



Dr. Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Walker, Mrs. Ray Lawson, John Hollywell, Don Hyde, and Wendy Lawson (on bench, foreground) all seem to be enjoying former theatre organist Phil Savage at Lawson's 4/20 Wurlitzer.

Although not the largest theatre organ home installation, the Wurlitzer owned by Dr. Ray Lawson of Montreal is one of the most interesting installations to be reported by THEATRE ORGAN.

Actually, this instrument is a composite of two instruments. One was originally installed in the Strand Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin; the other in the Tiffin Theatre in Chicago. The Strand organ was first bought by a Chicago recording firm. However, the relay system and the console were damaged by fire. The relay was completely rebuilt and the console was replaced by the one from the Tiffin Theatre organ. The composite organ was put up for sale by the recording company, and Dr. Lawson lost no time in negotiating for it.

The fact that it wouldn't fit in his house caused no concern - just a slight delay while an extension was built on the residence for the pipe work. According to the information on the stoplist, the organ now stands at 4m/20r comprising 1,423 pipes controlled by 156 stopkeys. It will be noted upon examination of the stoplist that only 12 ranks appear on the great manual. However, the organ is well coupled, giving it extreme versatility. The installation of the organ was handled by Bill Hansen of Portland, Oregon, and required about

six months to complete (ED. NOTE: We believe the word, "Complete", is a misnomer....They're never complete!)

The career of Dr. Ray Lawson is as interesting and versatile as the Wurlitzer. Son and namesake of Hon. Dr. Ray Lawson, former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and former Canadian Consul General in New York, he was born in April of 1914 near London, Ontario. His early education was all obtained in Ontario, with both his B.A. and M.D. received at the University of Western Ontario. After internship, he practiced in a Northern Ontario lumber, mine and railroad town. Of this, Dr. Lawson says, "I did everything from, and including, pulling teeth and delivering babies." He later studied in England and Vienna. From this, Dr. Lawson signed on as ship's doctor on the Empress of Britain. At the time World War II started, he was in Canada and signed up with an ambulance corps outfit in the Canadian Army. After a few months of this, he changed over to the R.C.A.F., setting up hospitals throughout Canada. Shortly after getting into the service, he married his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude. The Lawsons had three children. (Mrs. Gertrude Lawson passed away about five years ago.) After the war, Dr. Lawson opened an office for private practice. His particular interest as a doctor

UNUSUAL WURLITZER in MONTREAL

is in cancer. About half of his time is spent doing research. This has taken him through the far reaches of the Arctic many times, studying malignancies in the Eskimo population of the far north.

Besides Dr. Lawson's intense interest in medical research and pipe organs, he has been raising Beagles for many years, and has one of the largest libraries in the world concerning this breed of dog. He also has a large collection of organ recordings, as well as books on pipe organ buildings, etc.

Dr. Lawson is married to Dr. Anne Richardson, an anaesthetist at the Royal Victoria Hospital.



Ray Lawson relays, Wurlitzer augmented with Reiser.

theatre organ



Solo Chamber of Ray Lawson Organ

ORCHESTRAL (3rd Manual)

- 16 Tibia Clausa
- 8 English Horn
- 8 Trumpet
- 8 Diaphonic Diapason
- 8 Tibia Clausa
- 8 Vox Humana
- 8 Krumet
- 8 Kinura
- 8 Clarinet
- 8 Saxophone
- 8 Viole d'Orchestra
- 8 Oboe Horn
- 8 Quintadena
- 8 Concert Flute
- 4 Piccolo
- 4 Viol
- 4 Flute
- 2 Piccolo (Tibia)
- 2 Fifteenth (String)
- 2 Piccolo
- Glockenspiel
- Orchestral Sub Octave
- Orchestral Octave
- Solo to Orchestral

SOLO (Top Manual)

- 16 Tibia Clausa
- 8 English Horn
- 8 Harmonic Tuba
- 8 Trumpet
- 8 Tibia Clausa
- 8 Tibia Clausa Minor
- 4 Harmonic Flute
- 8 Krumet
- 8 Kinura
- 8 Clarinet
- 8 Saxophone
- 8 Solo String
- 8 Oboe Horn
- 8 Quintadena
- 4 Tibia Clausa
- Cathedral Chimes
- Xylophone
- Glockenspiel
- Orchestra Bells
- Solo Sub Octave
- Solo Octave

EFFECTS

Surf, Bird No. 1, Surf No. 2, Fire Gong, Steamboat Whistle, Auto Horn, Horse Trot, Tom Tom, Oriental Gong, Crash Cymbal

MAIN CHAMBER

- Quintadena
- Clarinet
- Concert Flute
- Diaphonic Diapason
- Viole d'Orchestra
- Viole Celeste
- Krumet
- Salicional
- Voix Celeste (TC)
- Tibia Clausa Minor (TC)
- Vox Humana
- Harp
- Bird Whistle No. 2
- Chrysoglott

SOLO CHAMBER

- Kinura
- Saxophone
- Brass Trumpet
- Harmonic Tuba
- English Horn
- Oboe Horn
- Solo String
- Tibia Clausa
- Harmonic Flute
- Glockenspiel
- Sleigh Bells
- Xylophone
- Cathedral Chimes
- All non-tonal percussions

SPECIFICATIONS OF RAY LAWSON WURLITZER
AND STOP TAB LAYOUT

PEDAL	4 Octave Celeste (Viol)	
16 Tuba Profunda	4 Salicet	
16 Diaphone	4 Octave Celeste (Cel)	
16 Tibia Clausa	4 Flute	
16 String Bass	4 Vox Humana	
16 Bourdon	2-2/3 Twelfth	
8 Harmonic Tuba	2 Piccolo	
8 Diaphonic Diapason	Harp	
8 Tibia Clausa	Chrysoglott	
8 Cello	Chrysoglott Octave	
8 Flute	Accomp. Sub Octave	
4 Flute	Accomp. Octave	
Bass Drum	Orchestral to Accomp.	
Kettle Drum	Solo to Accomp.	
Triangle	Snare Drum	
Cymbal	Tambourine	
Accomp. to Pedal	Castanets	
Orchestral to Pedal	Chinese Block	
Great to Pedal	8 Solo to Accomp. (PIZZICATO)	
Solo to Pedal		
16 Tuba Profunda	GREAT	
(PIZZICATO)	16 Tuba Profunda	
ACCOMPANIMENT	16 Diaphone	4 Octave Celeste (Viol)
16 Contra Viol	16 Tibia Clausa	4 Salicet
8 Harmonic Tuba	16 Contra String (TC)	4 Octave Celeste (Cel)
8 Diaphonic Diapason	16 Bourdon	4 Flute
8 Tibia Clausa	16 Vox Humana (TC)	2-2/3 Twelfth (Tibia)
8 Vox Humana	8 Harmonic Tuba	2-2/3 Twelfth
8 Krumet	8 Diaphonic Diapason	2 Piccolo
8 Clarinet	8 Tibia Clausa	1-3/5 Tierce
8 Solo String	8 Tibia Clausa Minor	Harp
8 Viole d'Orchestra	8 Clarinet	Sleigh Bells
8 Viol Celeste	8 Solo String	Xylophone
8 Salicional	8 Viole d'Orchestra	Glockenspiel
8 Voix Celeste	8 Viol Celeste	Orchestra Bells
8 Oboe Horn	8 Salicional	Chrysoglott
8 Quintadena	8 Voix Celeste	Great Sub Octave
8 Concert Flute	8 Concert Flute	Great Octave
8 Vox Humana	8 Vox Humana	Orchestral to Great Sub Octave
4 Piccolo	4 Clarion	Orchestral to Great Unison
4 Viol	4 Octave	Orchestral to Great Octave
	4 Piccolo	Solo to Great
	4 Viol	Solo to Great (PIZZICATO)