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28 YEARS AGO

(From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, March 31, 1934).

"A special feature of the RKO Palace bill is the double-console playing of a noted theatre organ team, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Crawford. Their performances won much favor from the audience. At one console, Mr. Crawford opened with "Trees", playing alone. His interpretation was sympathetic and melodically appealing, and it had feeling for the text. At the other side of the pit, located on the stage, Mrs. Crawford appeared at another console. She began her arrangement of 'Dinah', which she did with capital rhythm and sprightliness. They joined finally in duet playing a medley of the finer waltzes, and delighted with individual touches."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 to cover 1962 dues.

For some time I have been planning to write and suggest that THEATRE ORGAN contain some practical aids, sketches, etc. for installing organs in homes, how-to-do-it articles, and suggestions as to playing theatre organs, with particular emphasis on registration. In this latter connection I am thinking in terms of present-day organists who have done church work but have not had any theatre organ experience. It occurs to me that some of the theatre organ masters could make a most worthwhile contribution and enhance the interest in theatre organs.

About a year ago we bought the 3m/15r Wurlitzer that was formerly in the Paramount at Atlanta, Ga. Unfortunately, the brass trumpet, brass sax and part of the percussions are missing. Should you hear of an available brass sax or post horn or tuned sleigh bells, would appreciate hearing from you, though I know you must have dozens of similar requests.

After seven long months we have finally completed a 1500 square foot addition to our home to house our "toy". We have a 25' x 35' music room and two 12' x 15' chambers, all with cathedral ceiling ranging from 13' to 18'. The room is very "live", and we are now eager to reassemble the organ.

Thank you for the splendid job you, Mrs. James and the others are doing for the cause.

Vincent Rohloff, Dallas, Texas

ELECTION RESULTS

Following are the results of the recent voting for members of the Board of Directors: R. Simonton, 301; G. Kibbee, 298; R. Nelson, 289; G. Carter, 296; F. Killinger, 283; E. Young, 4; and J. Kearns, 2.

There was one vote for each of the following: Bud Abel, Fred Clapp, Chuck Baker, Vern Gregory, Ben Hall, Jesse Crawford, Reiny Delzer, Harry Jorgensen, Doug Erdman, Mike Cahill, Jim Ells, Larry Vanucci, Dick Liebert, Harvey Heck, Sal Cargill, Kay MacAbee, John Strader, Tom Hazelton, Dick Villeman, George Wright and Lorin Whitney.

Following in answer to Ed Lustig letter (THEATRE ORGAN, Winter 1961-62)

I am familiar with all three installations which you mention in your letter. As a boy of 14 I was privileged to play for practice upon both the Plaza Wurlitzer, which incidentally, is a 3m/8r including tuned sleigh bells in the percussion section, and the Robert Morton you purchased from the Fox Circuit.

If you have not heard your organ yet, may I be permitted to tell you it is quite lovely (especially the flutes), and while it was "smothered" behind curtains when in the theatre it was still a powerful sound.

The Plaza organ has been reinstalled in the Conservatory in mint condition which is remarkable.

There are two other remaining installations here in town, both of which I have used very recently in public. One is a 3m/12r Kimball in the Empire Theatre (formerly, Main St.). The second is the Robert Morton referred to in your letter (Loew's State).

There are many legends concerning this Morton, some of which range to the 43 ranks you mentioned and a unification to 500 stop tablets. The organ is actually a 4m/20r at most; 6 of these ranks do not function at the present time. It is a magnificent instrument, nevertheless.

If you should visit Kansas City and wish to see either or both of these remaining organs, I will be most happy to try and arrange it for you.

Guy Gillette, Jr. K.C., Mo.

theatre organ

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OF THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

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- 1960 Fanny Wurlitzer
- 1961 Mel Doner

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