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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. PSTOS is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Volume 18 No. 11-12

November-December 2007

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

**Have you ordered your tickets? If not, do it now!**

## IMPORTANT!

This is a combined November/December Pipeline. On page 6 you will find all the details about the December 2nd Holiday Party. IT WILL BE YOUR ONLY NOTICE!

PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS ALL-NEW PSTOS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

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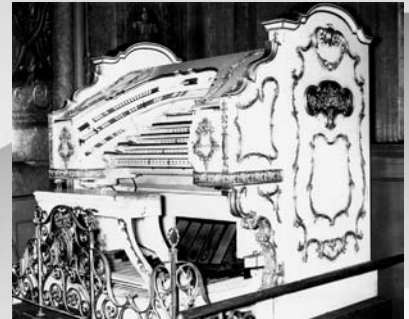
Coming to the Seattle Paramount November 18th

## Old Time Radio Hour

A Benefit/Fund Raiser for Restoration of the Paramount Theatre's Original 1928 Mighty Wurlitzer



Featuring  
**KEN  
DOUBLE**  
At the  
**WURLITZER**



With Reenactment of famous  
**Old Time Radio Programs**

By members of  
**Radio Enthusiasts Puget Sound**  
performing classic radio program re-enactments from the Golden Age of Radio, fun vintage commercials, crooning vocal numbers and more!



**Paramount Theatre, Sun., Nov. 18. 1:30, Tickets \$20**

**STG** SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP

All proceeds will benefit the Paramount's Wurlitzer Restoration Fund

Questions? Phone 206-784-9203 and leave message—your call will be returned.

Or check the PSTOS website at [www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org)

To order tickets, please use the Ticket Order Form you received last month.

Or send your check payable to STG to PSTOS Tickets, 9717 Dayton AV N, Seattle, WA 98103. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders received after November 12 will be held for pickup at the door. Tickets also available at the door on the day of the event.

Sponsored jointly by PSTOS and Seattle Theatre Group (Paramount Theatre)

**Don't want to drive or park in downtown Seattle?  
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<http://tripplanner.metrokc.gov/>



## PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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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.

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Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell • Wash. Center—Andy Crow

### 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.

**Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy!** For a one year membership, send a \$20 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 9-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:  
Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,  
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

## PRESIDENT'S Message

Hello PSTOS Friends:

### Fall Benefit/ Fundraiser at the Paramount, November 18

OLD TIME RADIO HOUR is just a few weeks away! This is our annual Fall benefit/fundraiser at the Paramount Theatre and promises to be a highly entertaining event. Radio Enthusiasts Puget Sound (REPS) have assembled a top-notch team of talented voice actors to perform classic radio program reenactments and funny vintage commercials for us. ATOS President Ken Double, himself a radio personality, will be our organist for the day with a generous sampling of theatre pipe organ music on the Paramount's original Publix 1 Mighty Wurlitzer!

Tickets are just \$20 per person (suggested donation) and all proceeds benefit the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer Restoration Fund. Additional tax-deductible contributions above and beyond the ticket price are enthusiastically encouraged if you are able! Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun reminiscences from the golden age of radio.

If you would like to help promote this event at your local church, school or other venue, please visit the PSTOS web site at [www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org). Posters and ticket order forms are available for download. You can print these and distribute them. If you do not have Internet access, please call me at (206) 784-9203 and leave a message. I'll be happy to mail you some posters and ticket order forms!

### Paramount Restoration Update

Following our November 18th "Old Time Radio Hour" program, your PSTOS organ crew will take advantage of a six month window with no organ events scheduled to begin work on windchest and regulator restoration in the organ's "String" chamber. This work will be performed according to the ATOS Endowment Fund proposal submitted earlier this Spring and will involve releathering of three regulators, the five rank wind chest and all offset (bass note) wind



## PSTOS Coming Events

### ◆ KEN DOUBLE at the Seattle Paramount, with "Old Time Radio Hour"

This is the third annual fund raiser for restoration of the Paramount Wurlitzer. A grand event, indeed! Don't miss it! Details on front cover. Use your ticket order form from the last Pipeline. Or get your ticket at the door.

### ◆ All new Holiday Party at Kenyon Hall

The annual PSTOS Holiday Party is moving! A different venue, and a different program! This will be a very special party. Don't miss it!

Sunday, December 2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

chests. The Paramount Theatre Operations staff will also be participating in this work by performing plaster repairs and painting work on the chamber walls and ceiling. If you would like to get involved in this work, please contact me via e-mail at [tom@pstos.org](mailto:tom@pstos.org) or call (206) 784-9203.

### Special PSTOS Holiday Party, December 2

We have a very special Holiday Party planned this year at Kenyon Hall on Sunday December 2nd with veteran theatre organist Bob Mitchell accompanying several holiday-themed silent films. Many of you know that Bob sold out all of his performances last year at Kenyon Hall and we are lucky to have a Sunday show reserved exclusively for PSTOS. Even better, there will be no admission charge(!) for PSTOS members to this event which will include a tasty lunch buffet, beverages and dessert! The day will begin with a short business meeting, year-end retrospective slide show and then on to the movies! If you haven't been to a PSTOS holiday party in a few years, won't you please consider attending? It's a fun way to meet other PSTOS members and to learn of many theatre organ-related activities your Board has been working on. Instructions for RSVP'ing are included elsewhere in this issue.

# Other NW Theatre Organ Events

## ◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found on the web at [www.kenyonhall.org](http://www.kenyonhall.org) or by email at [kenyonhall@earthlink.net](mailto:kenyonhall@earthlink.net)

## ◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at 7PM & Fri/Sat/Sun at 5PM.

## ◆ Columbia River Organ Club

For info and latest news go to [www.croconline.org](http://www.croconline.org)

## ◆ 7th annual Silent Movie Night, Fern Hill Funeral Home, Aberdeen.

Harold Lloyd's "Safety Last," accompanied by Andy Crow on the 1927 Robert Morton Theatre Organ.

There will be two showings on Tuesday, October 30th at 6:30 PM and 9 PM, in the chapel at the funeral home. And the best part is that the admission is FREE!

The Robert Morton was originally installed in the Red Apple Theatre in Omak, WA in 1927. In 1933 it was sold to Mills & Mills Funeral Parlors in Olympia, where it was used for funeral music for the next 66 years. The organ and pipes were then acquired by Lann Copeland in Victoria, BC. He refinished the console and rewired the systems. Having been an employee and an owner of the funeral home in Olympia, consequently the owner of the organ, I was interested in what happened to the Robert Morton after I left the company in 1994. With the help of my good friend, Andy Crow, we negotiated the purchase of the instrument and Andy and I brought the organ to my present funeral home in Aberdeen. With the help of Eric McLeod, the organ was installed in my funeral home, Fern Hill Funeral Home and we have had an annual silent movie night every year since, on the night before Halloween, October 30th.

We have shown "Phantom of the Opera" (twice), "Gold Rush", Hunchback of Notre Dame", "Steamboat Bill Jr." a festival of Laurel and Hardy short films, and one Easter time we had "King of Kings".

Doug Twibell, Fern Hill Funeral Home

## In Memoriam

### Dick Biles

Dick's love of the theatre organ began when he was a teen-ager in the 1950s. At that time he became a friend of PSTOS member Bob Jones, and through this friendship became involved in numerous theatre organ activities in the area. An avid recording enthusiast, he recorded many pipe organs installed in homes and other local venues at the time, as well as a number of well-known local organists.

Later Dick became absorbed in his business and dropped out of the organ scene. Several years ago he reconnected with his old friend Bob Jones, joined PSTOS, and attended many events.

He passed away September 23 at age 70 of pancreatic cancer. His daughter has talked with Bob Jones about her father's recordings, and the possibility of turning them over to PSTOS for archiving.

Sincere sympathy is extended to all of Dick's family and friends.

## Nominating Committee Report

The PSTOS Nominating Committee presents the following slate to be voted upon at the upcoming December Annual Meeting:

**President**, Tom Blackwell  
**Vice President**, Ray Harris  
**Secretary**, Joani Roughton  
**Treasurer**, Norman Miller  
**Board members with one-year terms:**  
Bob McCutchin  
Tom Roughton  
**Board members with two-year terms:**  
Phil Hargiss  
Dave Luttinen

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Most committee chairs have agreed to continue with the only change being Programs. According to the bylaws, the Vice President automatically becomes chair of the Program Committee.

## How many readers remember West Seattle's Granada Organ Loft?...and organist Lou Du Moulin?

**GRANADA ORGAN LOFT**  
5011 California Ave. S.W. in West Seattle  
to present  
**"King of the Keyboards"**  
**Lou Du Moulin**  
**THEATRE PIPE ORGAN CONCERT**  
Saturday Only January 28th  
8:30 P.M. Doors open 7:30 P.M.  
ADMISSION: ADULTS \$2.00, PRE-TEENS .50 incl. tax

Lou's styling is distinctive, unorthodox and brilliant. It will make your evening at the Granada enjoyable. It will include popular, novelty, semi-classical and dramatic numbers.

**TICKETS ON SALE**  
All Bon Marche stores (charge 'em)  
North Aurora: Shoreline Music  
West Seattle:  
Harper's Record Shop  
Vann's Cafe  
West Seattle Music  
Burien: Farmer's Music  
Bellevue: Bell Book & Candle



Note—A very unique installation is now being made at the Granada for this particular concert, Western Electronics Co. Of Seattle is equipping the auditorium with Ampex closed circuit television cameras and equipment. No matter where you sit in the 700 seat theatre you will see close-up pictures of both artist and keyboards from television receivers installed on both sides of the auditorium.

This concert happened 40 years ago, in Jan., 1967.

# Pages From The Past..

From *The Seattle Times*, September 1922

## QUEEN ANNE MOVIE HOUSE TO REOPEN SUNDAY

A surprise awaits Hill residents who go to the Queen Anne Theatre Sunday evening or any evening thereafter. Consistent with his policy to give his patrons the best the market affords, Mr. Steele has spared no expense in remodeling and reequipping his playhouse at Queen Anne and Boston.

### \$10,000 Organ

Perhaps the most important addition to the theatre is the new \$10,000 Robert Morton Concert Auditorium Organ. The organ was originally designed and built for the municipal auditorium at Fresno, Cal., but when Mr. Steele placed his order for an organ and expressed a desire that the instrument be rushed to Seattle, the manufacturers consented to delay delivery of an instrument to Fresno and shipped the specially constructed Robert Morton to Seattle for the Q.A. Theatre.

The organ has more than 600 pipes and also includes a unit comprising everything in the line of traps, drums, bells, xylophones, and cymbals. The voice ranges from very soft to thunder-like loudness. The console comprises three keyboards and a complete series of stops. Miss Cawthorn, talented organist, will preside at the console. The organ was installed under the personal supervision of C. M. Balcom, Superintendent of Construction with Sherman, Clay & Co.

### Redecorated

The theatre has also been completely redecorated under the personal direction of A. Weissenborn, of the Weissenborn Decorating Co., known all along the coast for their theatre decorating. The pictures will be flashed on a new Gardiner Silver Leaf screen installed by B. F. Shearer, Inc., dealers in theatrical equipment. This type of screen is used in all the better theatres throughout the country.

A new heating and ventilating system has been installed by the Washington Sheet Metal Works. This means that Queen Anne residents are going to enjoy the most comfortable and best ventilated picture house in the city. The beautiful drape curtain was purchased from Grunbaum Brothers Furniture Co. The new curtain adds greatly to the appearance of the interior of the theatre.

### Indirect Lighting

The ornamental plaster work framing the stage opening, the artistic light containers and art vases are products of the Architectural Decorating Co., F. J. Han, manager. The indirect lighting system will surely meet with the approval of Hill movie fans. It gives ample light without the irritating glare accompanying direct lighting.

**To Our Patrons---**

It has always been our endeavor to give the residents of Queen Anne Hill the best pictures and music. With the installation of


- A \$10,000 Robert Morton Concert Organ
- A Gardiner Silver Leaf Screen
- A new Heating and Ventilation System

we will be able to offer our customers entertainment on a par with any picture house in Seattle.

Our new heating and ventilating system will insure your comfort while enjoying the picture.

The new decorations, draperies, and drape curtain make for a very cozy, attractive interior.

The new indirect lighting system will please you.



**Queen Anne Theatre**  
W. L. STEELE, Proprietor

QUEEN ANNE and BOSTON GARFIELD 0856

Mr. Steele has spent close to \$10,000 in the remodeling of his picture house. He appreciates the patronage of Hill residents and is reciprocating by making every effort to give them the best community theatre in Seattle.

As for pictures, Mr. Steele announces that future pictures will be even better than those in the past and it is a well known fact that he has been showing most of the better pictures of today. His opening picture Sunday, "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," one of the most talked-of pictures of the day, gives one an idea of the class of pictures to be run.

Capacity houses during the opening week and the weeks following will convince Mr. Steele that his efforts have been

appreciated by those in our community. A man of his progressive ideas is worthy of our support.

**Queen Anne Theatre**  
Queen Anne and Boston Garfield 0856

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SUN.-MON.-TUES., OCT. 1-2-3

**RODOLPH VALENTINO**  
IN "THE FOUR HORSEMEN"

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WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, OCT. 4-5

**"YELLOW MEN AND GOLD"**  
MACK SENNETT COMEDY—"ON PATROL"

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FRIDAY-SATURDAY, OCT. 6-7

**JACK HOLT**  
IN "THE MAN UNCONQUERABLE"

PATHE NEWS CENTURY COMEDY

# Pages From The Past...continued

## The Embassy Theatre (now the Triple Door night club) was a popular venue in 1927...

It appears a 50¢ ticket could be had for 25¢!

The Embassy 2/9 Kimball theatre organ was relocated to the Woodland Park Presbyterian Church in North Seattle. In the 1960s it became the home organ project of Harold Shawver of Edmonds, and remained in this home over 40 years.

In 2007 it was purchased by PSTOS member Dave Luttinen and will be installed in his new Mountlake Terrace home in the near future.

## ORGAN STUNT IS A HEAVY CLICKER

SEATTLE, Feb. 13.—Local audiences are getting a peep at the cleverest organ gag ever pulled in these parts this week as Henri Le Bel, organist at the New Fox, introduces his twin baby consoles.

The midget organs are used in conjunction with the master console. The babes present a flashy appearance on the stage, being decorated futuristically in black and silver, and, from a mechanical standpoint, present a unique yarn.

The double consoles are equipped with standard pedals and keyboards of two manuals each. Each instrument is operated entirely independent of the other and independent of the big console. Both tiny tots carry their own junction boards. On one of the small instruments is an attachment for lifting out the entire keyboard to which is attached a 150-foot cable. The gag on this is to carry the keyboard out into the audience where patrons, at their will, may sense the thrill of playing and manipulating the giant mechanism of the organ. It is planned to pull this stunt within the very near future.

The opening week finds Lorain Le Bel and Iris seated at the midget consoles and Henri Le Bel at the large console. It's a great gag and clicks gloriously.

C. M. "Sandy" Balcom was the father and builder of Le Bel's two midget consoles. It's a great piece of ingenuity and the result of much planning and many nights' labor on the part of Balcom.

The installation of the two midgets gives the Fox the distinction of having the only three organs played at one time anywhere outside of the Roxy Theatre, New York City.

**The year of this ad is unknown, but it surely would have been during the 1920s. A clever gimmick, indeed!**

# California's celebrated BOB MITCHELL to be featured organist at the PSTOS Holiday Party, moving this year to Kenyon Hall...

The first thing you notice about BOB MITCHELL are his eyes. They twinkle with an innocent delight, especially when the conversation turns to music. He is tall and lanky, but still one of those men that makes a dark suit and trousers look dashing even on a hot afternoon.

Mitchell is one of the lucky ones; he has spent his entire life doing what he loves most, playing music.

When barely 10, but tall and mature for his age, his mother decided it was time for him to learn the organ so he could study the traditional music of the Episcopal Church. The only organ in Sierra Madre, CA, where he grew up, was at the local parish, where the pastor begrudgingly allowed him to practice.

He soon discovered the movies and the integral part the organ played in this then-new form of entertainment. "I told my mother, there's a pipe organ at the movie theatre and I really want to play it!" So, despite her misgivings about the abjectness and vulgarity of "movies," his mother took 12-year-old Robert down to The Strand Theatre in Pasadena where he was soon employed.

When "talkies" ushered out the era of silent pictures, Mitchell made a successful career change to other burgeoning media. Throughout the '30s he was staff organist at various times for KMTR, KEME, KHJ and from 1940 to 1965 at KFI radio.

Another contribution the church made to his musical life also included a love for choral music. He subsequently formed Mitchell Boys Choir, which provided the music for and appeared in dozens of films including "Angels with Dirty Faces" with James Cagney and the Christmas classic, "The Bishop's Wife."

His boy's choir also recorded with Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra among others. His works with the boy's choir also garnered him several illustrious honors including a Silver Medal from Princess Grace (Kelly) of Monaco, a Medal from the Pope and the Boy Scouts of America.

As vivacious as ever, the refrain of Mitchell's life has come full circle 85 years later. He plays several nights a week before his old colleagues Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and other silent screen legends at the Silent Movie Theatre.

"Of course, it's music that I live for," he says, "and so with each passing day it's like a full, happy lifetime in itself."

## PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

6521 NE 191st ST

Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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Mark your calendar for this fun event!

# Holiday Party



Featuring the venerable

## BOB MITCHELL

At the Kenyon Hall Wurlitzer  
with your favorite holiday music

*plus*

Laurel & Hardy's "Big Business"  
and other holiday-themed movies!



Enjoy a sumptuous sandwich buffet, with holiday cookies and beverages including Angel's and Devil's punch.

**BEST OF ALL—this event is FREE to all PSTOS members.**

**Guests welcome, \$12 per person.**

**RSVP required. Please RSVP to Tom Blackwell**

Leave message at (206) 784-9203, or email at [tom@pstos.org](mailto:tom@pstos.org)

**Sunday, Dec. 2, 1:30 PM**

**Lunch served immediately with program following**

Kenyon Hall • 7904 35th Ave. SW, West Seattle

A brief business meeting with 2007 slide show retrospective and election of officers will precede the festivities



TO GET THERE—From I-5 take Exit 163 to the West Seattle Bridge. Cross the bridge and drive up the hill to the first lights at 35th Ave. SW. Turn left at the lights. Drive south about 30 blocks. Kenyon Hall is at 7904 35th Ave. SW, just south of Kenyon St. and 35th, on your left. The #21 Metro bus from 1st Ave. stops in front of the Hall.