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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Published monthly by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society, a non-profit organization
furthering the appreciation, preservation and use of the Theatre Pipe Organs of yesteryear

Volume 14 No.12

December 2003

Put on your best holiday finery and come to the

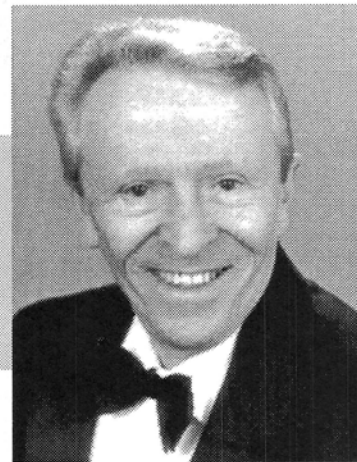
Annual PSTOS **Holiday Party**



Featuring our own

Wally Stevenson

*A Special Holiday Program of Organ Favorites
On the PSTOS Theatre Pipe Organ*



- **PLUS** there'll be special Member Cameo Performances by Clint Meadway joined by Halie Dodrill at the piano, Bill Keller, and Jo Ann Evans while you enjoy the famous PSTOS Holiday Buffet Table! • And there'll be door prizes!

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2:00 PM
Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

Admission is FREE—HOWEVER please bring food!
Yes! Your ticket is a small plate of finger food for the famous PSTOS Holiday Buffet.

NOTE: If your last name begins with A-H, please bring sweets. If your last name begins with I-Z, please bring non-sweets such as small sandwiches, veggie plate, deviled eggs, etc.

A very brief Annual Meeting will precede the festivities, with election and installation of 2004 officers.

Please see page 6 for DRIVE DIRECTIONS

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Published monthly by
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 N.E. 191st St.
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

OFFICERS

President—Clint Meadway, 360-805-1619
Toll-free 1-877-843-0953
Past Pres.—Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859
Vice President—Bill Keller, 360-456-8269
Secretary—Bob Zat, 206-329-1826
Treasurer—Norman Miller, 206-784-7154
Board Members
Carl Dodrill, 206-236-0067
Jackie Cedarholm, 206-774-4336
Andy Crow, 360-357-8939
Diane Whipple, 253-856-1156

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Haller Lake Keys—Bob Zat
Franklin High School Liaison
Jackie Cedarholm, 206-774-4336
Sunshine Chairman
Diane Whipple, 253-856-1156
Hospitality, H.L.C.C.
Ellen Sullivan, 206-365-7554

Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting non-PSTOS theatre organ events in the "Other Events" column of the two Pipelines immediately preceding the event, providing Pipeline editors receive sufficient prior written notification. Venue, artist, type of event, date, and contact information will comprise the included information.

Advertising in the Pipeline

Classified-type ads for member-owned electronic, electric, or pipe organs, and/or pipe organ parts, will be published at no charge. Please limit copy to include brief description, contact name and phone number. Prices will not be listed. Ads may be edited for content and length. Mail ad copy to address above. Other advertising is not accepted.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Gotta tell you that you are missing out if you haven't taken in a Silent Movie Monday at the Seattle Paramount. House organist Dennis James provides a most satisfying musical experience. If you aren't into silent movies, just close your eyes and enjoy the music! Nothing beats hearing a theatre pipe organ in its natural environment. Many thanks to the volunteers who "cipher sit" the Wurlitzer and staff the PSTOS table at these events.

The Robert Morton console for Franklin High School has been sitting in Carl Dodrill's shop much too long. This is a call for volunteers to help ready the console for installation on Franklin's Kimball theatre organ. You can contact Carl at the Pipe Organ Foundation (206-236-3492) for scheduling and directions. In addition to the mechanical work, there is discussion about refinishing the console in the school colors. This is a chance to have some fun with fellow PSTOS members as well as contributing effort to a worthwhile project.

Our national parent, the American Theatre Organ Society, has just announced a bunch of competitions and a couple of opportunities (see page 6). There is a competition for hobbyists (non-professionals), for young organists, and one for organists of all ages playing electronic instruments. There is an opportunity to have a coaching session with an internationally known concert artist, and Bill Irwin is asking for help with several columns he writes for the Journal. You can read all about it and get all the rules and application forms at our website, www.pstos.org

Our annual holiday bash is coming up very soon and promises to be great fun with lots of organ music. Come out for the afternoon, help out with the "chores" if you're willing, and enjoy a good time with food, fellowship and music. See you Sunday, December 7 at Haller Lake.

...Clint Meadway, President

Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy! For a one year membership, send a \$15 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 7-digit ZIP code, and your email address to **Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade, Seattle, WA 98117-2527.**

PSTOS Coming Events

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party
Sunday, December 7, 2PM

Leap Day Special Event

Enjoy a once-every-four-years Leap Day special fun event. Details yet to come!
Sunday, February 29, 2004

Home Party

Another fun home event. Details still in process. Stay tuned.
Sunday, March 28, 2004

Tony Fenelon Program!

Another wonderful afternoon of theatre organ pops at Gig Harbor! Aren't we fortunate to have this outstanding performer return! Tony is looking forward to once again seeing all his good friends in PSTOS. This will be a bangup event. Make it your Mother's Day celebration.
Sunday, May 16, 2004

Dave Wickerham Program!

We're excited to announce Dave has been booked for a terrific organ pops program at Gig Harbor next September. A midwest U.S. organist, Dave has just completed a tour of Australia and N.Z. to rave reviews.
Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004

Ragmatazz sold out early!

Your Board is so sorry there were so many folks wanting tickets for Ragmatazz who had to be turned away. About 50 in all! Barbara and Raymond have asked that we limit attendance to no more than 300 as they feel that is the highest comfortable number of folks the home can accommodate. As a rule there seem to be just about that number wanting to attend, but with Ragmatazz being a double benefit, promoted to two groups, it filled up quickly. We're delighted to have a full house, but sorry some folks were disappointed.

Be sure to order your tickets early for the Tony Fenelon concert next May!

Exciting news from Gig Harbor's 'Wurlitzer Manor'

Now available for special event or vacation rental, the three homes of **Wurlitzer Manor & Gardens** may well be the perfect location for a Pacific Northwest vacation getaway, family reunion, wedding, or corporate retreat.

Barbara and Raymond are working to make their beautiful estate available to rent for special events.

The *Manor Suite* is located in the main house and has its own private entrance, two bedrooms, large view deck, galley, and living room with entertainment and business center.

The lovely fully furnished *Wurlitzer Garden Home* and the *Orchard Home* are available for weekend or week-long vacation rentals.

A stay of two nights or more entitles you and your party to a tour of the public spaces of *Wurlitzer Manor* and an exciting demonstration of the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.

For complete information, visit www.wurlitzermanor.com or phone 1-888-222-1789.

And best PSTOS wishes to Barbara and Raymond for a big success with this new venture!

Do you have photos, programs, articles, or other memorabilia from events you've attended at Gig Harbor?

Barbara and Raymond are so grateful for all the stories that they hear during events about the times people have spent enjoying the home and the pipe organ concerts, that they wish to put together Memory Books with articles, programs and photos relative to the history of the home and the organ.

Toward that end, they invite anyone who has such material to donate to the project to send it to them and please to include notes which describe as much about the event, the photo, and any impressions that accompanied their attendance.

It is possible that they may wish to compile a book or booklet to benefit PSTOS from these photos, stories and memorabilia! Wouldn't that be fun!??

If you have items to contribute to this fun project, please send them to:

**Wurlitzer Manor & Gardens
PMB- 276
5114-E Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335**

Nominations for 2004 Officers, Board Members

The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate of candidates for 2004 Officer and Board Member positions, plus several new liaison positions. The slate will be presented for election December 7th at the annual membership meeting.

President— Clint Meadway
Vice President—Tom Blackwell
Secretary—Bob Zat
Treasurer— Norman Miller
One-year Board Positions—
Jackie Cedarholm, Diane Whipple
Two-year Board Positions—
Dan Warner, Bill Keller
Liaison to St. Columban in Yelm and Washington Center—
Andy Crow
Liaison to Pipe Organ Foundation & A.G.O.—Carl Dodrill

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

PIPE ORGAN Terminology

Since this column began in December 2002, the following subjects have been discussed and we hope it has been interesting for our many members:

- **Manual**
- **Rank**
- **Console**
- **Preset pistons/combination action**
- **Classic vs. Theatre organs**
- **Swell shades**
- **Expression pedals and vibrato**
- **Percussions**
- **en Chamade pipes**
- **Tremolos**
- **Mitered pipes**

Your editors have run out of subject matter! If there are pipe-organ terms we've overlooked and that you would like explained, please be in touch—

Pipeline Editors
6521 NE 191st St.
Kenmore WA 98028-3453
Or by email at—
rj.evans@verizon.net

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

CARLO CURLY in concert at All Pilgrims Christian Church.

Nov. 16, 4pm Corner of Broadway and Republican on Capitol Hill. For more information visit www.allpilgrims.org or phone 425-869-6651.

DOROTHY WATSON at the Wurlitzer with BARRY RECTOR, vocalist, at Bellingham's Mount Baker Theatre, Sunday November 23, 2PM – MBTOS

OR HOKUM HALL THEATRE ORGAN HAPPENINGS, phone 206-937-3613, or check the web at www.hokumhall.org

Lost and Found items from two Haller Lake events...

Found:

A dark blue (maybe even black) zippered sweat shirt with blue patches at Haller Lake on October 5.

Lost:

A pair of prescription reading glasses at Haller Lake on October 5.

Lost:

An engraved Cross award pen at the February program.

If you know the present whereabouts of the lost items or can better describe the found item, contact Clint@PSTOS or call toll free 877-843-0953. Thanks.

Pages From The Past..

Roller skating rinks were popular entertainment centers in the late 1940s into the 1950s. The Puget Sound area boasted a number of busy rinks, one of which is featured here.

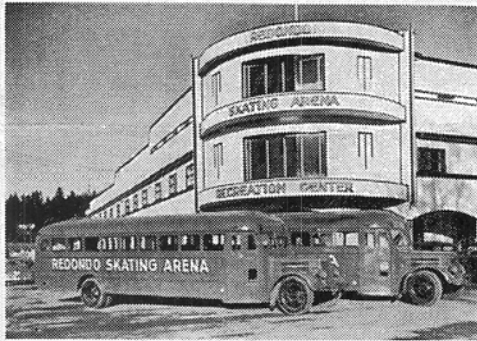
A circular promoting Redondo Beach Skating Arena provides a fascinating look at this once popular activity.

In directing this circular to you, we take pleasure in presenting a program that serves a recreational need, and in many cases can enrich your club or organization treasury very substantially. The location of the Redondo Skating Arena, (one mile west of the Seattle-Tacoma Hiway at South 272nd

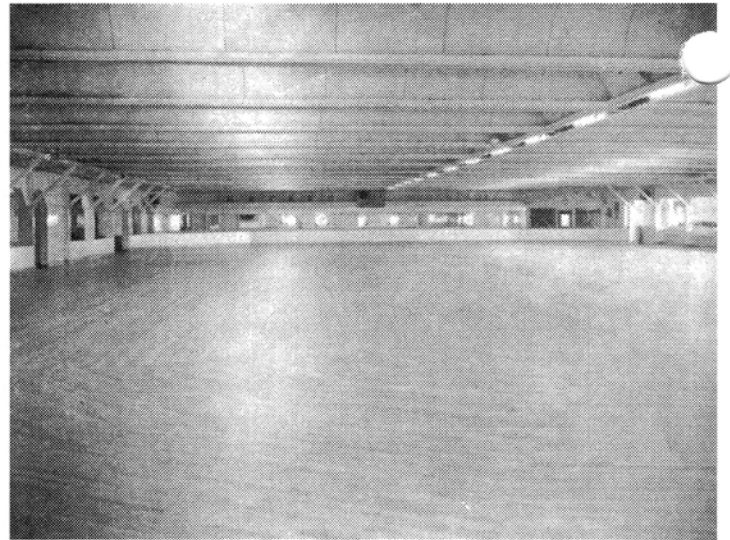
or 296th St.) being 20 miles south of Seattle and 12 miles north of Tacoma and only a few miles from Renton, Kent, Auburn, Enumclaw, Sumner, Buckley, Dash Point, Browns Point, Milton, Highline, Burien and DesMoines, makes it a central location for gatherings of groups of the same order to meet for skating parties.

If you have never visited the Arena, words can hardly describe that which you actually see. Upon entering the Arena you are immediately impressed with the atmosphere of refinement as you face the Box Office, Entrance and Exit Doors made of mahogany setting on a rich, heavily padded lobby carpet that extends over 100 feet past the Sales, Check and Skate Room windows. Mirrors on your right the entire distance could easily reflect your outward expression of surprise and satisfaction after viewing the large smooth skating surface, the beautiful lighting arrangement and decorative ceiling.

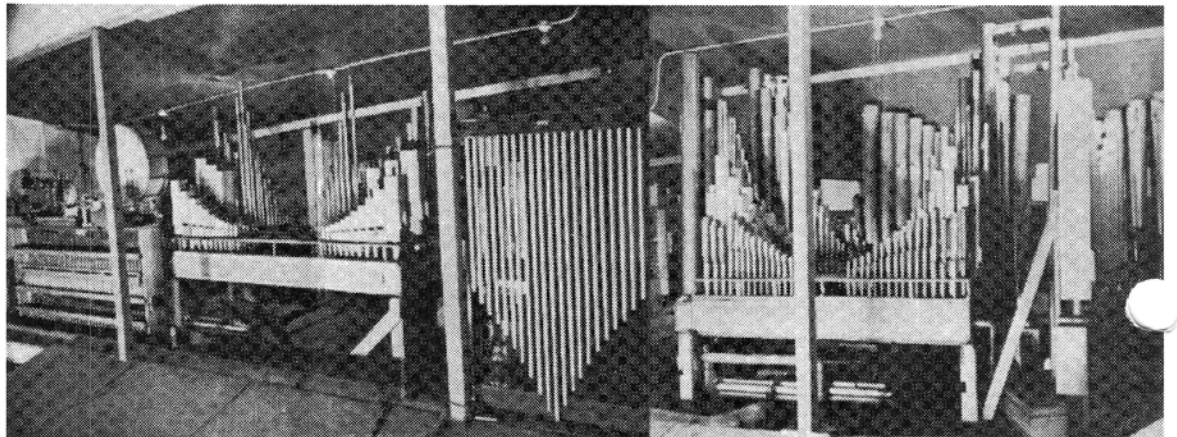
REDONDO BEACH SKATING ARENA



Winter and Summer
RECREATIONAL PROGRAM



Shown above is the cover of a circular promoting the Arena. UPPER RIGHT is the large skating floor. LOWER RIGHT is the pipe display similar to those appearing twenty years later in our pizza parlors. These pipes are not behind glass, however. The advertising copy on the inside of the circular tells many details about the interior of the building and the area served by the Arena.



Pages From The Past...continued

In the large windows of the Sales Room you may see skating equipment for most every need at the very lowest prices. The Check Room is operated for the convenience of the patrons without charge and in the Skate room, personal service, courteous treatment and good equipment are outstanding.

The pride of the Redondo Arena is the big Wurlitzer Pipe organ recently installed. This organ is the largest to be found in any Roller Rink in the world. Its beautiful rhythmic skating music that carries you along with so little effort is played by one of the most outstanding organists on the Pacific Coast. To the thousands of skaters who have enjoyed his fine music, Eved Oliver needs no introduction. To the new patrons visiting the Arena he likes to have them call him "Shorty." He is seated at the big four manual console close to the passing skaters and is always willing to play requests when they do not conflict with the skating program.

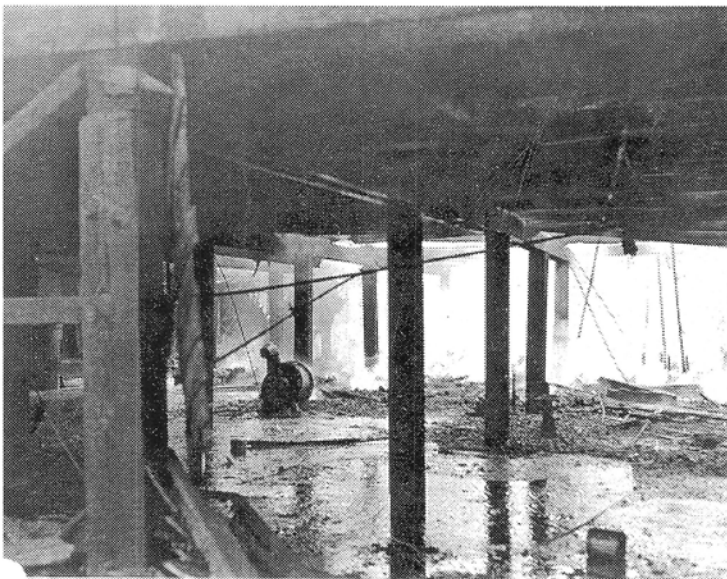


The Redondo Beach Organ—The 4-manual 10-rank pipe organ built by Seattle's Balcom & Vaughan was installed in the Redondo Arena in July, 1948. The console was a Balcom & Vaughan creation, most likely using a Wurlitzer console as a foundation. It appeared to have been constructed without a combination action as no pistons are shown between the manuals. Many of the component parts of this organ are Wurlitzer but the sketchy records available today indicate that a large portion of the Robert Morton theatre organ from the Egyptian Theatre in Seattle's University district became part of this organ. The Redondo Beach Skating Rink along with its organ was totally destroyed by fire in 1955. (See photos below.) Fires of undetermined origin in the early 1950s took a heavy toll on skating rinks in the Puget Sound area. Numerous wonderful theatre organs were lost.

Washington and Oregon were havens for skating rinks with theatre pipe organs in the 1940s and '50s and even into the '60s. Balcom & Vaughan's records show that the firm installed fifteen and there could easily have been another ten to fifteen that were installed by other organ firms.

Today in the U.S. There are only two roller skating rinks with live pipe organ accompaniment still operating. The

granddaddy of them all is the Oaks Rink in Portland. In 2005 "The Oaks" will celebrate its 100th year of continuous operation.



These photos were taken following the Redondo rink fire. Remains of the building's supporting pilings are still standing in the photo above. That's the organ blower left center!



View of the charred remains of the Redondo Rink. A man is checking the rubble.

Annual PSTOS Holiday Party

Drive directions to Haller Lake Community Club

Northbound I-5: Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St., turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) one block to 128th*. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front and rear. **Southbound I-5:** Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Continue where underlined above.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 N.E. 191st
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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Permit #287

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ATOS competitions and opportunities...

HOBBYISTS, TAKE NOTE!

ATOS has announced its 2004 Hobbyist Competition for non-professional organist members ages 22-105. This program was established to help all hobbyist organists to become more familiar with the theatre pipe organ. Every entrant will receive helpful written comments from the judges. The winners will receive plaques awarded at the Annual Convention. The whole idea is to have fun! Entries must be submitted on tape and must be played on a theatre pipe organ. Entries must be sent by April 15, 2004, the same day as your tax return.

No access to pipes? Electronic organ entries are accepted!

If you don't have access to a theatre pipe organ or would prefer to make your tape on an electronic instrument, you need to enter the 2004 Electronic Theatre Organ Competition.

There are three age divisions.

There are three age divisions here, youth 13-21, adult 22-100 and over 100. There will be first, second and third place winners in each division. Prizes will be a Certificate awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet as well as recognition in the Theatre Organ magazine. Entries must be received by March 20, 2004.

Young Theatre Organist Competition

The 2004 Young Theatre Organist Competition also has three age groups, Junior, 13-15; Intermediate, 16-18; and Senior, 19-21. The winner in each category will attend the annual convention and receive a \$300 honorarium. The overall winner will be selected at the convention and receive an additional \$300 plus the opportunity to perform a concert at the 2005 convention in Los Angeles. Entries for this competition must be received by March 20, 2004.

ATOS Mentor Program

The ATOS Mentor Program gives the selected qualifying member of ATOS the opportunity to experience a personal and private coaching session with an internationally known theatre organ concert artist/educator. To qualify, you must send a letter or email telling a few things about yourself and your present abilities at the organ. Your letter must be received by April 15, 2004.

Bill Irwin wants YOUR input for his new articles appearing in the ATOS Journal...

Bill Irwin is seeking help with the three regular feature articles he is now writing for the ATOS Journal. He needs input from ATOS members in the form of 1—comments, suggestions, ideas, etc. about what type of music and educational articles you would like

to see in his features; 2—what musical questions do you have pertaining to performing at the theatre pipe organ? 3—what personalities would you like to see “profiled” in the ATOS Journal? You can send your comments, suggestions and questions directly to Bill at BillIrwinATOS@aol.com or Bill Irwin, 7864 E. Natal Ave., Mesa, AZ 85208-6161.

ATOS has provided us with all of the details and application forms for the above competitions and programs. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE www.pstos.org FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS.

YOU, TOO, can own a theatre pipe organ!

Maybe you have seriously considered a theatre pipe organ for your home, church or place of business, but the cost put you off the track.

Several theatre organs have become available over the last few months at very low prices, including free. These are not Wurlitzer Publix or Fox Specials, but good, solid instruments like Kilgen, Moller, and top flight hybrids.

If you are interested in knowing about these as they become available, get in touch with Carl Dodrill at 206-236-0067 or Clint Meadway toll free at 877-843-0953. But be ready and able to act quickly. These instruments frequently have to be removed in a matter of days.