/284-8882 or 313/558-7118

We continue to enjoy a fare of varied monthly programs. In September we were hosted by member Joe Kehborn in his sumptuous home in Belleville, where he has installed a three-manual Allen electronic organ. Melissa Ambrose gave an impressive demonstration of the capabilities of the installation and in so doing also showed her rising stature as an organist.

In October it was Steve Schlesing who entertained us on that great Wurlitzer in the Senate Theatre of the Detroit Theater Organ Society. Augmented and enriched by the participation of David Strickland (piano), David Taylor (drums), and vocalist Lori Meeker, the foursome presented a program that "brought on many a shout" as the English say. Accompanied by piano, organ and drum, Lori's "Simple Melody" came over beautifully, as did "Blue Skies," "Dancing Cheek-to-cheek" and music from *A Chorus Line*. Steve was applauded for his thoughtfulness in playing "Dreams of the Past," the beautiful composition from the hand of the late Fred Bayne, one of the Wolverine Chapter's Charter Members, who passed away in September of last year.

In November member Brian Carmody, Director of Music for St. Dennis R.C. Church in Royal Oak, demonstrated the fine Allen Custom Classic organ Carlo Curley had inaugurated in May 1990. Brian also accompanied brother Terry (vocalist) and played duet with pianist Ray

Michuta. Brian's organ rendition of the catchy "Fire Drill" by Harry J. Lincoln, and Terry and Ray teaming up to take us on "The Oceana Roll" are but two examples of what we heard in church that Sunday. We also had a Christmas Seasonal Sing-along.

On December 9 our friends at Wurlitzer House II, Dave Voydanoff and Glenn Rank, welcomed the chapter for a Christmas Get-together on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Knowing how popular these gatherings always are, about 50 Wolverines came to enjoy the lovely conviviality. Knowing that open-console time might be at a premium, member Mary Griffin was prepared for that. At some point she whipped out her own portable organ and proceeded to play it by mouth. Thus we got introduced to our own (Wolverine) "Harmonikitten."

Through all these past months — nay, years — we have reported chapter events, with perhaps a passing reference to the support the chapter has had from Coordinator Janet Lathrop and Potluck Chairman Betty Heffer, and all the girls who have helped them. They were always there to help keep our stomachs from growling ciphers into otherwise good programs. It is high time we signal our recognition of their valued service. So to all of you, food-providers, in whichever chapter you may hide: This ATOSer salutes you all for realizing that the way to an enjoyable program does not lead through a hungry stomach. Wolverine Chapter, meanwhile, salutes Janet and Betty and all who have helped them through the years for their continued efforts. *Charlie & Betty Baas*

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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