# Chapter Notes





Lyn Larsen at the Alabama.

Gary Jones photo

### ALABAMA Birmingham 205/942-5611 or 205/251-9492

On March 24 we presented the silent film, *King of Kings*, at the Alabama Theatre. The film was accompanied by Lee Erwin on the 4/21 Wurlitzer Publix #1 organ. The print of the film was exceptionally good and Lee Erwin's accompaniment was superb.

We presented Lyn Larsen in concert at the Alabama Theatre on April 7. Lyn's last concert at the Alabama was in 1978. He got a warm welcome for his return in 1991. It was easy to see why Lyn is one of the most sought-after theatre organists in the country.

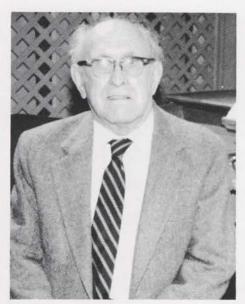
His program varied and showed his mastery of the organ. Lyn related well to the audience as he gave an informal discussion of each piece. Following the concert, ATOS members hosted a covered-dish supper in the theatre lobby. A short business meeting followed the supper. Gary Jones presided.

Our new tape, "Bertha And A Dozen Friends" was finally ready for sale at the Larsen concert. The sales were quite brisk at intermission and after the program. Betty Johnson and Gert Yester had a busy afternoon. Virginia Robertson

#### ATLANTA 404/355-6680 or 404/641-7159

On March 17 we met at Theatrical Paraphernalia to hear 1977 Organist of the Year and ATOS Hall of Fame member John Muri accompany the 1927 silent film, *The Cat and the Canary*, on the 2/9 mostly Robert-Morton. The film, a comedy/ mystery, was great fun to watch, and John's background music fit the mood of each scene perfectly. We enjoyed it very much, and John's encores, World War I songs and "Jerusalem," too.

Then on April 14, we returned to Callanwolde, the English Tudor home of the late Charles Howard Candler, to hear Charles Walker give another concert on the 3/54 Aeolian there. As before, Charles did it with the roll-plaving mechanism. He pointed out that many rolls were created for residence organs installed from the turn of the century through the mid 1930s in homes of the well-to-do as cultural entertainment for those with little or no musical ability. The residence organ, thus, was an instrument with no offensive stops, and with a soothing grand sound befitting this opulant bygone era. Cf. boom-box. Charles played what he called some obscure pieces from the vast library of rolls belonging to the home, some of which were arranged by Samuel P. Warren. Charles didn't miss a note, either.



John Muri at Theatrical Paraphernalia's 2/9 mostly Robert-Morton.

For technical reasons, Walt Winn's 4/18 Page will not be going into the historic Briarcliff-Candler mansion (home of the late *Asa* Candler) after all. Instead, it will be installed in one of several other sites in the Atlanta area under consideration. Meanwhile, a chapter/member volunteer crew has helped Walt disassemble, pack up and store the organ looking forward to the day it will be unwrapped and put in place again — soon, we hope.



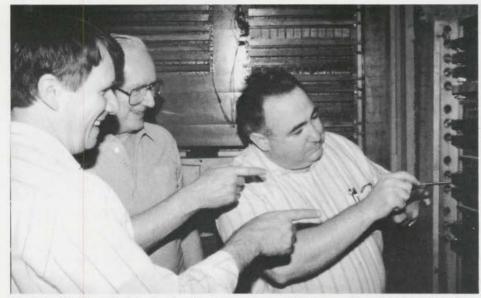
Charles Walker "plays" Callanwolde's 3/54 Aeolian with player rolls.

THEATRE ORGAN

#### ATLANTA cont.

Sometimes you have to do it backwards. Some of our chapter members are adding church-type ranks to a *theatre* organ! Atlanta's Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church has had a 3/7 Kimball theatre organ from the Strand Theatre in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. We have had several splendid theatre organ meetingconcerts there and the Church's hospitality has been very much appreciated. Fox Theatre organist Jay Mitchell and chaptermember volunteers are now adding six ranks to the organ, Diapason, Gedeckt, Octave, Dulciana, Viole and Viole Celeste, making it more churchlike without interfering with its theatre organ characteristics.

Down at Theatrical Paraphernalia, Charles Walker is installing a second pipe organ, a kind of Kimball 3/9. It was recently acquired from Frank Willingham, a long-time theatre organ enthusiast here. Charles' 2/9 mostly Morton will remain in place, but surrenders its crown as the largest pipe organ on Tenth Street to the newcomer. This will give the largest theatre on Tenth Street (78 seats) two separate organs, eighteen ranks altogether! You may wish to bring earplugs to the duets undoubtedly forthcoming. *Bill Hitchcock* 



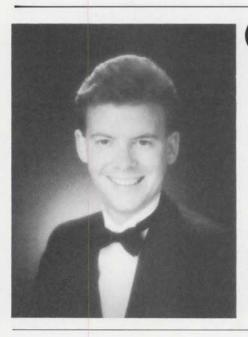
L to R: Jay Mitchell and Jack Sandow show Don Ennest where to apply the screwdriver at the Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church.



Charles Walker (on back) and Clay Holbrook hook up Theatrical Paraphernalia's second pipe organ, the recently acquired Kimball 3/9.

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to: DOUGLAS C. FISK, Executive Director of ATOS P.O. Box 417490 Sacramento, California 95841

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#### CENTRAL INDIANA Indianapolis

317/787-4865 or 317/255-8056

March 10 found members at Manual High School to hear our 3/25 Wurlitzer put through its paces. This job was handled admirably by Martin Bevis and Bob McKay, a talented piano/organ duo. Mr. Bevis has been playing for many years throughout the mid-west, entertaining in restaurants, lounges, skating rinks and radio stations. He has been on the staff of the Cincinnati Emery Theatre and the Dayton Victory Theatre. It is always a pleasure to hear Martin; his programs are well-balanced, with something for everyone. Dr. McKay put the "icing on the cake" when he joined in on the Baldwin concert grand. This program was especially enjoyed by our members.

Our April meeting was held at the Hedback Theatre. Members gathered to listen to the 2/11 Page organ recently purchased by the chapter. Some work needs to be done on the instrument, but in the hands of artist Barry Baker it sounded in mint condition. Barry is such a tremendous talent. The audience was treated to his unique interpretations of such standards as "Isn't This a Lovely Day," "You and the Night and the Music" and "Getting to be a Habit With Me." He dedicated "Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming" to the memory of the late Tess Moses. Thanks, Barry. Tess would have loved it. The future of theatre organ is assured with young men of Barry's musical caliber.

The chapter's third concert on our newly installed Wurlitzer at Manual High School was held on April 27. Guest artist was the ever-popular Ken Double, who did an outstanding job as usual. Appearing on the bill with Ken were two of Indy's top television personalities: Bob Gregory emcee for the program and Don Hein, hoofer extraordinaire! It was a fun evening and a profitable one as well, since we acquired several new members and added many names to our mailing list. Theatre organ is alive and well in Indianapolis, despite the loss of the Paramount Music Palace.

Several of our members made the trek westward to the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois, early in May. The occasion was a combined recital by THE CHORALE and an organ concert by our own Warren York. Warren has been renovating the 2/8 Wurlitzer there for a year or more and he has done a superb job. The 1600-seat theatre was sold out. The audience was most enthusiastic and appreciative; in fact, one-thousand-and-six-hundred voices nearly drowned out the organ during the sing-along! A typical midwestern spring day and beautiful music — what more could anyone ask? Barbara Johnson



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#### CENTRAL OHIO Columbus 513/652-1775

The grand old man of the theatre organ, old "flicker fingers" himself rose on the lift at the Ohio Theatre's celebrated Robert-Morton console, March 10. Balding, gray fringed, but boldly upright and vigorous this veteran organist played his famed opening theme, "The Perfect Song." Those of us in the senior set had no trouble relating to that - the theme of the "Amos and Andy Show" - and one he played for the program for a period of 17 years. We listened with a great deal of interest to his recount of his experiences with Harold Lloyd, who he regarded as a personal friend, and learned of Gaylord's latest endeavors in accompanying the silent films Wings. The Ten Commandments, The Last Command and more recently, The Shiek - all of which are now on videotape. His current project is the organ accompaniment to The Covered Wagon. In tribute to the picture, he played for the audience selections from this Paramount film.

Mr. Carter's performance featured as its centerpiece two Harold Lloyd comedies, the longer of which was the production Girl Shy. Gaylord remarked that in this picture, as in all Lloyd's films, Harold Lloyd had no doubles; he took all the risks himself, being something of an athlete. Needless to say, the priceless organ accompaniment to both films was a joy to hear. Not only were the melodic line and sound effects appropriate but the timing was precise. There's a medical observation to make here: in the aging process, well practiced and repetitively executed motor skills are preserved the longest. Mr. Carter ably demonstrates this maxim and at 85 remains a charismatic artist with a lot of stage presence.

We always journey up to Mansfield, Ohio, with an air of expectancy — in this case on March 24 to hear the redoubtable Ken Double at the Renaissance Theatre. We remember Ken as the eloquent emcee at the ATOS convention in Indianapolis

last year, but we got little opportunity to really appreciate his keyboard artistry. Well, sir, talent he's got, and it was evident from the very first as the Warner/Kearns/ Carson Wurlitzer rose majestically in its lift to Ken's now official theme song, "That's Entertainment." Resplendent in formal black attire with tails, he was every inch the performer we'd heard him to be as he led us through such lush ballads as "You Made Me Love You," "A New Kind of Love" and "As She Walked Into My Life." In these we heard this Wurlitzer's enviable sobbing Tibias and its plaintive Kinura in the right chamber. One of Ken's favorite medleys consists of a cluster of songs written by Sigmund Romberg which Ken has scored for the theatre organ. "Lover Come Back To Me" and "Stout-Hearted Men" provoked a nostalgia that was almost palpable. He demonstrated his talent at silent film accompaniment when we viewed one of our all-time favorites: a Laurel & Hardy comedy entitled Two Tars. Following the movie, in a tip of the hat to our state, Ken played a seldom heard selection, "Down By The Ohio."

After intermission Ken returned to play that unforgettable Latin number, "Jealousy." And, as if this wasn't enough, he demonstrated his ambidexterity by articulating simultaneously "Nola" and "The World is Waiting For a Sunrise" — mind boggling! His concert closed with Victor Herbert's "To The Land of My Own Romance." We didn't let him get away without an encore; a truly enjoyable afternoon and an artist that just has to come back.

There she was, Melissa Ambrose, in a beautiful green/blue blouse, poised on the bench of the Warner/Kearns/Carson Wurlitzer April 26 for a first-time appearance. As the console rose to her introductroy number "Everything's Coming Up Roses," came a round of applause from Mansfield Renaissance Theatre's enthusiastic audience. After a few introductory remarks she moved right into a charming oldy entitled "Chapel In The Moonlight," tastefully using the Clarinet on the melody line and resorting to the lush 4'-16' Tibias



Ken Double at the Renaissance Theatre.



Melissa Ambrose at Mansfield's Renaissance Theatre.



Margo Burkhart entertains us.

J. Polsley photos (continued ...)



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#### **CENTRAL OHIO cont.**

in open harmony on the bridge. Next came a novelty tune, "The Sunshine Cake," and than a haunting, plaintive 'Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square," again with measures of open harmony. We were sure we heard actual fiddlers with Melissa's rendition of "Oh Susanna" so believable was her country music registration. Her program included a very impressive salute to the armed forces, featuring a rather startling untremmed introduction, followed by the theme songs from all three branches of service. There followed a bit of the classics in her execution of Bach's "G Major Prelude." We were in for more patriotic music the second half with "Strike Up The Band," "America The Beautiful" and "God Bless The U.S.A." In the latter half of her program we especially enjoyed her arrangement of "76 Trombones" from Music Man and the romantic ballad, "Someone To Watch Over Me." Melissa wrapped up her program with George Gershwin's "I've Got Rhythm." No one could help being charmed by this attractive young lady, clad in a stunning all-white suit in her post intermission appearance. We wish her well in her coming marriage in June.

April 28 we met in Circleville at the home of Burk and Margo Burkhart. Genial and gracious hosts that they are, they opened their home to some 35 members and guests. Margo has one of the last Conn production models, the 653 and, following



Burk Burkhart does his Maurice Chevalier impersonation. J. Polsley photo

a short business meeting, she demonstrated what it would do. Treating us to a medley Sound of Music tunes, she turned to play her husband's own composition "The Circleville March." Her musical versatility was ably demonstrated in the rendition of a classic entitled "Joy" and in the nostalgic ballad "Embraceable You." Burk then surprised and delighted the audience with a surprise entry singing "Louise" in a striking likeness to the late Maurice Chevalier. Things didn't stop there - we were treated to a piano/organ duet featuring Burk at the piano and Margo at the Conn console playing New York, New York." This drew so much applause that we coaxed them back for an encore, "In The Mood." And, indeed, they did set the mood for a very spirited afternoon; the console was seldom vacated and the table "fixin's" were fabulous. A delightful meeting, and we're deeply grateful to the Burkharts for hosting us. John Polsley



#### CHICAGO AREA 312/589-9363 or 312/282-0037

The Copernicus Center (formerly the Gateway Theatre) has been the location for many CATOE musical functions and socials. CATOE reciprocates often, one way by helping to maintain and update the theatre's 3/11 mostly Wurlitzer pipe organ. We are forever grateful for a dedicated crew who conscientiously work to improve this excellent instrument. We also appreciate the interest and endeavor of member Dennis Wolkowicz who keeps a watchful eye on the entire Copernicus Center operation.

Father Jim Miller presented a great allorgan show at the Center on March 10 and included much of his natural humor along with his excellent and varied program. Father Miller is a great musician and super comic.



Father Jim Miller at the Copernicus Center.

This program was followed on April 14 by a social and business meeting with Ralph Cox at the Copernicus organ console giving a beautiful program for which we profusely thank Ralph. This date was also the yearly nomination of board members for the election of officers for the coming year — a time of great anticipation.

Two days previous, on April 12, Kurt Von Schakel gave a concert at the Carl Schurz High School, appearing at the console of their 4/46 Moller pipe organ. This will be the first concert on the Moller since its extensive re-furbishing and updating. Kurt presented a varied program of popular and classical music for this benefit concert for the further restoration of the organ. Schurz High School is fortunate to have a dedicated and ambitious group of pipe organ lovers who keep things moving in the right direction.

Organ crews are busy these days updating and maintaining the pipe organs at the Chicago Theatre, the Tivoli in Downers Grove and Mundelein Seminary. The Uptown Theatre is getting serious attention and results will soon be announced.

The Hinsdale (Illinois) Theatre was reopened and its organ used by Don Springer at the console. Don gave a warm and enthusiastic program — it was February! Thanks to member Jim Glass who manages the theatre and maintains the organ. The combination has been excellent in the past and no doubt will be in the future. A happy summer to all. Almer Brostrom



THEATRE ORGAN

#### THEATRE ORGAN AD SIZES & RATE INFORMATION

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1/2 Vertical (2 col.)	71/2
	1.0
1/3 Horizontal (3 col.)	31/4
1/3 Horizontal (2 col.) 4-7/8	4-7/8
1/3 Vertical (1 col.) 2-3/8	10
1/4 Horizontal (3 col.)	21/2
1/4 Horizontal (2 col.)	33/4
1/4 Vertical (1 col.)	71/4
	1.74
* 1/4 Special	
* 1/4 Special	4-1/8
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# CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 717/263-0202

Chapter members John and Carol Slimmer hosted a delightful St. Patrick's Day party which included not only the wearin' o' the green but also the hearin' and singin' o' the green. There were plenty of Irish songs to be heard on the Slimmers' electronic Kimball Xanadu and sung by an impromptu group of earnest harmonizers. Partygoers were treated to a miniconcert by Bob Eyer, Jr. and open console artistry by Mark Herr and Wayne Mowrey. It was a great time for all to renew acquaintances and meet new friends of the theatre organ.

At a brief business meeting held at the party, organ crew chief Mark Cooley reported that the stop tablets have been removed from the Capitol Theatre Moller console and that crew member Gil Singer is beginning the expansion of the horseshoe to accommodate the additional (fourth) manual to be added. *Bob Maney* 



Jim Riggs at the Riverside Theatre Wurlitzer.



#### DAIRYLAND Milwaukee Wisconsin 414/271-0277

Dave Wickerham made his formal acquaintance with our Riverside Theatre 3/14 Wurlitzer on March 10. Used to hearing him on the Piper Music Palace Kimball, more than 100 members and guests gathered to hear him in the more formal, concert-like setting of the magnificent theatre. Neither organ nor organist disappointed them.

On April 27 we presented Jim Riggs at the Riverside Wurlitzer. His program of American popular music, so well suited to the theatre organ, was such a pleasure to hear. This reviewer's personal favorite was a medley of Duke Ellington compositions.

We are looking forward to greeting old friends and meeting new ones at MIL-WAUKEE FUN IN '91! Come, hear what's brewing in Milwaukee! *Carrie Nelson* 

#### DELAWARE VALLEY Glenside, Pennsylvania 251/828-8662

On April 7, members and guests of the Society traveled to John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware to hold open console. It is always a pleasure to play the DTOS 3/40 (recently increased from 3/35) Kimball organ. Last year's program at Dickinson featured a concert presented by fellow member Joseph Wintz (and this author now has an opportunity to correct the spelling of Mr. Wintz' name), but this year the entire program was devoted to open console. This arrangement gave everyone ample time to play, to relax, to socialize, to sample the refreshments and, in a word, to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon. The Society thanks DTOs for making their facilities available to us.

For our May meeting, members and guests traveled to the Capitol Theatre, York, Pennsylvania, to play the theatre's Wurlitzer-styled 3/14 (eventually to be expanded to 19) organ. The basic organ components were provided by Mike Clemens of Lampeter, Pennsylvania, who had the organ installed in his home. A major modification in bringing the instrument to the theatre was building a new console which was fabricated by local craftsmen using Wurlitzer plans obtained from Devtronix.

The theatre has been undergoing restoration in various stages ever since its rescue from the wrecker's ball. The auditorium is decorated in brown, rose, and gold. The theatre was built at the turn of the century. This theatre and its organ will be featured during the Afterglow portion of the 1992 Convention.

The Capitol is used for several types of film series including classic, foreign and travel films. It is also used for vaudeville, stage acts, silent films with organ accompaniment and for chamber music concerts. On July 20, Dennis James is scheduled to appear in concert.

Adjoining the Capitol Theatre is the Strand Theatre (built 1926) which has 1200 seats and is used for elaborate stage productions and symphony concerts requring its huge stage facilities. There is no organ, but there are chambers. Both theatres together are now known as the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center.

Terry Nace, associate house organist, presented a short program. During open console, there was ample time for everyone to play and also to return for a second appearance.

An unexpected pleasure was an impromptu performance given by Candi Carley-Roth. This event was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. *Earl E. Strausser* 



Dan Bellomy at the console and Bob Gullotti (from nearby Waltham) on drums and cymbals appeared for their second time on March 16 at Richard Knight Auditorium, Babson College. Fine weather and a large audience were our good fortune with Burlington Cable Access TV set up at strategic locations for video-taping a memorable evening.

A favorite opener for Dan was a sprightly "Cosi, Cosa," utilizing our new Posthorn for the first of several occasions. The pretty ballad, "Through the Eyes of Love" followed as well as "This is All I Ask" two of several ballads which our artist interpreted so well.

Dan played a few solo selections and then brought in Bob Gullotti for groups, which pattern followed for the evening. The two opened with "Teach Me Tonight" and included a very up-tempo "I Get a Kick Out of You" in this set. Dan is known for his jazz playing and this certainly was a fine demonstration of that talent. He and Bob worked so well together one would imagine that they were a team with long association.

Bellomy played a "soap opera" theme for his audience to indentify which one lady did immediately as that from "Days of Our Lives." She was rewarded with one of our artists's record albums.

A long medley of tunes from *The King* and *I*, was nicely played and showed that he was not just a fine jazz musician. The beautiful waltz, "Fascination," further made this evident.

The second dual performance was an appropriate "The Second Time Around." Dan then invited the audience to dance with a set of dreamy, as well as lively, rhythmic tunes. Several couples responded utilizing a cleared area as our mirrored ball turned sending blue and pink spots splashing around our "ballroom." Nice touch! Dan and Bob received a nice hand in appreciation.

More solo work on our Wurlitzer by Bellomy with a ballad and a seasonal "It Might as Well be Spring" before the team began their second group. This opened with only Gullotti in the spotlight with plenty of professional use of drums and cymbals in a jazzy "Undecided." An unorthodox "Crazy Rhythm" had our pair really swinging as the concert ended. Much applause from a standing, cheering audience brought a "Cute" encore. There was little doubt that our ticket-holders had a good time as did our performers.

March 24 had "our gang" at Babson gathered around our console for a regular meeting and Gary Phillips our artist. Without any preparation, for the scheduled organist had to postpone her appearance due to no practice time available, Mr. Phillips was more than equal to the task.

Even with the Oboe rank temporarily out, Gary made our organ speak loudly and clearly as only he can do. "Of Thee I Sing" opened his group of favorite tunes which included "I Love to Hear You Singing" which Jesse Crawford recorded so beautifully. Gary interspersed some sweet numbers such as "As Time Goes By" and "You Belong to Me" with some which really moved along like "Wake Up and Live" and one of his favorites, "Georgie Girl." Mr. Phillips has resurrected a great old radio opening theme of the Firestone Hour — "In The Garden" — not heard in many years. This is so adaptable to theatre organ, and he has just the right registration to bring out its beauty. "The Party's Over" ended his program, but not quite, as we wanted more and he obliged with a fine old "signature" tune, "Stay as Sweet as You Are."

For those who had not noticed, Gary brought our attention to the new attractive light fixtures and reflective white painting of the ceiling tiles — a big improvement in brightness of both light and tone from our Wurlitzer.

Once again our scheduled organist could not come to Babson on April 28 so an impromptu concert by four of our playing members who were chosen, Army style, you, you, you and you, by President Tim Holloran. The "draftees" were Gary Phillips (again), Bob Legon, Mike Bigelow and Bruce Netten. Each did well on no notice with a good variety of tunes of different tempi and origin. This open console program was followed by the real open console and served to prove that talent is abundant right in our own midst.

Stanley C. Garniss

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#### New Jersey 609/888-0909 or 201/445-1128

Our meeting was held March 17 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary in North Bergen, New Jersey. Our chapter has not visited nor held a meeting in this chapel for several years, and we looked forward to visiting this former Broadway theatre changed into a chapel with a 3/12 Robert-Morton theatre organ.

Open console was held until President George Andersen began the meeting. This was followed by a mini-concert by Jeff Barker, the church organist and well known in our area as a theatre organist. His program was enjoyable. Jeff also maintains the Robert-Morton.

Coffee and tea plus snacks supplied by the members followed.

For many years the traditional Easter Parade has been held on the famous boardwalk in Asbury Park. Last year the parade and judging of contestants was held in the Convention Hall. The contestants and spectators were pleasantly surprised by the new addition of theatre organ music played by Ashley Miller on the 2/9 Kilgen.

This Easter, Ashley was again requested to play. His music complements and really adds to the enjoyment. The parade and judging extended through the afternoon. Members maintained a table, sold tapes and records and answered questions regarding the organ. They assured interested people that our Summer Series, which began last year, will be held again.

For some time, Garden State has been looking forward to our fourth concert of the Trenton War Memorial series. The scheduled artist, Clark Wilson, is an excellent organist as well as a talented professional reed voicer and tonal finisher. He has acquired this expertise working and traveling extensively for the Shantz Organ Company.

Clark was able to arrive in Trenton several days before the concert, and he spent hours inspecting, voicing and giving loving care to our 3/16 Moller. He also gave valuable, helpful suggestions to the crew for further work and care. The pleasing results and improvement of the sounds especially the use of solo reeds and tibia enhanced Clark's concert. It was an upbeat program with an interesting variety of music and registration.

Through the efforts of George Andersen setting up a video camera on the console, a 100-inch Sharp vision projector and a 6x6 screen, the audience could view the manuals and watch Clark's hands and registration.



Clark Wilson and Ashley Miller.

Marion Flint photo

Clark greeted friends and the enthusiastic audience after the concert. Because the War Memorial stage was immediately being prepared for that evening's program, the usual picnic on the stage was cancelled.

April 27 saw members traveling to South Vineland, New Jersey. Mary and Charles Hoffner had graciously invited our chapter to their home for a meeting and, of course, to play their 3/20 Marr & Colton plus Steinway duo-arte piano. This is a very interesting installation. It has two pipe chambers with one of the chambers in a front room, the other replacing the front porch. The console fills one end of the living room. Members enjoyed playing this large organ with the sound regulated to be pleasing in a home residence. A meeting was held, and open console followed till hunger pangs hit all. The group traveled to a nearby restaurant with a private area. Results: good food, lots of talk and fun. Back to the house for dessert and coffee.

An added attraction was a tour of Charles' basement. He is a long time railroad buff and has a huge electric train set up. It was a very pleasant day and was enjoyed by all.

The final Trenton War Memorial concert was held on May 5. The artist was our favorite organist, Lew Williams. He returned once again because of the many requests for him. May 5 was a perfect spring day with all the ornamental trees flowering and the bright, green grass growing — a perfect day for moving the lawn, if one was not laid up with allergies. Happily, the thoughts of hearing a concert by Lew lured an enthusiastic audience to the War Memorial.

The program opened with Michael Cipolletti, emcee for the series, giving thanks to all who helped during the concerts. The list was long. A special thanks was given to Bill Smith, crew chief responsible for producing the entire series. Other crew members were Rowe Beal, Tony Juno and Jim Vitarelli.



Left: Clark Wilson at Moller console. Right: Lew Williams at Trenton War Memorial Moller.



Receiving congratulations. L to R: Clark Wilson, Tony Juno, Dot and Jim Shean. Jinny Vanore photo (continued ...)



#### **GARDEN STATE cont.**

Lew opened the program with a lively "76 Trombones" and that set the mood for the rest of the program, which was bright and up-beat with clever registrations. The Glenn Miller (exact as the record) arrangements were an outstanding feature. Lew thoughtfully dedicated special favorite songs to some of the "always there, ready to help" members. It was very special.

Once again George Andersen set up the special Sharp vision projector, and the audience was able to watch flying fingers over the manuals. The projector adds new dimensions and enjoyment to the concerts. The usual, fun picnic on the stage followed with Lew holding court, renewing friendships and meeting new members. Open console completed the evening.

We are looking forward to six or seven Sunday afternoon free admission concerts in the Asbury Convention Hall. Crew chief Russ Sattur has been putting in multihours enlarging and improving the Kilgen. Recently the cable to the console was disconnected and lengthened. Now the console can be moved to the center of the hall and the organist will be able to hear both chambers. Thank you, Russ, for all your work and dedication. Jinny Vanore

Below: Afterglow of concert. L to R: Bob Vogel, Manny Motashaw, Mike Cipolletti, Lew Williams, and Elaine Dawson Jinny Vanore photo

# **GULF COAST**

#### Pensacola, Florida 904/932-3133 or 904/474-7605

As our 1990/1991 fall-winter season of concerts ends, we look back with such pleasure on all of them and look forward to more.

Bob Ralston, Jeff Weiler and finally Jim Riggs, produced music and provided entertainment far and above our expectations. Such gentlemen to work with and such music they gave us to enjoy.

Our Mayor, the Honorable Vince Whibbs, emcee for our Bob Ralston show, turned in a good performance, himself. I still say he missed his calling. He should have been in show business instead of car sales

Jeff Weiler, who played his own music to accompany two short, silent, funny comedies, provided a great evening for our organ fans. So many told us this was their favorite evening. Well, we have tried everything, and if this is IT, then hooray. Jeff was a real crowd-pleaser and, as with the others, a pleasure to work with.

President Scott Brodie, continues to run liaison between our group, the city powertower and the local school board officials. We still plan to have an educational program with accompanying slide presentation to demonstrate the "workings" of our organ. We feel this is needed to let the general

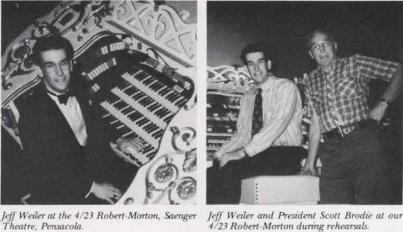
public realize where the music is coming from and what generates each group of sounds that come from the console. We plan to have a morning program just for school children of the city.

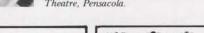
Our local radio station, WCOA, Pensacola, did us the singular honor of broadcasting as a public service announcement, the news of our last concert featuring Jim Riggs. This was really a boost to our local image. This same station did an interview for us the day of the concert and they plan to do further such announcements for us on coming events. This is great; we love it!

When Jim Riggs played, we were able to hear our newly installed Orchestral Oboe and Kinura ranks for the first time. These ranks were gifts to our chapter from the "Friends of the Saenger," a group that has independently supported the Saenger Theatre during its restoration into a performing arts center.

Next we plan a show for mid-summer featuring "Good Ole Summertime" music by Gary Jones from the Birmingham, Alabama, chapter. Gary and some friends came from Birmingham to see and hear Jim Riggs on April 19, then some of us went to Birmingham to hear Lyn Larsen at their Wurlitzer in the Alabama Theatre. It is always a treat to hear the "King of the Console." Lyn didn't let us down; it was worth the 10-hour-plus drive there to hear him play. Dorothy Standley









Organist of the Year 1983

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Donna Parker or Concert Information: いっていいいの For Concert Information: Donna Parker Productions, Inc. P.O. Box 1366 • Hillsboro, Oregon 97123 503/642-7009 anine of contraction and contraction and contraction and contraction of the



The club was privileged to visit two excellent residence installations recently.

On St. Patrick's Day, Dave Wickerham headlined a gala Wearing-of-The-Green party at Krughoff's Wurlitzer Park. This was a happy reunion for Dave since he had played the organ in Phoenix. Although it has been enlarged and modified, Wickerham proved his versatility in presenting a concert-quality show. The parklike atmosphere at Krughoff's lends an informal festiveness that provides a bond between the artist and the audience.

On April 27 we were treated to a special performance by Don Springer at the San Filippo residence. Don is a master of good old musical and 78 rpm melodies, and he entertained us beautifully on the marvelous Wurlitzer nourished by Jasper and Marian SanFilippo. The continuing remodeling of the premises and further work on the pipes will enhance an already top-notch installation.



The Rialto Square Theatre Facade. Hal Pritchard photo

The expertise of organbuilder Fred Gollnick was evident on April 28 when Jim Riggs brought the Barton roaring out of the pit and captivated a large group of organ fans at the resplendent Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet. Jim's use of the strings produced goosebumps, and his general registrations and subtle nuances were artistry at its finest. Named Organist of the Year in 1990, Riggs wore that crown at the Rialto with ease. Hal Pritchard



#### LAND O' LAKES St. Paul-Minneapolis 715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771

"Spring has sprung" in Minnesota with plenty of rain, dark days but green, green grass crowning our lawns. Once again, though, my lilac buds have been stunted because of lack of sunlight and too many cool nights. Ach!

The Organaires met at the home of Bob and Jean Duwe on March 21 where Bob has his own 2/11 Wicks pipe organ which he installed in their barn, plus a Conn electronic, a "couple" keyboards with a computer to run them and a piano. Bob and Joe Vaes had a little jam session of their own, enjoying every minute. Besides Bob's musical instruments, another hobby is railroading. He is a member of a 70member St. Croix Railway Club and the last Sunday of the month will find him cruising over eight acres of track along the St. Croix River, pitching coal in the hopper! Bob is a retiree from 3M and lives in Stillwater with his wife, Jean, who plays the piano and also makes yummy desserts.

Fred and Thelma Nagel, who live in Hudson, Wisconsin, with a view of the St. Croix River, entertained the Organaires on April 25. They have a two-manual Estey church pipe organ, a Wurlitzer electronic and a piano. Gerald Orvold and his wife, Elaine, played several organ/piano selections. Harold Ponthan stopped in after choir practice at Central Presbyterian Church, downtown St. Paul, and soloed for the group. He has a powerful bass voice, and so there was a variety of music this evening. When Harold and Beryl Ponthan joined our Organaires, Harold and I discovered that he used to sing with the "Westernaires," a chorus organized by the employees at Western Electric Company when they were located in St. Paul on a "temporary" basis from 1944 through 1958. It's a small world, isn't it?

Walt Strony at the Phipps Center for the Arts on April 6, outdid himself and played the big Wurlitzer to a full house. The audience applauded long and loud until Walt consented to an encore of request numbers, composed and arranged in a medley, much to the delight of his charmed audience.

Then on April 7, Walt honored us with a special encore appearance at the Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis where our chapter's Wurlitzer is installed. The lucky devoted Land O' Lakes Chapter members in attendance were excited at being in such close contact with a keyboard artist like Walt. Jean Scholer was especially pleased when he played his arrangement of the "1812 Overture."

The performance by the Upper Mississippi Jazz Band at the Phipps Center in Hudson on May 6, was a sellout as usual. This "explosion of jazz" is offered annually as a bonus to purchasers of season tickets at Phipps. Verna Mae Wilson



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## LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND 081-422-1538 or 0932-560108

Since our last news, we have had a lot of social events and concerts.

Our anniversary concert at the Barry Christie was a wonderful weekend of activities. A Friday evening concert, to aid deprived children, featured a choir, brass band and Len Rawle at the Christie organ. Saturday evening we celebrated with a dinner and dance, our first, and may I say a good time was had by all. (So much so that another date was booked, October 21, the day following a concert by Jim Riggs at Barry). Our Sunday concert was well attended, and we heard our Princess of The Theatre Organ, Doreen Chadwick. She gave us her usual varied program, and the fans were asking for more.

Next came the spot of the year that our Tea Dancers love to attend, the Easter Bonnet Parade. Twenty-four entrants paraded the dance floor and the judges had a very difficult task, so much so that an extra prize was awarded. We determined that so much effort goes into these creations that they deserve a wider audience, so the designers will be attending our next dinner dance to show off their handiwork. I was pleased to see that a few gentlemen had gone to great efforts, too. I wonder if they



Bonnet made by London's Red Cross duty nurse.

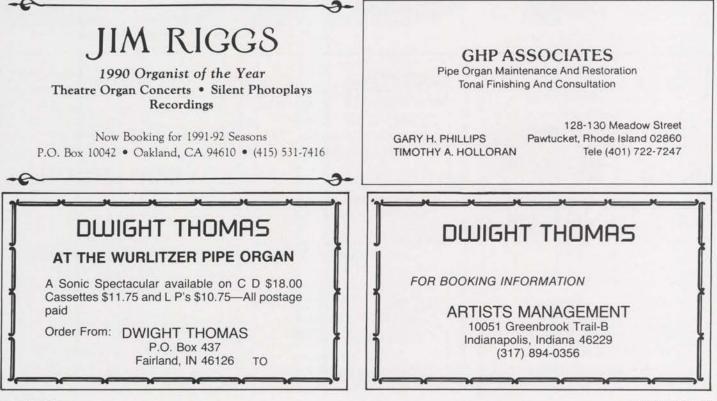
At right: Parade of the first prize bonnet.

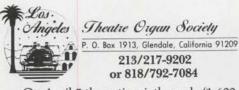
wanted to show "anything I can do better?" which gives us a cue for a song.

Our club nights continue to be popular, along with the work nights. We are anxious to start on our chapter Wurlitzer next month. William Davies gave us an excellent concert at the "State" Kilburn on April 21. He is a real Torch fan and excels in his arrangements.

Here's to the next time we can all enjoy the music we love! Edith Rawle







On April 5 the entire sixth grade (1,600 students) of the Pasadena, California, school system left their classrooms and were bussed to Sexson Auditorium for a concert by Rob Richards. The Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society planned the program to introduce the youngsters to the Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer.

Although Rob's selections were directed to the 11-year-old audience, his program was nonetheless quite varied. A couple of selections were right up-to-date rock, but other numbers, such as "Phantom of the Opera," would be familiar to everyone. Rob even did a little "educating" by playing the toccata section of Bach's "Toccata



Organist Rob Richards at the Ross Reed Wurlitzer console. Dick Sheafor photo

and Fugue in D-Minor." Interestingly, it was the Scott Joplin number (while demonstrating how the piano is played from the organ console) that drew the loudest cheers! Rob incorporated his "Fusion" sounds into the program with pre-recorded electronic voices and rhythm instruments - a must for young people today. Our soundman (located in the balcony) was able to keep the electronic sounds in perfect balance with the organ voices. Student and teacher response (from follow-up questionnaries) was so positive LATOS plans to make this an annual event. Funding was provided equally by the LATOS Scholarship Fund and the Ross Reed Memorial Fund of Pasadena City College. Thanks go to Henry Hunt, Shirley Burt and Stephen Ross who set up the event and to the several dozen LATOS volunteers who handled crowd control.

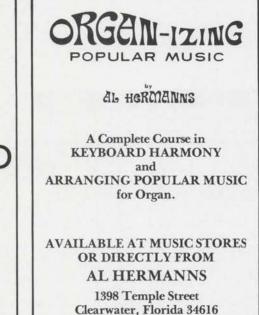
If other chapters are interested in planning a similar program, they are invited to write LATOS, P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209. Donn Linton



Students eagerly waiting for the show to begin



Dick Sheafor photos









WCAR Radio Show - L to R: Tony O'Brien, Dorothy VanSteenkiste, Don Lockwood, and Jeffrey S. Sternberg. Ray VanSteenkiste photo

Bo Hanley, former membership chairman, and Gil Francis, record counter chairman, with Ron Rhode at the Redford Theatre. Ray VanSteenkiste photo



Ron Rhode appeared in concert at the Redford Theatre on April 13. The audience showed its enthusiasm for Ron's program, a pleasant array of musical favorites and lesser-known tunes, all done in a warm, cohesive style. A Ron Rhode program is a highlight of any concert season and we hope he will return soon.

Dorothy VanSteenkiste, Tony O'Brien and Don Lockwood were interviewed on *Senior Spotlight* on radio station WCAR on April 19 to promote programs and activities at the Redford Theatre.

Tony O'Brien accompanied the silent classic *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Redford Theatre on April 26 and 27. Tony played a short concert for the first half of the program and the film was shown in its entirety following intermission. Master of ceremonies Don Lockwood gave the audience some interesting historical facts on the making of the film as well as the fourteenyear construction of the actual Paris Opera House, completed in 1875, under which a subterranean lake still exists. Except for the expected passages from *Faust*, required for the opera sequences, Tony's scoring of the film was of his own invention. The audience, which numbered some 1800 for the two nights, gave the artist a standing ovation at the end of the film each evening.

Chris Schweda, a winner in our Young Organist Competition several years ago, was the artist for the Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on March 24. Herb Head, who, for the past 20 years, has played the horse-drawn steam calliope in the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee, was featured at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton for the Fourth Sunday presentation on April 28.

Jeff Weiler will appear at the Redford Theatre and accompany a silent film on October 12; Dan Bellomy will appear in concert at the Redford's 3/10 Barton on November 8, and Gerry Gregorius and Kurt von Schakel will be heard in a piano and organ presentation at the Redford on December 7.

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



Accepting a check from Marvin Spear, president of the Macomb Theatre Organ Society, for a new movie screen and gong, in memory of Robert J. Calehuff, are Dorothy VanSteenkiste, chairman of the memorial committee and Enid Martin, treasurer of the Redford Theatre operating committee. Ray VanSteenkiste photo





Participating in a two-night screening of The Phantom of the Opera at the Redford in April were organist Tony O'Brien, Peggy Grimshaw, chairman of the film selection committee, Phantom Larry Tierney and master of ceremonies Don Lockwood.



Patrons in period costume for the Phantom of the Opera at the Redford are acknowledged by emcee Don Lockwood. Ray VanSteenkiste photos

# **NEW YORK**

914/457-5393 or 201/305-1255 Dan Bellomy helped the New York chapter swing into spring on March 24, with a splendid concert performance at Long Island University in Brooklyn. Although this was Dan's third concert in New York, it was his first at the LIU 4/26 Wurlitzer. Taking full advantage of the resources of the big Wurlitzer and the unusual cathedral-like acoustics fo the LIU basketball arena (formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre), Dan demonstrated his exceptional talent and versatility, performing a varied program that included a smattering of lush ballads, rhythmic theatre organ favorites and his popular jazz arrangements. He opened with his theme, the up-tempo "Cosi Cosa." The lush sounds of strings and voxes rolled around the arena with beautiful arrangements of such ballads as the theme from Ice Castles and two selections from The King and I, "I Have Dreamed" and "Something Wonderful." The LIU Wurlitzer proved a perfect match for Dan's jazz styling of the Cole Porter favorite, 'I Get a Kick Out of You." Dan paid tribute to his friend Billy Nalle with a big and bold Nalle arrangement of "That's Entertainment." It was obvious that Dan instantly made friends with the LIU Wurlitzer, and judging from the standing ovation he received, with the audience as well! Several members stayed to play open console following the concert. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Bob Walker and Warren Laliberte, the Wurlitzer was in top form.

Our next program brought us out to Mineola, Long Island, on April 29, for a marvelous performance by Ashley Miller and Jim Leaffe on the 3/15 Austin-Morton at Chaminade High School. Ashley opened the all-Gershwin program with a wonderful medley of Gershwin classics including "Of Thee I Sing," "Our Love Is Here To Stay" and "Love Walked In," arranged and performed in the manner that have made him the internationally renowned musician that he is. Following several other selections, Ashley was joined by Jim Leaffe at the piano for a performance of "Rhapsody In Blue," with Ashley playing the orchestral sections on the organ. While the first half of the concert featured the "New York" Gershwin, Jim explained that the second part would showcase the "International" Gershwin. Jim opened the second half at the organ with an excellent performance of selections from Porgy and Bess. The high point of the program followed; a marvelous rendition of Gershwin's major work, the "Concerto in F," flawlessly performed by Ashley Miller at the piano and Jim Leaffe at the organ. A standing ovation brought both artists back, and for an encore duet they played "I've Got Rhythm." The concert was a unique musical experience that we hope will be performed for other audiences throughout the country. Thanks to the efforts of the Chaminade crew, Brother Bob Lahey, Ken Ladner, Bob Atkins and Dennis Morrelly, both the organ and the piano were in fine tune. Several chapter members took advantage of Chaminade's hospitality and stayed late for open console. Tom Stehle



Dan Bellomy at the Long Island University (Brooklyn Paramount) 4/26 Wurlitzer.



Ashley Miller and Jim Leaffe at Chaminade High School. At Right: New York chapter member Bob Vogel takes his turn at open console at the Chaminade 3/15 Austin-Morton.





### NORTH TEXAS Dallas-Fort Worth 214/235-8551 or 214/696-2381

In April we had the opportunity to hear for the first time, on our chapter Robert-Morton, one of our members, Helen Thomas. Helen has played for our chapter several times in recent years, including the 2/10 mostly Wurlitzer in the Newton residence in Duncanville, but this was her first complete program on the Lakewood Theatre pipes. Helen has gained familiarity with this organ as one of the chapter's professional organists who play intermission music on weekends. This gratis, volunteer activity by several of our "pros" is our chapter's way of saying "Thanks" to the Lakewood Theatre owner and manager for giving us a beautiful residence for our chapter organ. It also provides a showcase for our beautiful organ and has resulted in gaining new members.

Helen, who began her musical training on piano and accordion, developed a love for the theatre pipes early in her career and even took lessons on a Robert-Morton organ. Her performing experience began at an early age, being called on to provide entertainment at all sorts of events in her small town, on the accordion. It is hard to visualize this very petite lady playing a



"Wake up" coffee and doughnuts are enjoyed at early morning North Texas meeting. Below: Helen Thomas at April meeting.



large piano accordion. Later, graduating to the Hammond Organ and moving to Dallas, Helen established herself, professionally, playing in restaurants and clubs throughout the area. Though Helen still plays her Hammond X77, she is thrilled by the big theatre pipe sound. Her music and style have been honed by the many years playing her Hammond and her musical selections include all of our favorites (no doubt most requested by her audiences). Thank you, Helen, for sharing your music with us.

John Beckerich, chapter President, reports that work to upgrade our Robert-Morton with electronic relay, capture action and multiplex is still tentatively scheduled for the fall. The circuit boards have completed design and should be ordered soon. Irving Light



#### Walt Strony at the Krughoff Residence 4/33 Wurlitzer Organ

Performance: Excellent – Recording: Superb – Organ: Flawless "Truly Outstanding – This is what a CD is supposed to sound like!" acclaims Bob Shafter in FOR THE RECORDS. Selections include: Another Op'nin', Another Show; People; Donkey Serenade; My Ship; Root Beer Rag; Diane; Mack the Knife; Fanfare for the Common Man; Suite from "Victory At Sea" and more.

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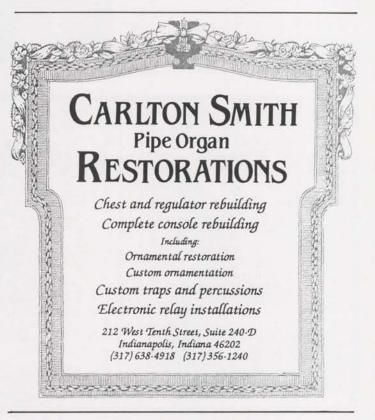
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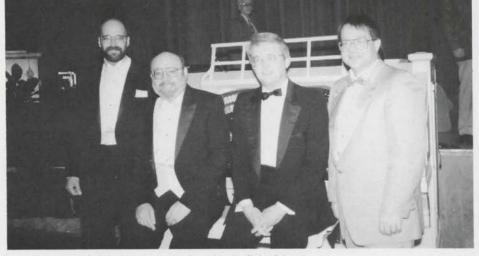




April 26 was a big day for us. It was the dedication program for the Kimball organ which was removed from Benson High School and reinstalled in Cleveland High School under the supervision of Loren and Karen Minear and with the help of many chapter volunteers. A more in-depth story about this installation will appear in the next issue of THEATRE ORGAN.

The April 26 program, however, is a story in itself. Terry Robson was the coordinator of this event along with Al Abrahamson, Vice-Principal of Cleveland High School. Artists who performed were Kurt von Schakel and Gerry Gregorius, Paul Quarino and Jonas Nordwall. Jonas was assisted by drummer Beth Hamon. Also, Jonas had performed earlier that day for an enthusiastic student body. Kurt and Gerry opened the program with selections which demonstrated how the theatre organ could be used orchestrally; Paul accompanied The Finishing Touch, a wild Laurel and Hardy comedy, and Jonas and Beth demonstrated how versatile the organ is and how it can be used as an educational tool.

Steve Adams came from Neenah, Wisconsin, to serve as emcee for the evening. Mayor Bud Clark sent a letter of commendation to the school and the chapter for their efforts to preserve this wonderful old instrument, and the more than 800 people in the audience were thoroughly delighted with what they saw and heard.



L to R: Kurt von Schakel, Gerry Gregorius, Jonas Nordwall, Paul Quarino.

Irv Ewen photos



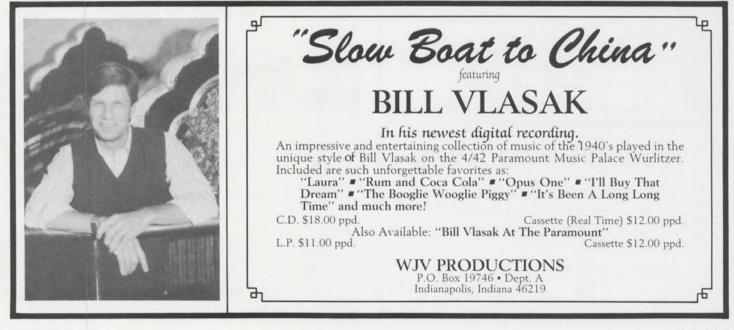
Emcee Steve Adams.



Drummer Beth Hamon.



Blaine Vernon (left) and Bill Vernon roll the Kimball to bed as Paul Quarino and Steve Adams watch.



# ORLANDO AREA

Orlando, Florida 407/282-0911

The "working weekend" mentioned in last issue was a huge success. About ten members turned out to help organize our warehouse, polish pipes, and do all such things as needed to help push our DON BAKER MEMORIAL ORGAN project forward. It was a successful endeavor and the session was enjoyed by all who participated. When members get involved, the level of enthusiasm just naturally increases.

We are continuing to work diligently toward our ambitious goal to have the DON BAKER MEMORIAL ORGAN installed and playing before the end of 1991. Although contributions are coming in slowly, we are considerably short of the total dollars needed to complete the project. We would welcome with open arms any contributions, no matter how small, from our fellow ATOS members. We're so close — how about giving us a hand to put us over the top?

We have two rather disturbing news items to report. First and foremost, Anne Baker is in ill health and has moved from Leesburg to be closer to her family in North Dakota. She reports that the results of the tests performed by the doctors in North Dakota are much more encouraging than those down here in Orlando. To our delight, she is expecting to return to Orlando for the dedication of the DON BAKER MEMORIAL. The other news item involves the unsuccessful attempt of vandals to break into the warehouse where the organ components were stored. Fortunately, only the locks were messed up. Nonetheless, this was a disconcerting and troublesome event that we would gladly have done without. As a result of this incident, the organ has been moved to more secure quarters.

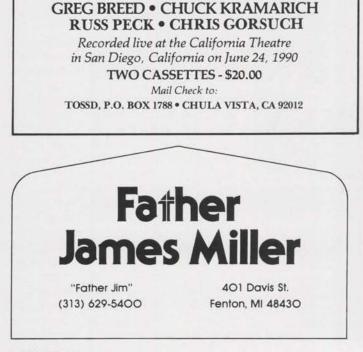
On April 20, the chapter members held a very successful garage sale, which netted a little over \$500. It was a fun event. Many of the members came out to help and all seemed to enjoy working together on this endeavor.

On April 21, our president, Cliff Shaffer, sponsored a small get-together of the presidents and representatives of the five Florida ATOS Chapters. The purpose of the gathering was to continue our chapter's endeavors to foster good working relationships between the chapters. The event was held at John Smart's lovely EDGE-WOOD in Lake Helen, Florida. Leroy Lewis graciously entertained the group with a wonderful concert on John's beautifully voiced Wurlitzer.

Ticket sales are going well for the DON BAKER MEMORIAL BENEFIT CON-CERT to be performed by the one and only Leroy Lewis on Sunday, May 19, in Mt. Dora, Florida. This should be an exciting event and will give the local residents a good idea of what "theatre" styling is all about. By the time this article is published the concert will be over and hopefully will have added a substantial sum to the organ fund. Excitement within the chapter is building as we get closer to our goal! Lois M. Thomson Keep in touch with the British Theatre Organ Scene!

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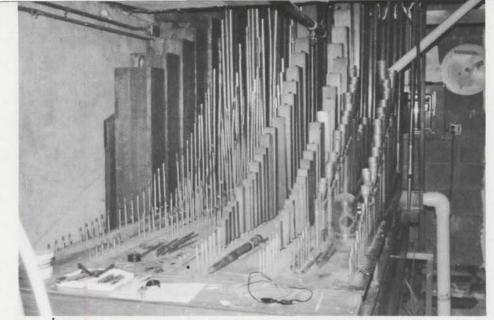
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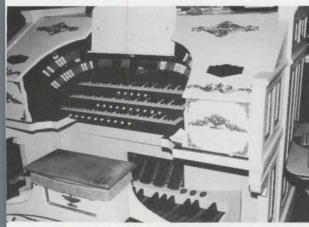
"FINALE"

JEFF WEILER

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Main Chamber, Lumberton; the 16' Flute and 8' Strings are in the back.



Dr. Paul Abernethy's 3/8 Robert-Morton.



Solo Chamber (left to right) Diapason, Trumpet, Kinura, Tibia.



Kimball console, part of the 3/11 Wurlitzer when it was removed from the theatre. Now being installed in Bristol.

Above right: Allen Lloyd and Mac Abernethy adjust keys on Lumberton's 2/8 Robert-Morton.

Right: Original 3/8 Robert-Morton on its way to the dump. (Oh, my poor new truck!)





#### PIEDMONT Graham, North Carolina 301/750-0806 or 301/765-1547

Our organ crews remain very busy these days with all the projects being close to finished. It has been a long time since we have heard organ music in public all over the state of North Carolina.

The Carolina Theatre (Civic Center) in Lumbarton is getting a lot of use out of their 2/8 Robert-Morton. Even though we have a few pipes out for repair, our house organist extraordinaire, Allen Lloyd, is kept busy playing for beauty pageants and a special showing for the City Fathers who are giving us money for the organ lift. It will be nice to see the organ as well as hear it.

Lee Erwin paid us another visit this spring and played the 2/8 Robert-Morton in the home of Dr. Paul Abernethy. This was the Morton's final concert in its present configuration; the organ is going to receive a new Tuba, Clarinet, String, String Celeste, Oboe and (maybe) a Saxophone. The original Morton relay will not support all this and will be consigned to the county landfill — in its place will be a Devtronix computer relay. We hope to be playing by late August.

In Bristol, Tennessee, our organ crew is making great progress. The Paramount Theatre there had its Gala Reopening on April 26, an event that was carried live on the Nashville Network. While the organ is not yet playable, the console is sitting in the lobby and shots of it were carried in the program. The lift is being installed in the pit and all the chests have been moved into the chambers. The blower is in place on the third floor. Getting wind to the chambers, some console modifications, and pipe repairs are all that remain.

Some sad news — the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro (we get the feeling that every city in the Carolinas had one) 2/6 Robert-Morton has suffered another setback. As part of the theatre's restoration, much of the building's electrical wiring was replaced. There was some question on the part of the contractor as to the blower power having been put there before he had started. After that was worked out and power was put to the blower for the first time after the water damage, we had wind for three minutes and then the overload switched the blower off. From the sound of the blower, we knew that there had to be a hole in the windline somewhere. Well, we found that there was more than one - in fact, there was as much as six feet missing from the duct running over the arch. The theatre is working with the contractor to restore the duct. Buddy Boyd

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# POTOMAC VALLEY 703/256-8640 or 301/652-3222

On April 20, our chapter sponsored a bus trip to John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Delaware, where more than 40 of our members and guests enjoyed Lyn Larsen and Barry Baker playing dual consoles on the fabulous Dickinson Kimball, originally installed in 1928 in the Boyd Theatre, Philadelphia. This was Barry Baker's first performance on that organ. Barry was 1989 ATOS Young Organist Competition winner, and his style shows. It was the first time that the refurbished Kimball console and the Moller console, each having three manuals, had both been used in a concert on that organ, which originally had 19 ranks and five tuned percussions, but continues to grow, presently having 39 ranks and nine tuned percussions. A great organ with two great organists provided a great evening for many hundreds of people.

On May 15 our series of Sounds of the Silents! at George Mason University, near Fairfax, Virginia, continued by showing Buster Keaton and Florence Turner in College, a 1927 Classic Comedy, with our chapter vice-chairman, Flovd Werle, at the console of our chapter-owned 2/9 Wurlitzer in the magnificent Harris Theatre on campus. That organ was originally in the Rialto Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C. Many in attendance from the university and environs had never before thrilled to a real theatre pipe organ and experienced a memorable evening to cherish. lack Little

## **PUGET SOUND**

On April 7, Jim Riggs appeared in concert at the Bellevue Pizza and Pipes. He announced that he intended to play from his vast repertoire of oldies not usually heard and with which he has become identified. And so he did: many rare and lovely numbers out of the past, and some, ?? wherever did he find them?

The turnout filled the room, augmented by our enthusiastic B.C. members who rented their own bus again. The doors were closed to all but concert attendees, and the kitchen and noisy games closed down, so it was possible to enjoy the rich organ sounds to the fullest. We have only another year to enjoy this organ before the City of Bellevue claims the property.

All members received a copy of the membership roster produced by Pat Lajko, and the revised chapter bylaws by Bill Exner. *Genny Whitting* 



#### **RED RIVER** Fargo, North Dakota 318/287-2671 or 701/232-6325

Never a dull moment at the Fargo Theatre, what with an unusual event one Friday afternoon — dog auditions. A touring company, presenting *Camelot* at North Dakota State University, was looking for a non-stage-struck local dog to appear in a scene with King Pelinore. One was finally chosen out of the 48 hopefuls.

As in past years, the theatre was open free for Oscar night, for patrons to watch the awards show on big screen TV. Anyone in formal attire got free popcorn and pop.

April 19 and 20 we hosted our Silent Movie Night program, featuring the barbershop harmony of the Fargo-Moorhead Ambassador Chorus. Their part of the evening highlighted some of the good old songs, such as "I'm Looking at the World



Jim Riggs and Russ Evans at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes.

Through Rose-Colored Glasses" and "I Can Dream, Can't I?" The novelty number, "Rock and Roll Is Here To Stay," with dark glasses and choreography, was great fun. Then, the 1921 film, *The Nut*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, was scored by Dave Knudtson, theatre manager. Dave regularly does movie scoring for film classes at Moorhead State University on our chapter organ in Weld Hall. To set the mood for the entire evening, Hildegarde Krause entertained at the lobby grand piano for pre-show and intermission.

May 2-4, the Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera presented Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the theatre. The pit musicians consisted of a string quartet, and the mighty Wurlitzer in the hands of Lloyd Collins. This was the third spring the opera company has used the theatre facilities and organ. The whole production got rave reviews and was very enthusiastically received.

Next up at the theatre, another touring company presents *South Pacific* on Mother's Day. Red River Chapter's May meeting will have the Red River Valley AGO as guests. *Sonia Carlson* 

I believe that the use of noise to make music will continue and increase until we reach a music produced through the aid of electrical instruments.

JOHN CAGE, THE FUTURE OF MUSIC: CREDO, 1937



THEATRE ORGAN



#### **RIVER CITY** 712/328-8725 or 402/453-7769

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with a festive meeting at Tom Wolfe's house. A short business meeting was chaired by President Ed Martin, and Harold Kenney, our Concert Committee Chairman, presented detailed planning for our next public concert at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre on June 23, starring Dan Bellomy with Jack Moelmann as emcee. Harold has many tasks to delegate but can count on the rank and file to pitch in.

Next, we were introduced to our guest artist for the evening, our own Jeanne Cooper (Mrs. Steve Mehuron), all decked out in green as a leprechaun, complete with shamrock "antennae" springing from her head. What could be more fitting than an all Irish program on this gala occasion! Jeanne opened with "It's a Great Day for the Irish," 'The Irish Washerwoman," "Clancy Lowered the Boom," and "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen." Jeanne's seemingly inexhaustible repertoire of lilting Irish melodies continued with such favorites as "Peggy O'Neill," "Harrigan," and "My Wild Irish Rose."

We had another special event to celebrate this evening: ATOS Director Bob Markworth and Jovce Kelley announced that they will "tie-the-knot" on June 15. Bob's home will be the locale for the wedding, and all of the RCTOS members are invited to attend. To honor the happy pair, Jeanne serenaded them and also offered her comic rendition of "Honey Face, I Love You."

Jeanne ended the program with a singalong, and you guessed it, more Irish tunes. Then the evening concluded with tasty treats in Tom Wolfe's kitchen and open console on the mighty three-manual Conn theatre organ. Many thanks to our host and artist, Tom Wolfe and Jeanne Cooper, for a fantastic evening. We all join in wishing Bob Markworth and Joyce Kelley much happiness.

#### 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 (81/2" x 11") white paper, leaving 11/4" 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.

Send Chapter Notes and photos to: **GRÁCE E. McGIŃNIS** 4633 S.E. Brookside Drive, #58 Milwaukie, Oregon 97222 Phone: 503/654-5823

DEADLINES: November 10 for January/February January 10 for March/April March 10 for May/June May 10 for July/August July 10 for September/October September 10 for November/December



Tom Wolfe and Jeanne Cooper.



Jeanne, our leprechaun at the mighty Conn.

Tom Jeffery photos





Rocky Mountain members with Jim Riggs at post-concert dinner.

from guest artist Warren Lubich, and a photo of them at the console. This is not a contest; everyone is a winner, and all had a good time and were proud that they "Played the Paramount." The program continued with a cameo appearance of organists Bob Holmes and the Director of Music of the Denver Public Schools, Bob Johnson. Warren Lubich was the guest artist for the evening. Warren was well received by the members and friends of RMCATOS.

Rocky Mountain goes on the road with their booth again this year, going to fairs and various organizations. These booths are to promote the Wicks organ project. If you are in the area on vacation, we would love to hear from you. *David Love* 



#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN Denver, Colorado 303/671-8333 or 303/233-4716

The "stars" shown bright in Denver. The spring calendar of Rocky Mountain Chapter was jam-packed with theatre organ events. April started off with the spring "Meet the Artist" Concert at the Paramount Theatre. Jim Riggs delighted the largest attended "Meet the Artist" audience to date. This series of concerts have grown to the point that having them at the Paramount has become a profitable event once again. Many of the members joined in the pre-concert parties and dinners held in Jim's honor.

The third annual Amateur Organist Showcase was held in May. This program has become very popular with the members. It is designed for the home organist. The chapter arranges rehearsal time at the Paramount Theatre with house organist Ed Benoit for each brave soul who wishes to participate. The participant is showcased in the first half of the program. Each receives a framed certificate, a critique





Above: Amateur organist showcase: L to R: Tima Wood, Bob Holmes, John Diffendal, William Fedro, Art Bragg, Charles Steenbarger, Ivan Duff, Ed Benoit, Priscilla Arthur.

At Left: Warren Lubich at Denver Paramount.

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#### ST. LOUIS 314/469-6319

Work progresses steadily on our 2/11 Wurlitzer installed in the St. Louis Fox Theatre Lobby. The organ is played every Saturday morning for the theatre tours by members of the work crew. It's just a matter of final adjustments, a few dead notes, and regulating and we're ready. Plans are to debut the organ to the general public for Summer Monday Night at the Movies series. It's a great thrill for all involved to finally have our own chapter organ playing.

The March chapter meeting was held at the home of President Dennis Ammann and first lady Mary Lou Ammann in Highland, Illinois. Their custom-built home sits on a hilltop with a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside from the Music Room. Denny played the majority of the program on his Conn 652, and was joined by Mark Gifford and Jack Moelmann at their new Baldwin grand piano. The program was a great mix of new and old popular tunes, enjoyed by all in attendance. Mary Lou's delicious refreshments capped off a wonderful afternoon.

April saw us at the home of Vice-President Chuck Wiltsch. Chuck has a large three-manual Rodgers organ, which has been supplemented by six ranks of pipework. The program was a mix of classical numbers, and theatre ballads performed by Chuck. Doris Erbe did a cameo on the organ, and our singing secretary, Dee Ryan, joined Chuck for a rendition of Irving Berlin's "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor ..." Chuck Wiltsch

artists for April meeting. J. Moelmann photo



Denny and Mary Lou Ammann, hosts of our March meeting. C Willsch photo



Crew chief Joe Barnes plays the Fox lobby Wurlitzer for theatre tours. C. Willsch photo



Ron Rhode at the Arlington Morton.

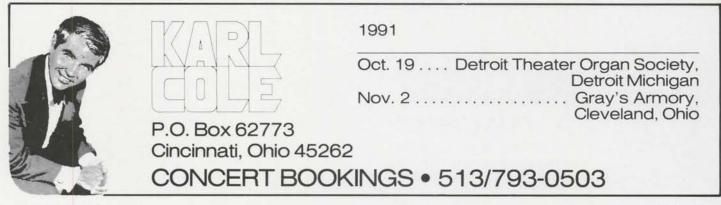
#### SANTA BARBARA California 805/968-0035 or 805/682-1604

We ended our concert season with Ron Rhode on April 21. Ron performed masterfully on the 4/26 Wonder Morton in the beautiful Arlington Theatre. He chose music of the 1920s and '30s which he played with great skill and dexterity. With somewhat smaller attendance at this year's concerts, we have decided to move next year's concerts to Saturdays rather than Sundays.

Ongoing improvements to the organ continue with newly engraved stoptabs and the installation of photo-interrupters on the stoprails to provide greater reliability to the combination machine. When funds become available, two additional ranks will be added to bring the organ to 28 ranks. A piano has been donated and it is hoped the solinoid action can be purchased and installed by next fall.

Organists invited for next season are: Hector Olivera, Lew Williams, Gaylord Carter and Jim Riggs. Dates are being finalized and more information will be forthcoming. We continue our monthly open console meetings and social events.

John Oien



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THEATRE ORGAN

#### SEQUOIA Fresno, California 209/431-4305

We had an open console session for members at the 3/10 Morton in Fresno's Bethel Temple Church. Several folks took advantage of the situation to play the instrument.

March was a stellar month as Lyn Larsen played the 2/10 Wurlitzer in the FOX Hanford Theatre. Lyn was appearing as guest soloist with the Kings Symphony Orchestra. Lyn's solo work was beyond reproach. Many remarked at his keen ability to fill in for weaker tonalities in the orchestra. Indeed, for fans of symphony orchestras, this event would never cease to amaze the discriminating orchestral listener. This was particularly true when it came to the trombone and French Horns. Many of those present simply could not believe what they were hearing when it came to the orchestra.

Later in March, Stan Kann appeared as part of the fine arts fund-raising dinner for Fresno Pacific College. Stan brought along his wonderful collection of things which seem to act up on him at just the right moment. Stan fully explored the subtleties of the FPC 3/20 Hybriditzer. Strangely enough, the organ behaved quite well.

Lew Williams came in for our April concert at the FOX. Lew very carefully explored the tonality of the organ. He came up with some beautifully subtle colors which we had not heard from the 2/10. This was particularly true with regard to the Second Symphony Scherzo by Louis Vierne. It's amazing how a Wurlitzer can sometimes counterfeit the sound

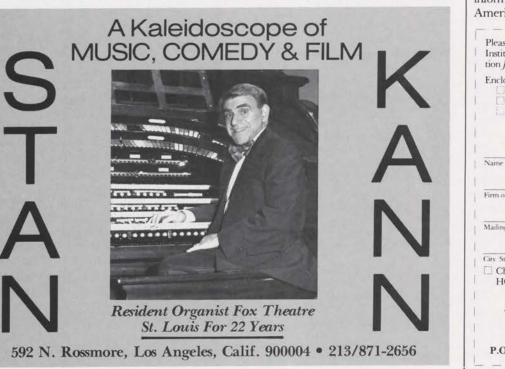


Lew Williams at the FOX Hanford. He is joined by the theatre owner Dan Humason and son Dan, Jr. Rex Jackson photo



Left: Lyn Larsen after the symphony concert. Right: Stan Kann at Fresno College. Tom DeLay photos of a great French romantic organ ala Cavaille-Coll.

Dan Bellomy appeared in May with his first performance in many years on a twomanual organ. His wild brand of pipe organ jazz really stood out on the little 2/10. We were also treated to two nights of his playing at Fresno Pizza and Pipes — a refreshing change. Tom DeLay



# American Organbuilding

Quarterly Publication of the American Institute of Organbuilders

This publication is devoted to the dissemination of knowledge regarding the design, construction and maintenance of pipe organs in North America. Although primarily a technical journal for the benefit of organbuilding professionals, it is also a valuable resource for architects and project consultants, church musicians, building committees, seminary and university libraries, and anyone involved with the design or renovation of contemporary worship space.

Far from being the "lost art" that the average person believes it to be organbuilding in the United States and Canada is maturing and thriving in hundreds of small and large shops throughout the continent. At the same time, serious challenges lie ahead for those promoting the pipe organ in an era of limited budgets and competing options. Readers of the *Journal of American Organbuilding* will benefit from the thoughtful exchange of information and ideas intended to advance this time-honored craft.

You are invited to become a subscriber. Persons who are engaged full-time in the organbuilding or organ maintenance professions are also encouraged to request information regarding membership in the American Institute of Organbuilders.

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#### SIERRA Sacramento

#### 916/961-9367 or 916/967-9732

St. Patrick's Day was cold and rainy, but we had a full house for the concert by Warren Lubich in which he favored us with a medley of Irish tunes. Other highlights were the seldom heard Countess Maritza selections, "Us And Company" by Jesse Crawford, medleys from the 20s and 30s and a fine arrangement of the score from Showboat. We enjoyed Warren's winning personality and thank him for a fine program.

Thanks to June Anderson and Andy Munyn for their help as cashiers, to Kay Ruland and her crew for the help in the kitchen and to Don Burford for being emcee.



Warren Lubich - a hit with Sierra Chapter.

We were lucky to have a second concert in March, that was the rescheduled silent movie with Bob Vaughn at the organ, a joint venture with the Pacific Coast Railroad Chapter and California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Bob did a terrific job and so did emcee Charles Zell.

Lew Williams was featured at the Blue Barn in Lodi on April 14 when Sierra Chapter and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartzell hosted a concert. As it was a beautiful day, the overflow crowd filled the patio as well as the "barn." The 3/15 Robert-Morton was in A-1 playing condition thanks to the efforts of Dave Moreno and Tom DeLay. Emcee Don Burford introduced Mr. Hartzell who told the audience, which had come from as far as Los Angeles, Fresno, Sacramento and Santa Barbara, about the history of the organ and its console before introducing Lew Williams. Lew's program was a variety of oldie-butgoodies and classical selections of Bach and Rubenstein. He also presented a group of military melodies as the American flag slowly descended from the balcony - very moving. Lew's personality, technique and programming were favorites of all - he could do no wrong in the eyes of his audience and his sense of humor had them in 66 • JULY/AUGUST 1991

stitches most of the time. During the program, Dale Mendenhall was introduced and his retirement was announced. Dale has done great work for ATOS as well as his chapter.

One thing Lew did that I have not seen or heard since the days of old in the theatres was the "Trip through The Organ" that we were always required to do with the opening of any new theatre or organ. I must admit that Lew did a better job than we used to do in the old times, and the audience was very pleased.

Our thanks to the Hartzells for their hospitality — it was a thrilling day for all of us. And, Lew, you certainly were a hit!

On April 21, Alicia Lupa, a sixteen-yearold young lady who is being sponsored by the club in the Young Organist Competition, presented an all-classical program at the St. Philomena Church. She is a student of Dr. Ivan Olsen for her classical training and of Joyce Clifford for her theatre organ skills. This is a talented young girl and we expect to see and hear more of her in the vears ahead. **Bud Taylor** 



Host Bob Hartzell.

I. Carleton photo



The interior of the Hartzell barn studio.



Lew Williams at the console of the Robert-Morton.



Bob Vaughn . . . master of silen film playing.



L to R: Dorothy Stahl, president; Janet Corstange, editor, newsletter, at Conn 650 organ, Butela's residence.

#### SOONER STATE Tulsa 918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our March meeting was held at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Member Bill Schimpff presented the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton Theatre Organ. His music was nicely played — we especially enjoy his distinctive style and his choice of registrations. He played a selection of favorites, with "None But The Lonely Heart" especially beautiful. Nine persons played at open console.

April found us at our Vo-Tech installation in Broken Arrow, with Don Kimes at the console of our 3/10 Robert-Morton for the mini-concert. His program was varied, opening with "Over The Rainbow" and closing with a medley from Fiddler On The Roof. His "Music of The Night" from Phantom of the Opera was pretty. Open console started out with the E-flat pedal sticking, too loud to ignore, but Dan Kimes "just happened" to have a screw driver with him, so he, along with Don Kimes and Phil Judkins, took the necessary few minutes to fix it. We then proceeded with open console. Halfway through, word came from Vo Tech officials that a tornado was on the ground in Skiatook, twenty miles north of Tulsa, and that there were other severe storms not far to the west. nothing daunted, we continued until eleven persons had played. (Broken Arrow is south of Tulsa and wasn't in the line of the storms) . . . Most of us did hurrv home, however! Dorothy Smith



Jack Moelmann at Kalamazoo State Theatre's 3/13 Barton.



New ATOS Labels!

#### SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN Kalamazoo

#### 616/649-2742 or 616/345-4543

We had a busy holiday season beginning in November with a holiday party at Max and Mary Doolittle's. David Cogswell gave us a concert on Mary's Conn 653.

The club produced its big *Holiday Showcase* at the beginning of December at Kalamazoo's State Theatre. Concert organist Jack Moelmann showed off the beautiful sounds of the Barton theatre pipe organ; it was obvious he enjoyed playing that organ. The Kalamazoo Ringers performing with handbells added to the Christmas spirit. A large audience enjoyed the afternoon of music and silent films.

Also at the State Theatre during the Christmas season, Dick Barden and Ken Butela put on two special Christmas shows for children from several area schools, demonstrating the organ and giving them a tour of the beautiful old theatre.

New Year's Eve found three of the group's organists, Matt Edwards, Lee Hohner, and Ken Butela, once again at the State, participating in Kalamazoo's New Year's Fest. They played at intermissions between several shows during the course of the evening to audiences of several thousand. This is the second year members of the chapter have played for this event.

The January meeting was held at the State, a closed program for members and friends. Lee Hohner entertained us at the Barton 3/13, followed by members at open console.

Mike McLeieer and his mother, Mrs. Robert McLeieer, hosted our next meeting in March at the McLeieer Oil Company in Kalamazoo. Concert organist Dale Zieger was the featured organist, playing Mike McLeieer's Conn three-manual theatre organ. This is an organ Dale helped design at the Conn Organ Company. Afterwards, Mike led the open console session with an enthusiastic concert of his own.

Meanwhile our program committee is planning future events, including an organ concert with a full-length silent film at the State Theatre this fall.

Dorothy Butela



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#### VALLEY OF THE SUN Phoenix

#### 602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Lew Williams started our new year off with a fine program at First Christian Church on January 13. When playing for the chapter, Lew will usually try to include tunes not often heard in other programs or at the pizza parlor. We really enjoyed his "Caffeine Medley" (remember the coffee percolator on the TV commercial?) and some songs associated with Maurice Chevalier.

The rest of the nation was safe on February 3 — Colonel Jack Moelmann was at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa playing for our chapter! Jack always has fun with his audiences, and that afternoon was no exception. His closing medley of patriotic songs is always a favorite. Ray and Ione Danford, Jack's hosts for his stay in the Valley, may have recovered from his visit by now!

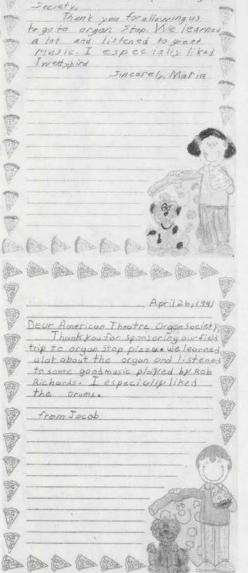
We returned to First Christian Church for our March 10 meeting, to hear Ron Rhode at the small Wurlitzer. Our newsletter editor, Dennis Goward, said that the program was "in like a lion, leaves like one, too." Ron opened with "Wake Up and Live" and closed with "The Repaz Band March." In between, we heard a variety of music, including several showtunes.

Rob Richards was the artist at our April 14 meeting, also held at First Christian Church. The mood was set with his opener, "I Feel A Song Coming On." Richards played some special numbers for some of the members, including a lovely ballad entitled "Madelaine." Near the end of his program, Rob introduced tenor John Giardina, who sang a few cheerful tunes for us.

On April 23, the chapter sponsored a school field trip to Organ Stop Pizza for two classes of second-graders from P.T. Coe School in Phoenix. The children were treated to a "musical lunch" which included pizza and a soft drink, and a very informative program by Rob Richards. Rob played about a dozen songs for the children, gave them a musical tour of the organ, and allowed some time for a question-andanswer session. On their return to school, the enthusiastic children wrote "thank you" letters to Rob, Organ Stop, and our ATOS chapter. Madeline LiVolsi



Rob Richards answers second-graders' questions during ATOS sponsored field trip. MLV photos



B. B. D. B. C.

Dear American Theatrical Organ

pr: 123, 1991



Rob Richards played First Christian Wurlitzer in April. Right: Jack Moelmann at Organ Stop Pizza for February VOTS meeting.

#### WESTERN RESERVE Cleveland, Ohio 216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

Jerry Mass and member George Krejci, proprietors of the newly formed Church Organ Associates, hosted chapter members for our February social. A demonstration of the new Viscount 1332 electronic classical organ highlighted the afternoon. Employing the latest digital sampling technology, this organ faithfully reproduces the tonal qualities of some of Europe's finest cathedral organs. The educational demonstration and ensuing open console time were enjoyed by all.

On February 23, we presented Candi Carley-Roth in concert at the Cleveland Gray's Armory Mighty Wurlitzer 3/16. Her opening "Stars & Stripes Forever" was decidedly apropos in our large, flag-filled auditorium. The extremely robust program that followed included a variety of hits from the 1920s through the 1980s and climaxed with the audience's prayerful singing of "God Bless America." (continued ...)

#### WESTERN RESERVE cont.

Chapter President Nancy Mae Iden was the featured artist at a March 17 social at the Judson Manor Retirement Community's 2/9 Kimball in Cleveland's University Circle. Donning an emerald cap, she saluted St. Patrick's Day with an Irish medley, and continued with favorites "S Wonderful" and "Don't Blame Me." When we thought she was finished, she surprised us by extracting her flute from its hiding spot behind a drape and performing a mini-concert with it. Open console time rounded out the afternoon.

Lastly, our chapter met at Grays' Armory for a concert by member Bob Jackson at the keys of the 3/16 Wurlitzer on April 21. He brought his fresh style and artistry to such perennial favorites as "I May Be Wrong but I Think You're Wonderful" and "Secret Love." Combined with open console time, his concert provided a thoroughly entertaining afternoon.

Jim Shepherd

### YUMA

The Yuma, Arizona, chapter has been in existence a little over a year, but we feel that we are progressing well with the help of our winter visitors. We now have twenty-five members; not all are ATOS members but come to the meetings because of their love of music.

In December, a potluck and meeting were held in the home of Gene and Barbara Mignery. All twenty-five members and guests enjoyed the sounds of Christmas on an Allen 4600. The January meeting, held in the home of Ed and Corky Thurmond, formulated proposed Chapter Bylaws and the election of officers for 1991. After the lengthy meeting, several members enjoyed playing either the Hammond or Rodgers organ. Our chapter's attendance will decrease during the summer months because many of our members, who are winter visitors in the Yuma area, return home.

Our chapter is also restoring the George Kilgen theatre pipe organ which was built about 1927 and was first used in a radio station in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The



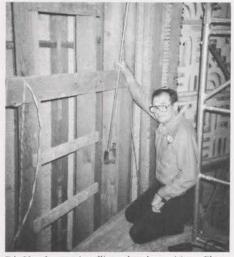
Yuma December meeting at Mignery home.

pipes have been refinished, and are being stored, with the help of Clyde Bowman. The chests are being re-leathered and refinished The left pipe chamber is being built at the present time. (A wall had to be built on one end to isolate some air conditioning ducts.) Mike Michelle and Gene Mignery put up the studs and ceiling joists. The drywall was installed with the help of Jim Harland, Ken Tillotson, Ken DeForest, and Jerry Dawson. Ed Hansberger installed the lighting and electrical outlets in one chamber and wired the blower, which runs well. Winter visitor Bill Starkey helped on the console. He contacted a local group of retired telephone personnel called the "Telephone Pioneers" who will assist with the wiring.

The Cultural Council of Yuma is in charge of the theatre itself. An architect reviewed the proposed opening for the shutters for the chambers. When the theatre was last renovated, two pipe chambers were installed; some plaster grillework was placed in the openings, and later, metal lath and plaster was placed over the openings. (However, the plaster grillework would inhibit the sound of the organ from being projected.) The plaster grillework has a frame built around it. The Cultural Council and the Yuma Theatre Organ Society have an agreement that these grilles should be saved. The architect recommends that the grille be removed, intact, then placed in the lobby of the theatre, on each

side, perhaps in a shadow box with appropriate lighting. Both pipe chambers will be placed in the theatre for balance and for future expansion of the organ.

The air conditioner grilles on each side of the chamber openings and the opening for the shutters will then be covered by one piece of light-weight grille so that the sound of the organ and the acoustics of the theatre will be in harmony. After this major work is completed, the chests and pipes will be placed in the chamber. Hopefully, this will be accomplished before the year is over. Someday, we will hear this organ played again.



Ed Hansberger installing chamber wiring. Plaster grillework to be removed and saved is to his right.

