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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 21 No. 11/12

Nov/Dec 2010

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Celebrate the Holidays at Haller

Ray Harris & Jo Ann Evans

are back with an afternoon of
holiday music and merriment.
Don't miss it!



Music! Laughter! Fun!

Holiday refreshments & beverages!

PSTOS members \$5 • Non-members \$10

Reservations, PLEASE, to ensure seating and food!

*Reserve by Wednesday December 1st with Ray Harris at
206-546-8959, or by email at rayh@prosserpiano.com*

Sunday, December 5th

Annual Membership Meeting 1:00 • Program 2:00

Haller Lake Community Club • 12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

See page 6 for drive directions

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Vol. 21, No. 11-12 – Nov-Dec 2010
Published monthly by
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 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—Jamie Snell, 206-525-4521
Past Pres.—Dave Luttinen, 206-963-3283
Vice President—Tom Blackwell
Secretary—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
Acting Treasurer—Clint Meadway, 425-327-9467

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Jon Beveridge, 425-337-6840 • Bill Keller, 253-318-2724

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History & Archives—Tom Blackwell
Organ Restoration & Maintenance—Bob Zat
Program Coordinating—Ray Harris & Barbara Graham
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Scholarship—Carl Dodrill & Norman Miller
Volunteer Coordination—Tom Blackwell
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Haller Lake keys—Bob Zat
Sunshine—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
Hospitality HLCC—Ellen Sullivan, 206-365-7554

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Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203
Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Comm. Club—Bob Zat
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:

PSTOS, Clint Meadway, Acting Treasurer
9594 1st Ave. NE #453,
Seattle WA 98115-2012

PRESIDENT'S Message

Swan Song



This is my final message to you as President of PSTOS, as I will be handing over the helm at the Annual Meeting. 2010 will go down as a very exciting year! The chapter of course hosted the highly successful ATOS convention in June and July, in addition to organizing five fun musical events including the upcoming Oktoberfest and Holiday Party. On the work front, the Publix I crew made substantial improvements to the Paramount's 4/20 Wurlitzer; important progress was made on the 3/19 Kimball-Wurlitzer at Calvary Christian Assembly Church, thanks to volunteers and chapter funding; and vital maintenance was performed on the organs at Kenyon Hall, Haller Lake, and St. Columban Church. The chapter strengthened its relationships with the Spokane, Mt. Baker, and Portland ATOS chapters through working with them on the convention, as well as with Calvary Christian and the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We continued our support of organ lessons for Kat Brightwell, who has unfortunately just moved away, and have begun support for another young organist, Jesse Zylstra. And thanks mainly to the convention, the chapter's financial condition has improved since last year.

Next year promises to be exciting as well. The Program Committee is working hard to plan programs far enough ahead so that you can mark a full year of events on your calendar – a move that we hope will increase your participation! Planning is underway for exciting improvements to some of the theatre organs you regularly hear, and to our website and other forms of Internet presence – stay tuned!

I've enjoyed my year as President and would like to thank everyone I've worked with, notably the Board and the Convention Team, for unfailing support and the ability to have plenty of fun in the midst of hard work. I look forward to maintaining the many friendships I've made, and assure you I won't be disappearing from sight! Finally, I encourage all you PSTOS members out there who haven't been on the inside of the organization to get involved...you'll be glad you did, as I am!

... Jamie Snell

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ Annual PSTOS CHRISTMAS PARTY will feature RAY HARRIS & JO ANN EVANS

Ray and Jo Ann return to entertain you with an afternoon of fun music, chuckles and a few surprises. Plan now to be at Haller Lake Community Club for another *Holidays at Haller* celebration.

Sunday, December 5, 2:00PM
Haller Lake Community Club

In the works for 2011

◆ JONAS NORDWALL returns with a Theatre Organ Extravaganza



The outstanding Wurlitzer-Kimball Theatre Organ in Calvary Christian Assembly has been silent much too long. Brought back to life for the recent ATOS convention, it's a wow! instrument.

Both Scott Foppiano and Brett Valliant have recently put it through its paces. You'll be thrilled with what you hear with Jonas at the console. Plan NOW to attend!

Sunday, February 6, 2011
Calvary Christian Assembly
6801 Roosevelt Way NE in Seattle.

◆ Special summer party at the Tacoma home of Merlyn Johnson will feature DON WALLIN and PATTI SIMON

Merlyn welcomes members to her lovely Tacoma home to hear her newly upgraded theatre pipe organ. This will be a special day. Don't miss it!

Sunday, September 4, 2011

◆ TULIPS & TIBIAS

A bus excursion to Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre, with a "tulip stop" en route.

April, exact date TBA

◆ 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found on the web at www.kenyonhall.org or by email at kenyonhall@earthlink.net

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

The Wurlitzer is usually played Mon/Tue/Fri/Sat at 7PM and Sun at 5PM. If there is a live performance, the organ may not be heard. Check the web at lincolnthatre.org

◆ Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

For info and latest news go to www.croconline.org

◆ Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

Vernon Greenstreet & Nancy Bussard present an afternoon of Mighty Wurlitzer and piano duos. A great Sunday activity! \$10 suggested donation.

Sunday, Nov. 21st, 2:00 pm.

◆ Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Quarterly meetings are held in March, June, September and December featuring the newly refurbished 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. For up-to-the-minute news and events calendar, go to www.sfnatos.org

Nomination and election of 2011 officers

The PSTOS Nominating Committee presents for members' consideration the following slate of nominees for 2011 officers:

- President**—Bob Zat
Immediate Past President—Jamie Snell
Vice President—John Beveridge
Secretary—Joani Roughton
Treasurer—Clint Meadway
Directors—
Tom Blackwell
Phil Hargiss
Bill Keller
Micah Bisson

Election and installation of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting preceding the holiday party December 5th. Nominations from the floor will be accepted during the meeting.

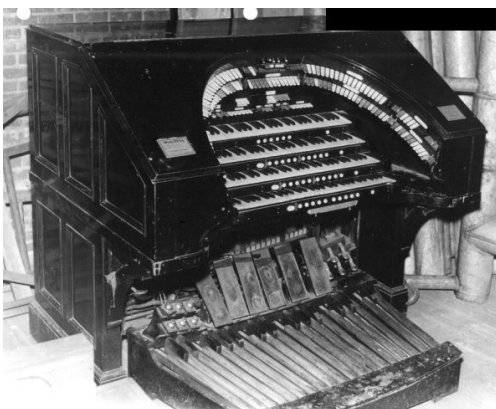
Former Seattle Coliseum Theatre Four-Manual Wurlitzer Console Returns to Seattle!



Former Seattle Coliseum console as installed in Springfield, Ohio



Phil Hargiss and Dave Luttinen build crates on-site to hold the donated pipework



Console as originally installed in the Seattle Coliseum Theatre, 1918

In August 2009 PSTOS became aware of a large collection of theatre pipe organ parts coming available on a donation basis in Eastern Tennessee. The collection included the former Coliseum Theatre four-manual Wurlitzer console, over twenty ranks of pipes, blowers, windchests, regulators and many other parts collected by the owner, Bob Cowley, over a 25-year period. The instrument last played in Springfield, Ohio in 2000 and has been stored in Newport, Tennessee ever since. Although the Coliseum console was of primary interest to PSTOS, a stipulation of the donation was that the collection had to be taken in its entirety.

After many months of back-and-forth discussion with the owner and a reconnaissance trip by Phil Hargiss to Newport, Tennessee in April of this year, the PSTOS board approved a retrieval expedition. Phil Hargiss, Dave Luttinen and Tom Blackwell made the trip to Newport in late September. Once the truck was largely packed, Phil and Tom flew back to Seattle while Dave made the nearly 2,700 mile journey back in the truck, solo, in just four days.

The retrieval team encountered a number of challenges in Tennessee including extreme weather and limited access to the storage location, but in the end, the Coliseum console made it back to Seattle along with many other interesting items (enough to fill a 26 foot U-Haul truck).

Phil, Dave, Tom and others will be working in the coming weeks to inventory the parts. The Coliseum console will of course be retained but other parts that have no Northwest heritage and no immediate application to an existing project will be sold to help offset retrieval costs. If you are interested in bidding on any of the items and wish to receive a copy of the list when it is available, please contact Organ Restoration and Maintenance committee chair, Bob Zat at bob@pstos.org or by phone at (206) 972-8943.

Haller Lake organ blower being repaired before December 5 party

There was an "uh-oh" moment while preparing music for the Harry Harkness memorial. The sound coming from the ground floor of the Haller Lake Community Club building sounded like someone had turned on a jack hammer. The cause turned out to be failure of our Wurlitzer's blower. Although Harry was responsible for the Wurlitzer being installed at Haller Lake over 40 years ago, it let us down and could not be used for his service.

Bob Zat, Russ Evans and Clint Meadway managed to get the blower out from under a shelf and muffler box, turned around and opened for inspection. Conclusion: An expert is required to get it going before the annual meeting and party in December. Several phone calls later we were assured that the blower will be rebuilt over the next couple of weeks and will be efficiently providing the wind for our artists' efforts on the 5th of December.

Pages From The Past...

Following is the amusing continuation of the 1927 saga between Sandy Balcom, the Kimball Organ Department and Alaska theatre operator W. D. Gross. The first segment was printed in the last Pipeline.

These letters contain all the original spelling and punctuation errors.

Letter from Sandy Balcom to the Kimball Organ Dept., September 5, 1927:

W. W. Kimball Co. Organ Dept, Chicago, Ill.

Attention - Mr. W. D. Hardy

Dear Mr. Hardy:

I received your letter, regarding the Gross deal at Juneau. I met Mr. Gross in Anchorage on my return. I showed him your letter and at first it made him very mad because he claimed we were trying to make him out a crook, but I explained to him that we were simply referring to his past attitude in handling his accounts with us and that we thought we were right in asking him to adhere to the terms of his contracts. He was on his way to Fairbanks, at Cap Lathrops' suggestion, with a cash offer, from his banker, to buy out the entire Lathrop circuit, if this deal goes thru, it will mean a great deal to me for I have already submitted him a price of \$14,700 to unify the Cordova and Anchorage organs, re-install them and make additions and also new consoles, also to put in a relay and new chests for unifying the Ketchikan organ. I suggested a cash deal to him but could not get him to consent to such an arrangement. He did say that if we insisted we could have an additional payment when the organ arrived in Seattle. I was unable to see Mr. Berhands his banker at Juneau, but am certain he would endorse the contract for Mr. Gross.

They have finished the organ chamber, which is very nice. If there is any way possible to put thru this deal I would even stand cutting my commission. I believe you will find that I have protected the company on the exchange items, and it also clears up several items for myself, allowing me to make something. I still have his check and contract and will hold it up until I hear from you. Personally I know Gross means well, but in his own dumb ignorant way he thinks he is right.

Yours respectfully,

C. M. Balcom

Reply from the Kimball Organ Dept. to Sandy Balcom, September 10, 1927:

ORGAN DEPT.
W. W. KIMBALL CO.
ESTABLISHED 1857
CHICAGO

Mr. C. B. Balcom,
1421 Third Avenue,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mr. Balcom:

I have your letter of the 5th, in reference to Mr. Gross, and for your sake am sorry to have had to turn down his contract. He has no one to blame but himself for this situation and if he had lived up to his contract and not told us to put the matter in the hands of our attorneys every time he wrote us, we would not have taken this attitude.

It would not have any change on the situation, to have you cut your commission, as we are not worrying about the price of the organ. Our complaint is about Mr. Gross and his method of doing business.

If you can get this contract endorsed by his banker, I feel sure that I can get this passed, as we would like to take the business, if we can be sure of getting our money without having to fight for every dollar of it, and concede a great deal without having to collect it through an attorney. There is not enough profit in the organ business to allow for collection expenses. I would like to see this straightened out so that we can get the business and see you make some money out of the efforts you have put in, but this has got to be done in a way that will give us a guarantee of the terms of the contract being lived up to.

Yours very truly,

W. W. KIMBALL COMPANY

By N. D. Hardy, Mgr. Pipe Organ Dept.

Pages From The Past...continued

A letter of November 22nd from Mr. Gross is missing. But its contents can be imagined from the following:

ORGAN DEPT.
W. W. KIMBALL CO.
ESTABLISHED 1887
CHICAGO

December 3rd, 1927

Mr. W. D. Gross
Alaska Film Exchange,
Coliseum Theatre Bldg.,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of yours of November 22nd, which does not entirely clear up the situation, as nothing is said concerning the interest on the payments due after completion. One of the contentions we have had with you in the past has been your unwillingness to pay the interest according to the terms of the contract, which called for interest to be paid from date of completion. This interest should be figured to the day on which the payment is made and not when the payment is due. For instance you are two months behind in your payments, and you have been this much and more at times, and you pay the December first payment the first of February, with the interest figured only until December first, you are using our money for two months without interest. Naturally we object to this.

All that we want is a definite statement from you that you will pay us the payments due on the contract when they are due, either in exchange on New York or Chicago, as called for in the contract, or plus exchange, and the interest on the payments from the completion date of the organ to the day on which the payment is made. This we are entitled to according to our contract, and we are prepared to carry out our part of this contract on assurance from you that you will carry out these two parts of your part of this contract. We want to save the unpleasantness that has existed in the past, and believe that the way to do this is to straighten this out now.

We can ship this organ within three weeks of your agreement to abide by this contract.

If you desire you can wire your reply.

Yours very truly,

W. W. KIMBALL COMPANY

By N. D. Hardy, Mgr. Pipe Organ Dept.

Mr. Gross finally cooperates:

The Alaska Film Exchange

W. D. GROSS, Manager
Largest Exchange North of Seattle
OFFICE COLISEUM THEATRE BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Sandy Balcom December 19th, 1927

Seattle, Wash

Dear Sir:

Received your letter and I am today writting the Kimball people regarding the terms I have arranged with the bank here and terms they have arranged with the Continental Bank of Chicago making payments according to contract with interest monthly after the Organ is installed and the first payment to start after 30 days after installation and I hope that they will be satisfied with the arrangements made.

I am mailing a \$1,000.00 draft on this boat so forward me the \$1,000.00 check I paid you providing you have not cashed it.

When the Organ reaches Seattle insure it for the full amount while in transit on the Steamer.

Hoping that you and the wife spend a Merry Christmas and have a very prosperous New Year, I remain,

Yours truly, W. D. Gross

Mr. Gross specifies "no drunks, please!"

Mr. Balcom
Seattle, Wash

January 13th, 1928

Dear Friend Balcom:

Am writting the Alaska Steamship co. today relative to tickets. If you should be bringing and Organist there will also be one for him, of course you know that we do not make it a practice to pay fares, but you can tell whoever you might be bringing or whom you recommend and should they not have the money we will advance the fare but will deduct it from his wages every month until payment is covered.

I hope that you line up a good organist as I want to get someone to open up who can deliver the goods and who will make a good impression, and for Gods sake dont send me a drunk. We have enough trouble with our Piano player and Saxaphone player here now. New Years Eve they were engaged to play a dance and the Piano player was so drunk that he fell off the chair and had to be carried off the stage at the Elks Hall, nice advertisiment for the Theatre I must say and we therefore dont want anyone who is apt to come onto the job drunk. Yours truly,

W. D. Gross, Alaska Film Exchange

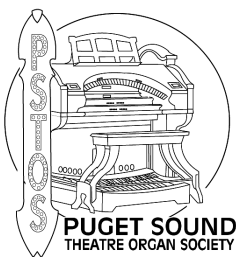
**Drive directions to
Haller Lake Community Club,
12579 Densmore Ave. N, Seattle**

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. Handicapped entry with parking and an elevator at rear of building.

Southbound I-5: Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) continuing through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Continue where underlined above.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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OKTOBERFEST

What a fun day!

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle was bouncing Saturday afternoon, October 30th, in spite of the wet weather. David Locke and his accordion filled the hall with perfect Oktoberfest music while everyone enjoyed a satisfying Bavarian lunch of brats, rolls, sauerkraut, hot German potato salad, and apple strudel. Don Feely then took over the Wurlitzer for a full program of lively music to complete a fun day.

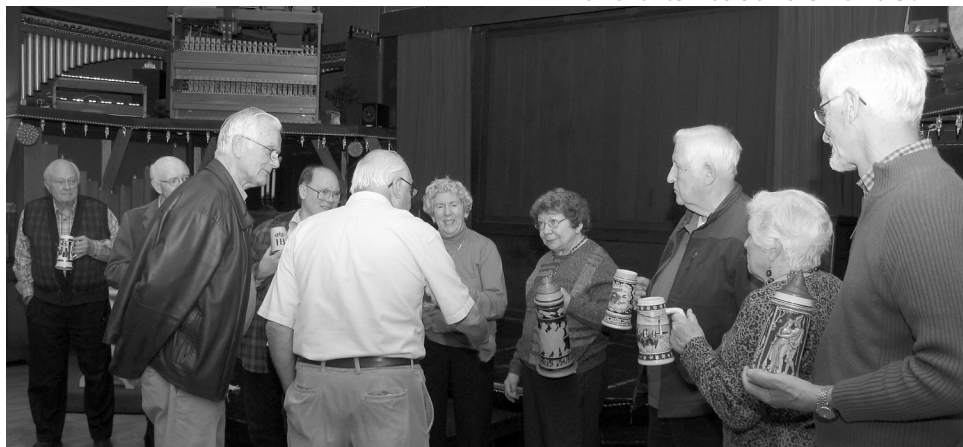
Many thanks to all those who pitched in to make it an outstanding day: Barb Graham, Joani Roughton and Hali Dodrill managed the kitchen beautifully; Jamie Snell was great as emcee; folks too numerous to mention set up tables and chairs, then put them all away, and cleaned up. It takes a lot of folks to make a successful event. Thanks to everyone for making it all happen!



Don Feely entertained with a fun program of favorite music on the Wurlitzer.



David Locke filled the hall with Bavarian background music while food was served.



Clint Meadway and Jack Becvar judged the steins — most authentic, most creative, best of show.



The winners!