

the first staff organist for Station WIL, having designed its Wicks studio organ. He traveled many states for the International Harvester Company in a touring road show using his concert Hammond, and played a stint for Walt Disney at famed Disneyland and for many other

touring shows too numerous to mention. More recently, being semi-retired, he limited his activities to substitute church work, teaching, and occasional banquet work. His infectious personality and hearty enthusiasm for organ music and the cause of the organization

were a never ending source of encouragement to those of us who knew him. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Mary, and his family.

Edgar 'Ned' Lustig

WESTERN RESERVE CHAPTER

Chairman - Duane D. Arey, 215

East 206 St., Cleveland 23, Ohio.

Secretary - Clayton D. George,
20101 Beachview Dr., Cleveland 17,
Ohio.



Western Reserve members at a recent meeting gather 'round the Wurlitzer 240 Special (ex Uptown Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio) now installed in the home of Don Wheeler, shown seated. Standing L to R are Franklin Shoop, Duane Arey, and Don Borden.



Bulletin board of Western Reserve Chapter.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Continued from Page 21)

include the following items:-

One Wurlitzer reservoir, 20" by 30" complete with 4 - 25# springs, hooks, etc.

One small Wurlitzer Tremolo.

10' to 15' of 2½" galvanized duct, and at least three 2½" adjustable elbows.

10' to 15' of 4" galvanized duct and at least three 4" adjustable elbows.

4 dozen pan head sheet metal screws 3/4" x 10 to screw on flanges.

3 square feet of 1/8" cork gasket.

Miscellaneous round head wood screws as needed, and wire to connect tremolo electrically.

(On method Number 2 only) One 7" x 7" x 9" Wurlitzer Wind Junction box, or equivalent.

THE SANTA FE'S MAESTRO OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER

A neighborhood of Wilmette, Illinois, was badly shaken last year when several coffin crates were deposited on the lawn of the Russell Joseph residence. They didn't realize the contents were pipes for a theatre pipe organ, and that Russell Joseph was an enthusiastic booster of this type of music maker.

The delivery of the coffin crates to Mr. Joseph was the culmination of a dream, (or nightmare, depending on your point of view), for owning a theatre organ had been his idea of heaven on earth for more years than he cares to state.

It all started back in the glorious days before the arrival of talking pictures. As a child, Russell collected organ catalogs as others collected pictures of athletes of the day. He spent many hours investigating the organ manufacturers, such as Kilgen and Wicks, whose factories were near his boyhood home. After taking a few organ lessons he became organist for his church, and spent a summer with Milton Slosser learning the intricacies of the organ in the Missouri Theatre, St. Louis.

As the years passed, Mr. Joseph followed his career as an executive with the Santa Fe Railroad, while his dream of pipe organs lay dormant until one day in 1960 when his son, Fred, a student at the University of Wyoming, called and advised that the old pipe organ in the auditorium was being replaced. He wondered if Dad would like to enter a

theatre organ

Russ Joseph and WurliTzer

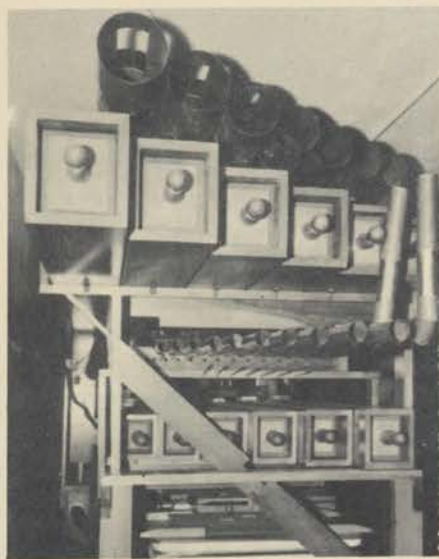
bid. Upon learning the organ was a small Wurlitzer, Russell sent in a low bid which was apparently forgotten, in fact, he was very surprised when two years later his son called again to tell him the bid had been accepted. It had been placed so long ago that it was hard to remember what the whole thing was all about.

Son Fred dismantled the organ while father Russell arranged with the railroad for time off to go to Cheyenne to see his purchase and to make it ready for transporting back to Illinois. Upon his arrival and after looking at the thousands of parts scattered across the stage, Mr. Joseph claims he had a sinking feeling, almost as if he had inherited the entire roster of retired steam locomotives from the Santa Fe. After recovering from the shock, father and son began the task of packing the Wurlitzer for shipment, which included the obtaining of coffin crates from a local mortuary.

The organ itself was originally installed in the Roark Theatre, La Junta, Colorado, and was obtained by the University of Wyoming in the early thirties.

The reassembly of the Wurlitzer in the Joseph residence became a formidable project, as the only possible location for the pipework was in the basement, which boasted seven-foot ceilings. The solution was simple though unorthodox. All the base pipes were racked up horizontally, while the main chest was placed as close to the floor as possible. The stair risers from first to second floor of the house became the speaking grilles.

The countless difficulties encountered were all resolved in time for Mr. Joseph to play carols last Christmas on his own "Mighty Wurlitzer". With Mr. Joseph caressing the keys of the Wurlitzer, and the Super Chief being reported as on time, you can be sure everyone listening felt all was right with the world.



This is the way Russ Joseph had to install the Bourdon and Diapason due to limited ceiling clearance.

Summer 1963



Russell Joseph at console of his WurliTzer, Wilmette, Illinois.



Russ Joseph and son Fred pose with their WurliTzer pipework.



Toy counter on left, harp on right, with pipework in background, Joseph basement.