

# Chapter Notes



Barry Baker

## ATLANTA

404/355-6680 or 404/641-7159

We didn't meet in July, but we sure made up for it on August 18! That afternoon we enjoyed a wonderful performance by the well-known Barry Baker of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, the Overall Winner of ATOS' 1989 Young Organist Competition and guest performer at both the 1989 and 1990 ATOS National Conventions.

He played for us on the mighty 2/7 Wurlitzer-cum-piano in the lovely home of Linda and Gordon Johnson up in Marietta, a few miles northwest of Atlanta. We'd praised Barry for his concert here before, on (then) Walt Winn's 4/18 Page in April 1990, but this lad, only 20, just gets better and better.

At age 10, Barry became organist for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Newport, Kentucky (E.M. Skinner pipe organ), where he is now principal organist. His theatre organ debut was at the same age, at Cincinnati's Emery Auditorium (Wurlitzer). Two years later, he returned to Emery to play for their classic movie series.

Recently, Barry was regular organist at the Cincinnati Springdale Music Palace (4/33 Wurlitzer), where he has performed over a span of seven years. In addition to his church post, he is house organist at the Ron Wehmeier residence in Cincinnati, where he has presented several programs on the Wurlitzer. Barry attends Cincinnati's Southern Ohio College, majoring in Audio/Visual Technology.

Barry impressed us again with his imaginative harmonies, his rapid and frequent registration changes and his hops through many keys including the "remotes." He's as much at home in C-sharp as the rest of us are in C. His great finger dexterity permits sweeping runs. He changes registration in mid-piece *with both hands at once* so deftly that the very brief resulting silence is hardly noticed except as just another dynamic of the piece he is playing. (We

mortals keep one hand playing something — anything — while changing registration in mid-stream lest the audience think we're through and start applauding.) Blind-folded, you could easily have supposed that Barry was playing a three- or four-manual organ, so quickly did he skip between timbres. Gordy and Linda's organ is splendid, but with Barry at the console, it becomes magnificent.

There were other heroes, too, that afternoon. James and Ruth Jobson were awarded lifetime memberships in Atlanta Chapter "for outstanding contributions to the theatre organ," and were given a plaque to this effect. Over the past twenty years, they both have given the chapter hours and hours of devoted, sustained administrative support which has been very much appreciated. *Bill Hitchcock*

## CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa/St. Petersburg  
813/894-8323 or 596-7293



Since this is my first report for us, my notes will be fragmentary.

Our meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of the month at the Tampa Theatre and/or other locations as announced. Details are available by contacting President Tom Wolliscroft or myself, John Ambler, at the phone numbers listed above.

Our work meetings are held on one or more Saturdays a month at the Tampa Theatre, the Pinellas Park Civic Center (where we are installing a small Wurlitzer) or in other locations as announced.

The Tampa Theatre shows a year-round program of foreign and domestic films, and several chapter members present "pre-film" mini-concerts on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Member John Otterson presents a regular weekly radio show, "The Best In Popular Theatre Organ Music," on WBVM/FM each Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Bill and Beck Shrive have recently installed a 2/4 Robert-Morton theatre organ from Kansas in their Pinellas Park home.

A local TV station recently filmed Al Hermanns playing the Tampa Theatre organ, and a Tampa Bay area magazine featured this same organ, with several of the Tampa Theatre House Organists, in a full page color photo. *John Ambler*



Gordy and Linda Johnson host the meeting.



Past President Ron Carter (right) awards plaque to James and Ruth Jobson — making them lifetime honorary members of Atlanta Chapter.

## CENTRAL INDIANA

Indianapolis

317/787-4865 or 317/255-8056



Our August meeting was held in Lafayette at the Long Center for the Performing Arts. This is a beautifully restored old theatre housing a 3/17 Wurlitzer. Ken Double was our artist for the afternoon. We always look forward to hearing Ken and, when playing on his "home" instrument, he is especially effective. He opened with "It's Today" from *Mame* followed by a racy rendition of "You Gotta See Mama Every Night." Ken mixed ballads, show tunes, Big Band swing numbers, novelty and Latin tunes during the afternoon. Ken is known especially for his beautiful renditions of the Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg compositions. His audiences expect to hear one or more of these selections, which seem especially suited to the pipe organ, every time he plays. These numbers have become his signature, so to speak. We were not disappointed with his choice of Victor Herbert's "When You're Away." It was played with Ken's usual sensitivity, and was lush with Tibias and Voxes. Open console after the meeting allowed many of our members the opportunity to try this grand organ.

Plans are moving ahead for the chapter's 1991-92 concert series on the 3/25 Wurlitzer at Manual High School in Indianapolis. The first of the three concerts will feature Ken Double accompanying the *Phantom of the Opera*. Future concerts will star "Wild Bill" Tandy and that young sensation, Jelani Eddington. We all look forward to this series.

By now I am sure most of you have heard that the Paramount Music Palace has re-opened. The story of how a small group saved the organ and the business should be an inspiration to all communities facing the loss of one of these musical treasures. So . . . visit the PMP when you are in Indy. The Mighty Wurlitzer is singing again!

Barbara Johnson



Ken Double at the Long Center.

John Ennis photo

## CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

513/652-1775

Virtually every vintage instrument has its own unique history — one of initial purchase and installation, only to be followed by removal, reinstallation then change of location, storage, restoration, almost *ad infinitum*. It's the story of Bob Schmitt's 3/8 Kimball. An original installation in the Forrest (Grand) Theatre, Bristol, Pennsylvania, it was moved into a small church in Redingont, Pennsylvania, only to be purchased by an individual who partially installed it in his home where it remained for 20 years or so. Ultimately it was purchased by Bob for eventual installation in his Centerville home. We can sympathize with Bob in having to not only disassemble the console (which was both screwed and glued) but also having to fit all ranks in rather confined quarters. But thanks to his perseverance and the help of his six sons it's up and playing with all of its original components.

It was to Bob Schmitt's house that we trekked on July 28 for our monthly meeting. After a short business session, con-



Host Bob Schmitt gives us a history of his 3/8 Kimball.

J. Polesy photo

ducted by vice president Jim Blegen, and some highlights of the ATOS convention by John Polesy, the host who was also our artist for the afternoon got things underway with a lively rendition of "That's Entertainment." For 45-minutes he regaled us with a mix of ballads, semi-classics and show tunes notable among which was "The Perfect Song" and "All The Things You Are." It was fun guessing radio and TV programs from theme music he played and we've got to admit it — those Kimball Tibias have a gorgeous sound and trem well. Open console and a spread of delicious food from our resourceful membership made for a delightful day — especially when you can eat and enjoy music from a poolside vantage point — that's the way to do it.

When Med Huffman sets up an afternoon for us he does it right — a double header. And so it was on August 25 when we met in Lima, Ohio, at the Allen County Museum where we were privileged to see one of the Page Organ Company's products. Built in 1923, this 2/4 organ was originally installed in the Capitol Theatre in Delphos, Ohio, later to be moved to a Presbyterian Church in Sidney, Ohio, where it remained until 1957 at which time it was donated to the museum. In 1977 it was entirely rebuilt and now serves to illustrate to the public a playable representation of a small theatre organ. The Page Organ Company was, in its heyday, a Lima, Ohio, concern that manufactured both church and theatre organs and enjoyed a vigorous business until its downfall in

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CENTRAL OHIO cont.



Host Med Huffman.

J. Polsley photo



John Adams tries out the 2/4 Page at the Allen County Museum.

J. Polsley photo

1934. Page theatre organs were found in theatres throughout the eastern United States and as far west as South Dakota, the most notable of which is the beautiful 4/16 in the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Several of our members provided museum visitors an entertaining musical backdrop while they enjoyed the many exhibits contained in the building. After all, you don't see horse-drawn hearses, steam-driven automobiles, Indian relics and period women's wear everyday.

We then proceeded to Med and Cora Huffman's home near Columbus Grove, Ohio, where their basement installation of a 1975 Custom Rodgers organ was the focal point of our entertainment. President Henry Garcia conducted our business meeting at which time Jim Blegen reported on the status of Worthington High School where our 3/16 organ is housed. The building is undergoing a renovation and addition. He stated that it was uncertain when we would have access to the organ in that much cleanup and construction needed to be done before commencement of the school year.

Med Huffman presented our artist for the afternoon, member Margo Burkhart. Margo always surprises and delights us with her finger dexterity and this day was no exception as we listened to her renditions of "Moonlight Serenade," "Them There Eyes," "Georgia" and the very difficult "Third Sonata" by Guilmant. The 26 members and guests were treated to gourmet buffet with the major meal provided by Cora Huffman and Med's sister, Dorothy Smith.

After a superb meal we returned to Med's studio to hear Mark Williams play selections from Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* and then coax us into an audience participation game where we guessed the TV ad associated with the theme song he played — some fun! To wind up a super afternoon we were treated to Henry Garcia's thrilling arrangements of "Cocktails For Two" and "Only A Rose." What a lovely afternoon!

John Polsley



Mark Williams at the Huffman's Rodgers. J. Polsley photo



Featured artist Margo Burkhart at the Huffmans.

J. Polsley photo

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In recent years CATOE has accomplished more than expected on things that were in limbo for too long, like the Congress Theatre and its Kimball pipe organ. Several years had passed before CATOE pitched in to help restore this gem of a theatre and install the Kimball. The reasons were numerous. Many history-making events occurred during these years including a period of little or no action. The completed results were publicly presented last May. CATOE members attended in greater numbers than usual thereby attesting to their approval of this excellent facility.

The Baker Hotel in St. Charles, was the location for several fund-raising programs plus many social occasions. This last summer the Baker was the site for a grand sold-out entertaining organ show and dinner. Leon and Mildred Barry hosted the occasion beautifully. Leon's exquisite program on the Geneva pipe organ was greatly appreciated. Thanks to the Berrys for a delightful afternoon this past summer.

On another occasion, February 14, Hal



Leon and Mildred Barry

Pearl accompanied *The Phantom of The Opera* at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge. It was a great success and requests were received for a repeat. Why not? Hal just might like that.

It is with sadness that we again mention the removal of the WGN Studio Wurlitzer/Kimball organ which was used for years on radio and TV programs. This instrument is in storage for a time until its future can be determined. Not for long, we hope. There is a load of history attached to this instrument.

CATOE's 3/10 Wurlitzer went into the Tivoli Theatre, Downers Grove, and was installed with CATOE's assistance. It is under the watchful eye of Willis Johnson, owner/manager of the theatre. Mr. John-

son is a member and organ enthusiast which is a welcome combination for the enterprise.

George Rico, Musical Director of Lane Tech High School, has been quite active recently concerning the school's musical program involving the organ which needs a bit of attention. Perhaps we shall see action from that direction soon.

Welcome news was the entry into ATOS' Hall of Fame of Pearl White, long-time area organist. Pearl had a very interesting musical career from her early youth.. She studied classical piano plus a few years of "cutting" player piano rolls. Then for a long time she was active in the music field and played many of Chicago area's theatre organs. This was followed by restaurant and lounge performing. Congratulations to the ATOS Board for their recognition of Pearl White, an outstanding performing organist.

The year 1990 ended with a Christmas program at Christ Church of Oakbrook, with super organist Devon Hollingsworth at their Austin Console. A similar program is planned for the final gathering of 1991.

May 1992 be the best ever for all of you. A healthy New Year to all of you from all of us.

The place to be in '93 is the Chicago ATOS Convention! *Almer Brostrom*

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## CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

717/263-0202

The restoration and enlargement of Chambersburg's Capitol Theatre original Moller theatre organ continued steadily over the summer months. Organ crew chief Mark Cooley, who has overseen the project since its inception nearly three years ago, and several dedicated chapter members have worked many, many hours toward bringing the instrument back to life again.

Cumberland Valley extends thanks and congratulations to Nor-Cal chapter for hosting a superb convention. Three of our members attended, and enjoyed every minute.

Bob Maney



Cumberland Valley President Bob Eyer, Jr., at the console of the 4/231 Austin, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, Pennsylvania.

## DELAWARE VALLEY

Glenside, Pennsylvania

215/828-8663

On August 17 we traveled to the Allen Organ Company, Macungie, Pennsylvania, to hear house organist Dwight Beacham present a short concert in the combination showroom and concert hall known as Octave Hall. Mr. Beacham performed on an MDS Theatre III Allen organ. He also demonstrated the recording and self-playing capabilities of the instrument using a recording of Lyn Larsen.

After the demonstration, Mr. Beacham led a tour of a new addition to the concert hall complex housing a museum devoted to a collection of antique pianos, both reed and electronic organs and photographs and descriptive material on the development of the electronic and digital organ.

Open console followed the visit to the museum.

On another note, the Convention Planning Committee has issued the following lists of artists who will perform during the 1992 Convention in Philadelphia: Tom Hazleton, Ron Rhode, Lowell Ayars,

Peter Conte, Gregorius and von Schakel, Jim Riggs, Don Kinnier and Vaudeville, Jonas Nordwall, Dick Smith, Lew Williams, Thomas Murray, Hector Olivera, Walt Strony, Candi Carley-Roth and Glen Hough.

As guests of the Garden State chapter, the New York, South Jersey and Delaware Valley chapters traveled on September 8 to the Convention Hall in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

The Kilgen Organ in the Convention Hall with the addition of five ranks, the latest rank being an English Post Horn by Trivo, is now a 3/12. Also, the 16' Tibia, the 16' Diaphone and the 16' Bourdon have all been extended, although the ranks themselves are not new.

The organ chambers are located on either side of the proscenium opening and the console was previously located on the floor beneath the right chamber making it difficult for the organist to hear the sound coming from the left chamber. To solve this problem, the console has been placed upon a movable platform and can now be placed virtually in the center of the auditorium where the organist can hear well and the audience can have a better view of the artist.

Upon hearing this instrument many people are impressed by the full, rich sound produced by a modest number of ranks.

Candi Carley-Roth appeared in concert playing music ranging from contemporary to music of an older vintage. Her revival of "The Hut Sut Song" was a welcome novelty indeed. For her outstanding performance her audience gave her the standing ovation she so richly deserved. Open console was held before and after Mrs. Carley-Roth's appearance with ample time provided for everyone who wanted to play.

The Society thanks Garden State for the invitation to this event.

For a Convention note, readers who plan to attend the 1992 Philadelphia (area) Convention and who will arrive in Philadelphia at the recently restored AMTRAK 30th Street Station will find that the South-eastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Route 125 bus offers frequent service from the 29th and Market Streets corner of 30th Street Station directly to and from the adjacent Sheraton Valley Forge and Plaza (Convention) Hotels. The current fare (subject to change) is \$3.10 and is payable (exact fare required) on the bus. (The same bus also goes to the Valley Forge National Park Visitor Center.)

For further information call SEPTA at 215/580-7800. Taxi service between the station and the hotels is also available for the approximately 17-mile trip.

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## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Our chapter's summer activities were focused on Labor Day, September 2, at Richard Knight Auditorium, Babson College, where we joined Jerry's Kids to fight muscular dystrophy. With the hearty approval of Babson's authorities, we committed ourselves to a twelve hour effort in raising funds for this worthwhile cause by offering non-stop theatre pipe organ music and homemade baked goods for sale. Free coffee, tea, cookies and soda were available in abundance provided by the College and the Club. Greeting visitors were festively colored balloons and signs outside the main entrance with more signs within. Our indefatigable treasurer, David Marden, the principal force behind this effort, served as emcee, introducing various club playing members. He also changed name signs on the stage easel showing Pipe Organ Pops Presents just as various acts used to be shown in vaudeville days.

As varied colored spotlights beamed on our shiny, black console each artist played for 10-15 minutes with talented Mike Bigelow leading the parade. Always enjoyable Bob Love followed then "Big Ed"

Wawrzynowicz and our own ATOS nationally recognized organist, John Cook. Bob Legon then skillfully accompanied a lengthy silent comedy, *Block Heads* with Laurel and Hardy, after which he continued with music from *The Phantom of the Opera*, complete with black cape, and other props.

As the day progressed with several turnovers of people who came to support the appeal, "Big Ed" again offered more of his pleasant pops arrangements. John then made his second appearance with more of his carefully worked out new selections, then Ed for a third time.

Something different followed after a short interval while the baby grand Steinway piano was rolled out near the console. Bob again was on the organ and Norman Daley on piano for totally unrehearsed duets and solos. For one selection Bob left the bench while Norman continued and Bob did not miss a note and finally back to the organ. People were requested to dance during this period and a few took advantage at the rear of the hall.

Legon then repeated his accompaniment to the silent followed by President Tim Holloran for his stint at the console so familiar to him and to Gary Phillips, who succeeded, both with their distinctive styles.



Jerry Lewis Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Fundraiser, Babson College. L to R: Bob Legon, John Cook and "Big Ed" Wawrzynowicz. Did Linder photo

By this time the evening's shadows were appearing and the end of a long, but very pleasant day, was approaching. The donation box had been used often and the baked goods table well patronized. Those who combined their efforts to make this day a success are too numerous to mention, including the ladies, but Vernon Miller, Dick Linder and Stu Hinchliffe must all specifically be listed. This event ran very smoothly with all the careful planning. Our old faithful 235 Special Wurlitzer performed without so much as a cypher with non-stop use for this long period — certainly a tribute to her builders as well as those who are entrusted to her care and maintenance. Stanley C. Garniss

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A professional mobile recording van equipped with recording lathes, microphones, amplifiers, preamps, playback speakers and miles of cable left Hollywood, stopped en route to capture the Tabernacle organ in Salt Lake City - then on to Chicago where the Laurel and Hardy-esque series of mishaps failed to bluff a crew of experts. Some of these happenings are delineated in the producer's interesting CD liner notes. "Chicago" selections include:

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## GARDEN STATE

New Jersey

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Garden State extends a warm welcome to a newly formed ATOS chapter, Southern New Jersey. This has been a natural development as the majority of GSTOS theatre organs are in the northern areas which makes it difficult for southern members to travel to for programs. Interested members met last fall at the home of Charles and Mary Hoffner who have a 3/20 Marr & Colton theatre organ. A petition seeking a charter was sent to National. It was approved and the new Southern New Jersey chapter encompasses the southern part of New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania. We wish them success and extend a willing hand to help any time.

The Free Summer Pops Concert Series at Asbury Park has started with a bang with Wayne Zimmerman as the first of this year's artists. Over 150 boardwalk strollers and Garden State members enjoyed the 3/12(+) Kilgen theatre organ which is growing in new ranks and sounds, thanks to Russ Sattur, Jean Scibetta and other faithful crew members. Wayne's concert included an excellent rendition of the music from *Phantom of the Opera*.

A wonderful program and advertisement guide was given to concert goers. It explained the history of the Kilgen theatre organ and features the dates and times of each coming concert with pictures and "Bio's" of the artists. The remainder of the booklet features pages of advertisements from local business owners. The proceeds from these advertisements are earmarked to restore the Kilgen organ and to purchase a new Post Horn. An enormous "thank you" is given to President George Andersen, who spent hours using his special skill to produce a professional looking booklet. Thanks George!

The second concert featured wonderful, talented Candy Carley-Roth, recently from

California, now living in Pennsylvania. Her program of contemporary music, beautifully registered, was outstanding. Despite the 100-degree temperature outside, she played "cool," very up-beat music, which received enthusiastic applause from all.

On July 28 Lee Erwin played the third boardwalk concert for us. His traditional theatre organ registration and unmistakable style was a nostalgic journey for everyone present. Lee began his program with a variety of Cole Porter tunes, and finished with a stirring rendition of "God Bless America."

Don Hansen's show tunes on August 4 were delightful and featured many of the solo pipes and toys. The 200-plus audience was treated to a wide variety of familiar tunes with Don showing off every aspect of the versatile Kilgen theatre organ which fills the large convention hall. The applause and smiling faces on the people leaving the concert left little doubt that all had really enjoyed the program.

The fifth concert of the Asbury Sunday series on August 11 featured Michael Britt, a well-known professional organist from Maryland. Michael is an accomplished church organist. He is also perfectly at home on the Kilgen theatre organ. His selections of "easy listening" music pleased the audience. This was the second year that he has played a summer concert for us.

Bob Legon, member of Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, traveled down from Boston to play the sixth concert. Bob had concertized for us last year and was well received by the audience this year. Many were impressed with the extensive amount of music under his fingertips.

The artist for our seventh Summer Concert was Martin Boehling. After experiencing several concert Sundays of high temperatures and humidity, it was a pleasure to have a beautiful, cool, sunny day. This encouraged many more people to travel to Asbury and stroll on the boardwalk and see the white caps on the waves

resulting from hurricane Bob. They were lured into the Convention Hall by the sounds of the Kilgen theatre organ. Martin played a varied program of oldies, novelty numbers and hits of the '60s and '70s. The audience, ranging from seniors to tots in strollers, enjoyed the program. Many left their names and addresses for further concert notices both in Asbury and Trenton.



Left: Candi Carley-Roth at Kilgen console, Asbury Park. Right: Ashley Miller at the Asbury Park 3/12 Kilgen.

Ashley Miller, with his sparkling introductions and unique musical arrangements featuring the new sounds of the Kilgen, played the eighth and last Sunday afternoon Summer Concert at Asbury Park. Many friends and "devotees" of Ashley attended this concert. We were delighted to have the largest audience attending this concert. It seemed each concert drew more and more people. This concert was the "icing on the cake." A wonderful ending to a successful endeavor, requiring hours of work executed by Crew Chief Russ Sattur. Sunday afternoon concerts had been a tradition in Asbury Park many years ago. Now the tradition has again been established and the people of Asbury and the surrounding towns love it and look forward to next year and more concerts.

*Jimmy Vanore*



Crew chief Russ Sattur and #1 assistant Jean Scibetta. *Jimmy Vanore photo*



Candi Carley-Roth with her fan club. *Mike Ford photo*

## GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

We are churning slowly since the three from our chapter, Scott Brodie, Dorothy Standley and Jimmy Scoggins, returned to the western gate of the Sunshine State from the City by the Bay. At our last board of directors meeting we firmed our latest plans for our 1991-1992 series. Gary Jones, from Birmingham, Alabama, played in August of this year, Lew Williams is slated for October 18, and our third artist, Ken Double, is on tap for April 24, to end our season.

Our organ was featured four times this summer for special occasions at our Emile Weil-designed Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola. Boy, do we like a chance to show off our organ! It was featured three times in musical productions put on by the Pensacola Junior College Music Department for their Summer Music Festival Series. These people are fine showmen and we were delighted with the chance to let the general public see and hear our mighty 4/25 Robert-Morton.

Then in July, the Florida Motion Pictures and Television Producers Association requested that we allow them to film a brief interlude on our organ for the seminar they held here in Pensacola at the Saenger Theatre. Our capable technician, Curt Goldhill, played the organ for this event. Again, this was good exposure for our Wonder Morton.

Scott Brodie, with his President's hat on, is working with board member, former city councilman and former Mayor pro-tem, Howard Rein, trying to tie up all the loose ends necessary to provide bus transportation to the theatre for school children to see and hear our organ. We plan on a photo tour of the organ with console accompaniment, a funny silent comedy and a little teen-age music also offered. This program, followed by an evening program for the general public will end our organ year.

We have had the best play our mighty

Morton but none gave it more heart than Gary Jones. From his initial coming-out-of-the-pit opening number until his closing encore, of what else? "Stars Fell on Alabama," this was a heart-warming performance. His playing pleased the audience, his conversation from the console was timely and enlightening. He explained verbally about the different ranks of the organ while he played them from the console. We didn't need pictures; his description was worth a thousand pictures. So many of the crowd commented on how they enjoyed this particular facet of his program. They all enjoyed the music. He gave it all he had and that was top-notch — a real winner with our Sunday afternoon audience. He kept his "cool" in our mid-August heat and looked band-box spiffy on the bench. Our fans left with words of "more, more" resounding through the old theatre, and how we loved it.



Gary Jones at the 4/25 Wonder Morton.

Dorothy Standley photo

Gary had his parents and other friends and relatives here who cheered him all the more. Added to ours, this was some cheering, I'm here to tell you.

To back up one day, I wish you could have seen the response to our "Open Console" Gary held the day before his afternoon performance. Many of you have participated in these events at your local theatres, but a pipe organ is a rarity here. Especially a theatre organ. Many came with their music to try their hands in the maw of our jewel. Before they started playing, Gary gave a brief summary (with handouts) of the difference between the

theatre and classical organ, demonstrating the different "lead" ranks from the console. Then he invited those wishing to play and guided them to start. Several did quite well.



Gary Jones and Elizabeth Hieb, 3, at our 4/25 Wonder Morton open console.

Jerry Kouach photo

Our piece-de-resistance was last. This was a tiny, three-year-old precious little girl, who sat quietly with her mother while all the others took their turn. When asked were there any more to play, the mother and this child came forth. She was helped onto the bench, with wee legs just barely showing beneath the seat. Gary explained what she could do to make it play and she proceeded, with the aplomb of a professional, to play like an expert without a note of music. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when she finished. The applause was overwhelming. The reporters and photographers from the local newspaper labeled our future Helen Crawford, a "Mini-Mozart" in their cover article, as indeed she is.

We have wet our feet with our first young artist. Now those of you who might be interested in her talent, sorry, we have her booked for the next 15 years, with options for the following 15. Dorothy Standley

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We journeyed to the home of Ted and Betty Wood in Washington County, for our Annual Picnic. The weather was beautiful — not a cloud in the sky — not too hot or cold — food was plentiful — and Ted's 3/20 Wurlitzer, built into his lovely Colonial home, was super. Several members put off eating until they had time at the console.

What beautiful music! We even had a modern Keyboard outdoors on which nimble fingers could imitate all kinds of sounds. We played — we sang — we had a marvelous time and are grateful to our hosts for sharing their lovely place in the woods with all the music and beauties of nature around us.



Guest Jimmy Vanore at the Wurlitzer while owner Ted Woods watches.

Bruce Louden photo



Dr. Edward Farmer at Ted Wood's 3/20 Wurlitzer.

Bruce Louden photo

On August 11, Chairman Carl Hackert, George List, and Ned Spain performed in concert at the Historic Round Lake Auditorium. It was a light-hearted concert of American music played on the old 3/48, 1847 Ferris tracker organ and the new three-manual, 1990 Allen Digital theatre organ. There were solos and duets on both instruments. We heard medleys from *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, and others. Some of the duets were "Finlandia," variations on "America" and "A Tribute to Irving Berlin." It was truly a great listening experience and the audience expressed their delight and appreciation with a tremendous standing ovation. Everyone is looking forward to the concert in 1992.

Mina Lungen



Harold Russell, Carl Hackert and Bill Menz look on while Bruce Louden tries his hand at the keyboard.

M. Lungen photo



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L to R: Ralph Beaudry, John Seng, John Lauter, Jack Barranger and Scotty.

Ed Mullins photo



Jesse Crawford chapter breakfast: (L to R) Kieran Fallon, Tom Murray, Bertie Newton, Charlotte and Bill Rieger, Father Gerard Kerr, Phillip and Elsie Howie and Dr. Ed Mullins.



L to R: Bob Loesch, Bert Anderson, Tom DeLay, Ron Downer and Bob Rickett.

Ed Mullins photo

## JESSE CRAWFORD

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Thirteen new members were enrolled during the ATOS convention in San Francisco bringing our total membership to 62. We now have members in Australia, Canada, England and Scotland. New members will receive the 1930 poster of Jesse Crawford wearing a Dunhill Straw Hat.

On July 9, nine members enjoyed the chapter breakfast at the Mark Hopkins Hotel on San Francisco's Nob Hill. Afterwards we rode the elevator to the Top of the Mark for the splendid panoramic view of the city. There was only one elevator operating, and it was necessary to telephone the hotel and have an elevator brought to the top for our descent. We then walked across the street to Grace Cathedral for Dr. John Fenstermaker's concert.

Tuesday night, in lieu of the banquet, members had the option of attending our chapter dinner at Original Joe's Restaurant on Taylor Street where we ordered from the varied menu. Eighteen people attended.

Our chapter Afterglow Wednesday was a bus trip to Reno and Sparks, Nevada where Father Kerr had the luck of the Irish and won \$60 playing the slots in the Nugget casino in Sparks. *Ed Mullins*

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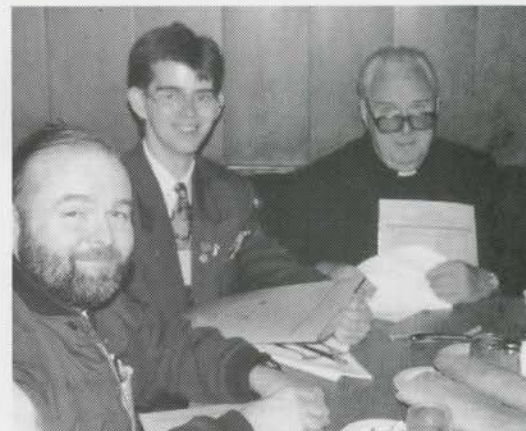
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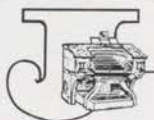


Jesse Crawford chapter dinner: (L to R) Dave Banks, Kieran Fallon and Father Gerard Kerr. *Ed Mullins photo*

THEATRE ORGAN

## JOLIET AREA

Joliet, Illinois



Following the July ATOS convention break — and it was a great one — the club was treated to some spectacular swinging piping by Dan Bellomy at the VanDer Molen residence. "Martha" Morton maintained pace with Bellomy and the club members and guests were duly impressed with Dan and "Martha."

That was our social activity for August, but there was more work afoot. Cookbook sales continued to be excellent and the final payment was made on schedule without tapping the club's limited funds.

The JATOE organ crew continues meeting each Monday evening at the Rialto Theatre to prepare the Barton for the Lew Williams concert in September.

Meanwhile, a seminar series at the Rialto was being planned for October and November and a full social schedule is now in place through January 1992! Hal Pritchard

## LAND O'LAKES

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One of the highlights of our summer season was the guest appearance of Ken Double, well-known TV and radio personality from Lafayette, Indiana. Besides his broadcasting duties, Ken is on tour playing at various theatres around the country, as well as being on the Board of Directors for the Long Center for the Performing Arts where he plays an annual organ concert.

Ken was the master of ceremonies for the Indianapolis Convention in 1990 and is scheduled to be emcee in Philadelphia in 1992 — "the man with the radio voice and talented fingers."

On August 17, Ken played the newly restored 2/11 Kilgen for a very receptive audience at the Sheldon Performing Arts Center in Red Wing. The Sheldon is planning to host three organ concerts annually, thanks to a generous contribution from a native of Red Wing.

On August 18, Ken entertained for our chapter members at the big Wurlitzer at the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul. Open console followed his stint at the organ. After the concert at the World, about 35 people congregated at Verna Mae's for a potluck supper. The Kimball Stardust in the music room was never silent during the whole evening. A very eventful weekend, indeed!

We were pleased to receive notification that Land O'Lakes Chapter has been awarded the Twin Cities Regional Convention in October 1993. We promise there will be no blizzards in October!

The Organ Committee at the new Minneapolis Convention Center is announcing a dedicatory organ concert at the 10,000 pipe Kimball theatre organ in the fall of 1993. We were happy to hear that Mike Rider, local organbuilder, has been awarded the contract to reinstall this "King of Instruments," which has been in storage at the Convention Center. At one time it was cited by the Curator of Musical Instruments of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York as a "significant musical artifact." It boasts two organs: a 5/122 concert instrument and a 4/24 theatre organ. We'll keep our fingers crossed for speedy progress.

We wish to extend to all of you a joyous, pleasurable holiday season filled with music and kind thoughts.

Verna Mae Wilson



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## LOS ANGELES

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"Another Opening, Another Show" was Walt Strony's opener at his August 10 concert for LATOS. And a great show it was! Walt was in top form and put the big 4/31 John Brown Cook Memorial Wurlitzer through its paces. The organ was in great shape, thanks to a truly dedicated organ crew. At the beginning of the concert, the lights were still on in the chambers and when someone went to turn the lights off, it was discovered that a crew member had accidentally locked himself in the chambers! Strony played several extensive medleys and suites as well as some ballads. "Nola" (with numerous key changes) and a number called "Quiet Steps" (which was anything but quiet) were both outstanding. The show, originally scheduled in Sexson Auditorium at Pasadena City College was relocated to Founder's Church of Religious Science as plaster damage caused by the Sierra Madre earthquake was not yet repaired.

At our September concert, a large, enthusiastic crowd kept Korla Pandit at the console of the 3/13 Wurlitzer in San Gabriel Civic Auditorium for more than three hours. Many of his fans stayed for autographs and quite a number signed up for the three free issues of the monthly LATOS "Organ Log" that is offered to potential members. Korla was a very popular figure in the early days of television and always appears in a bejeweled turban. His choice of music and style is greatly influenced by his native India.

Wayne Flottman

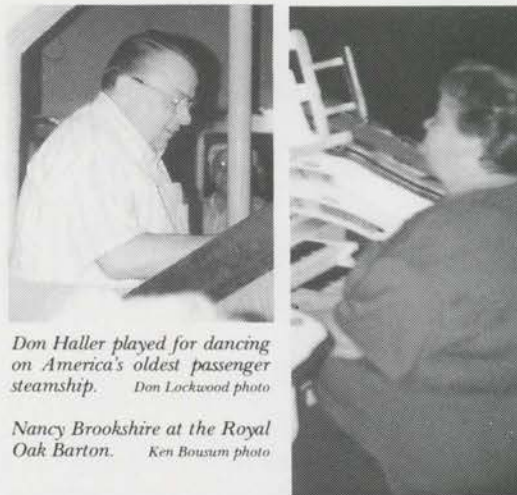
## MOTOR CITY

Detroit  
313/537-1133



It was a warm, sunny day as members gathered for our annual potluck picnic at Murray Lake, a private preserve near Ann Arbor, made available to us through the generosity of Gene Horning, on July 28. Chaired by Irene FitzGerald, a variety of food was in abundance and a large grill simplified the cooking chore. Helen Vogel was in charge of games that included a three-legged race, a water-filled balloon toss and a fresh-egg toss. Several went swimming and the Walthers even brought rubber rafts. Others listened to tapes of the San Francisco convention made by Dave Ambory.

Almost 900 people were on board the 89-year-old excursion steamer *Columbia* for our 18th annual private charter moonlight cruise, chaired by Don Lockwood, the evening of August 1. Paul Kline, Shirlee Schenk and Don Haller provided music for dancing at a Hammond organ, graciously loaned by Shirlee for the occasion, on the ballroom deck. The Harmonica Varieties again this year were featured between each of the three organists, thus providing passengers with continuous music for dancing. Up on the bar deck, Fran Carmody, accompanied by Sharron Patterson, sang and led a sing-along. Terry Carmody, Fran's son, also sang and the Happy Days Harpers, a harmonica quartet from Spring Arbor, entertained. Several availed themselves of open console at the Baldwin organ in the third-deck bar, on loan for the evening from Dave Ambory. A barbershop quartet serenaded passengers on all four decks of the *Columbia* during the three-hour cruise on the Detroit River on America's oldest passenger steamship. We especially thank the members who carried the full-size, two-manual organs up the grand staircase to the second and third decks, and back down again at the end of the cruise. It was a labor of love, and we appreciated their efforts. (continued)



Don Haller played for dancing on America's oldest passenger steamship. Don Lockwood photo

Nancy Brookshire at the Royal Oak Barton. Ken Bousum photo



Vocalist Fran Carmody and organist Sharron Patterson performed during Motor City's moonlight cruise. Dorothy VanSteenkiste photo



Drummer Skip Wilkinson and organist Paul Kline provide music for dancing. Dorothy VanSteenkiste photo

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**MOTOR CITY cont.**

Andrea Welc, Sarah Havala and Susan Lewandowski, all contestants in the Young Organist Competition in March, were the featured artists at our Fourth Sunday presentation at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on July 28. All three are students of Melissa Ambrose. Nancy Brookshire was the artist for our free Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton on August 25. Nancy plays for two churches and has played organ overtures and intermissions at the Redford Theatre.

Gerry Gregorius and Kurt von Schakel will be heard in a piano and organ presentation for our Christmas Show at the Redford Theatre on December 7.

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

**NORTH FLORIDA**

Jacksonville  
904/268-9537



The summer has passed us by without much activity. We were pleased that several Wesley Manor (our chapter home) residents have been playing the chapter organ. Two residents have been "jamming it up" on the organ and grand piano, which is situated close by the organ. In this case it was hymns receiving the "jam" treatment.

The "old-timer" electronic Gulbransen Model D has held up well at the Manor. Dave Walters, the chapter electronic organ guru, has done a marvelous job putting it in such excellent shape. The sound captivates everyone who hears it far beyond expectations.

We look forward to a year of more public theatre-style pipe organ concerts on church organs (not having access to a theatre pipe organ yet) hoping to raise the visibility of theatre pipe organs and their music. *Erle Renwick*



*NTC members and friends hear Gene Powell.*

**NORTH TEXAS**

Dallas-Fort Worth  
214/235-8551 or 214/696-2381



Fifteen of our members enjoyed the delights of the ATOS National Convention in San Francisco. In addition to those from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, members Dow E. Evelyn from San Antonio and Lawrence Birdsong from Longview, made the trip. Because of the distance from their homes to the North Texas area, these out-of-town members do not get the chance to enjoy our chapter meetings very often. We were doubly pleased to see them in San Francisco. We all agreed that this Convention was one of the finest ever. With the extravagance of magnificent large theatre organs in equally magnificent buildings and the choice of especially fine organists to play the concerts, it was splendid. We doff our Texas Stetsons to the Nor-Cal chapter for hosting this memorable "thirty-sixth." You done good!!

With the Lakewood theatre on the summer schedule of early matinees on Saturday and Sunday, we yielded to the wishes of the theatre management to forego having our August meeting in the theatre, home of our 3/8 Robert-Morton. We were fortunate, therefore, to locate a fine substitute venue together with an equally fine organist. An old friend and past president of North Texas Chapter, Gene Powell, has recently associated himself with the Munselle Piano and Organ company in nearby

Irving, Texas. Gene is a very accomplished organist who has played for NTC many times and we were delighted that he agreed to host our meeting at Munselle's and to play for us on the latest model of the Kawai organ.

Gene is enthused with the sounds and ensemble of this new Kawai organ and this enthusiasm, if it is possible, even further enhanced his music. The large turnout for this meeting attests to Gene's popularity with North Texas Chapter and his reputation as a very entertaining organist. Gene played many of the most popular selections from his sizable repertoire and, in turn, received the enthusiastic response of this group for his fine playing. Thank you, Gene. We hope to hear you again — soon!  
*Irving Light*



*Gene Powell (right), Irving Light and John Beckerich at Munselle Organ Company.*



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September 25	Misikinstrumentmuseum, Munich, Germany
September 26-29	International Glass Music Festival, Munich/Frauenau, Germany
October 1	Doelen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
October 2	Flanders Festival, Mecheln, Belgium
October 5	Symphony Hall, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
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October 13	Diligente, Den Haag, The Netherlands
October 13	Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
October 16	Silent Film Festival, Pordenone, Italy
October 20	City Museum, Vienna, Austria
October 22, 24	Brussels-Salzburg Festival, Brussels, Belgium
October 26	Limburg, Germany
October 27	Stade, Hamburg, Germany

## OHIO VALLEY

Cincinnati

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The planned refurbishing of Emery Theatre, the chapter's home, was shelved for the immediate future during the past year, so we have been able to proceed without the threat of the theatre closing, moving the organ chambers or trying to operate around workmen rushing around. This has allowed for more planning and for booking special events like out-of-town artists.

The first of these was Father Jim Miller who played and entertained on February 9. Obviously he is tops as an organist and audience-pleaser — ours said loud and clear, "Bring him back!"

Operating a theatre two nights each weekend sounds more like a business than a hobby and requires talented people in key positions. We recently told about the work of President Jim Teague. He is backed up by two lady vice-presidents, Jan Gavin

and Claire Lawrence. Jan writes our "Pipe Lines," coordinates our activities with the theatre's owner (University of Cincinnati) and other groups interested in seeing the theatre become a performing arts center.

Claire is a talented member of our organ staff. She schedules all the organists, and that's a good way to suddenly find yourself being the unscheduled organist for a show. Many groups that book the theatre want to have the organ used for some portion of the show. These include a travel-lecture series held each spring by the university, and the network series, "Riders Radio Theatre," which is taped every month before live audiences for later broadcast to the American Radio Network by WXVU. A week when the organ gets to rest is rare.

Our secretary, Blanche Underwood, comes from a radio-TV background as her late husband, Phil, was engineer for WLW radio and WLWT television for many years. He was generally the engineer for the famous "Moon River" organ/poetry show. Treasurer Fred Lawrence is as tal-

ented in his field as wife Claire is on the organ. He knows where every chapter penny is spent and keeps our finances in sound condition.

Emery had an unusual event this past spring — a midwest opening on May 2 of a movie filmed in Cincinnati in the general area of the theatre. The film was *Rage in Harlem* starring Gregory Hines and Robin Givens.

Chapter meetings in 1991 included St. Patrick's Day at Emery in which the most Irish-looking member, loaded with gobs of green, was selected. Our annual meeting in July started at a local restaurant and moved to Jim Barton's Piano and Organ Outlet where organs new, middle-aged, and old were demonstrated by Jim! The progress of the electronic organ industry through the years was quite apparent.

Our movie series has moved into its fall season. One pair of Alfred Hitchcock pictures drew the largest movie audience in many months. And, as always, the Mighty Wurlitzer is queen of our shows!

Hubert S. Shearin

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## OREGON

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On July 27, our chapter met at the Elsinore Theatre in Salem for an open console session on the 3/16 Wurlitzer. Many came from Portland, as well as from Eugene; however, we had some visitors who were from the Bay Area of northern California. Nor-Cal's secretary, Art Woodworth, and his wife had been on vacation and were staying with relatives in the area. It was nice to have them with us at this informal event. As a surprise to many in the audience, a silent film was featured on the program, which was made possible by the recent donation of a 16mm projector. Rick Parks accompanied Harold Lloyd's comedy, *Haunted Spooks*, which the enthusiastic audience enjoyed.

The annual chapter picnic was held on August 17 at the Ensele's in Pleasant Hill. Ken and Doris Ensele have a beautiful-sounding 2/9 Wurlitzer installed in a barn, and many members were able to play. We were treated to some very appetizing dishes that had been prepared while we listened to the organ. Ken had just connected a MIDI to the console's keys that provided many sounds that blend well with the pipes.

We would like to thank the Ensele's for their hospitality and for sharing their instrument with us. Everyone had a great time.

*Rick Parks*



*Paul Potter plays the Wurlitzer at the Oregon picnic.*  
*Don James photo*



*L to R: Organman Loren Minear, Ken Ensele and chairman Don James.*

*James photo*



*Michael Gillette at the Ensele's Wurlitzer. Don James photo*

## ORLANDO AREA

Orlando, Florida

407/282-0911

Considerable progress has been made on our Don Baker Memorial Organ project. Crew Chief Ted Campbell and the members of his dedicated team are working steadily in an attempt to complete the console. Unfortunately, we are still short about \$20,000 which will be required to keep us from coming to a screeching halt in our progress very shortly. So — at the risk of becoming obnoxious and repetitive, we continue to seek donations. PLEASE HELP US! Our Treasurer, Frank Norris, will be happy to accept any and all contributions. Remember they are tax-deductible. Frank's address is: 1316 Puritan Street, Deltona, FL 32725.

Our July meeting was marked by a very interesting and most enjoyable program by Walter Kimble on our Don Baker Conn 651. Walter is an ATOS member of long standing and one of the charter members of our chapter. His selections included music gleaned from his vast library dating back to his silent movie days, some classical, and a few of his own compositions.

August brought us closer in our quest to reach our goal. We now have the relays and combination actions for the Don Baker organ. Our main concern now is construction of the chambers. We are in process of

selecting a contractor, but, unless we find the funds to pay him, all we will be able to do is select one.

Our President, Cliff Shaffer, attended the San Francisco Convention in July as our chapter's delegate.

At our meeting on August 7, we were entertained by Wayne Tilschner, our newest member from the Chicago area, who performed on our "DB Conn 651" and did a very nice job. His program was enjoyed by all. It is nice to have the opportunity to enjoy the different playing styles of our members.

Our September program consisted of three major elements. First, we were delightfully entertained by the Vintage Barbershop Quartet, who is registered with the SPEPBSQSA and has participated in their national competitions. The members of the quartet, Tenor Dave Byrd, Lead Bret Cleveland, Baritone George Bower, and Bass Dave Kinnell, are members of the Orange Blossom Chorus and the Gainesville Barbergators. Next the members participated in a Sing-along prompted by slides projected on a screen, with music provided very ably by one of our talented members, Chris Walsh, on our Don Baker Conn 651. Last, but not least, Cliff Shaffer showed the ATOS promotional VCR tape on great theatre organs around the country and "Farewell to The Fox," which he obtained while in San Francisco. Super refreshments provided by members were served and enjoyed by all while being entertained by various members at the console.

It is always a pleasure to be able to pay tribute to chapter members whom we feel have done something exceptional and worthy of note. We have just such a member in Joyce Girardet, a retired professional organist and teacher. In 1983, just before Flag Day, Joyce became so patriotically inspired that she sat down at the keyboard and produced an anthem for our national Pledge of Allegiance. The music and words of her composition were arranged in a ceremonial setting by Gene A. Lawton in 1985, and performed very inspirationally by the Ocala Festival Orchestra and Chorus in Florida. Copies of the song now hang in the musical library of the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition, the musical score and tape of the Ocala performance have been included in President Reagan's presidential collection. Joyce's most recent tribute was a letter from General Norman Schwarzkopf who stated that he had received many original songs since the beginning of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, but Joyce's "Pledge" really touched his heart. We are proud to have her in our midst!

*Lois M. Thomson*



Janet MacGregor coaches Ardis Sneddon.

Frank Stoner photo

## POTOMAC VALLEY

703/256-8640 or 301/652-3222

On September 8 we had a most enjoyable meeting at the magnificent home of Janet and Reuben MacGregor in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, featuring their Allen Digital Computer MDS-25 electronic organ in the Master Design Series. A Roland keyboard with MIDI interface to the organ provided enhanced voices, synthesizer sounds, and other effects not normally found in classical organs, coming close to theatre organ performance. Members who showed their skills included Janet MacGregor, Mike Hartley, Fay Marvin, Chet Hasert, Ardis Sneddon, and Frank Stoner. Everyone experienced an excellent program, wonderful hospitality, and great camaraderie. Refreshments were graciously served by our hosts, and a memorable time was enjoyed by all.

Jack Little



Janet MacGregor (top) and Mike Hartley (above) extract sweet sounds from the Allen. Frank Stoner photos

## PUGET SOUND

Federal Way, Washington

July 21 found members and guests gathered at Bellevue Pizza and Pipes to hear Margaret Hall Nelson, a visitor to the States from Australia and New Zealand. Margaret and new husband Robert had attended the Convention in San Francisco on their honeymoon, and then on to Seattle for more sightseeing and her first concert in the U.S. Petite and dainty Margaret is a dynamo on the organ. Her performance sparkled from beginning to end. She'll be one to watch. She is already very busy down under playing concerts at the ever-increasing theatre organ installations there, is organist at St. Mark's Anglican Church, teaches piano and organ, and is involved in organ restoration.

The following Sunday we celebrated "Annual Picnic Day" at Bert and Frankie Lobberegt's home in Issaquah. They had only just returned from their tour in the "Great Arrow" the day before, but all was in tip-top shape, and after lunch we all drifted about in the gardens, to the house to hear and play the organ, and out to browse in the museum. The museum houses Bert's collection of vintage cars, the 1907 Great Arrow among them. It predates the Pierce Arrow. Tours of the vintage car societies often involve dressing the part in authentic costumes for travel, daytime and evening wear. Frankie has converted a room in the house to suggest an early dressmaker's domain, and here she keeps her costumes, and Bert's as well. They will soon be off in the Great Arrow again on a tour to Monterey.

The Dick Wilcox home in Gig Harbor with its Wurlitzer theatre organ has been sold to a local couple and their family of six. We understand that she is a concert pianist and teacher, and both are interested in the organ and having programs there, as before. We look forward to getting to know them.

Tacoma has become quite active in restoring their old downtown theatre district The Pantages on 9th and Broadway has



Left: Robert and Margaret Hall Nelson.

Right: Frankie Lobberegt with vintage daytime dress.

been up and running for some years; the Rialto across the street is presently being restored, and a new Broadway theatre for the Tacoma Actors Guild is on the drawing board. Farther uptown, the whole Masonic complex, including the Temple Theatre, has been purchased by two enterprising partners who have great plans for it. The Temple Theatre is the only one of the three existing theatres housing a pipe organ. Yet

Genny Whitting



Bert Lobberegt with "Great Arrow."

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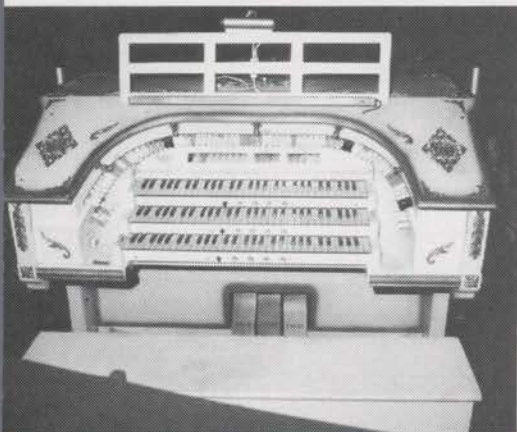
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Gambling has arrived on the Mississippi River along with bus loads of tourists — people looking forward to being entertained. With these thoughts in mind, entrepreneur John Connelly leased the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa, and the future of our chapter changed dramatically. We were informed that as of June 1, our theatre would re-open as the Capitol Celebrity Theatre, featuring country/western shows with daily matinee and evening performances.

With great sadness our members removed the Honky Tonk piano, the extra pipes and organ parts. We were without our theatre organ and meeting place.

During the month of May carpenters, painters and electricians started to return our theatre to its once dazzling beauty. Worn carpets were removed, faded curtains taken down, fresh paint and wallpaper covered the walls. Chandeliers were

cleaned, mirrors gleamed everywhere and a new refreshment stand was built in the lobby. The beauty of the old marble ticket office was uncovered and now welcomes everyone. New stage lights and sound systems were installed.

Amidst great fanfare of publicity the new Capitol Celebrity Theatre was re-opened. Members of our chapter were there on opening day to present the theatre with a pair of beautiful flowering silk trees to complement the decor and wish the Connelly group success, and to say a quiet goodbye to our great organ now silent and covered in the pit.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Kevin Thomas, the new manager of the theatre, invited our chapter members to come in and play the Wicks organ. He stated that he was not fortunate to have an organ in his other theatre locations. Within minutes of hearing our grand old organ being played, he asked the chapter to join him in maintaining the theatre organ and to play the organ prior to the variety acts.

What an absolute gift he has given our chapter! Once again we are playing the beautiful theatre organ for our old friends and all our new audiences to hear and see. This grand old organ is the only Wicks organ in the country in its original theatre location. We were privileged over the past twenty years to maintain this organ and give concerts to raise money to repair and keep the organ in excellent playing condition. Kevin Thomas has made it possible for our chapter to give a concert at the Capitol Celebrity Theatre on December 1. Our guest artist will be Bob Ralston. What a fabulous new beginning! We owe Kevin Thomas our appreciation and gratitude for acknowledging the true "celebrity" in his theatre, the beautiful Wicks theatre organ.

To all lovers of organ music, we are pleased as a chapter to present Bob Ralston, who has been with us before and sold out the entire theatre. The theatre is beautiful again and will be filled with beautiful theatre organ music from the talented hands of Bob Ralston. Come join us at the Capitol Celebrity Theatre. *Helen Alexander*

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Jeanne and Steve Mehuron hosted our July 20 meeting at their home on a recreational lake in Woodcliff, near Fremont, Nebraska. Prior to the formal business meeting and program, we enjoyed cool drinks, appetizers, small talk, rides on Steve's motorboat on the private lake, and a sumptuous buffet, with Jeanne and Steve furnishing the main course and beverages. Ed Martin conducted a short business meeting, primarily dealing with the chapter's long-range plans, including another public organ concert at the Orpheum Theatre on October 27.



Jon Troshynski after his cameo.

Tom Jeffery photo



Jeanne Mehuron at the console.

Tom Jeffery photo



Steve Mehuron treated us to boat rides on the lake.

Tom Jeffery photo

Greg Johnson introduced our artist for the afternoon, our own Jeanne Mehuron. Jeanne opened with organ comedy routines in honor of Shirley Kanka's birthday and Bob and Joyce Markworth's recent wedding. Then Jeanne played an all request program, with favorites like "Memory" from *Cats*, "Sunrise Serenade" and a spectacular rendition of "Stormy Weather" (and we do mean STORMY!). A medley from *Sound of Music* concluded the request segment of the program. Then it was time for *Play That Tune*. Jeanne divided the audience into two teams, with Jeanne as the captain of one side and Bob Tookey leading the other division. The object was to have one team name a tune with a girl's

name in the title; then someone on the opposing team would attempt to play that tune. Scores were kept, giving each musical endeavor a grade, depending on results. We had a lot of fun over the profusion of girl's names baked into song titles. Last, but not least, we were treated to a cameo appearance by 10-year-old Jon Troshynski, an organ student of Jeanne's, offering several selections, including "Lady of Spain." We hope that Jon will be a candidate for the Young Theatre Organist Competition in a few years. The pleasant afternoon and evening was concluded with open console. Many thanks to Steve and Jeanne for this hospitality.

Tom Jeffery

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## ST. LOUIS

Missouri

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It's been a slow summer working on the chapter's 2/11 Wurlitzer in the St. Louis Fox lobby. With very few shows booked through the summer, we've not had many opportunities to get in. Fred Jenkins took the pedalboard home and rebuilt it there, and Chuck Wiltsch did the same with the manual keys. Crew Chief Joe Barnes has been designing and constructing an air intake mechanism that will allow the blower to draw conditioned air from the lobby rather than the too hot or too cold air from the roof house where the blower is located.

Our annual picnic was held August 17 at Jack Moelmann's residence. Members were treated to George Nitchman's artistry at the Club's Hammond X66 when they



Fred Jenkins rebuilding the Fox lobby console pedal board.

C. Wiltsch photo



Jack Moelmann's Rodgers.

C. Wiltsch photo

arrived. This was set up in the garage, after being extensively overhauled by Jack. The afternoon started off with open console at Jack's augmented Rodgers organ during "Happy Hour." A delicious pot luck dinner was then served. After dinner, Jack presented a program as only he can do. It consisted of a mix of popular and show tunes, a sing-along, and of course, the "Tribute to America" for which Jack has become famous. Thank you to our host and all of the workers who put the party together.

Our November meeting will be November 18 at Jim and Dee Ryan's home, featuring their newly installed two manual

Wicks. Our December Holiday Party will be December 7 at Jack Moelmann's home. If you'll be traveling through St. Louis, give us a call at the above number and we'll let you know what else is happening in our area.

Chuck Wiltsch

### ATOS Archives/Library

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#### Chapter Correspondents Please Note:

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We went to Pizza & Pipes for our August 3 concert. It was at 10 o'clock in the morning, a beautiful day, and all seemed anxious to hear our organist of the day. And a very interesting program it was, played by Dennis Scott, a well-known San Francisco organist. The beautiful 4/20 Wurlitzer played its heart out that morning for all to enjoy. We were pleased with the large crowd that attended.

Dennis's program consisted of many fine musical comedy selections by composers of the '30s and '40s, even a few before that time. He used some well-balanced registrations, some I had not heard before from this instrument . . . all in good taste. The last half of his program was all requests, which seemed to delight the audience.

Sierra Chapter wishes to thank owner Bob Hogan and manager Jerry Thomas of Pizza & Pipes for allowing us to present our concert in this most unique place. We all enjoyed the coffee and doughnuts. Thanks, too, to Charles Robinson for serving as emcee.

September 1 was a great day for Sierra Chapter as we had for our organist of the day the great Stan Kann. What a show he put on for us! What can one say about a flawless program by a fine artist who is also a great entertainer with a fine personality and a great sense of humor. He did a sketch with his crazy gadgets that kept the audience in stitches. He even surprised me by playing my composition, "Blue Ice." Thanks, Stan. It was a great arrangement.

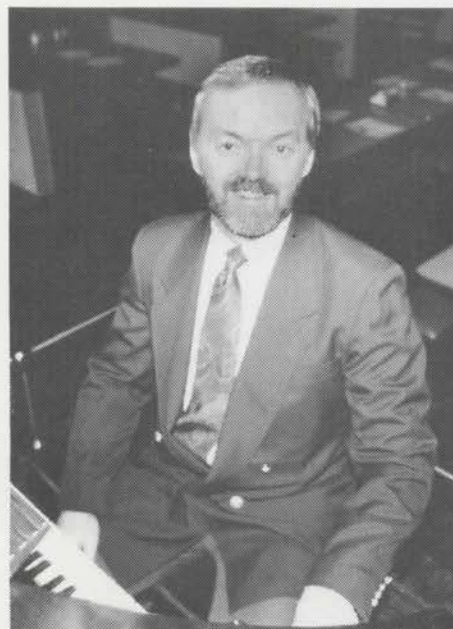
Stan will be one of the featured artists at the 1992 Regional here in Sacramento. If you have never heard him, or if you have, you will be thrilled by his fine talents.

*Bud Taylor*

*Seasons  
Greetings!*



*Stan Kann. The audience loved him!*



*Dennis Scott at the Pizza & Pipes.*

*J. Carleton photo*

## SOONER STATE

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Hervey and Janice Barbour hosted our July meeting in their home in Pryor. Hervey entertained us with three selections, beautifully played, on his 2/11 Kimball pipe organ, "Misty," "Can You Read My Mind," and "Georgia On My Mind." At open console we heard music from eight people.

We learned some more history about this instrument: Gerald Payne told us he had learned to play on this very organ when it was installed in the auditorium of Oklahoma City University, and that it had been donated to OCU in 1949 by the Home Theatre of Oklahoma City. Hervey filled in his part of the story for our newcomers: He bought the instrument from OCU in late 1978 and moved it to Pryor (on a cold day in March 1979) with the help of Sooner State Chapter's Pipe Packin' Platoon. Their present home was designed to house the organ.

Our August meeting was held at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Gerald Payne presented the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ. He opened with a lively "Granada," then proceeded to play a varied program including four songs in tribute to "Ladies of the Stage" and a medley of show tunes. "The Whistler and His Dog" was especially fun. "Memory" (from *Cats*) was also very enjoyable, with the melody played as a single-note solo in the tenor register, on what sounded like the 8" Diapason. Again, eight people played at open console.

Our Vo-Tech Robert-Morton has had to undergo a few repairs. One regulator had to be re-leathered, as well as some swell-shade motors. There's still some wind-chest leathering to be done as well. How true it is: "Pipe organ work is *never* finished!"

*Dorothy Smith*



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Ohio

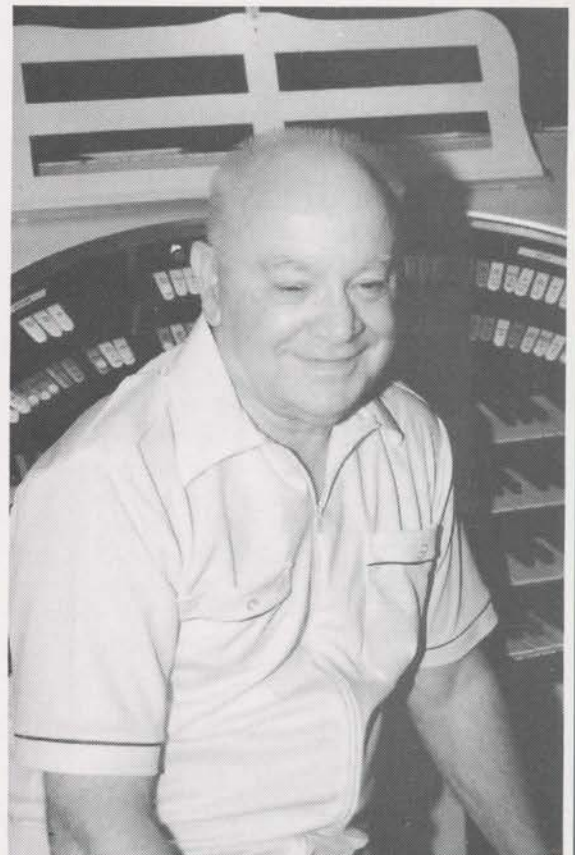
419/385-4724

The old Ken Griffin organ classic, "Cruising Down the River," set the theme July 14, as members and friends of TATOS set sail on The Sandpiper for an old-fashioned cruise down the Maumee River. Passengers boarded the 65-foot, 37-ton, twin-diesel replica of an Erie Canal Boat for the two-hour excursion from downtown Toledo, up river to suburban Perrysburg, and back. The route took passengers up the beautiful tree-lined river and gave them a magnificent view of the sights, including the stately mansions and sprawling estates along the banks near Perrysburg. The captain was David Hornyak, son of TATOS President Mike, and his other two sons, Greg and Patrick, served as mates. During the ride, a buffet picnic potluck was served, and although there was no theatre organ on board, everyone had a fabulous time. In fact, the outing was so successful, TATOS plans to repeat the event next year.

The club takes its annual summer hiatus for July and August, and regular monthly meetings are suspended. However, the Program Review Committee has been working diligently, mapping-out the marketing and publicity strategies for the 1991 Fall Concert.

TATOS provides organists before and at intermission for the Ohio Theatre's monthly Feature Movie Series, sponsored by the theatre's management. Vice-President Lenny Norman played for the July movie, and Bill Coine took his turn at the console of the 4/10 Marr & Colton for June, August, and September. Both house organist Bill Yaney and TATOS member Kevin Oberle have been regulars for the movie crowds throughout this past year. Lenny Norman provided pre-show entertainment, September 5, for Meet The Candidates — a neighborhood political forum to introduce candidates for the fall elections. TATOS frequently provides organists for all types of events at the theatre in an effort to promote both the instrument and theatre organ music in general.

Although the organ has been in use regularly during the summer, Crew Consultant Tom Densel, President Mike Hornyak, and Treasurer Paul Wasserman worked around the schedule to totally "gut" both the upper and lower chambers, repaint them, install permanent lighting and new regulators, and completely correct all problem areas before re-installing the pipework. This will better organize the chambers, improve access for tuning, provide substantial acoustic and tonal



Les Barger, at the console of the 4/10 Marr & Colton

enhancements, and make room for future expansion of new ranks. Work progressed slower than expected on the upper chamber, but the lower chamber is expected to go much faster.

Tom Densel is a "pipe organ genius," and any theatre organ club's "dream," who, in large measure, is responsible for the wonderful sound and maintenance of the 4/10 Marr & Colton. He is the backbone of the organ crew, and his expertise in tuning, voicing, and repairing have made him truly invaluable to the organization. Before every major performance, Tom gives the Marr & Colton his special "touch" to make it concert-ready. In his spare time, of which there is very little, he works on his own home pipe installation in Deshler, Ohio, about an hour from Toledo. Tom is employed as a professional organ builder by the Lima Pipe Organ Company.

Our September meeting presented the theatre organ in a whole new light. Club member, Bill Coine at the theatre organ console, teamed-up with an old friend, Les Barger, at the piano, for an unusual afternoon duo. Les, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, played piano and organ professionally for more than half a century, including years with big bands such as Hal Kemp, Abe Lyman, Bunny Berrigan, Ted Weems, and Coon Sanders.

(continued...)

**TOLEDO cont.**

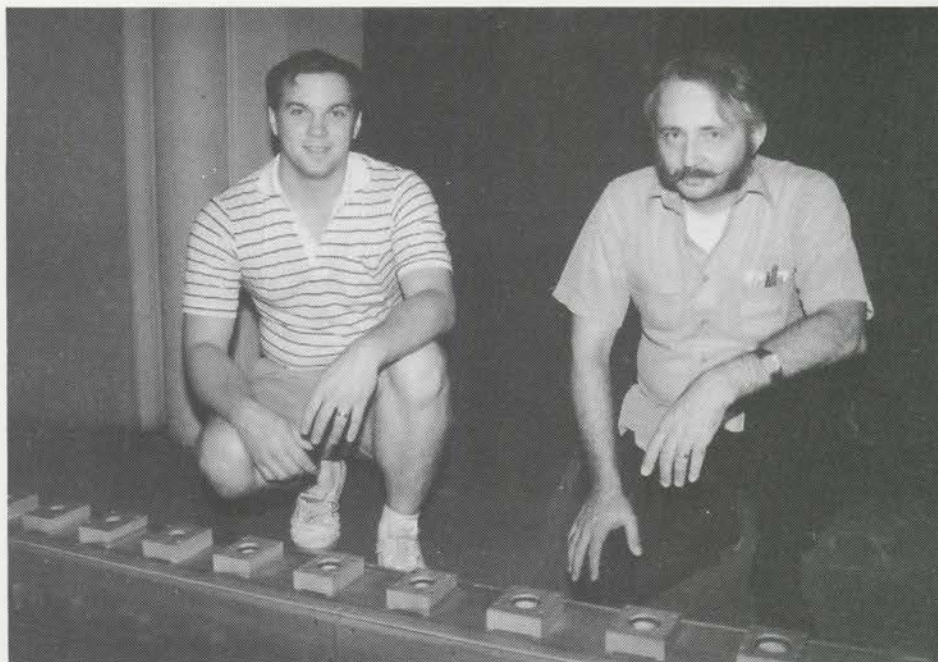
During the 30s when the bands played the theatres, Les would slip into the house in the mornings and work out at the console before the band performed that evening. He also filled-in here and there for theatre organists around the country, including a few evenings at the New York Paramount.

His piano style is extremely reminiscent of the late Carman Cavallaro and Frankie Carle, and he thoroughly entertained the crowd — one of the year's largest — with his arrangements of autumn songs like "September in the Rain," and "A Faded Summer Love" as well as standards like "Moonlight Cocktail," and a few Frankie Carle classics including "But, Oh What It Seemed To Me," and an obscure Carle original called "Roses in the Rain," which thoroughly "stumped" the audience. Bill and Les played the piano/organ duo professionally for several years in clubs around Toledo just after Les's retirement in mid-



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DEEMS TAYLOR, 1937



Crew consultant Tom Densel (left) and TATOS President Mike Hornyak prepare to install a new Open Diapason lower octave chest hand-built by Tom.

1960. Open console followed the program, with long-time member, Frank Hayes, and Charlie Parker, one of the club's founders who helped restore the organ, providing the entertainment. Charlie also donated a hand-crafted special decorative musical symbol from his woodworking shop for a drawing.

Throughout the year, TATOS promotes concerts, activities, and events sponsored by our sister chapters in the tri-

state area and as far away as Chicago. There's always room in the TATOS monthly newsletter to report any and all theatre organ-related happenings. We welcome information and schedules from all chapters. There is a small core of dedicated TATOS enthusiasts who follow artists and theatre organ installations throughout the country. If we're not on your mailing list, please include us!

Bill Coine

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## VALLEY OF THE SUN

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No — we do not all flee from the desert in the summertime! The home of Bill and Joan McFadden was crowded with chapter members for an August 4 potluck. Joy and Geoffrey Knaggs were visiting from Perth, Australia. Geoff opened the musical portion of the afternoon with a few numbers on the Kimball organ. He was followed by several chapter members playing some of their favorite tunes. Lew Williams assisted with registrations and played "Happy Birthday" for President Nancy Resch. There was plenty of food, including birthday cake for all.

Our September 8 meeting was held at the mountainside home of Tom and Beverly Fizzell. Chapter member Johnny Harris was the guest artist, providing us with an eclectic musical program. His "Happy Holidays" medley and "squirrel" song were fun. Everyone will probably remember his opening number, "Popcorn." The Fizzells served freshly popped popcorn made in their movie-theatre style popcorn popper!

*Madeline LiVolsi*



*Tom and Beverly Fizzell and their popcorn machine. MLV photo*

## WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio

216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

Our members gathered on July 27 in the unsuspecting little town of New Springfield, Ohio, for a tour of David May's Hummel Gift Shop. We discovered that by opening a door to the 30,000 square foot shop, one enters Hummel — and theatre organ — Heaven! Room after room is filled with dolls, ornaments, china, and crystal to delight the senses. Highlighting all of this is a newly installed Allen Theatre III digital MIDI-equipped organ. After the shop closed, we were introduced to Walt Strony who put the Allen through its paces with favorites including "Tico Tico," "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," and a delightful finale — variations on "I Wish I Were an Oscar Meyer Weiner." We wish to thank David May, Walt Strony, and Gerroro's Allen Organ Sales for coordinating a fascinating afternoon.

Chapter members and friends met at the Canton Palace Theatre in Canton, Ohio, on August 11 for a private concert by resident organist Bob Beck at the 3/9 Kilgen.

Originally built in 1925, the 1500-seat theatre has recently been restored to match its initial appearance as closely as possible, including the giraffes molded into the walls and clouds projected onto the ceiling. It is hoped that restorations will continue and encompass restoring the organ and adding a Post Horn, as this instrument is still frequently used when films are shown. Selections that afternoon included "Charmaine," "Ain't Misbehavin'," and "Hooray for Hollywood."

Several members attended the Second Annual Three Stooges Festival held September 6-8 at Akron, Ohio's Civic Theatre. Along with vintage comedy classics, the Festival included a "Buzz-a-Long." More than 1000 attendees were supplied free kazoo's to play along with the 3/13 Wurlitzer beneath the "clouds" and "twinkling stars" of the theatre before each screening.

*Jim Shepherd*

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to:

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*Johnny Harris. MLV photo*

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**DOUBLE** the attendance  
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pipe organ concert?

You can. Just call

**BOB  
RALSTON**

17027 Tennyson Place  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
Ph: (818) 366-3637



### LARGEST CROWD IN TWO YEARS

Bob Ralston's third appearance with us on May 5, 1990 drew the largest crowd we've had in two years.

*Bob & Shirley Flowers, PATOS*

### 2200 HAPPY PATRONS

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

*Peter Botto, Mgr. OAKLAND PARAMOUNT*

### DOUBLE THE ATTENDANCE

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

*Floyd Broussard, Chairman, SETCATOS*