



# PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 31, Nos. 7-8 • July - August 2020

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## 2020 PSTOS Program Schedule Continues to Change With Coronavirus

As of early July, all 2020 programs have been **postponed**  
for the safety of our PSTOS members and friends



### PIPES and PIE

Jamie Snell • Jo Ann Evans • Estelle McMaster

Had been postponed to  
**Sunday, July 26**

Haller Lake Community Club

**POSTPONED**

**POSTPONED**

### BRETT VALLIANT

Originally planned for  
**Sunday, September 13**

Merlyn Johnson residence, Tacoma



### CLARK WILSON

Originally planned for  
**Saturday, October 24**

Calvary Christian Assembly

**POSTPONED**

## Annual PSTOS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**CANCELED for 2020**

Originally scheduled  
**Sunday, December 6**  
Haller Lake Community Club



# PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

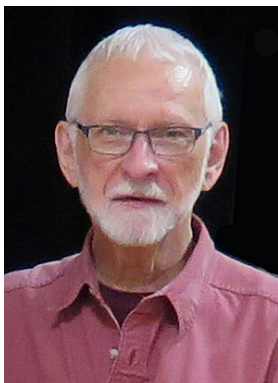
# PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Vol. 31, Nos. 7-8, July – August 2020

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**Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society**  
 10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516  
 Seattle, WA 98133-9329

*Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.*

## Greetings to all PSTOS members, families and friends.



The last few months have been a bit challenging for all of us in many and varied ways. I am sure we had all hoped the isolation and business closings would be of a short duration, but as we move forward it appears things will not get

back to “normal” any time soon.

At our last board meeting a lengthy discussion ensued about concerts and programs still scheduled for the remainder of this year. Brett Valliant was to play at Merlyn Johnson’s Tacoma home September 13th, and Clark Wilson at Calvary Christian Assembly on October 24th. However, given the need for continuous social distancing and a limit to the number of people that can congregate in a space, we are going to postpone these performances until 2021. The “Pipes and Pie” program scheduled for July 26th has also been postponed, and the annual Holiday Party is canceled for the same reasons. The board feels these are appropriate steps to take with respect to the safety of the artists and our members.

As I indicated in my last message, just because we are social distancing ourselves and being cautious about going outside and interacting with others doesn’t mean there are not opportunities to listen to theatre organ music and view performances. You may google “youtube theatre organ” and a list of performances by a variety of artists will be revealed. Here are a few:

Hot Pipes at: <https://www.hotpipes.eu/>  
 ATOS radio at <https://atosradio.org/atosradio/landings.html>

Mark Herman is performing Saturday afternoons at 5PM on the 3/19 1928 Wurlitzer that lived on the Alfred Newman Scoring Stage of Fox Studios in LA and now has been meticulously restored and begun its second life in film music, installed in Bandrika Studios, LA. He also has a program of piano music streamed live from his home on Tuesdays.

Here is a link to information about the studio and organ:

<https://www.facebook.com/BandrikaStudios/>  
 and a link to Mark’s May 30th program: <https://www.facebook.com/markhermanproductions/posts/10157967778115412>

Please check out the ATOS website: [www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org) for more viewing and listening treats.

ATOS will post additional programs as more are made available for online viewing.

All of us on the PSTOS board wish you safety, wellness, and continued good health.

Bob Zat, President

## The first-ever PSTOS ZOOM board meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>

Your PSTOS board normally meets each month in a private room at Calvary Christian Assembly. But that was before COVID!

ZOOM has become the default way to meet up with friends and family, have parties,

business meetings, and.... yes... even PSTOS Board meetings.

Shown here is the May meeting, screen shot by Jamie Snell. In spite of all the smiles, serious business was conducted!



TOP: Jacob Buys, Jamie Snell, Bob Zat. CENTER: Jon Beveridge, Barb Graham, JoAnn & Russ Evans. BOTTOM: Fred Rowe, Jeff Snyder.

### OFFICERS

- President—Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org
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- Program Planning Team—Jo Ann Evans, Barb Graham, Jamie Snell, Ellen Sullivan, Bob Zat
- Educational Outreach Committee—Fred Rowe, fred@pstos.org
- Paramount Crew Chief—Phil Hargiss, phil@pstos.org
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- AMICA, POF, and AGO—Carl Dodrill
- Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat
- Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargiss
- Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder

## JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS FAST AND EASY!

Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

- Secure!
- No checks!
- No stamps!
- A few clicks and it’s done!



<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>



## ATOS dues clarification

### AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Although new members may join both PSTOS and ATOS with a single payment, it's important that subsequent ATOS dues be paid directly to ATOS. If you're an ATOS member, you'll receive a renewal reminder in the same month that you joined ATOS, with instructions for renewing by mail or online.

*Thank you for remembering!*

## Dave Wickerham sends a June 4 update about Rhonda's ongoing cancer battle

Hello everyone, Rhonda Sue and I have returned back to Froedtert in Milwaukee for a followup series of MRI scans of her brain. After back to back MRIs, we saw Rhonda's neuro-oncologist for results and review of the scans. We are SO happy and relieved by what we saw in the images!! The remaining tumors in her brain have shrunk and the fluid level is reducing. The doctor said that the previous radiation treatments and the immunotherapy (Keytruda) that Rhonda Sue is on are working.

We also saw Rhonda Sue's bone specialist and radiologist as she has had some ongoing areas of cancer activity on a couple of her bones, one on the left ischium, one near the left shoulder. He has set a plan in motion to perform a procedure called cryoablation on two different bones. With this process tumor tissue is killed by freezing. Then, reconstruction and reinforcement of the bone is formed using polymethylmethacrylate bone cement.

Needless to say, there have been some

enormous sighs of relief here... Anticipating doctors visits and waiting for test results over this past year and a half have proven to be pretty gut-wrenching. We KNOW that support, good thoughts and continued prayers from everyone has gotten us through and we are SO GRATEFUL for that!

Continue to stay well and safe.

Peace to all of you and God Bless!

Love, Dave & Rhonda Sue



## Links to a variety of theatre organ videos

Introducing the Wurlitzer Opus 1680 VTPO, playing a duet with the Garrigan Steinway D Piano, under the fingers of the great Pierre Fracalanza! This is a piano/organ duet of John William's Theme from the circa 1995 remake of the motion picture "Sabrina". Enjoy this stunning piece of music. The clip is 5:01.

<https://tinyurl.com/yajcchec>

Matías Antonio Bombal's radio show. Cole Porter Show - Classic Jazz and Swing - KXJZ FM - July 25, 2004. This has some wonderful recordings. The audio clip is 1:58:32.

<https://tinyurl.com/yb59gsxr>

The late, great Tom Hazleton, internationally-renowned classical/theater concert organist plays three excerpts from Modest Mussorgsky's multi movement, tone poem, Pictures At An Exhibition. Recorded in 1998 as part of the Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts (J.A.T.O.E.), Pipe Organ Extravaganza. The instrument used, is the famous 5/80 Sanfilippo Wurlitzer in the home of Jasper and Marian Sanfilippo in Barrington Hills, IL. Original source recording by Robert Ridgeway and remastered here on the Spire Studio unit. The clip is 9:44.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7ka5d9x>

JATOE's Pipe Organ Extravaganza Grand Finale 1997. The clip is 18:04.

<https://tinyurl.com/y78jvegy>

Duke Ellington Medley (improv). Unknown artist and organ, but very good (this was posted as a quiz). The clip is 6:29.

<https://tinyurl.com/y96ydcym>

From the Sanfilippo Wurlitzer player system,

Lyn Larsen's version of Ave Maria. The clip is 4:57.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7ptpr3>

There are not many films of the Davenport Theatre, Stockport Compton organ in its original home. This video features Doreen Chadwick playing the instrument back in 1989. The clip is 4:07.

<https://tinyurl.com/yb6lnxb0>

Bob Salisbury's performance of the signature piece "Avalon" on the 4 manual/16 rank Page Theater Organ. Recorded at the Avalon Theater, Avalon, CA. The clip is 2:58.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycd4zyjt>

One of my favorite songs, with some of my favorite performers. Ruby & Nane Page, Dean Cooper, Paul Van Ross and I perform 'Route 66' with Kingston's 4/24 Wurlitzer organ. The clip is 3:39.

<https://tinyurl.com/yarzwgqv>

Dean Cooper (drums), Paul Van Ross (sax) and Scott Harrison (organ) play St Louis Blues at Kingstown City Hall (Moorabbin). The clip is 4:19.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7sequj4>

Billy Joel's "Root Beer Rag" played by Mark Page (piano) & Scott Harrison (organ) at the Tauranga Wurlitzer, New Zealand. The clip is 3:29.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8dubkpl>

'Take the A Train' with Scott Harrison, Dave Brooks and Red Fedora Band. Recorded live at the Capri Theatre, Adelaide, South Australia. The clip is 3:39.

<https://tinyurl.com/y74gqyuc>

## Closing Chord Ken Crome Master organ craftsman

Ken Crome, master pipe organ craftsman located in Reno, NV, passed away on May 1. It would be difficult to find a corner of the theatre organ world that Ken didn't touch, from the original installation in the Jasper Sanfilippo home near Chicago, to the recent acclaimed installation of the original Fox Studio Wurlitzer in the Bandrika studio of Nathan Barr. His stellar craftsmanship is seen in the numerous consoles he constructed or rebuilt, and the many installations that benefited from his immense knowledge and skill. In 1983 Ken received the first ATOS Award for Technical Excellence (with Ed Stout and Dick Taylor). His legacy will live on in the many lives he touched, and the instruments he enhanced.

Locally, STG selected Ken to rebuild the Seattle Paramount console, and the result is impressive. Phil Hargiss, who leads the PSTOS Paramount Wurlitzer team, says, "I had the privilege of meeting Ken a couple of times in conjunction with this project, and found him to be charming and gracious, an expert and conscientious craftsman, completely dedicated to his work. I gave him a tour of the organ at the Paramount, during which his observations and questions quickly established a gratifying level of mutual trust and respect. I'm sure others have had similar experiences."

Ken's passing leaves a big hole in the theatre organ restoration and preservation world.

# PAGES FROM THE PAST... 1989

## Bellingham sprucing up opulent silent movie theater

By Don Tewkesbury — Sept. 1989  
P.I. Reporter

BELLINGHAM – The ostentatious grandeur of a bygone Hollywood era is vividly recalled here in one of the Pacific Northwest’s last great silent movie palaces – the only theater left in downtown Bellingham.

Local preservationists call the Mount Baker Theatre “a near perfect example of the movie house phenomenon of the 1920s and ’30s.”

Workers were brought in from the 20th Century Fox Studio in Hollywood to create the ceiling, printed in patterns that simulate intricate wood-inlay.

“We and our children will simply never see the likes of the Mount Baker Theatre again,” said Ruth Shaw, administrative assistant for the Mount Baker Theatre Center.

“The interior is done in Moorish Spanish style by architect R.C. Reamer, who also designed the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.”

A 600-pound chandelier of antique bronze hangs in the center of the ceiling dome, which is 80 feet across.

The 61-year-old Mount Baker Theatre, being restored as a state Centennial project, is the only remaining vaudeville and movie palace between Vancouver, B.C., and Seattle.

Shaw said there were 14 theaters in downtown Bellingham in 1914. The biggest was the American, which was an opera house that seated about 1,700. It fell to the wrecker’s ball in 1957. It had a stage so big that the chariot race scene in a production of “Ben Hur” was done with real horses.

“The Mount Baker now is the only historic theater in the Northwest that never has been closed,” said Shaw. “It never has been dark in its 61 years of operation.”

She said the theater’s \$25,000 Wurlitzer was installed in the new building in 1926, just one year before part-talking pictures were demonstrated by Al Jolson in “The Jazz Singer.” That film premiered in New York City in October 1927.

“That is why the Mount Baker has both an organ and a stage,” she said. “If it had been built a year later, it would have had only a movie screen.”

The structure, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was

one of the last grand silent movie houses built in the Pacific Northwest. “The Jazz Singer” and the onset of the Great Depression brought an end to investment in opulent theaters.

The theater’s opening on April 29, 1927, in the city of 35,000 created the biggest street celebration since the signing of the Armistice in 1918. The opening program featured “Slide, Kelly, Slide,” a baseball movie that featured a number of major league stars of the era.

Though the organ needs refurbishing, it has been lovingly cared for and regularly used for concerts by the Mount Baker Theatre Chapter of the Peace Arch Organ Society.

Shaw said it is the only organ still in use in a theater. Some of the big theater organs that have been preserved are now in pizza parlors.



Repainting the exterior and refurbishing the theater’s old Wurlitzer pipe organ, described as “the equivalent of a 30-piece philharmonic orchestra,” was scheduled during this year [1989] as part of the Centennial observance.

The historic 1,405-seat Bellingham theater was purchased by the city in 1984 for \$750,000 to keep the owners from turning it into a motion picture multiplex facility. The purchase was made possible through \$450,000 allocated by the city government, \$150,000 contributed by county govern-



ment, and \$150,000 from private donors.

Shaw said the center is lobbying the National Endowment for the Arts for \$3 million to complete renovation of the entire interior of the theater, which would involve installing new stage lighting, sound system and drapes.

The city is leasing the theater to Cinplex Odion and SRO theaters, and it presents both first-run movies and live performances.

Plans call for turning some of the small, street-level shops surrounding the structure into mini-movie theaters and to preserve Whatcom County’s landmark theater as a regional entertainment center, presenting ballets, plays and other live performances.

In nearby Ferndale, the major Centennial project has been dismantling and moving a log cabin built in 1880 from Northwest Road to historic Pioneer Park, two blocks south of Main Street on First Avenue. The cabin was a stagecoach stop about halfway between Bellingham and Fort Langley in Canada. Its small, second floor was used as a dance hall.

In Everson, Jim Pace, chairman of the Washington Statewide Veterans Memorial Foundation, said the foundation has been completed for a planned all-veteran “living

# PAGES FROM THE PAST... 1980

memorial.” The 60-foot high building, which will contain a museum and chapel, is to be dedicated Nov. 11.

In bygone days, Bellingham vied with waterfront towns like Seattle, Tacoma, Anacortes and Steilacoom to become the major Washington state port.

Bellingham Bay was named by Capt. George Vancouver in 1792 after Sir William Bellingham, controller of the British Navy’s storekeeper account. Bellingham had personally checked Vancouver’s supplies prior to the captain’s departure from England in 1791.

In the half-century following settlement of the area, towns that grew up along the bay were variously known as Whatcom, Sehome, New Whatcom, Prattle’s Point, Unionville, Fairhaven and (Old) Bellingham. In 1904, they consolidated under the Bellingham city charter which became the Whatcom County seat.

Other Whatcom County Centennial projects include a mural to be painted on the side of the downtown Bellingham building and fundraising for a proposed veterans’ center and museum building to be built in Everson to honor the state’s veterans.



The Mt. Baker Theatre on April 17, 2011. This photo was taken when PSTOS organized a “Tulips & Tibias” day-long bus tour with stops at Roozengaarde Tulips in Mt. Vernon, Forks & Knives Restaurant, and on to the Mt. Baker for a concert and silent movie by Jeff Fox. Our bus is visible at the left.

Those were the days!

## Still Tickling the Ivories

By Jon Hahn

From Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Monday, May 12, 1980

Every time I hear Thelma Barclay, I want to roller skate.

She plays the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ at Bellevue’s Pizza & Pipes restaurant. And when she glides into a noon hour rendition of “Cruising Down the River,” it brings back memories of the roller rink back home.

Thelma, who looks like a cross between Diamond Lil and Ma Perkins, has memories that go much farther back. She played piano accompaniment to Laurel & Hardy silent films at the Rose Bud Theatre back in Galesville, Wis.



“I got \$1 for each show that I played,” she said. “That was a lot of money back then. I remember having each one of those dollars spread out on top of the dresser.”

No one probably noticed the little black-haired Thelma, down in the piano pit of the darkened Rose Bud. Today, she’s hard to miss, at center stage, every bit of her 5-foot-even frame bouncing in time to the music.

It’s like a scene out of *The Wizard of Oz* . . . the tiny silver-haired lady in front of the garishly rococo organ, its gaping semi-circle console lined with glistening ivory keys and switches like a monstrous mouth about to devour Thelma.

She’s memorized more songs than she likes to admit (she was around when many of the oldies-but-goodies were newies), but she admits a fondness for Barry Manilow, Stevie Wonder, the Beatles and Jim Croce.

“About the only thing I don’t like is hard, or acid rock. It’s too loud and squeally. It’s a different kind of loud than you get from a big organ like this one.”

And Thelma knows from organs. She’s chairman of the local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, and she never goes anywhere without stopping to see and play the local pipe organ. “When the International (Theatre Organ Society) had its convention in Europe, I even was allowed to play the organ at the Cathedral of Notre Dame,” she said with no small amount of pride.

Theatre organ aficionados are considered a lower caste by organ purists, but the Thelma Barclays of the world blow a lot of dust off the organ’s stuffy image. The theme from “Star Wars” or “Ice Castle” makes the 15-ton organ and all its 1,200-and-some-odd pipes come alive. It ain’t Bach, but it’s beautiful!

The old Wurlitzer in Bellevue had to be refurbished at considerable cost, but Thelma hasn’t lost much of her wind since she grew up in Wisconsin. After teaching school as a young woman, she married Glen Barclay, a golf course superintendent and designer. His work brought them to Seattle in the late 1940s to help build the Sand Point and the Seattle Golf and Country Clubs.

When her husband died suddenly, Thelma went to work full time, selling organs and pianos, so she could finish raising their two sons. One is now an electronics manufacturer and the other a physician.

Through it all, Thelma has never stopped sharing her music with others. “I did more than 1,200 volunteer hours of music therapy back in Wisconsin, during and right after the war,” she said. “And I was the staff pianist at the local U.S.O. back in Madison.”

She’s never been quite able to resist a request to play anywhere . . . even a private Lake Tahoe “club” she later found out was “one of those high-class shady houses.” She plays for weddings, social gatherings, even funerals. And in her spare time, she plays the organ for herself and her two poodles in her small brick home “on the poor side of Clyde Hill.”

If you want to see and hear Thelma, you’ll have to go for lunch. She only plays from 12 noon to 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday. Organ music at lunch sorta sounds like “Edge of Night,” unless you get to hear Thelma.

She plays requests. Just don’t ask her to do Peppercorn and Cheese.